



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

February 28, 2024

NOTICE TO ALL CURRENT COMMERCIAL CANNABIS BUSINESS PERMIT APPLICANTS & PERMITTED CANNABIS BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF FRESNO

Fresno Municipal Code (FMC) Section 9-3316(a) regarding the Commercial Cannabis Business Permits, Initial Application Procedure, states:

“The City Manager shall adopt the procedures to issue commercial cannabis business permits, which shall include or require the City Manager to provide detailed objective review criteria to be evaluated on a point system or equivalent quantitative evaluation scale tied to each set of review criteria. The City Manager or designee(s) shall be authorized to prepare the necessary forms, adopt any necessary rules to the application, regulations and processes, solicit applications, and conduct initial evaluations of the applicants.”

Beginning in 2020, the City of Fresno published application procedures for obtaining a commercial cannabis business permit, developed pursuant to FMC 9-3316. A component of that detailed competitive application process was section 7, a community benefits and investments plan. In the application procedures, the community benefit plan was described to include, *“all benefits the business has provided or plans to provide to the local community, for example by directly aiding, participating in, or funding the work of local non-profits, community-based organizations, civic organizations, or social services organizations. Benefits may be in the form of volunteer services, monetary donations, financial support of City-sponsored activities or organizations, in-kind donations to the City or other charitable organizations and/or any other economic incentives to the City.”*

The Community Benefits and Investments Plan was one section of the cannabis business permit application that added to the cumulative score of an application, which determined the applications that moved forward in the application process and were ultimately issued preliminary approvals. The purpose of this notice is to confirm that the City Manager expects that all proposed commitments described in a cannabis business’s community benefit plan be fulfilled. If a proposed commitment is not feasible as proposed, the business should submit an explanation with their community benefits report during the annual renewal process.

Changes to your Community Benefits and Investments Plan will only be accepted during the annual permit renewal process. This notice shall not limit the ability of the City Manager or his/her designee(s) to request additional information pertaining to your Community Benefits and Investments Plan as codified under FMC 9-3332(e), which authorizes the City Manager to impose additional conditions to a renewal permit.

If you have questions, please call (559) 621-5555.

Thank you,



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