

**TOWN OF WINDHAM
MORATORIUM ORDINANCE
ON
RETAIL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS
AND
RETAIL MARIJUANA SOCIAL CLUBS**

WHEREAS, a ballot initiative to legalize, regulate and tax marijuana for non-medicinal purposes known as the “Marijuana Legalization Act,” (the “Act”) proposed to be codified in the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated (“M.R.S.A.”) in Title 7, chapter 417, was approved by a state-wide referendum election on November 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Act authorizes municipalities to regulate the number of retail marijuana stores and the location and operation of retail marijuana social clubs and retail marijuana establishments, including retail marijuana stores, retail marijuana cultivation facilities, retail marijuana products manufacturing facilities and retail marijuana testing facilities, as those terms are defined in the Act, as well as to prohibit the operation of retail marijuana social clubs and retail marijuana establishments, including stores, cultivation facilities, manufacturing facilities and testing facilities, within their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Act will not limit the privileges or rights afforded by the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act (22 M.R.S.A. §§ 2421 – 2430-B) (the “Medical Marijuana Act”) to qualifying patients, primary caregivers, or registered dispensaries, including cultivation facilities associated with any of those classifications;

WHEREAS, the Municipal Code of Ordinances (the “Code of Ordinances”) of the Town of Windham (the “Town”) does not include any regulations related to retail marijuana establishments or retail marijuana social clubs that may be permitted under the Act; and

WHEREAS, the unregulated location and operation of retail marijuana establishments and retail marijuana social clubs within the Town of Windham raises legitimate and substantial questions about the impact of such establishments and social clubs on the Town, including questions about the compatibility of retail marijuana establishments and social clubs with existing uses and development in residential, commercial and industrial zoning districts; the potential adverse health and safety effects of retail marijuana establishments and social clubs on the community if not properly regulated; the possibility of illicit sale and use of marijuana and marijuana products to minors and misuse of marijuana and marijuana products by those who would abuse the uses authorized under the new law; potential criminal activity associated with the cultivation, manufacturing, sale and use of marijuana and marijuana products for non-medicinal purposes and the potential increased burden on the Town’s Police Department and Fire Rescue Department; and the adequacy of the Town’s streets and infrastructure to accommodate the additional traffic and/or population that may result from the presence of retail marijuana establishments or social clubs; and

WHEREAS, the possible effect of the location and operation of retail marijuana establishments and/or retail marijuana social clubs within the Town has potentially serious implications for the health, safety and welfare of the Town and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town needs time to review the Act and to review its own Code of Ordinances to determine the implications of future proposed retail marijuana establishments and/or social clubs to develop reasonable ordinances governing the location and operations of such establishments and social clubs to address the concerns cited above; and

WHEREAS, the Town's current ordinances are insufficient to prevent serious public harm that could be caused by the unregulated development of retail marijuana establishments and social clubs and other uses authorized by the Act; and

WHEREAS, a moratorium is necessary to prevent an overburdening of public facilities that is reasonably foreseeable as the result of retail marijuana establishments and social clubs and other uses being located in Town as authorized by the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council, with the professional advice and assistance of the Town Manager, Planning Board, Planning Department and Police Department, shall study the Town's current Code of Ordinances to determine the land use and other regulatory implications of retail marijuana establishments and social clubs and consider what locations, if any, and approval and performance standards, if any, might be appropriate for such uses; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that such a study, review, and development of recommended Ordinance, changes will take at least one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date the Town enacts this Moratorium Ordinance on Retail Marijuana Establishments and Retail Marijuana Social Clubs;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Windham, that the following Moratorium Ordinance on Retail Marijuana Establishments and Retail Marijuana Social Clubs (the "Moratorium Ordinance") be, and hereby is, enacted, and, in furtherance thereof, the Town Council does hereby declare a moratorium on the location, operation or licensing of any retail marijuana social clubs and any retail marijuana establishments, including retail marijuana stores, retail marijuana cultivation facilities, retail marijuana products manufacturing facilities and retail marijuana testing facilities, within the Town, such terms being defined as in the Act.

This Moratorium Ordinance shall take effect, once enacted by the Town Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter, but shall be applicable as of November 8, 2016, as expressly provided below. The moratorium shall remain in effect for one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date of applicability of this Ordinance, unless extended, repealed, or modified by the Town Council, for the express purpose of drafting an amendment or amendments to the Town's current Code of Ordinances to protect the public from health and safety risks including, but not limited to, compatibility of retail marijuana establishments and social clubs with existing and permitted uses in residential, commercial and industrial zoning districts; the correlation of retail marijuana establishments and social clubs with medical marijuana cultivation facilities and dispensaries, all as defined in the "Marijuana Legalization Act;" the potential adverse health and safety effects of retail marijuana establishments and social clubs on the community if not properly regulated; the possibility of illicit sale and use of marijuana and marijuana products to minors and misuse of marijuana and marijuana products by those who would abuse the uses authorized under the new law; criminal activity associated with the cultivation, manufacturing, sale and use of marijuana and marijuana products for non-medicinal purposes and the potential increased burden on the public safety agencies serving the Town in responding to the same; and the adequacy of the Town's infrastructure to accommodate the additional traffic and/or population that may result from the presence of retail marijuana establishments or social clubs in the Town.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Moratorium Ordinance shall apply to retail marijuana social clubs and retail marijuana establishments, including retail marijuana stores, retail marijuana cultivation facilities, retail marijuana products manufacturing facilities and retail marijuana testing facilities, as those terms are defined by the Act, that may be proposed to be located within the Town on or after the November 8, 2016 applicability date of this Ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that notwithstanding the provisions of 1 M.R.S.A. § 302 or any other law to the contrary, this Moratorium Ordinance, when enacted, shall govern any proposed retail marijuana establishments or social clubs for which an application for a building permit, Certificate of Occupancy, site plan or any other required approval has not been submitted to and granted final approval by the Code Enforcement Officer, Planning Board or other Town official or board prior to November 8, 2016, the applicability date of this Moratorium Ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that no person or organization shall develop or operate a retail marijuana establishment or social club within the Town on or after the November 8, 2016 applicability date of this Moratorium Ordinance without complying with whatever ordinance amendment or amendments the Town Council may enact as a result of this Moratorium Ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that during the time this Moratorium Ordinance is in effect, no officer, official, employee, office, administrative board or agency of the Town shall accept, process, approve, deny, or in any other way act upon any application for a license, building permit or any other type of land use approval or permit and/or any other permits or licenses related to a retail marijuana establishment or retail marijuana social club; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that those provisions of the Town's current Code of Ordinances that are inconsistent or conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed to the extent that they are applicable for the duration of the moratorium hereby ordained, and as it may be extended as permitted by law, but not otherwise; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if retail marijuana establishments or retail marijuana social clubs are established in violation of this Moratorium Ordinance, each day of any continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation of this Moratorium Ordinance, and the Town shall be entitled to all rights available to it in law and equity, including, but not limited to, fines and penalties, injunctive relief, and its reasonable attorney's fees and costs in prosecuting any such violations; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that should any section or provision of this Moratorium Ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such a declaration shall not invalidate any other section or provision.

Emergency Declaration

The Town Council declares the existence of an emergency because the Code of Ordinances is insufficient to prevent serious public harm that could be caused by the unregulated development of retail marijuana establishments and social clubs and other uses authorized by the "Marijuana Legalization Act" approved at the November 8, 2016 referendum election, thereby necessitating a moratorium to provide an opportunity for the Town to review the Act's potential impacts and harm, and to amend its Code of Ordinances to mitigate the potential impact and harm on the Town and its residents.

In accordance with Article II, Section 11(D) of the Town Charter, this Moratorium shall be enacted as an emergency ordinance. It shall stand repealed as of the sixty-first (61st) day following enactment, unless the Town Council shall have acted to reenact it.

Applicability Date: November 8, 2016