



**ORDINANCE 21-07**

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING RECREATIONAL CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS,  
OTHER CANNABIS BUSINESSES, PRODUCTION OF CANNABIS AND CANNABIS  
PRODUCTS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Cannabis Regulation Act has authorized a variety of uses related to the legalization of medical and recreational commercial cannabis activities, which has the potential to expand the legal Cannabis market; and

**WHEREAS**, Cannabis cultivation, production, and manufacturing can involve the use of significant amounts of energy and water and requires security and other measures to reduce the risk of theft or other diversion to the illegal Cannabis market, including possession and use by persons under the age of twenty-one; and

**WHEREAS**, Cannabis is an intoxicating drug, making it appropriate to regulate the hours during which Cannabis products may be sold and the areas in which Cannabis products may be consumed; and

**WHEREAS**, the smoking of Cannabis products may create health risks due to exposure to secondhand smoke and vaporized Cannabis concentrates; and

**WHEREAS**, Cannabis cultivation, production and manufacturing can create strong and offensive odors; and

**WHEREAS**, limiting the density of Cannabis establishments, Cannabis retailers and Cannabis consumption areas are necessary to ensure that Cannabis activities are not unduly concentrated and do not crowd out other uses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the Town of Taos, New Mexico, finds that it will promote the public health, safety, and welfare to enact provisions regulating the use of Cannabis in the Town of Taos.

**THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE GOVERNING  
BODY OF THE TOWN OF TAOS, NEW MEXICO:**

**SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.**

**A. Cannabis.**

(1) means all parts of the plant genus Cannabis containing a delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of more than three-tenths percent on a dry weight basis, whether growing or not; the seeds of the plant; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the plant, its seeds or its resin; and

(2) does not include:

(a) the mature stalks of the plant; fiber produced from the stalks; oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant; any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the mature stalks, fiber, oil or cake; or the sterilized seed of the plant that is incapable of germination; or

(b) the weight of any other ingredient combined with cannabis products to prepare topical or oral administrations, food, drink or another product;

**B. Cannabis Consumption Area.** An area where cannabis products may be served and consumed;

**C. Cannabis courier.** A person that transports cannabis products to qualified patients, primary caregivers or reciprocal participants or directly to consumers;

**D. Cannabis establishment.** Means:

- (1) a cannabis testing laboratory;
- (2) a cannabis manufacturer;
- (3) a cannabis producer;
- (4) a cannabis retailer;
- (5) a cannabis research laboratory;
- (6) a vertically integrated cannabis establishment;
- (7) a cannabis producer microbusiness;
- (8) an integrated cannabis microbusiness; or
- (9) a cannabis consumption area;

**E. Cannabis manufacturer.** A person that:

- (1) manufactures cannabis products;
- (2) packages cannabis products;
- (3) has cannabis products tested by a cannabis testing laboratory; or
- (4) purchases, acquires, sells or transports wholesale cannabis products to

other cannabis establishments;

**F. Cannabis producer.** A person that:

- (1) cultivates cannabis plants as a commercial cannabis activity;
- (2) has unprocessed cannabis products tested by a cannabis testing laboratory;
- (3) transports unprocessed cannabis products only to other cannabis establishments; or
- (4) sells cannabis products wholesale;

**G. Cannabis product.** A product that is or that contains cannabis or cannabis extract, including edible or topical products that may also contain other ingredients;

**H. Cannabis research laboratory.** A facility that produces or possesses cannabis products and all parts of the plant genus Cannabis for the purpose of studying cannabis cultivation, characteristics or uses;

**I. Cannabis Retailer.** A person that sells cannabis products to qualified patients, primary caregivers or reciprocal participants or directly to consumers;

**J. Cannabis Testing Laboratory.** A person that samples, collects and tests cannabis products and transports cannabis products for the purpose of testing;

**K. Commercial cannabis activity:**

- (1) means the cultivation, production, possession, manufacture, storage, testing, researching, labeling, transportation, couriering, purchase for resale, sale or consignment of cannabis products; and
- (2) does not include activities related only to the medical cannabis program, to cannabis training and education programs or to the personal cultivation or use of cannabis;

**L. Consumer.** A person twenty-one years of age or older who purchases, acquires, owns, possesses or uses a cannabis product for a purpose other than resale;

**M. County.** The area lying within the corporate boundaries of the County of Taos and outside the boundaries of any incorporated municipality;

**N. Cultivation.** Any activity involving the planting, growing, harvesting, drying, curing, grading or trimming of cannabis;

**O. Facility.** A building, space or grounds licensed for the production, possession, testing, manufacturing, or distribution of cannabis, cannabis extracts or cannabis products;

- P. Government Facility.** A facility, agency or area used for public purposes, and owned or operated by an instrumentality or agency of federal, state or local government;
- Q. Homegrown or Homemade.** Grown or made for purposes that are not dependent or conditioned upon the provision or receipt of financial consideration;
- R. Household.** A housing unit and includes any place in or around the housing unit at which an occupant of the housing unit produces, manufactures, keeps or stores homegrown cannabis or homemade cannabis products;
- S. Integrated Cannabis Microbusiness.** A person that is authorized to conduct one or more of the following:
- (1) production of cannabis at a single licensed premises; provided that the person shall not possess more than the number of mature cannabis plants specified by regulations of the State of New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department, Cannabis Control Division at any one time;
  - (2) manufacture of cannabis products at a single licensed premises;
  - (3) sales and transportation of only cannabis products produced or manufactured by that person;
  - (4) operation of only one retail establishment; and
  - (5) couriering of cannabis products to qualified patients, primary caregivers or reciprocal participants or directly to consumers;
- T. Licensed Premises.** A location that includes:
- (1) all enclosed public and private areas at the location that are used in the business and includes offices, kitchens, restrooms and storerooms;
  - (2) all areas outside and inside of a building that are specifically included in the license for the production, manufacturing, wholesale sale or retail sale of cannabis products; and
  - (3) with respect to a location that is specifically licensed for the production of cannabis outside of a building, the entire unit of land that is created by subsection or partition of land that the licensee owns, leases or has a right to occupy;
- U. Manufacture.** To compound, blend, extract, infuse, package or otherwise prepare a cannabis product;
- V. Medical Cannabis.** Cannabis products used by a qualified patient or reciprocal participant in accordance with the Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act;
- W. Medical Cannabis Program.** The program was created pursuant to the Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act;

- X. Medical Cannabis Registry.** The system by which the Department of Health approves or denies applications and issues and renews registry identification cards for qualified patients;
- Y. Mobile, Portable or Temporary Unit.** Any motorized or non-motorized vehicle, trailer, or other device designed to be portable and not permanently attached to the ground from which items are ordinarily vended, served, or offered for sale;
- Z. Public Place.** A place to which the general public has access and includes hallways, lobbies and other parts of apartment houses and hotels that do not constitute rooms or apartments designed for actual residence; highways; streets; schools; places of amusement; parks; playgrounds; and places used in connection with public passenger transportation;
- AA. Qualified Patient.** A resident of New Mexico who holds a registry identification card pursuant to the Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act;
- BB. Reciprocal Participant.** A person who is not a resident of New Mexico and who holds proof of enrollment by a governmental regulatory authority to participate in the medical cannabis program of another state of the United States, the District of Columbia or a territory or commonwealth of the United States in which the person resides or a person who holds proof of enrollment by a governmental regulatory authority of a New Mexico Indian nation, tribe or pueblo to participate in its medical cannabis program;
- CC. Residence.** A place where someone lives;
- DD. Retail Establishment.** A location at which cannabis products are sold to qualified patients, primary caregivers and reciprocal participants and directly to consumers;
- EE. Smoke.** To inhale, exhale, burn or carry any lighted or heated device or pipe or any other lighted or heated cannabis products intended for inhalation, whether natural or synthetic, in any manner or in any form, including use of an e-cigarette that creates an aerosol or vapor;
- FF. Town.** Means the Town of Taos, New Mexico;
- GG. Unprocessed.** Unaltered from an original, raw or natural state;
- HH. Vertically Integrated Cannabis Establishment.** A person that is authorized to act as any of the following:
- (1) a cannabis courier;
  - (2) a cannabis manufacturer;
  - (3) a cannabis producer; and

(4) a cannabis retailer; and

II. **Taos Historic District Overlay Zone ("HOZ")** means that area described in Section 16.16.220 and subsequent subsections of the Town Code.

## **SECTION 2. LOCATION**

- (A) **Separation:** A cannabis producer or a cannabis manufacturer shall not be located within 300 feet of a residence or the Historic Taos Plaza. A cannabis establishment shall not be located within three hundred (300) feet of another cannabis establishment. Cannabis establishments may be co-located.
- (B) **Minimum separation distance for schools and daycare centers.** A cannabis establishment must maintain a minimum separation distance of at least 300 feet from any school or daycare center that was in existence at the time the cannabis establishment was licensed by the state.
- (C) **Measurement.** For the purposes of this Ordinance, distances shall be measured in a straight line, without regard to intervening structures or objects, from the nearest point on the property line of the lot on which the cannabis establishment is located to the nearest point on any property line of a residence or cannabis establishment.
- (D) **Exception for Subsequent Uses of Nearby Property.** A cannabis establishment, lawfully operating under this Ordinance, shall not be deemed to be in violation of the location restrictions set forth above solely because a specific use subsequently locates within the minimum required distance of the cannabis establishment, or when any other lot or tract within the required minimum distance of the cannabis establishment subsequently becomes a school or daycare center.

## **SECTION 3. OPERATING TIMES.**

Cannabis retailers and cannabis consumption areas may only operate during the following hours:

- (A) **Cannabis Consumption Areas.** Products may only be served and consumed in cannabis consumption areas between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and midnight Monday through Sunday.
- (B) **Cannabis Retailers.** Cannabis retailers may only sell cannabis products for off-site consumption between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and midnight Monday through Sunday.

## **SECTION 4. CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREAS.**

Cannabis consumption areas are subject to the following:

- (A) A cannabis consumption area in which consumption is limited to consumption by qualified patients or reciprocal participants may be located inside any cannabis retailer; provided, however, that smoking of cannabis products in such

consumption areas is only allowed if the cannabis consumption area occupies a standalone building from which smoke does not infiltrate other indoor workplaces, or other indoor public places where smoking is otherwise prohibited pursuant to the Dee Johnson Clean Indoor Air Act, NMSA 1978, Chapter 24, Article 16.

(B) Cannabis consumption areas that are open to consumers are also subject to the following:

- (1) the smoking of cannabis products is only allowed within a licensed cannabis consumption area that occupies a standalone building from which smoke does not infiltrate other indoor workplaces or other indoor public places where smoking is otherwise prohibited pursuant to the Dee Johnson Clean Indoor Air Act, NMSA 1978, Chapter 24, Article 16; and
- (2) access to cannabis consumption areas open to consumers is restricted to persons twenty-one years of age and older.

## **SECTION 5. BUSINESS REGISTRATION**

Any person engaged in commercial cannabis activities must obtain a Town of Taos Business Registration before engaging in such activity.

## **SECTION 6. CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT PERMIT**

Any person seeking to operate a cannabis establishment in the Town of Taos may obtain a cannabis establishment permit under the following conditions:

- (A) The permit shall be obtained from the Town of Taos Code Administrator.
- (B) The cost of the permit shall be \$250 for the initial permit, and \$100 for the annual renewal of the permit.
- (C) The following information shall be required from the applicant for a permit under this Ordinance:
  - (1) The name, address, and business organization of the applicant and location the applicant intends to transact business, as well as the specific business to be transacted.
  - (2) If the applicant is an individual, the mailing address and phone number of the applicant.
  - (3) If the applicant is a partnership, the names, mailing addresses, and phone numbers of all partners.
  - (4) If the applicant is a Limited Liability Company, the state of organization, address of the resident agent in New Mexico sufficient for service of process, the name of the managing member(s) together with mailing address, and the name, mailing address and phone number of each member of the company.
  - (5) If the applicant is a corporation, the state of incorporation, the name, phone number, and address of the registered agent in New Mexico sufficient for service of process, and the name, mailing address, and phone number of each

- officer or director of the corporation.
- (6) Prior to the issuance of a permit, any Limited Liability Company or corporation shall provide a certificate of good standing.
  - (7) The applicant shall provide Federal and State tax identification numbers.
  - (8) The applicant shall provide a copy of its permit from the Regulation and Licensing Division of the State of New Mexico.
- (D) Prior to issuance of a permit, the Code Administrator or designee shall confirm compliance with zoning, distancing and fencing requirements provided in Section 2 (Location) and Section 7 (Fencing).
- (E) No permit shall be issued to a temporary or portable building.
- (F) No permit shall be issued to a drive-through cannabis establishment.
- (G) Failure to meet the conditions above will result in non-issuance of a permit.
- (H) If denial of an application for a new permit or renewal permit is deemed necessary by the Code Administrator, written notice of the decision shall be provided to the applicant.
- (I) Any person or entity denied a permit may, within ten (10) days of the receipt of notice of the denial, file an appeal with the Governing Body of the Town of Taos. The Notice of Appeal shall be delivered to the Town Manager and a hearing shall be scheduled within sixty (60) days of receipt of the Notice. The appeal shall be *de novo* and the burden of proof shall be on the applicant to establish entitlement to a permit. The Governing Body shall make written findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting its decision. Any further appeal shall be to the District Court, in accordance with NMSA 1978, Section 39-3-1.1 and Rule 1-074 NMRA.
- (J) Operation of a cannabis establishment without a permit is a violation of this Ordinance.

## **SECTION 7. FENCING AND SECURITY**

- A. Each cannabis producer, cannabis research laboratory, and cannabis testing laboratory is required to erect and maintain a lockable fence of sturdy construction measuring at least six feet in height enclosing and screening from view the area where cannabis is located. The enclosure shall remain securely locked during non-business hours.
- B. All State licensed and permitted facilities engaged in the retail sale, production, consumption, research, storage or handling of recreational or medical marijuana shall install and maintain security to include perimeter entry alarm and video surveillance systems with remote 24-hour monitoring and shall provide and maintain current information on on-site systems, security and alarm monitoring



and premises contact information on record (registered) with the Town of Taos Police Department and Taos County E-911 Combined Dispatch.

### **SECTION 8. MOBILE UNITS**

Cannabis sales from mobile, portable, or temporary units or drive-through locations are prohibited.

### **SECTION 9. SMOKING OF CANNABIS IN A PUBLIC PLACE**

Smoking of cannabis products in a public place, except as permitted by state law, is prohibited.

### **SECTION 10. EXISTING MEDICAL CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS**

Any medical cannabis establishment existing as of the date of the passage of this Ordinance shall not be required to comply with the location requirements of Section 2. However, the owners of such businesses shall, within 90 days of the effective date of this Ordinance, submit an application for a permit.

### **SECTION 11. ZONING.**

- A. A Cannabis Retailer shall be restricted to the following Zones: Central Business district ("CBD"), C-1 or C-2 General Commercial Zone, highway corridor protection district ("HCPD") and M-1 light manufacturing zone.
- B. A Cannabis Manufacturer shall be restricted to the following Zone: M-1 light manufacturing zone.
- C. A Cannabis Producer shall be restricted to the following Zone: M-1 light manufacturing zone.
- D. Integrated Cannabis Microbusiness shall be restricted to the following Zones: C-1 or C-2 general commercial zone, highway corridor protection district (HCPD), and M-1 light manufacturing zone.
- E. Vertically Integrated Cannabis Establishment shall be restricted to the following Zone: M-1 light manufacturing zone.

### **SECTION 12. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

Should any portion of this Ordinance be declared unenforceable after a final, non-appealable decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall, to the extent feasible, remain in full force and effect.

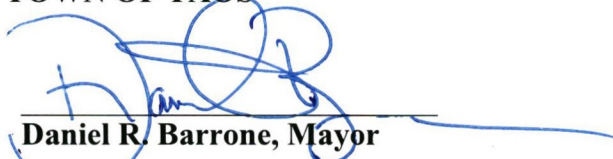
**SECTION 13. EMERGENCY CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Because of the urgent need for regulation pursuant to this Ordinance, the Governing Body declares that it is necessary for the public peace, health and safety that this Ordinance take effect immediately after passage when it is recorded in the book kept by the Town for that purpose and authenticated by the signature of the Town Clerk. In the event a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the passage of this Ordinance did not constitute an emergency, then the effective date of this Ordinance shall be 30 days after this Ordinance is recorded with the Town Clerk.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021, at the Special Meeting of the Town Council by the following vote:

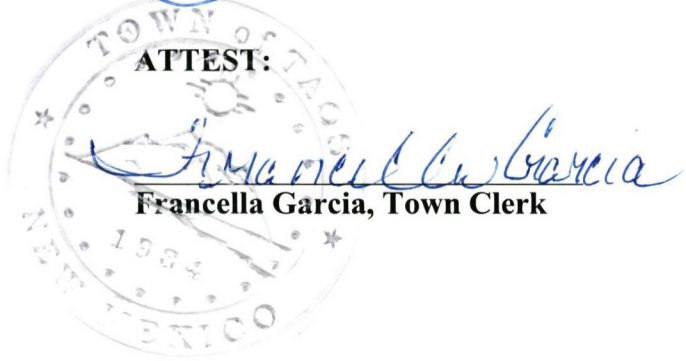
Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Evans	<u>yes</u>
Councilmember George (Fritz) Hahn	<u>yes</u>
Councilmember Darien Fernandez	<del>yes</del> <u>Absent</u> 
Councilmember Pascualito Maestas	<u>yes</u>

**TOWN OF TAOS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Daniel R. Barrone, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Francella Garcia, Town Clerk**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Stephen Ross, Town Attorney**