

TOWN OF HOPKINTON, RHODE ISLAND

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APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE

NARRATIVE

The State of Rhode Island allows for a “Compassion Center” to sell medical marijuana at retail to medical marijuana card holders. Our proposal for a Zoning Amendment to the Town of Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance is based on Two Amendments. Those are:

1. Proposed use of a “Compassion Center” to be included in the Zoning Code under Section 2 Definitions. That use under Section 2 Definitions would be in line with the State Definition and defined as:

“A facility licensed by the state department of business regulation that dispenses medical marijuana and related products at retail to purchasers who are registered with the state department of health. A Compassion center may also buy or cultivate medical marijuana, manufacture medical marijuana products, or deliver or transport medical marijuana or medical marijuana products. A compassion center may not be located within one thousand feet of the property line of a preexisting public or private school.”

2. Proposed Addition of “Compassion Center” under Section 5 District Use Regulations, more specially under the District Use Table created new section 5912 (or whatever the Town deems a more appropriate section under the District use Table) as outlined below:

<i>Use Category</i>	RFR - 80	RES -1	Neighborhood Business	Commercial	Manufacturing	Aquifer Primary	Overlay Secondary
<i>59 Retail Trade - Miscellaneous Retail Stores</i>							
591 Drug Stores	N	N	P	P	S	P	P
5912 Compassion Center	N	N	N	N	S	N	N
592 Liquor Stores	N	N	P	P	S	P	P

This proposed use of a “Compassion Center” definition is the same definition the State is using. This use is currently not defined in the Town of Hopkinton Zoning Code and therefore not permitted in any zone according to the use code table. We are requesting the zoning ordinance amendment to allow for a “Compassion Center” by way of a Special Use Permit in the Manufacturing Zone. Allowing a Compassion Center by way of a Special Use Permit allows for the Town to have the ability to determine whether or not it is suitable for a specific lot to have a Compassion Center on an individual basis as opposed to being allowed by right.

To add clarity to the State Permitting process for a Compassion Center: Currently the State has three active Locations that are licensed Compassion Centers. In its due diligence, the State has opted to add 6 additional locations throughout the State of Rhode Island, for a total of 9. In doing so they have sectioned off 6 Zones within the State that do not overlap with another Zone. In each Zone, only 1 Compassion Center will eventually be licensed to operate a Compassion Center. In order to determine which applicant the State will choose for the zone, the State has opened up a lottery system. What does this mean? This means that any applicant who wishes to have a Compassion Center license shall submit an application in full to the State. One of the checklist items required is that an applicant must show that they have a location that fits the States minimum qualifications, AND has all of the local approvals necessary from the City or Town proposed to operate in. Once an applicant can meet a flurry of items, including the one mentioned above, the State will add their name to the list of qualified applicants to a lottery system. In that lottery only 1 applicant for each zone will be chosen at random.