

**CITY OF LAKEWOOD
CITY ATTORNEYS OFFICE**

TO: Mayor Murphy and the City Council

CC: Planning Commissioners
Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager

FROM: Tim Cox, City Attorney

DATE: December 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Proposed ordinance regarding medical marijuana

At the joint City Council/Planning Commission study session on Monday, December 7, 2009, City staff will be making a presentation on a proposed ordinance that would establish a licensing program for medical marijuana caregiver facilities and amend the zoning regulations to identify the zone districts in which such businesses could locate. The draft ordinance is the culmination of many hours of work by an ad hoc committee consisting of representatives of several City departments, including the City Clerk's Office and City Attorney's Office and the Finance, Planning and Public Works and Police Departments. The ordinance represents Staff's recommended approach to addressing this rapidly evolving issue, but is by no means the only approach.

A copy of the ordinance is attached for your reference, but please keep in mind that it is a **draft**, submitted to you for discussion purposes only and subject to revision during the public hearing process before the City Council and the Planning Commission. Pending the Council's direction following the study session, Staff is prepared to bring the zoning portion of the ordinance to the Planning Commission for a public hearing on January 6, 2010. The entire ordinance is tentatively scheduled for first reading by the Council on January 25th and second reading on February 8th.

Staff would not normally release a draft ordinance at this stage because of the risk that the final product might differ substantially from the draft. However, because of the significant effort that went in to generating the draft ordinance and the potential for considerable public interest in the topic, Staff elected to distribute the draft to you and to post it on the City's website with the other agenda materials for the study session.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 303-987-7451 if you have any questions.