VILLAGE BOARD DIRECTS ZONING COMMISSION TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SALE OF RECREATIONAL CANNABIS

(Glenco, Illinois)—At the September 12, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting, the Village Board directed the Zoning Commission to convene a public hearing on potential Zoning Code amendments to allow the sale of recreational cannabis within the Village, beginning on or after January 1, 2020. This direction comes after the Village Board’s August 15, 2019 discussion in which it expressed preliminary interest in permitting sales in the Village’s existing business districts, with some limitations.

The Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, signed into law on May 31, will allow the sale, possession and use of recreational cannabis for those age 21 and older in Illinois starting January 1, 2020. Through the Act, all municipalities in the State have authority to determine the time and place of the sales through municipal zoning regulations, and/or to decide whether to apply a local tax on recreational cannabis products sold within the municipality.

In order to allow the sale of recreational cannabis, the Village’s Zoning Code would require amendment. Therefore, the Zoning Commission will conduct a public hearing regarding potential Zoning Code amendments at its October 7, 2019 meeting beginning at 7:30 pm at the Glencoe Village Hall, 675 Village Court. At that meeting, it is expected that the Zoning Commission will receive public input and begin discussing the Village Board’s recommendations to amend the Village’s Zoning Code. The public is encouraged to attend this meeting to share comments on these possible changes.

Specific recommendations from the Village Board are to allow the operation of cannabis dispensaries as a special use in the Village’s B2 (Hubbard Woods Plaza area) and HF (highway frontage along the west side of the Edens Expressway) zoning districts. As a special use, any proposed individual dispensary would be subject to individual review by the Plan Commission and the Village Board to determine if a proposed dispensary is compatible with other land uses in the zoning district and whether it would impose undue negative impacts on neighboring properties, and to evaluate operational requirements, such as hours of operation, security requirements and other operational considerations.

At the September 12 Committee of the Whole meeting, the Village Board expressed interest in limiting the operation of dispensaries to only the B2 and HF commercial zoning districts, and not allowing the operation of dispensaries in the B1 downtown business district. The Village Board expressed interest in potentially allowing other types of cannabis-related businesses in the Village, except for cultivation centers.
After its evaluation of potential Zoning Code amendments, the Zoning Commission will make a formal recommendation to the Village Board. If the Village Board ultimately approves amendments to the Zoning Code, additional action by the Board would be required to create relevant business license regulations and consider local taxation of the sale of recreational cannabis. This series of actions would allow the sale, regulation and possible taxation of recreational cannabis within the Village. While a specific timeline has not been established, the Village Board favored implementing local regulations to the extent possible before legal sales of recreational cannabis may commence within the State on January 1, 2020.

Residents interested in sharing feedback with the Village on the matter should contact the Village Manager’s Office by e-mailing info@villageofglencoe.org. More information on the topic, including updates on pending changes to the Zoning Code or the Village’s Code of Ordinances, will be posted online at www.villageofglencoe.org/cannabis.

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