

MARIJUANA REGULATIONS CONVERSATION
Questions and Answers

ANTHONY WARREN

Studies by researchers from University of Denver (as published in Justice Quarterly) found neighborhoods with one or more medical or recreational dispensaries saw increased crime rates that were between 26 and 1,452 percent higher than in neighborhoods without any commercial marijuana activity. Given this research, how do you defend to families in the community these kinds of risky proposed changes?

Response: Marijuana businesses are not allowed in neighborhoods by State law. The changes being considered, would allow marijuana retailers in commercial areas, subject being sited at least 1,000 feet away from residential neighborhoods, in addition to schools, parks, and libraries.

NIKLAS WARREN

Knowing state law makes personal marijuana use legal on one's own private property/home, and not out in public, what practical purpose does reducing minimum distance in public serve?

Response: The Tualatin City Council has directed staff to solicit public feedback on the proposed reduction of the existing 3,000 buffers from schools, libraries, parks to 1,000 feet.

WILLIAM DI GIALLORENZO

How can I open a marijuana store in Tualatin?

Response: Marijuana businesses in Oregon are primarily regulated by the Oregon Liquor Licensing Commission. Businesses seeking a license to do business in Tualatin are required to obtain approval for their location and comply with Tualatin's locally adopted regulations (Chapter 80 of the Development Code). All businesses operating in Tualatin must also obtain a business license.

KATHLEEN SILLOWAY

My question has to do with the reduction in distance from marijuana dispensaries to places like schools and parks--as well as between each other. Is this to get more in line with state guidelines? If not, why the proposed reduction?

Response: The proposed changes include a change to reduce the maximum distance between marijuana businesses from 2,000 feet to 1,000, to comply with state law. State guidelines require marijuana businesses to be 1,000 feet from schools and outside of residential areas. Tualatin's other existing marijuana regulations and proposed changes are locally adopted.

Also, why the limitation on the central commercial district? We have a vaping store and bars there; how is this different? It seems somewhat hypocritical to me, truth be told.

Response: The proposed changes would allow marijuana retailers in commercial areas but would require them to be at least 1,000 feet from parks, schools, the library, and residential areas. In certain commercial locations, including those adjacent to the Tualatin Library and Tualatin Commons park, this 1,000 foot "buffer" would effectively prohibit marijuana retailers.

Thank you. I am hoping to be able to be on the Zoom call. Will it be recorded and accessible later for those who can't?

Response: Yes. Please visit: <https://www.tualatinoregon.gov/communitydevelopment/information-session-proposed-changes-marijuana-regulations>

SUSAN HANSON

Can you tell us the process for making changes? Will the council make the decision, or will there be a vote?

Response: If approved, the proposed changes would be made by Ordinance adopted by the City Council, and would not be put out to a public vote. A public hearing on the proposed changes is currently scheduled for November 9, 2020.

Are there other cities in Oregon with restrictions that exceed the minimum state restrictions specifically regarding 1000 feet from schools? And is the 1000 feet distance from schools the state restriction?

Response: State law requires marijuana businesses to be at least 1,000 feet from schools. The City has not conducted a comparative analysis of other municipal marijuana facility regulations.

Will you be able to provide us with a map showing where marijuana businesses can be located given the proposed changes?

Response: Yes. Please visit: <https://www.tualatinoregon.gov/communitydevelopment/information-session-proposed-changes-marijuana-regulations>

I believe there is only one liquor store in the city of Tualatin, will there be a limited number of marijuana businesses allowed in the city of Tualatin?

Response: There is no existing or proposed limit strictly based on the number of marijuana businesses located in Tualatin.

RIVERPARK CIO

Do you have dispensaries showing interest in opening here?

Response: Since the adoption of regulations in 2015, several prospective facility operators have contacted the Planning Division to inquire about Tualatin's location requirements and regulations.

PAT BUDOR

Is there a minimum distance from a residential zone? Commercial zones are right next to residential zones, so if it's right on the border it will in effect be in a residential one.

Response: State law prohibits marijuana facilities in residential zones. The changes being considered would require marijuana facilities to be located at least 1,000 feet from a residential zone.

ANTHONY WARREN

I am curious when will we have the opportunity to engage city councilors on this directly? I have already emailed them in the past on this topic but am hoping for more direct community QA from officials.

Response: *You may contact City Councilors on this topic at any time. However, all comments and questions received through this outreach process will be shared with the entire City Council. The City Council will consider the proposed changes at a public hearing currently scheduled for November 9, 2020, at which you may also provide written and/or verbal testimony.*

Also why is the city eager to change these rules? The attempt at possible revenue increase does not seem in line with community values and the work done in years.

Response: *The Tualatin City Council has directed staff to solicit public feedback on the proposed changes.*

ANONYMOUS

Will the many emails and public testimony against changing regulation the council received earlier this year be included in the record?

Response: *To ensure any emails and testimony are included in the public record for the recently proposed changes, please email to engman@tualatin.gov.*