

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, PURSUANT TO RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 5.77.120, TO POSTPONE THE CITY'S EVALUATION AND REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR STOREFRONT RETAIL COMMERCIAL CANNABIS BUSINESS PERMITS BY UP TO 180 DAYS

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 7 of the California Constitution authorizes cities to make and enforce, within their jurisdictional limits, ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws to protect and promote the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2016, California voters approved Proposition 64, titled the Adult Use of Marijuana Act and enacted a state statutory scheme legalizing, controlling, and regulating the cultivation, processing, manufacturing, distribution, testing, and sale of nonmedical ("adult-use" or "recreational") cannabis, including cannabis, products, for use by adults twenty-one years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2017, the Medical and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act was signed into law, which provides a comprehensive regulatory framework for licensing, control, and taxation of medical and adult-use cannabis-related businesses in California; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Riverside ("City Council") desired to establish a strong and effective regulatory system with regard to cannabis businesses that protects the public health, safety and environmental resources, provides a consistent regulatory pathway for the cannabis industry consistent with state regulations, fosters a healthy, diverse and economically viable cannabis industry that contributes to the local economy, and ensures that environmental, public health, safety and nuisance factors related to the cannabis industry are adequately addressed; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of these goals, on February 28, 2023, the City Council introduced and on March 14, 2023, adopted, Ordinance 7628, amending Riverside Municipal

1 Code Chapter 5.77 (Cannabis Business Activities), in its entirety, Ordinance 7629 amending
2 RMC Title 9 (Peace, Safety and Morals), and Ordinance 7630 amending RMC Title 19 (Zoning)
3 of the RMC; and

4 WHEREAS, Chapter 5.77 of the RMC regulates Cannabis Business Activities in
5 the City of Riverside (“Cannabis Business Activities Ordinance”), including the types
6 of businesses and maximum number permitted within the City, the permitting of up to
7 14 storefront retail commercial cannabis businesses and an unlimited number of
8 manufacturing, distribution, and testing laboratories; and

9 WHEREAS, on October 17, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution No.
10 24048 establishing the rules and regulations entitled Storefront Retail Commercial
11 Cannabis Business Permit Procedure Guidelines and Application Review Criteria
12 (“Permit Guidelines”), as required by RMC Section 5.77.130(A); and

13 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Permit Guidelines, the City reviewed and scored 40
14 applications for the Storefront Retail Commercial Cannabis Business Permits resulting in
15 the 14 highest scoring applicants advancing to the final phase of the permit application
16 process, including submittal of proposed retail site locations;

17 WHEREAS, the proposed retail site locations for the 14 storefront retail commercial
18 cannabis business permit applicants show a geographic density, including nearly half of the
19 proposed locations in one City ward and no proposed locations in two other City wards,
20 resulting in the need for further study of the effects of such concentration on furtherance of
21 the stated purpose of the Cannabis Business Activities Ordinance, including but not limited
22 to retail access by residents and/or protection of health and safety of residents from negative
23 impacts; and

24 WHEREAS, pursuant to RMC 5.77.120, the City has reserved the right, prior to
25 permit issuance, to modify, postpone, or cancel any request for applications, at any time
26 without liability, obligation, or commitment to any party, firm, or organization, to the
27 extent permitted under California law, and persons submitting applications assume the
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1 risk that all or any part of the cannabis business permit program, or any particular
2 category of permit potentially authorized under Cannabis Business Activities Ordinance,
3 may be cancelled at any time prior to permit issuance; and

4 WHEREAS, the City Council desires to postpone the Storefront Retail
5 Commercial Cannabis Business Permit application process to study the effects of
6 geographic density, proximity to sensitive receptors and other health and safety concerns, in
7 furtherance of the stated goals of the Cannabis Business Activities Ordinance and the other
8 ordinances referenced herein, including but not limited to retail access by residents and/or
9 protection of health and safety of residents from negative impacts.

10 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of
11 Riverside, on the basis of the presentation and staff report and the other evidence submitted
12 to the City Council, as follows:

13 Section 1: That the above recitals are found to be true and correct and are hereby
14 incorporated as if stated in full.

15 Section 2: That, pursuant to Riverside Municipal Code section 5.77.120, the City
16 Council hereby postpones the City of Riverside's evaluation and review of applications for
17 Storefront Retail Commercial Cannabis Business Permits by up to 180 days, currently being
18 evaluated in accord with Resolution No. 24048, for further study and possible action by the
19 City. This postponement shall pause all deadlines under the Storefront Retail Commercial
20 Cannabis Business Permit Procedure Guidelines and Application Review Criteria for up
21 to 180 days. No Storefront Retail Commercial Cannabis Business Permits shall issue
22 during the pendency of this postponement.

23 Section 4: The City hereby finds that this resolution is not subject to review under
24 the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections
25 15061, subdivision (b)(3) (there is no possibility the activity in question may have a
26 significant effect on the environment).

27 Section 5: The provisions of this resolution shall be operative upon adoption.
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ADOPTED by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2025.

PATRICIA LOCK DAWSON
Mayor of the City of Riverside

Attest:

DONESIA GAUSE
City Clerk of the City of Riverside

I, Donesia Gause, City Clerk of the City of Riverside, California, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the City Council of said City at its meeting held on the ____ day of _____, 2025, by the following vote, to wit:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Riverside, California, this ____ day _____, 2025.

DONESIA GAUSE
City Clerk of the City of Riverside

[22-2104.78]