Lower moves to further limit cannabis retail zone

By JACK FICHTER Cape May Year-End Report

VILLAS — Township Council wants more control over cannabis-related activities within the township.

Council introduced an ordinance that would create an overlay zone to confine cannabis retail stores and other cannabis delivery services to a specific section in the General Business Zone.

In 2021, council adopted an ordinance that amended the zoning code to establish a Cannabis Delivery Zone in the township’s GB-1 and I-4 (Industrial) zoning districts.

In addition, council adopted an ordinance to expand the permitted zones in which Class 5 Cannabis Delivery Licenses and Class 6 Cannabis Delivery Licenses are permitted to include the two Class 5 cannabis delivery licenses in the township’s GB-1 and L-2 (Industrial) zoning districts.

The township determined the area around Cape May Avenue in the GB-1 zone, and the conditions associated with Class 5 Cannabis Delivery Licenses and Class 6 Cannabis Delivery Licenses should be revised in order to establish the area as a cannabis retail business may operate.

The application for the new overlay zone that would be located within the township’s GB-1 zone was continued to the shopping center in Cape May that houses the Acme market and the shopping center across the street that houses the Dollar Tree and Dollar Store. Breakwater Plaza is not included in the cannabis business zoning.

Township Manager Mike Laffey said the change in the ordinance would keep cannabis businesses away from residential areas.

Cannabis businesses are also permitted in the MD-2 district on Ocean Drive, Laffey said. The county said in part is not included in the cannabis business overlay, he said.

The township would retain the requirement for a license and/or a conditional license approved by the state of New Jersey and/or the Cannabis Regulatory Commission to engage in the retail sale of recreational cannabis goods/equipment associated with the operation of a cannabis establishment. In addition, the proposed cannabis establishment and/or delivery of goods/equipment associated with the operation of a cannabis establishment must be limited to 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Cannabis consumption in the retail sale of marijuana.

The design of any building must be even more environmentally friendly and not adversely affect the site and the comfortability of property rights in the zone in which it is located, according to the ordinance.

Cannabis retail stores would be located within 300 feet of any measure from the front entrance to the proposed commercial property. Any sale permitted in the indoor recreational facility, or public place of worship, hospital, church, public recreation facility, or public library.

All sales to customers must take place in the indoor areas of a cannabis retail establishment and/or delivery of goods/equipment associated with the operation of a cannabis establishment. Activities other than those specified must be limited to 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Cannabis consumption in the retail sale of marijuana.

Deck the Hall raises $15,000 for CASA

The sixth annual Deck the Hall — Festival of Trees program generated $15,000 to benefit Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children in Atlantic, Cape May and Camden Counties.

The proceeds from the event were presented to CASA of Atlantic, Cape May and Camden Counties last month by the 6th annual Deck the Hall — Festival of Trees event.

The event was held at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City on Dec. 17.

“Thank you to all of those who supported the Deck the Hall — Festival of Trees program,” CASA of Atlantic, Cape May and Camden Counties executive director Donna Woolford said. "The proceeds from the Deck the Hall — Festival of Trees program will benefit children in need who are served by CASA in Atlantic, Cape May and Camden Counties."

Deck the Hall is part of the ongoing annual holiday collection of trees and other holiday decorations and is funded by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA). OVG360 and owned and operated by VISIONS Entertainment Group, Deck the Hall is a winter tradition in Atlantic City.

“Proceeds from the Deck the Hall — Festival of Trees program will benefit children in need who are served by CASA in Atlantic, Cape May and Camden Counties,” CRDA CEO and board chairman John F. Warmbold said. "The proceeds from Deck the Hall — Festival of Trees will benefit CASA organizations in Atlantic, Cape May and Camden Counties.”

Since 2017 Deck the Hall — Festival of Trees has raised $15,000 for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children in Atlantic, Cape May and Camden Counties.

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