ARTICLE XVII. RETAIL MARIJUANA

Division 1 In General

Sec. 15-601. Purpose.

The purpose of this Article is to implement the provisions of Title 44, Article 10, C.R.S., known as the Colorado Marijuana Code.


Sec. 15-602. Incorporation of state law.

The provisions of the Colorado Marijuana Code, and any rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, are incorporated herein by reference except to the extent that more restrictive or additional regulations are set forth in this Article.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014, § 1, 3-18-14; Ord. No. 011, 2020, § 3, 1-21-20)

Sec. 15-603. Definitions.

(a) The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this Article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this Section:

Applicant shall mean any person or entity, having any financial or ownership interest as set forth in the Colorado Marijuana Code, who has submitted an application for a license or renewal of a license issued pursuant to this Article. If the applicant is an entity and not a natural person, applicant shall include all persons who are the members, managers, officers, directors and shareholders, of such entity.

Colorado Marijuana Code shall mean Title 44, Article 10, C.R.S., and any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder.

Cultivate or cultivation shall mean the process by which an individual grows a marijuana plant.

Financial interest shall mean any ownership interest as defined in the Colorado Marijuana Code.

License shall mean a document issued by the City officially permitting an applicant to operate a retail marijuana business pursuant to this Article.

Licensed premises shall mean the premises specified in an application for a license under the provisions of this Article, the Colorado Marijuana Code, and rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, that are owned or in the possession of the licensee and within which the licensee is permitted to cultivate, manufacture, distribute, sell or test retail marijuana in accordance with this Article.

Licensee shall mean the person to whom a license has been issued pursuant to this Article.

Medical marijuana business shall mean a medical marijuana store, medical marijuana cultivation facility or medical marijuana products manufacturer, medical marijuana testing facility, a marijuana research and development licensee, or a medical marijuana business operator as defined in the Colorado Marijuana Code.
Marijuana products shall mean concentrated marijuana products and marijuana products that are comprised of marijuana and other ingredients that are intended for use or consumption, such as, but not limited to, edible products, ointment and tinctures.

Owner shall mean the person or persons who have an interest in a retail marijuana business as defined in the Colorado Marijuana Code.

Person shall mean a natural person, partnership, association, company, corporation, limited liability company or organization, or a manager, agent, owner, director, servant, officer or employee thereof; provided, however, that person shall not include any governmental organization.

Retail marijuana shall mean marijuana that is grown and sold pursuant to the Colorado Retail Marijuana Code.

Retail marijuana business shall mean a retail marijuana store, retail marijuana cultivation facility, a retail marijuana products manufacturer a retail marijuana testing facility, or a retail marijuana business operator as defined in the Colorado Marijuana Code.

Retail marijuana business operator shall mean a person that is not an owner of a retail marijuana business and that is licensed to provide professional operational services to a retail marijuana business for direct remuneration from such business.

Retail marijuana cultivation facility shall mean an entity licensed to cultivate, prepare and package marijuana and sell marijuana to retail marijuana stores, to marijuana products manufacturing facilities and to other marijuana cultivation facilities, but not to consumers.

Retail marijuana products manufacturing facility shall mean an entity licensed to purchase marijuana; manufacture, prepare and package marijuana products; and sell marijuana and marijuana products to other marijuana product manufacturing facilities and to retail marijuana stores, but not to consumers.

Retail marijuana store shall mean an entity licensed to purchase marijuana from marijuana cultivation facilities and marijuana and marijuana products from marijuana products manufacturing facilities and to sell marijuana and marijuana products to consumers.

Retail marijuana testing facility shall mean an entity licensed to analyze and certify the safety and potency of marijuana.

(b) In addition to the definitions contained in Subsection (a) above, other terms used in this Article shall have the meaning ascribed to them in Article XVIII, Section 16 of the Colorado Constitution or the Colorado Marijuana Code, and such definitions are hereby incorporated into this Article by this reference.

Sec. 15-604. Creation.

There shall be and is hereby created a Retail Marijuana Licensing Authority, hereafter referred to in this Article as the "Authority."

Division 2 Retail Marijuana Licensing Authority
Sec. 15-605. Composition.
The Authority shall be a person appointed by the City Manager.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14)

Sec. 15-606. Functions.

(a) The Authority shall have the duty and authority pursuant to the Colorado Retail Marijuana Code and this Article to grant or refuse an application and levy penalties against licensees in the manner provided by law.

(b) The Authority shall consider applications for licensure, new business premises, transfer of ownership, change of location, change of ownership, change of corporate structure, premises modification and any other appropriate application.

(c) The Authority shall have all the powers of a Local Licensing Authority as set forth in the Colorado Marijuana Code.

(d) The Authority shall have the power to promulgate rules and regulations concerning the procedures for hearings before the Authority.

(e) The Authority shall have the power to require any applicant or licensee to furnish such information to the Authority as may be reasonably necessary in order for the Authority to perform the duties and functions authorized by this Article.

(f) The Authority shall have the power to administer oaths and issue subpoenas to require the presence of persons and the production of papers, books and records at any hearing which the Authority is authorized to conduct. Any such subpoena shall be served in the same manner as a subpoena issued by a District Court of the State.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 16 of Article XVIII of the Colorado Constitution, the Authority shall not act upon any application for local licensing of a retail marijuana business in circumstances where the State has failed to issue the applicant an annual license within ninety (90) days after its receipt of such application.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14; Ord. No. 011, 2020 , § 5, 1-21-20)

Division 3 Licenses, Fees, Regulations and Procedures

Sec. 15-607. License requirements.

No person may operate a retail marijuana business in the City without having obtained a license under the provisions of this Article. No person shall be a retail marijuana business operator without having obtained a license under the provisions of this Article.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14; Or. No. 035, 2018 , § 3, 3-6-18; Ord. No. 011, 2020 , § 6, 1-21-20)

Sec. 15-608. Retail marijuana stores.

(a) Only a licensed medical marijuana store in good standing with state and local licensing authorities may be licensed as, or may operate, a retail marijuana store in the City.
(b) A retail marijuana store and medical marijuana store held by the same licensee shall be contiguous, located within the same building and under the exclusive control of the licensee.

(c) All retail marijuana stores shall prohibit the entrance of persons under the age of twenty-one (21) to the licensed premises, including that portion of the premises that is licensed as a medical marijuana store.

(Supp. No. 139)

Sec. 15-609. Retail marijuana cultivation facilities.

(a) Only a licensed retail marijuana store or retail marijuana products manufacturer may be licensed as, or may operate, a retail marijuana cultivation facility in the City.

(b) All retail marijuana cultivation facilities shall have their harvest and production batches tested for labeling purposes prior to any sale of marijuana or marijuana product.

(c) Retail marijuana cultivation facilities may sell or otherwise distribute retail marijuana only to licensed retail marijuana stores or licensed retail marijuana products manufacturers that are in good standing with no pending violation(s) or current suspended sentence as a result of a violation(s) of Article XVII, Chapter 15 of the City Code, or other applicable local regulatory provisions; Article XVIII, Section 16 of the Colorado Constitution; the Colorado Marijuana Code; and the Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division Rules and Regulations.

(Supp. No. 139)
(1) Retail Marijuana Transporter License; and
(2) Retail Marijuana Off-premises Storage Permit.

(Ord. No. 035, 2018 , § 5, 3-6-18)

Sec. 15-612. Requirements of application for license; payment of application fees.

(a) Any person seeking a license for any retail marijuana business under the provisions of the Colorado Marijuana Code and this Article shall submit a completed State application to the Authority. At the time of application, each applicant shall pay a nonrefundable fee to defray the costs incurred by the City for background investigations and inspection of the proposed premises, as well as any other costs associated with the processing of the application.

(b) The applicant shall also provide any information that is deemed necessary by the Authority in connection with the investigation and review of the application regarding the applicant, and any person having a ten (10) percent or greater financial interest in the retail marijuana business that is the subject of the application or, if the applicant is an entity, having a financial interest in the entity.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14; Ord. No. 011, 2020 , § 12, 1-21-20)

Sec. 15-613. Denial of application and consequences.

(a) The Authority shall deny any application that does not meet the requirements of the Colorado Marijuana Code, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or the provisions of this Article.

(b) An applicant that has been denied a license by the Marijuana Licensing Authority for including a false, misleading or fraudulent statement, or for intentionally omitting pertinent information on his or her application for a license, in violation of Section 15-614(6) of this Article, shall not be permitted by the Authority to submit a subsequent application for a period of (6) six months from the date of the denial.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14; Ord. No. 117, 2015, § 1, 10-6-15 ; Ord. No. 011, 2020 , § 13, 1-21-20)

Sec. 15-614. Persons prohibited as licensees.

No license shall be issued to, held by or renewed by any of the following:

(1) Any person who is, at the time of application for a retail marijuana store, not currently licensed to operate a medical marijuana center and in good standing under both the Colorado Marijuana Code and the City Code;

(2) Any person prohibited pursuant to Section 44-10-306, C.R.S;

(3) Any natural person who has been released within the ten (10) years immediately preceding the application from any form of incarceration or court-ordered supervision, including a deferred sentence resulting from a conviction of any felony or any crime which under the laws of the State would be a felony; or any crime of which fraud or intent to defraud was an element, whether in the State or elsewhere;

(4) Any person with a ten (10) percent or greater financial interest in said entity that has been convicted of any of the offenses set forth in Paragraphs (2) and (3) above;
(5) Any person whose criminal history renders him or her ineligible under Paragraphs (2) and (3) above, or who employs a person at a retail marijuana business who has a criminal history that renders said person ineligible;

(6) Any applicant who has made a false, misleading or fraudulent statement, or who has intentionally omitted pertinent information, on his or her application for a license;

(7) Any applicant whose license for a medical or retail marijuana business in this State or any other state has been revoked.


Sec. 15-615. Location criteria.

(a) No applicant shall be issued a retail marijuana store license if, at the time of application for such license, such location is:

(1) Within one thousand (1,000) feet of any private or public preschool, elementary, secondary, vocational or trade school, college or university;

(2) Within one thousand (1,000) feet of any public playground;

(3) Within five hundred (500) feet of:
   a. Any child care center,
   b. Any place of worship or religious assembly,
   c. Any public park, pool or recreation facility, or
   d. Any juvenile or adult halfway house, correctional facility or substance abuse rehabilitation or treatment center; or

(4) Within the boundaries of any R-U-L, U-E, R-F, R-L, L-M-N, M-M-N, N-C-L, N-C-M, N-C-B or H-M-N residential zone district;

(5) In a residential unit, except as permitted under Section 3.8.3 of the Land Use Code;

(6) Within five hundred (500) feet of a residential unit; or

(7) Within one thousand (1,000) feet of another medical marijuana or retail marijuana store.

(b) The distances described above shall be computed by direct measurement in a straight line from the nearest property line of the parcel of land on which the protected use is located to the nearest portion of the building or unit in which the proposed retail marijuana store would be located.

(c) The location criteria contained in Subsection (a) above shall not apply to a retail marijuana store that will be located on premises for which a medical marijuana store license has been issued as of March 28, 2014, or for which a medical marijuana store license application was pending as of March 28, 2014.

(d) A previously licensed medical marijuana store that seeks to change locations and that applies for and receives a retail marijuana store license is subject to the location requirements in Subsection (a) above.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014, § 1, 3-18-14; Ord. No. 011, 2020, § 15, 1-21-20)
Sec. 15-616. Operating fee.

Upon issuance of a license, and upon renewal thereafter, the licensee shall pay to the City an operating fee in an amount to be determined by the City Manager to be sufficient to cover the costs associated with processing the application, inspecting the premises before and after issuance and otherwise administering and enforcing the provisions of this Article.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14)

Sec. 15-617. Signage and advertising.

(a) All signage and advertising for a retail marijuana store shall comply with all applicable provisions of this Code, the Land Use Code and state law. In addition, no advertising for marijuana or marijuana products shall be permitted on signs mounted on vehicles, hand-held or other portable signs, handbills, leaflets or other flyers directly handed to any person in a public place, left upon a motor vehicle or posted upon any public property or private property without consent of the property owner. This prohibition shall not apply to any advertisement contained within a newspaper, magazine or other periodical of general circulation within the City, or that is purely incidental to sponsorship of a charitable event by a retail marijuana establishment. Such signage and advertising must not be misleading, false or infringe upon any state or federal trademark.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any licensee to post, or allow to be posted, signs or other advertising materials identifying premises that cultivate retail marijuana or manufacture retail marijuana products as being associated with a marijuana business.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14; Ord. No. 011, 2020 , § 16, 1-21-20)

Sec. 15-618. Warning signs.

There shall be posted in a conspicuous location in each retail marijuana store a legible sign containing warnings that:

1. the possession, use or distribution of marijuana is a violation of federal law;
2. it is illegal under state law to drive a motor vehicle or to operate machinery when under the influence of, or impaired by, marijuana; and
3. no one under the age of twenty one (21) years is permitted on the premises.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14)


(a) All licensees and any agent, manager or employee thereof shall immediately report to Police Services any disorderly act, conduct or disturbance and any unlawful activity committed in or on the licensed premises, including, but not limited to, any unlawful resale of marijuana, and shall also immediately report any such activity in the immediate vicinity of the business.

(b) Each licensee shall post and keep at all times visible to the public in a conspicuous place on the premises, a sign with a minimum height of fourteen (14) inches and a minimum width of eleven (11) inches, with each letter to be a minimum of one-half (½) inch in height, which shall read as follows:

WARNING: Fort Collins Police Services must be notified of

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all disorderly acts, conduct or disturbances and all unlawful activities which occur on or within the premises of this licensed establishment.

(c) It shall not be a defense to a prosecution of a licensee under this Section that the licensee was not personally present on the premises at the time such unlawful activity, disorderly act, conduct or disturbance was committed; however, no agent, servant or employee of the licensee shall be personally responsible for failing to report any disorderly act, conduct or disturbance and any unlawful activity hereunder if such agent, servant or employee was absent from the premises at the time such activity was committed.

(d) Failure to comply with the requirements of this Section shall be considered by the Authority in any action relating to the issuance, revocation, suspension or nonrenewal of a license.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14)

Sec. 15-620. Prohibited acts.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any licensee to permit the sale or consumption of alcohol beverages, as defined in the Colorado Liquor Code, on the licensed premises.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any licensee to permit the consumption of retail marijuana or retail marijuana products on the licensed premises.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any licensee, or for any agent, manager or employee thereof, to:

   (1) sell, give, or otherwise distribute retail marijuana or retail marijuana products from any location other than the licensed premises;

   (2) sell, give, dispense or otherwise distribute any retail marijuana or retail marijuana products to persons under the age of twenty one (21);

   (3) display signs that are inconsistent with Sections 15-617 and 15-618 of this Article.

(d) It shall be unlawful for retail marijuana businesses to distribute marijuana or marijuana-infused products to a consumer free of charge.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any licensee to fail to designate areas of ingress and egress for limited-access areas or to post signs in conspicuous locations as required by the Colorado Marijuana Code.

(f) It shall be unlawful for any licensee to sell marijuana or marijuana products at a licensed retail marijuana store at any time other than between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. daily.

(g) It shall be unlawful for any licensee to sell marijuana or marijuana products at a licensed retail marijuana store at any time other than between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. daily.


Sec. 15-621. Visibility of activities; control of emissions.

(a) All activities of retail marijuana businesses, including, without limitation, cultivating, growing, processing, displaying, manufacturing, selling and storage, shall be conducted indoors.

(b) No retail marijuana or paraphernalia shall be displayed or kept in a business so as to be visible from outside the licensed premises.
(c) No marijuana cultivation activity shall result in the emission of any gas, vapors, odors, smoke, dust, heat or glare that is noticeable at or beyond the property line of the establishment at which the cultivation occurs. Sufficient measures and means of preventing the escape of such substances from a retail marijuana business must be provided at all times. In the event that any gas, vapors, odors, smoke, dust, heat or glare or other substances exit a retail marijuana business, the owner of the subject premises and the licensee shall be jointly and severally liable for such conditions and shall be responsible for immediate, full clean-up and correction of such condition. The licensee shall properly dispose of all such materials, items and other substances in a safe, sanitary and secure manner and in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14; Ord. No. 011, 2020 , § 18, 1-21-20)

Sec. 15-622. Inspection of licensed premises.

During all business hours and other times of apparent activity, all licensed premises shall be subject to inspection by Police Services and all other City departments designated by the City Manager for the purpose of investigating and determining compliance with the provisions of this Article and any other applicable state and local laws or regulations. Said inspection may include, but need not be limited to, the inspection of books, records and inventory. Where any part of the licensed premises consists of a locked area, such area shall be made available for inspection, without delay, upon request.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14)

Sec. 15-623. Nonrenewal, suspension or revocation of license.

(a) The Authority may, after notice and hearing, pursuant to this Article, suspend, revoke or refuse to renew a license for any of the following reasons:

(1) the applicant or licensee, or his or her agent, manager or employee, has violated, does not meet, or has failed to comply with, any of the terms, requirements, conditions or provisions of this Article or with any applicable state or local law or regulation;

(2) the applicant or licensee, or his or her agent, manager or employee, has failed to comply with any special terms or conditions of his or her license pursuant to an order of the state or local licensing authority, including those terms and conditions that were established at the time of issuance of the license and those imposed as a result of any disciplinary proceedings held subsequent to the date of issuance of the license; or

(3) the retail marijuana business has been abandoned or operated in a manner that adversely affects the public health, safety or welfare.

(b) Evidence to support a finding under Subsection (a) of this Section may include, without limitation, a continuing pattern of disorderly conduct, a continuing pattern of drug-related criminal conduct within the premises of the retail marijuana business or in the immediate area surrounding such business, a continuing pattern of criminal conduct directly related to or arising from the operation of the retail marijuana business, or an ongoing nuisance condition emanating from or caused by the retail marijuana business.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14; Ord. No. 011, 2020 , § 19, 1-21-20)
Sec. 15-624. Violations and penalties.

In addition to the possible denial, suspension, revocation or nonrenewal of a license under the provisions of this Article, any person, including, but not limited to, any licensee, manager or employee of a retail marijuana business, or any customer of such business, who violates any of the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable in accordance with § 1-15 of this Code.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14; Ord. No. 011, 2020 , § 20, 1-21-20)

Sec. 15-625. No city liability; indemnification.

(a) By accepting a license issued pursuant to this Article, the licensee waives and releases the City, its officers, elected officials, employees, attorneys and agents from any liability for injuries, damages or liabilities of any kind that result from any arrest or prosecution of business owners, operators, employees, clients or customers for a violation of state or federal laws, rules or regulations.

(b) By accepting a license issued pursuant to this Article, all licensees, jointly and severally if more than one (1), agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City, its officers, elected officials, employees, attorneys, agents, insurers and self-insurance pool against all liability, claims and demands on account of any injury, loss or damage, including, without limitation, claims arising from bodily injury, personal injury, sickness, disease, death, property loss or damage, or any other loss of any kind whatsoever arising out of or in any manner connected with the operation of the retail marijuana establishment that is the subject of the license, unless the act or omission by the officer, elected official or employee that causes the loss or damage is willful and wanton as provided in the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, Section 24-10-101 et seq., C.R.S.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14)

Sec. 15-626. Other laws remain applicable.

(a) To the extent the State adopts in the future any additional or stricter law or regulation governing the sale or distribution of retail marijuana, the additional or stricter regulation shall control the establishment or operation of any retail marijuana business in the City. Compliance with any applicable state law or regulation shall be deemed an additional requirement for issuance or denial of any license under this Article, and noncompliance with any applicable state law or regulation shall be grounds for revocation or suspension of any license issued hereunder.

(b) Any licensee may be required to demonstrate, upon demand by the City Manager or by law enforcement officers, that the source and quantity of any marijuana found upon the licensed premises are in full compliance with any applicable state law or regulation.

(c) If the State prohibits the sale or other distribution of marijuana through retail marijuana businesses, any license issued hereunder shall be deemed immediately revoked by operation of law, with no ground for appeal or other redress on behalf of the licensee.

(d) The issuance of any license pursuant to this Article shall not be deemed to create an exception, defense or immunity for any person in regard to any potential criminal liability the person may have under federal law for the cultivation, possession, sale, distribution or use of marijuana.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014 , § 1, 3-18-14; Ord. No. 011, 2020 , § 21, 1-21-20)
Sec. 15-627. Severability.

If any section, sentence, clause, phrase, word or other provision of this Article is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, phrases, words or other provisions of this Article or the validity of this Article as an entirety, it being the legislative intent that this Article shall stand, notwithstanding the invalidity of any section, sentence, clause, phrase, word or other provision.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014, § 1, 3-18-14)

Sec. 15-628. Administrative regulations.

The City Manager is authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to effectuate the implementation, administration and enforcement of this Article.

(Ord. No. 041, 2014, § 1, 3-18-14)

Sec. 15-629—15-639. Reserved