



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, ICMA-CM, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: August 12, 2025

Subject: Request to Consider Expanding Number of Recreational Cannabis Dispensaries

The City received a letter (enclosed) from Mr. Nick Montanari, owner of the business located at 1440 85th Avenue NE, Suite 1458, currently licensed for tobacco and low-dose hemp sales. Mr. Montanari has received pre-approval from the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management to operate as a fully licensed recreational cannabis dispensary, subject to satisfying local zoning and registration requirements. He has requested that the City Council discuss the possibility of operating a dispensary at his current location.

Under Spring Lake Park City Code, the City allows for the registration of only one state-licensed recreational cannabis dispensary within city limits. That single registration has already been requested for 8478 Highway 65 NE. The ordinance does not currently provide for additional dispensary registrations.

Mr. Montanari is requesting that the City Council consider amending the ordinance to allow additional dispensary registrations, which would permit his business to apply for and potentially operate as a licensed dispensary. Staff notes that the City has also received interest from additional parties regarding the operation of a recreational cannabis dispensary.

Staff is seeking feedback from the City Council on the following:

- Does the Council wish to maintain the current limit of one dispensary registration?
- Does the Council wish to consider an ordinance amendment to increase the number of dispensary registrations allowed in the City? If so, how many?

Pending City Council direction, staff will prepare materials for either (a) a work session discussion on potential ordinance amendments, or (b) a written response to Mr. Montanari reaffirming the City's current ordinance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.