

Cannabis board OKs rules for retail consumption

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — The state Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) approved rules for cannabis consumption areas for retailers Dec. 2.

CRC Executive Director Jeff Brown said the CRC and the municipality where the business operates must approve any cannabis consumption areas.

Like all cannabis businesses, customers must be at least 21 years of age and have a photo ID to enter, he said.

“Consumption areas would be barred from overselling to consumers and must ensure to the best of their ability safe consumption on their premises,” Brown said.

He said application fees for a consumption area would be \$1,000. Micro-business licensing would be \$1,000 and standard

license fees would total \$5,000 for consumption areas, according to Brown.

Cannabis consumption areas can be indoors or outdoors but would need to be enclosed, he said. No alcohol or tobacco consumption would be allowed on premises nor food sales.

“However, under the rule consumers may be allowed to bring food in or have it delivered to the consumption area,” Brown said.

The CRC also approved 113 conditional licenses.

CRC Chairwoman Diana Houenou said five additional medicinal cannabis businesses have opened.

This year marked the beginning of recreational cannabis sales in New Jersey. She said 20 recreational sales locations are open statewide.

“We’ve issued more than 800 conditional licenses and 18 annual licenses with more licenses up for consideration today,”

Houenou said.

A conditional license is a provisional license pursuant an abbreviated application process that gives applicants more time to get property or municipal approval.

It does not allow the business to operate.

Houenou said of the licenses awarded by the CRC, almost one-third went to social equity businesses and more than half to diversely owned businesses.

Brown said as of Dec. 2, the CRC had received more than 1,500 applications for conditional licenses to open recreational cannabis businesses and more than 250 applications for annual licenses, which allow a business to operate.

“Only 60 applications as of Nov. 15 had yet to advance to completeness review,” Brown said.

He said the majority of applications are for retail

cannabis businesses. As of Nov. 15, the commission received 810 retail applications, 392 cultivation applications and 225 manufacturing applications.

Brown said the CRC is not currently accepting applications for delivery or wholesale distribution.

In addition to the conditional licenses, the CRC approved six conditional to annual license conversions, eight annual license applications and one Alternate Treatment Center (medical cannabis) expansion to two locations.

Brown said many new cannabis businesses would open in 2023.

CRC Commissioner Charles Barker said public hearings throughout the state have provided an opportunity to gauge how taxpayers feel revenue from cannabis sales should be invested in communities.

“The public continues to express that no tax revenue should be used to fund law enforcement,” he said.

Suggestions from the public include organic farming, methods to im-

prove the overall well-being and quality of life, Black maternal health care centers, community resource centers, educational resources and workforce development, Barker said.

CFO Young leaves Cape May for Middle

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is seeking a new chief financial officer (CFO) following the resignation of Neil Young, who left to accept a position with Middle Township.

At a Dec. 6 City Council meeting, Councilwoman Lorraine Baldwin said she enjoyed working with Young, calling him professional, detail-oriented and organized.

“He loves the city of Cape May and I’m sure it was a hard decision for him,” Baldwin said.

City Manager Mike Voll said the city was advertising the position.

The CFO will be responsible for all municipal finance functions, including all statutory requirements as well as assisting the city

manager with the preparation and the oversight of the municipal budget, maintenance of general ledger, purchasing, payroll, pension reports, bank reconciliations, finance related ordinances and resolutions, accounts payable/receivable, debt management, grants and escrow accounts management and investment/disbursement of funds.

The successful candidate should possess strong analytical and communication skills and provide leadership in all financial dealings of the city. The CFO must be able to attend city budget meetings and attendance at council meetings may be required.

Applicants must have three to five years of municipal finance experience.

Applicants must have graduated from an accredited

college or university with a bachelor’s degree in financial administration or accounting.

Applicants must possess state certification as Certified Municipal Finance Officer, as issued by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, or the ability to obtain such certification in prescribed amount of time.

Proficiency in Edmunds Software and Microsoft applications, specifically Word and Excel, is mandatory.

Qualified Purchasing Agent Certification (QPA) preferred. Applicants can send a cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to employment@capemaycity.com or mail to the City Manager’s Office 643 Washington St., Cape May, NJ 08204

Task force

Continued from Page A1

The city wants to build the facility on land at St. John and Lafayette streets that was originally intended to be a portion of Lafayette Street Park. The city proposed a land swap with the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for use of the parcel, which was placed in the Green Acres program to be used as parkland.

Use of the lot for a police station would require the approval of the commissioner of the DEP and the State House Commission. In compensation for use of the quarter-acre lot, the

city would dedicate 4.8 acres of land in the Sewell Tract as parkland.

The DEP has not rejected the proposed location, Yeager said, but instead asked whether the city considered using the Jackson Street parking lot.

“Actually, I’m told it’s a matter of their due diligence,” Yeager said. “They have to ask these questions of us before they make their final determination on it.”

The state is in support of the land swap, he said.

“It’s going to take quite a bit of time to get through all the paperwork, but we still have hopes,” Yeager said.

City solicitor Chris Gil-

lin-Schwartz said alternative locations always have to be investigated. He said the city has been well prepared to answer those questions since the dawn of the project.

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DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
14	11:44		5:10	6:17
15	12:36	12:32	6:04	7:02
16	1:30	1:24	7:05	7:47
17	2:24	2:21	8:08	8:34
18	3:16	3:18	9:10	9:21
19	4:07	4:15	10:08	10:10
20	4:56	5:10	11:04	10:59
21	5:45	6:03	11:58	11:49

MOON PHASES
Last quarter: Dec. 16, new moon: Dec. 23.

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