

**CITY OF NORTHGLENN
MARIJUANA LICENSING AUTHORITY MINUTES
July 11, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Downing called a meeting of the Northglenn Marijuana Licensing Authority to order on Monday, July 11, 2016 at 7:41 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 11701 Community Center Drive, Northglenn.

ROLL CALL Present were: Mayor Downing, Mayor Pro Tem Dodge, Council members Snetzinger, Mullica, Sauers, J. Brown, B. Brown, Whitman, and Esquibel.

ABSENT None.

STAFF PRESENT City Manager Hayes, City Attorney Hoffmann, and City Clerk Small.

**APPROVAL
OF MINUTES:**
May 23, 2016

MOTION TO PASS Council member J. Brown **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Mullica to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2016 meeting as presented.

MOTION PASSED There was no discussion and the motion **PASSED**.
IN FAVOR - Downing, Dodge, Snetzinger, Mullica, Sauers,
J. Brown, B. Brown, Whitman, Esquibel.
OPPOSED - None.
ABSENT - None.

**PUBLIC HEARING
ON NEW LICENSE
APPLICATION:**
Washington Point
Management, LLC d/b/a
Growhouse Northglenn

Mayor Downing opened the public hearing on the new retail marijuana business license application filed by Washington Point Management, LLC d/b/a Growhouse Northglenn for the premises at 11919 Washington Street, and read a statement regarding the jurisdiction and procedures of the hearing. There were no objections to the jurisdiction or form of proceedings.

Attorney Hoffmann provided a summary of the new retail marijuana business license application and stated the public hearing had initially

been opened on February 22, 2016. Attorney Hoffmann referred the Authority to a legal memorandum he provided regarding the application and stated additional documents submitted by the applicant have been included in the packet materials.

Mr. Adam Stapen, Dill, Dill, Carr, Stonbraker & Hutchings, legal counsel for the applicant, stated he will be calling residents from the neighborhood and individuals from the petitioning company, marijuana policy group, and transportation consulting firm to provide testimony in support of the new retail marijuana license application.

Individuals intending to provide testimony were placed under oath by the City Clerk.

Mr. Craig Clark, Washington Point Management, LLC, provided sworn testimony regarding his education, work experience, and involvement in the marijuana industry. Mr. Clark spoke about the marijuana businesses he operates in Fraser, Nederland and Gunnison, and stated he has had no violations for the operation of the businesses. Mr. Clark provided testimony regarding the selection of the proposed location in Northglenn, the current use of the property, and businesses adjacent to the property. Mr. Clark stated there are currently no marijuana businesses located in Ward 2 and provided information about plans for the operation of the proposed business. Mr. Clark spoke about traffic flow and parking improvements for the site, community engagement and charitable work plans, and responsible vendor training for all employees. Mr. Clark spoke about partnering with the Epilepsy Foundation and the Northglenn Community Foundation to benefit the community.

Mr. Clark answered questions from the Authority regarding parking, traffic flow and access to the business, and whether unique products will be offered at the retail store. Mr. Clark stated the proposed parking and traffic improvements will be vetted through the City's development review process and spoke about the products to be offered at the store, which include Boulder Marijuana Company (BMC) Denver Relief, Silver Stem, and genetic sequencing products. Mr. Clark stated he does not plan to cultivate marijuana and stated concerns he has heard from the public about the proposed business are related to public policy and an overall abhorrence of legalized marijuana.

Mr. Clark presented a packet of information he prepared regarding the application, which included letters of support from business and charitable partners, letters of support from Northglenn residents, and

an informal petition taken at and near the site. Mr. Stapen asked that the packet of information be accepted as an exhibit for the hearing.

Council member Whitman disclosed that she serves on the Northglenn Community Foundation as a Board Trustee and had recused herself from discussion regarding the Foundation partnering with the proposed marijuana business.

Mr. Jeffrey Hodsdon, LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc., provided sworn testimony regarding the traffic impact analysis performed on the site located at 11919 Washington Street. Mr. Hodsdon spoke about existing traffic conditions, projected levels of service, and recommended improvements to the site.

Mr. Hodsdon answered questions from the Authority about traffic counts performed at other marijuana businesses.

Mr. Ean Seeb, Denver Relief Consulting, provided sworn testimony about the applicant's community integration plan. Mr. Seeb spoke about his experience and involvement in the marijuana industry and spoke favorably about Mr. Clark's character and competency as a marijuana business licensee. Mr. Seeb stated the community integration plan for Washington Point Management, LLC provides information on many activities including on-going food drives, community gardening projects, and donating 3% of staff resources and revenues to give back to the community.

Mr. Max Scott, Oedipus, Inc., provided sworn testimony regarding petitions that were circulated to determine the needs and desires of the neighborhood for the new retail marijuana license application filed by Washington Point Management, LLC d/b/a Growhouse Northglenn. Mr. Scott spoke about the process used for circulating the petitions and stated the survey results indicate that 80% of those signing the petitions were in favor of the issuance of the new license.

Mr. Adam Orens, Marijuana Policy Group, provided sworn testimony about the fiscal impact analysis he performed on the proposed retail marijuana business. Mr. Orens spoke about one-time and recurring revenues the marijuana business would generate, and stated the analysis determined the retail marijuana business would be a fiscally beneficial land use for the site.

Ms. Nadine Ramos stated she lives in the area of 117th and Pennsylvania and provided sworn testimony about her residency in the City and her familiarity with the proposed site for the retail

marijuana business. Ms. Ramos stated the current carwash at the site is an eyesore and stated she believes the presence of a new, active business will help make people aware of the traffic access to the site. Ms. Ramos testified she does not foresee any negative impacts from the marijuana business and asked the Authority to approve the license application.

Mr. Francisco Ramos stated he resides in the area of 117th and Pennsylvania and stated he agrees with the testimony provided by Ms. Nadine Ramos. Mr. Ramos testified that he does not believe the proposed marijuana business will create any negative impacts on the neighborhood and stated the parking improvements and community engagement plans proposed by Mr. Clark will benefit the area.

Mr. Stapen stated he did not wish to call any further witnesses, but reserved the right to recall rebuttal witnesses pursuant to the hearing procedures.

Mayor Downing called for anyone wishing to speak in opposition to the application to come forward.

Mr. Richard Robinson, Pastor of Northside Baptist Church, provided sworn testimony stating he is concerned about the unintended consequences of success. Mr. Robinson stated he is concerned about loitering and asked if the Authority would allow marijuana businesses to be located close to each other. Mr. Robinson asked if the businesses create an increase in crime and stated he was made aware of this application by a third party.

Mr. David Armstrong, Associate Pastor of Northside Baptist Church, expressed concern about the number of other marijuana businesses in the surrounding areas and inquired about the cumulative effect of the businesses. Mr. Armstrong presented a folder containing statements from concerned citizens about the proposed business.

Mr. Phillip Larson stated he moved from Federal Heights to Northglenn to get away from marijuana and to live in a safe community. Mr. Larson stated he is concerned about the increase in crime due to marijuana businesses and the impact of the smell of marijuana.

Mr. Mike Salahshurian, Associate Pastor of Northside Baptist Church, spoke about the impacts of tobacco use and expressed concern about medical and emotional impacts of marijuana. Mr. Salahshurian asked the Authority to continue the hearing to allow him

to come back with information about the medical effects of marijuana.

Ms. Sharon Sherman stated she is a resident of Squire Village in Northglenn and spoke against the new marijuana license application. Ms. Sherman stated she is concerned about the location of the proposed business in relation to the bus stop and stated she believes the business will frighten individuals.

Mr. Brian Robinson, Associate Pastor of Northside Baptist Church, spoke against the application and expressed concern about crime related to marijuana use and the reputation of Colorado from allowing legalized marijuana.

Mayor Downing called for any other person wishing to speak in opposition to the application to come forward. There was no response.

Mr. Stapen stated he had no rebuttal testimony.

There was discussion among the Authority regarding the criteria established by ordinance for marijuana businesses, the applicant's community engagement plans, and the eligibility of the applicant to hold a retail marijuana business license. The Authority inquired about crime statistics related to marijuana use.

Chief James May provided information about crime rates and stated there is no evidence to show that crime has increased in areas where marijuana businesses are located.

There was additional discussion among the Authority regarding concerns related to traffic, the need for an additional marijuana business, and whether the applicant intends to sell medical marijuana. Attorney Hoffmann stated this application is for a retail marijuana license only.

MOTION TO PASS

Mayor Pro Tem Dodge **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Mullica to direct the Attorney for the Authority to draft a resolution for Authority action on July 25, 2016 approving the retail marijuana business license application filed by Washington Point Management, LLC d/b/a Growhouse Northglenn.

MOTION PASSED

There was no discussion and the motion **PASSED**.

IN FAVOR - Downing, Dodge, Snetzinger, Mullica, Sauers,
Whitman.

OPPOSED - J. Brown, B. Brown.

ABSENT - None.

ABSTAIN - Esquibel.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk

JOYCE DOWNING
Mayor