Legal cannabis could boost business, tourism

Webinar outlines methods to capture growing audience of marijuana-motivated travelers

With recreational marijuana now legal in New Jersey, entrepreneurs may find lucrative business opportunities related to cannabis tourism with the idea of creating communities and apparel to create for cannabis editions and delivery services. The legal Lambert Institute of Gaming and Hospitality (LIGHT) School of Business at Stockton University and the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce presented a webinar Feb. 24 called “Destination Cannabis: Insight for New Jersey Hospitality and Tourism.” The virtual event focused on recreational marijuana and its impact on resort destinations, opportunities for hospitality and tourism, and low and food and beverage tourism.

Consumption lounges

Rob Mejia, an adjunct professor of cannabis studies at Stockton University and president of Our Community Harvest: A Cannabis Education Company, said people will no longer be able to purchase cannabis on federal lands, a public sidewalk or in federal buildings but recreational marijuana will soon be sold at retail.

“Down the road, it looks like there are going to be smoking lounges,” he said. “Essentially what it is will be a separate building or a building attached to a dispensary where people can purchase, or actually be in possession of, the product, go into the consumption lounge and partake.”

He said that offers an opportunity for the hospitality industry such as turning the consumption lounge into a restaurant with live music and comedy shows.

Laffey said he has been holding virtual meetings with the Lower Township Rescue Squad. “When we decide the compliance issue, we can bring in people who are currently working in the industry and we can discuss the pros and cons and make a decision,” he said.

Lower Township companies looking to bolster numbers

Lower Township companies are looking to bolster numbers but now churches are losing 4 homes for shelters

Family Promise is facing a challenge, she said. “It all worked out; four churches have taken the challenge,” she said. While other organizations may focus on homeless individuals, Family Promise focuses only on those with children.

Family Promise is looking for a day center to sleep. Family Promise offers a day center to people on May County Road in North Cape May, where they have access to three meals a day, innovative case management, laundry facilities, phones and internet. At the center, volunteers will be scheduled with various for-profit companies, said the director.

While other organizations may focus on homeless individuals, Family Promise focuses only on those with children.

The day center is about to open. “We will have a room for families to get to the point at which they can sustain themselves,” she said. The organization offers a day center to those with first month’s rent, utility deposit and gas bills or replacing tires on their car.

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COVID changes way homeless

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Residency not required for firefighters

Lower Township companies looking to bolster numbers

Township Manager Mike Laffey said he has been holding virtual meetings with short-term rental compliance companies.

“We don’t do that one-on-one, but we have put together a list of companies to help identify some of the short-term rentals that we don’t know of and hopefully get those entities in compliance before the season starts this year,” he said. Laffey said he was working with the township’s purchasing department, the township attorney, and other departments for proposals for emergency medical services within the township. Council approved a resolution last month authorizing competitive contracting for emergency medical services which could open the door to an agreement with Wildwood Crest Rescue Squad to provide EMS services to Diamond Beach.

Assemblyman Tom Conran, who serves as captain of the Wildwood Crest Rescue Squad, responded to claims of slow response times to emergency calls to Diamond Beach.

Resident James Sandford, who has attended a number of council meetings in the past six months, stated an 80-year-old Diamond Beach resident who serves as captain of the Lower Township Rescue Squad. A January council meeting.

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