The Planning Commission is considering revisions to the City’s zoning regulations relative to medical cannabis. The Commission is holding a public hearing to obtain community feedback on these potential code changes.

**PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**

Wednesday, May 16, 2012  5:00 pm  City Council Chambers
Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, 1st Floor

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING?**

The Code changes being considered by the Planning Commission would address the land use issues associated with the production, processing, and distribution of medical cannabis. These land use regulations focus on what types of uses should be allowed, where they should be allowed, and whether there should be any specific restrictions applied to them, such as limitations on the allowable size and scale, limitations on their concentration, and separations from sensitive uses. As outlined by the City Council, the general intent is to protect the public health, safety and general welfare while providing safe, secure, and reasonable access for qualified medical cannabis patients. The tools being considered in this amendment include:

- Zoning restrictions for medical cannabis uses based on where similar types of uses are currently permitted (i.e. allowing for medical cannabis distribution in areas where retail uses are allowed)
- Identifying sensitive uses associated with school-aged children and restricting medical cannabis operations from located near them
- Considering minimum separation requirements between medical cannabis uses (to prevent concentrations)
- Limiting the physical size of medical cannabis facilities
- Limiting the number of people who can participate in medical cannabis collective gardens
ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND
In August 2011, the City Council enacted a moratorium on cannabis related establishments. The purpose of the moratorium is to allow the Council, Planning Commission, and Medical Cannabis Task Force time to evaluate the impacts of these kinds of facilities and consider potential changes to the regulations and requirements for them. The moratorium is set to expire on August 1, 2012.

WHERE CAN I GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?
The Commission has outlined three different regulatory alternatives to facilitate public comment and input. These range from more to less restrictive and incorporate different options for the types of uses allowed, where they would be allowed, and the types of restrictions that could be placed on them. Additional information, including the complete text of these three alternatives, associated maps and other background information, is available from the Community and Economic Development Department at the address to the right, and on the Planning Division website:

www.cityoftacoma.org/planning
(click on “Medical Cannabis Moratorium”)

HOW DO I PROVIDE COMMENTS TO THE COMMISSION?
You can testify at the hearing or provide written comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 18, 2012 using the return address on this card or by facsimile at (253) 591-2002 or via e-mail at planning@cityoftacoma.org.

If you have additional questions please feel free to contact Lucas Shadduck at (253) 594-7975.

To request this information in an alternative format or a reasonable accommodation, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at 591-5505. TTY or STS users please dial 711 to connect to WA Relay Services.