32. 24-54357 Recommendation to request City Manager to work with the Office of Cannabis Oversight and all relevant departments to conduct a feasibility study on hosting temporary cannabis special events within City limits, including types of appropriate venues, and report back with Council presentation in 60 days.

Office or Department:

Suggested Action: Approve recommendation.

CITY OF LONG BEACH

MARY ZENDEJAS CITY COUNCIL

AL AUSTIN COUNCILMAN 8TH DISTRICT

32

Date: August 6, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Councilmember Al Austin II, Eighth District
Councilmember Mary Zendejas, First District

Subject: Local Temporary Cannabis Special Events Permits

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to request the City Manager to work with the Office of Cannabis Oversight and all relevant departments to conduct a feasibility study on hosting temporary cannabis special events within City limits, including types of appropriate venues, and report back with Council presentation in 60 days.

DISCUSSION

On December 10, 2019, the City Council approved a motion requesting the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to authorize the issuance of local temporary cannabis special event permits.[1] Prior to the Council approval of the motion, the State of California in 2018 began issuing state temporary cannabis event licenses that allow events with onsite adult-use cannabis sales and consumption, pursuant to the Medicinal and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act.

A memorandum from the City Manager regarding the update on the motion was released the following year in February.[2] City staff was unable to fulfill the request due to number of operational and policy issues that must be addressed before an ordinance can be presented. The following year's COVID pandemic called for social distancing and pause to social activity, which naturally delayed the relevancy of the request.

The City Manager is hereby directed to work with the Office of Cannabis Oversight and relevant departments to conduct a feasibility study on temporary cannabis events in Long Beach. This study should establish clear guidelines for venue compliance, including adherence to state visibility requirements for cannabis activities and considerations for onsite consumption plans and designated consumption areas, if applicable. Additionally, the study should provide a

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[1] https://longbeach.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4270083&GUID=469F9001-BE8D-480E-9F8B-924112A48EE3&Options=ID|Text|&Search=cannabis

[2] https://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/city-manager/media-library/documents/memos-to-the-mayor-tabbed-file-list-folders/2020/february-6--2020---update-on-city-council--request-for-an-ordinance-to-allow-for-temporary-cannabis-special-events

comprehensive list of potential locations that Long Beach dispensaries can utilize, including a consideration of the Queen Mary and the Convention Visitors Bureau, for hosting temporary cannabis special events, ensuring full compliance with all relevant regulations.

Once completion of the feasibility study is presented, City Council can request as part of the Council Agenda item presentation that the City Attorney amend the LBMC Chapter 5.92 (Adult-Use Cannabis Businesses and Activities) by drafting an ordinance that authorizes the City Manager to issue local temporary cannabis special event permits and provide recommendations supporting local cannabis businesses. The City does not currently authorize temporary cannabis events. Other jurisdictions throughout California authorize and regulate cannabis special events, including the cities of San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Rosa, and Sacramento, and Counties of Humboldt and San Francisco.

The proposed ordinance will allow and regulate the issuance of temporary cannabis special event permits to a recommended number of events per calendar year, provided that applicants have both their cannabis event organizer and temporary cannabis event licenses from the California Department of Cannabis Control (DCC). The proposed ordinance options should also consider whether entities are up to date on their tax obligations and the impact on issuing a temporary special event permit. A temporary cannabis event license will only be issued for a single day or up to four consecutive days.[3]

This matter has been reviewed by Budget Manager Rebecca Bernstorff on July 26, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT

This recommendation requests the City Manager to work with the Office of Cannabis Oversight and relevant departments to conduct a feasibility study of hosting temporary cannabis special events, including appropriate types of venues, and report back with presentation to Council within 60 days.

The recommendation will have a moderate impact on staff. Conducting an in-house feasibility study will require staff to coordinate with various operational departments to assess impacts and provide more information to City Council for consideration.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

[3] https://cannabis.ca.gov/licensees/events/

Al Austin, Councilman, Eighth District

Mary Zendejas, Councilwoman, First District