

CITY OF WARRENVILLE**MEMO**

To: Mayor, City Council, and City Administrator Coakley
From: Consuelo Arguilles, Assistant Community Development Director *ok*
Subject: ADULT USE CANNABIS DISPENSARY UPDATE
Date: May 3, 2022

Purpose of Memo

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update regarding the adult use cannabis dispensary that received Special Use approval in 2020 to operate at 4S120 North Illinois Route 59 in Warrenville. This property was formerly a drive-through bank and continues to be vacant. The adult use cannabis dispensary is waiting to receive a license from the State of Illinois, which is on hold due to a court ruling. There are ongoing lawsuits challenging the fairness of the State's licensing process. The State is unable to issue any new licenses to qualifying applicants because of this.

Background

On June 25, 2019, Governor J.B. Pritzker signed into the law the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, known as HB 1438. The bill ended cannabis prohibition and legalized recreational use of cannabis for adults 21 and over in Illinois. The bill took effect on January 1, 2020. The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) is charged with implementing and administrating multiple aspects of the program, including the licensing and oversight of dispensing organizations.

In 2020, the City of Warrenville granted Special Use approval to NuMed Partners LLC to operate an adult use cannabis dispensary. The City Council approved the Special Use at its September 8, 2020 meeting via Ordinance O2020-32 and granted a 12-month extension at its July 6, 2021 meeting via Ordinance O2021-28.

Per Bret Bender, Deputy Director of Cannabis Control Section at IDFPR, the state conducted lotteries for licenses, including in the Social Equity Justice category, in 2021 and processed 55 conditional adult use cannabis dispensary licenses in 2022. Subsequently, a court ruling was issued prohibiting the State from issuing any new licenses. A date to resume is unknown. The City of Warrenville falls within Region #5 in the State of Illinois.

Update

NuMed Partners LLC continues to have an agreement in place at the Warrenville location. They have an active lease, continue to make payments, and have been in regular communication with the landlord. They are waiting for the State to resume issuing licenses and anticipate they remain on track to be issued two licenses, including one that could be applied in Region 5. They plan to operate a dispensary doing business as NuEra. Should the timeline for issuing licenses continue to be extended, they are exploring alternative short-term uses for the space with one of their existing partners (for example, hosting a coffee shop). These discussions are still in the planning stages.