

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, SECTION 34.2, SECTION 34.4, SECTION 34.5, AND CHAPTER 25, SECTION 24.2 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE (LICENSED CANNABIS ENTITIES)

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY that Chapter 5 and Chapter 25 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of West Orange be and are hereby amended as follows:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to update the provision of the Municipal Code of the Township of West Orange governing the local licensing requirements and zoning conditions for Licensed Cannabis Entities within the Township of West Orange to: (i) update and amend the total number of local licenses allowable Licensed Cannabis Entities and specifying the maximum number of local license for specific categories of Licensed Cannabis Entities; and (ii) to create a separate parking requirement under the Zoning Conditions for Licensed Cannabis Cultivators and Licensed Cannabis Manufacturers with a limited number of employees for those cultivation and manufacturing activities based on the fact that without retail customers the need for parking spaces are not as extensive.

II. CHAPTER 5, SECTION 34.2 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED TO INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING:

5-34.2 Definitions.

For the purpose of this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

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Pre-Approved Entities means Applicant(s) who have: (i) received a Resolution of Local Support from the Township on or before January 10, 2023 with all subsequent modifications, if any, approved by the Township of West Orange; and (ii) whose cannabis business receives an annual license from the Commission.

III. CHAPTER 5, SECTION 34.4 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED TO INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING:

5-34.4 Local License Standards and Limitations.

- a. The Township may approve or deny an application for a Local License to operate a License Cannabis Entity at its sole discretion, consistent with all governing State Law, based on an evaluation of the benefits compared to the potential harm of the prospective licensee’s operation of a Licensed Cannabis Entity as proposed in the prospective licensee’s application for a Local License.

- b. The number of Licensed Cannabis Entities holding a Local Licenses shall be limited to: (i) four Local Licenses for Cannabis Retailers; and (ii) three total Local License for Cannabis Cultivators and Manufacturers. ~~a combined total of four (4) irrespective of the categories of Licensed Cannabis Entities. This cap shall be inclusive of all Local Licenses issued to Targeted Microbusinesses.~~ This cap of four (4) Licensed Cannabis Entities-Retailers with Local Licenses may be increased to allow Pre-Approved Entities to move forward.

IV. CHAPTER 5, SECTION 34.8 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED TO INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING:

5-34.8 Operating Requirements and Prohibitions.

- a. A Licensed Cannabis Entity may only operate from the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m.
- b. No persons under the age of 21 shall be allowed in a Licensed Cannabis Establishment. No person under the age of 18 shall be allowed in a Licensed Medical Marijuana Facility.
- c. The sale or consumption of alcohol at a Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be prohibited.
- d. Cannabis Consumption Areas, as defined in the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act, N.J.S.A. 24:6I-31, et. seq., shall be prohibited.
- e. A Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be secured and have full-time security protocols in place subject to review and approval from the West Orange Police Department which shall include at least a twenty-four-hour security video system with footage to be kept for at least 30 days and a vault for storage of money when the Licensed Cannabis Entity is closed. Prior to the commencement of any operations, a Licensed Cannabis Entity must first obtain from the Police Chief, or designee, written approval of the Licensed Cannabis Entity's security protocols. The Police Chief, or designee, shall have to authority to require additional safety and security measures.
- f. All Licensed Cannabis Cultivator and License Cannabis Manufacturer shall establish and maintain a working odor mitigation system to prevent the emanation of offensive odors from the facilities utilized for cultivation and manufacturing.

V. CHAPTER 25, SECTION 24.2 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED TO INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING:

25-24.2 Conditional Uses.

b. Specific Requirements. Subject to the stipulations, guiding principles and conditions contained in this section, the Planning Board shall have the power to grant conditional uses authorized by the Table of District Regulations, in specified districts, as follows:

2. Business and Industrial Districts.

(o) Licensed Cannabis Entities. Licensed Cannabis Retailers and Licensed Medical Cannabis Dispensaries shall be permitted as a conditional use in the B-1, B-2, and I Districts. All other Licensed Cannabis Entities shall be permitted as a conditional use in the I Districts. These conditional uses shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be required to have a Local License pursuant to Chapter 5, Section 34 of the Township of West Orange Municipal Code.
- (2) No Licensed Cannabis Entity, except a Pre-Approved Entity at its originally approved location, shall be located within five hundred feet (500') of the property line of any property with any school building.
- (3) No Licensed Cannabis Entity, except a Pre-Approved Entity at its originally approved location, shall be located within 500 feet (500') from the property line of any property with a House of Worship, as defined under Chapter 25, Section 4.
- (4) All Licensed Cannabis Entities shall comply with the following Parking Requirements for Nonresidential Uses: (i) Licensed Cannabis Retailers shall comply with the minimum required number of parking spaces for Retail Stores and personal services stores or studios not separately listed; and (ii) all other Licensed Cannabis Entities shall comply with the minimum required number of parking spaces for Light industrial, laboratory and research uses, except that a Cannabis Cultivator or Cannabis Manufacturer with no more than ten (10) employees shall provide at least 1 total parking space per 1,000 square feet of gross floor area.
- (5) No Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be housed in a vehicle or any movable or mobile structure.
- (6) No Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be allowed to operate as a Home Occupation.
- (7) Any signage for a Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be subject to the approval from either the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Adjustment under the guidelines and standards governing commercial signs as set forth within the Township Municipal Code.
- (8) A Licensed Cannabis Entity shall meet all of the required security measures as set forth in Chapter 5, Section 34 of the Township of West Orange Municipal Code.
- (9) Cannabis Consumption Areas, as defined in the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act, N.J.S.A. 24:6I-31, et. seq., shall be prohibited from all Licensed Cannabis Entities.

VI. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

Any Ordinances of the Township which are in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

VII. SEVERABILITY

If any part of this Ordinance shall be deemed invalid, such parts shall be severed and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this Ordinance.

VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

SUSAN McCARTNEY, MAYOR

**BILL RUTHERFORD
COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

**KAREN J. CARNEVALE, R.M.C.
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

INTRODUCED: May 21, 2024

ADOPTED: July 9, 2024

Legislative History

The purpose of this ordinance is to update the provision of the Municipal Code of the Township of West Orange governing the local licensing requirements and zoning conditions for Licensed Cannabis Entities within the Township of West Orange to: (i) update and amend the total number of local licenses allowable Licensed Cannabis Entities and specifying the maximum number of local license for specific categories of Licensed Cannabis Entities; and (ii) to create a separate parking requirement under the Zoning Conditions for Licensed Cannabis Cultivators and Licensed Cannabis Manufacturers with a limited number of employees for those cultivation and manufacturing activities based on the fact that without retail customers the need for parking spaces are not as extensive.