



Cannabis, Tobacco, and Nicotine Study

From Leah Bahr <l.marie.bahr@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 10:55 AM

To CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Cc Rachael Berg <rberg@nola.gov>

Susan P. Johnson

Attachments6:09 AM (4 hours ago)

to
Hi,

Below are some suggested recommendations for written public comments on the creation of zoning definitions/standards—primarily for medical cannabis sales. Please edit as desired.

Please forward your comment to the City Planning Commission by 5 p.m. today, April 6, for consideration by the CPC Commissioners for the April 14, 2026, CPC hearing.

The preliminary staff report is attached.

Thanks,
Susan Johnson

TEMPLATE:

To:
cpinfo@nola.gov

Cc:
rberg@nola.gov

Re:
Cannabis, Tobacco, and Nicotine Study
Message:

I support the creation of definitions and use standards in the CZO for cannabis, tobacco, and nicotine sales.

For medical cannabis in particular, the City Planning Commission should adopt the following recommendations:

(1) 1,000 ft distancing or buffer zones for daycare centers, K–12 schools and churches (where youth programs are frequently held); and 500-1000 ft distancing from colleges and institutes of higher

learning;

(2) strict limits on exterior signage;

(3) permitting in commercial zoning only; or permitting by conditional use only in residential and mixed-use neighborhoods;

(4) operational standards should establish limited hours (10-5, M-Sat.; closed on Sundays; no drive-throughs, and security guards patrolling both the interior and exterior of the outlet;

(5) outlet concentration should be avoided;

(6) all advertising should be appropriate to medical marijuana, not recreational, which is illegal in La.;

(7) data reporting is necessary, with an annual review upon renewal of the business license; and

(8) strict enforcement with graduated penalties.

The Louisiana Dept. of Health should in addition be held strictly accountable for its oversight of the medical marijuana program.

I request that the CPC include these considerations in their staff recommendations.

Thank you,

Leah O'Donnell

1816 Hillary Street

Cannabis, Tobacco, and Nicotine Study

From Paul Baricos <paul.baricos@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 4:52 PM

To CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Cc Rachael Berg <rberg@nola.gov>

I support the creation of definitions and use standards in the CZO for cannabis, tobacco, and nicotine sales.

For medical cannabis in particular, the City Planning Commission should adopt the following recommendations:

- (1) 1,000 ft distancing or buffer zones for daycare centers, K–12 schools and churches (where youth programs are frequently held); and 500-1000 ft distancing from colleges and institutes of higher learning;
- (2) strict limits on exterior signage;
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- (6) all advertising should be appropriate to medical marijuana, not recreational, which is illegal in La.;
- (7) data reporting is necessary, with an annual review upon renewal of the business license; and
- (8) strict enforcement with graduated penalties.

The Louisiana Dept. of Health should in addition be held strictly accountable for its oversight of the medical marijuana program.

I request that the CPC include these considerations in their staff recommendations.

Thank you,

Paul Baricos

8026 Cohn St.

Carrollton

Laura B. Bryan

From: Robert D. Rivers
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2026 10:14 AM
To: Laura B. Bryan; Rachael Berg
Cc: Larry W. Massey Jr.
Subject: Fw: WE NEED ZONING REGS ON RECREATIONAL & MEDICAL MARIJUANA NOW

FYI

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Alison N. Poort <anpoort@nola.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2026 9:55 AM
To: Robert D. Rivers <rdrivers@nola.gov>
Subject: Fw: WE NEED ZONING REGS ON RECREATIONAL & MEDICAL MARIJUANA NOW

FYI...

Alison Poort
Chief of Staff
Councilmember Lesli Harris
City Council, District 'B'
PH: 504-658-1028



Committed to [ending homelessness](#) in New Orleans

From: Keith Hardie <keithhardie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2026 8:49 AM
To: Jean-Paul Morrell <JP.Morrell@nola.gov>; Matthew Willard <Matthew.Willard@nola.gov>; Aimee B McCarron <Aimee.McCarron@nola.gov>; Lesli Harris <Lesli.Harris@nola.gov>; Freddie King <Freddie.King@nola.gov>; Eugene J Green <Eugene.Green@nola.gov>; Jason Hughes <Jason.Hughes@nola.gov>; Krystal D Hendon <Krystal.Hendon@nola.gov>; Courtney M Fleming <Courtney.Fleming@nola.gov>; Sherae M. Hunter <smhunter@nola.gov>; Alison N. Poort <anpoort@nola.gov>; Winston C Fiore <Winston.Fiore@nola.gov>; Sandra G Thomas <Sandra.Thomas@nola.gov>; Tammie T. Jackson <ttjackson@nola.gov>
Subject: WE NEED ZONING REGS ON RECREATIONAL & MEDICAL MARIJUANA NOW

Legislation is going forward in Baton Rouge to allow recreational marijuana sale. Our zoning regs are not ready for it. We need an IZD to prevent recreational mj sales in residential and neighborhood-serving zoning districts. We need it NOW.

The Council needs to immediately set specific zoning rules for recreational and medical marijuana sales ASAP. The problem at 1407 Carrollton was that we had no regulations for marijuana sales, so it fell under the catch-all rule governing "retail" and got treated in the same way as a shoe store or dress shop. PLEASE put a moratorium/IZD on recreational and medical marijuana in place until you are ready to pass legislation.

Rep. Candace Newell's HB 373 will be heard on Wed., April 1, 2026, starting at 9 a.m., by the La. House Committee on Health and Welfare in Committee Room 5, Alario Hall basement in the Capitol Bldg. in Baton Rouge. Note that Agenda items will likely not be heard in the order presented.

HB 373 would introduce a Louisiana Cannabis Pilot Program to sell recreational marijuana at established retailers around Louisiana that are already selling medical marijuana.

Keith Hardie
keithhardie@yahoo.com

Laura B. Bryan

From: Betty DiMarco <dimarco_bl@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:53 PM
To: Laura B. Bryan
Cc: Julia I Nickle; Rachael Berg
Subject: Re: M-25-470 Cannibas, Tobacco and Nicotine Study

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

All,
I wanted to share these photos to be a part of my input on the issue of cannibas sales.
The first photo is the original Haik Eye Clinic and the second is what it looks like now with NOLA Cannibas.
Remember this is next to a public library where young people frequent and across the street from a church and school. As a resident of Carrollton, I'm very concerned about this location and their signage next door to residences and the library.
My research of nicotine and tobacco shows that advertising definitely influences young people to try tobacco and nicotine. No assume it is the same for cannibas sales.
I don't think I will come to the meeting today but want to stay involved.
Thank you,
Betty DiMarco
504 638-2460



Sent from my iPad

On Oct 28, 2025, at 10:05 AM, Laura B. Bryan <Lbbryan@nola.gov> wrote:

Hi Betty,

It's really hard to tell when it will come up. I think it'll be at least an hour after the start at 1:30, but beyond that I can't say.

Best,
Laura



1407-SCARROLLTONAV 716204002 10/18/2022



Fw: M-25-470 Cannibas, Tobacco and Nicotine Study

From CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Date Tue 10/21/2025 9:06 AM

To Julia I Nickle <Julia.Nickle@nola.gov>

From: Betty DiMarco <dimarco_bl@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:50 PM

To: CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Subject: M-25-470 Cannibas, Tobacco and Nicotine Study

Executive Director Rivers:

I am writing with regard to the New Orleans City Council motion M-25-470 to study the on retail establishments that sell cannibas, tobacco and nicotine products.

I'll begin my comments first about cannibas sales.

In my opinion, the city council's motion is a little too late for regulation of retail establishments selling medical cannibas since NOLA Cannibas has already been allowed to establish its business at 1407 S. Carrollton in the same parking lot with a public library and across the street from a church and a school. When Louisiana wrote and passed laws with regard to medical cannibas dispensaries, no placement restrictions were included. Louisiana dispensary applications require applicants to follow parish laws. No parish in Louisiana currently has zoning ordinance regarding cannibas or that restrict placement. Arkansas, Mississippi and Missouri, states where NOLA Cannibas owner Good Day Farms does business, have distance restrictions written into their state laws preventing a cannibas dispensary from being within 1000 sq ft to 1800 sq ft.

I believe within the next 3 to 5 years Louisiana will allow the sale of recreational cannibas and I hope this study will not allow recreational cannibas to be sold within 1000 ft of a school, church or day care center. As to tobacco and nicotine products, I believe there is restriction on sale of tobacco products within 300 feet of a school. However, grocery stores, drug stores and gas stations that are currently within 300 feet of a school are allowed to sell tobacco products.

I believe most zoning laws in New Orleans require a conditional use process for selling alcohol and the same should apply to cannibas and possibly tobacco and nicotine products.

Betty DiMarco

8221 Birch St.

New Orleans, LA 70118

Fw: MOTION M-25-470—cannabis/tobacco study

From CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Date Mon 10/20/2025 3:41 PM

To Julia I Nickle <Julia.Nickle@nola.gov>

From: sjohnson@hnon.org <sjohnson@hnon.org>

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 3:33 PM

To: CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Subject: MOTION M-25-470—cannabis/tobacco study

To the CPC:

My comments relate to the creation of a use standard for cannabis only.

- The same conditional use requirement that is now in place for the retail sale of packaged alcohol should be required for cannabis sales.
- A municipal distancing law should obtain for cannabis sales.
- Cannabis sales should be restricted to commercial zoning.

Thanks and best wishes,

Susan Johnson
Historic N.O. Neighborhoods, LLC
2822 LePage Street
New Orleans, La. 70119
www.hnon.org

City Planning Commission Speaker Card

Date : 10/28/2023

I would like to speak regarding CPC Docket : Agenda Item #14

INFORMATION ONLY

Name: Nicole Webre

Address: 2131 Bienville St.

☐ I am the applicant for this docket

☐ I'd like to cede my time to: _____

I hereby affirm that the written or oral statements I give before the City Planning Commission will be true and correct. By ascribing my signature below, I acknowledge all information presented is of my own volition and true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

☒ Please check if you are a paid representative or receiving any type of compensation or thing of value in exchange for speaking or attending today.

Signature of Speaker: Nicole Webre



Outlook

Cannabis, Tobacco, and Nicotine Study

From Nicole Chauppette <nachauppette69@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 6:35 AM

To CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Cc Rachael Berg <rberg@nola.gov>

I support the creation of definitions and use standards in the CZO for cannabis, tobacco, and nicotine sales.

For medical cannabis in particular, the City Planning Commission should adopt the following recommendations:

(1) 1,000 ft distancing or buffer zones for daycare centers, K-12 schools and churches (where youth programs are frequently held); and 500-1000 ft distancing from colleges and institutes of higher learning;

(2) strict limits on exterior signage;

(3) permitting in commercial zoning only; or permitting by conditional use only in residential and mixed-use neighborhoods;

(4) operational standards should establish limited hours (10-5, M-Sat.; closed on Sundays; no drive-throughs, and security guards patrolling both the interior and exterior of the outlet;

(5) outlet concentration should be avoided;

(6) all advertising should be appropriate to medical marijuana, not recreational, which is illegal in La.;

(7) data reporting is necessary, with an annual review upon renewal of the business license; and

(8) strict enforcement with graduated penalties.

The Louisiana Dept. of Health should in addition be held strictly accountable for its oversight of the state's medical marijuana program.

I request that the CPC include these considerations in their staff recommendations.

Thank you,

Nicole Chauppette
7916 Oak Street
NOLA 70118



Opposition to Cannabis Dispensary in Carrollton

From Cybele Gontar <thedegassgallery@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 4:10 AM

To CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>; Rachael Berg <rberg@nola.gov>

Cc info@justsaynix.org <info@justsaynix.org>

The Honorable Mayor Moreno and City Planning Commission:

The Cannabis Dispensary on S. Carrollton is bad for our community. It is nothing less than disgraceful, bringing drugs and falsely presenting drug use as positive. This is very bad for our youth in particular. It has absolutely no place in the midst of our libraries, schools and churches. What kind of irresponsible message are we sending?

Cybèle Gontar
Owner, Degas Gallery
Property owner in Carrollton and Uptown

I support the creation of definitions and use standards in the CZO for cannabis, tobacco, and nicotine sales.

For medical cannabis in particular, the City Planning Commission should adopt the following recommendations:

- (1) 1,000 ft distancing or buffer zones for daycare centers, K-12 schools and churches (where youth programs are frequently held); and 500-1000 ft distancing from colleges and institutes of higher learning;
- (2) strict limits on exterior signage;
- (3) permitting in commercial zoning only; or permitting by conditional use only in residential and mixed-use neighborhoods;
- (4) operational standards should establish limited hours (10-5, M-Sat.; closed on Sundays; no drive-throughs, and security guards patrolling both the interior and exterior of the outlet;
- (5) outlet concentration should be avoided;
- (6) all advertising should be appropriate to medical marijuana, not recreational, which is illegal in La.;

(7) data reporting is necessary, with an annual review upon renewal of the business license; and

(8) strict enforcement with graduated penalties.

The Louisiana Dept. of Health should in addition be held strictly accountable for its oversight of the state's medical marijuana program.

I request that the CPC include these considerations in their staff recommendations.



CPC's Cannabis, Tobacco, and Nicotine Study

From Debra Howell <dhowellnola@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 4:05 PM

To CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Cc Rachael Berg <rberg@nola.gov>; Paul Baricos <paul.baricos@gmail.com>; Betty DiMarco <dimarco_bl@icloud.com>; Aimee B McCarron <Aimee.McCarron@nola.gov>

I support the creation of definitions and use standards in the CZO for retail locations intended to sell medical and recreational cannabis.

Since the residents of the Carrollton area have already felt the impact of a recreational cannabis location at NOLA Cannabis Co's store located at 1407 S Carrollton Ave—including the regular use of their products by staff and buyers in their parking lot—it is long past time for the City Planning Commission to adopt recommendations for the locations of these businesses that do not negatively impact surrounding residents.

At the very least, the mistakes made by the city at 1407 S Carrollton Ave should never be repeated. The biggest mistake was allowing a cannabis store that advertised itself as a purveyor of recreational cannabis, and clearly intended to service recreational use customers as well as medical use customers, to be located directly adjacent to residential zoning on two of the three sides of the property, and adjacent to a public library servicing children and adults on the third side.

Recommendations to be adopted could include the following:

- (1) 300 ft distancing or buffer zones for residential zoning, particularly if the cannabis store plans to service both medical and recreational cannabis customers, with long hours each day and operating seven days a week;
- (2) 1,000 ft distancing or buffer zones for daycare centers, K–12 schools, public libraries, and churches (where youth programs are frequently held); and 500-1000 ft distancing from colleges and institutes of higher learning;
- (3) strict limits on size and design of exterior signage;
- (4) permitted in commercial zoning only, or permitted by conditional use only in mixed-use neighborhoods;
- (5) operational standards should establish hours appropriate to the location and proximity to residences, churches, schools;
- (6) outlet concentration should be avoided;

I request that the CPC include these considerations in their staff recommendations.

Thank you,

Debra Howell

Chair, Zoning and Land Use Committee
Central Carrollton Neighborhood Association (CCA)



Cannabis, Tobacco, and Nicotine Study

From Warren Jacobson <warrenjacobson@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 8:06 AM

To CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Cc Rachael Berg <rberg@nola.gov>

Dear Nola CPC

I support the creation of definitions and use standards in the CZO for cannabis, tobacco, and nicotine sales.

For medical cannabis in particular, the City Planning Commission should adopt the following recommendations:

- (1) 1,000 ft distancing or buffer zones for daycare centers, K–12 schools and churches (where youth programs are frequently held); and 500-1000 ft distancing from colleges and institutes of higher learning;
- (2) strict limits on exterior signage;
- (3) permitting in commercial zoning only; or permitting by conditional use only in residential and mixed-use neighborhoods;
- (4) operational standards should establish limited hours (10-5, M-Sat.; closed on Sundays; no drive-throughs, and security guards or off-duty police patrolling both the interior and exterior of the outlet;
- (5) outlet concentration should be avoided;
- (6) all advertising should be appropriate to medical marijuana, not recreational, which is illegal in La.;
- (7) data reporting is necessary, with an annual review upon renewal of the business license; and
- (8) strict enforcement with graduated penalties.

The Louisiana Dept. of Health should in addition be held strictly accountable for its oversight of the medical marijuana program.

I request that the CPC include these considerations in their staff recommendations.

Thank you,

Warren Jacobson
2127 Pine St
New Orleans, LA 70118

Warren Jacobson

warrenjacobson@gmail.com

Click the green button at The Rainforest Site and save
an area of imperiled land at no cost to you.

<http://www.therainforestsites.com>



Outlook

Cannabis, Tobacco, and Nicotine Study

From JLD <npop12a@gmail.com>**Date** Mon 4/6/2026 4:08 PM**To** CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>**Cc** Rachael Berg <rberg@nola.gov>

Good afternoon,

Marijuana (*Cannabis sativa L.*) is a known hyperaccumulator, meaning it is highly efficient at absorbing heavy metals and contaminants from the soil, storing them throughout its roots, stems, leaves, and flowers. The most significant toxic elements and heavy metals that marijuana extracts from the soil include cadmium, lead, arsenic, mercury, chromium, nickel, antimony, strontium, bismuth, tin, and thallium. It is especially concentrated in the flowers (or buds) and the fine hairs surrounding. The flowers are especially "prized" by retailers of the drug, yet there is no displayed analysis on either the packaging nor in the retail stores of their product being free of these toxic elements. It is critical as a matter of public health that any marijuana preparation, especially that sold as so-called "medicinal" to clearly display full disclosure of these toxins' levels, if any. These toxins are carcinogenic and can result in serious mental developmental issues.

Furthermore, I support the creation of definitions and use standards in the CZO for cannabis, tobacco, and nicotine sales.

For medical cannabis in particular, the City Planning Commission should adopt the following recommendations:

- (1) 1,000 ft distancing or buffer zones for daycare centers, K–12 schools and churches (where youth programs are frequently held); and 500-1000 ft distancing from colleges and institutes of higher learning;
- (2) strict limits on exterior signage;
- (3) permitting in commercial zoning only; or permitting by conditional use only in residential and mixed-use neighborhoods;

- (4) operational standards should establish limited hours (10-5, M-Sat.; closed on Sundays; no drive-throughs, and security guards patrolling both the interior and exterior of the outlet;
- (5) outlet concentration should be avoided;
- (6) all advertising should be appropriate to medical marijuana, not recreational, which is illegal in La.;
- (7) data reporting is necessary, with an annual review upon renewal of the business license; and
- (8) strict enforcement with graduated penalties.

The Louisiana Dept. of Health should in addition be held strictly accountable for its oversight of the medical marijuana program, especially as state above regarding heavy metals.

I request that the CPC include these considerations in their staff recommendations.

Thank you,

John L. DiLeo II, MD
1219 Pine Street
New Orleans
La
70118

Cannabis, Tobacco, and Nicotine Study

From Lynnette F Judge <lfjudge@cox.net>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 4:52 PM

To CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Cc Rachael Berg <rberg@nola.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

I support the creation of definitions and use standards in the CZO for cannabis, tobacco, and nicotine sales.

For medical cannabis in particular, the City Planning Commission should adopt the following recommendations:

- (1) require 1,000 ft buffer zones for daycare centers, K–12 schools and churches (where youth programs are frequently held); and 500-1000 ft distancing from colleges and institutes of higher learning;
- (2) impose strict limits on exterior signage;
- (3) require permitting in commercial zoning only; or permitting by conditional use only in residential and mixed-use neighborhoods;
- (4) establish and enforce operational standards with limited hours (10-5, M-Sat.; closed on Sundays; no drive-throughs, and security guards patrolling both the interior and exterior of the outlet;
- (5) avoid outlet concentration;
- (6) require that all advertising be appropriate to medical marijuana, not recreational;
- (7) require data reporting with an annual review upon renewal of the business license; and
- (8) require strict enforcement with graduated penalties, timeframes for payment, and collection provisions.

I request that the CPC include these considerations in their staff recommendations.

Thank you,
Lynnette Judge
1512 Audubon St
New Orleans, LA 70118



Outlook

Cannabis, Tobacco, and Nicotine Study

From Van Tran <cajskis@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 12:26 PM

To CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Cc Rachael Berg <rberg@nola.gov>

Medical cannabis vendors should NOT also be the ones writing the prescriptions for it — This is a conflict of interest, and certainly not in the interest of the public. Pharmacies do not write prescriptions, why should it be different for cannabis?

I support the creation of definitions and use standards in the CZO for cannabis, tobacco, and nicotine sales.

For medical cannabis in particular, the City Planning Commission should adopt the following recommendations:

(1) 1,000 ft distancing or buffer zones for daycare centers, K-12 schools and churches (where youth programs are frequently held); and 500-1000 ft distancing from colleges and institutes of higher learning;

(2) strict limits on exterior signage;

(3) permitting in commercial zoning only; or permitting by conditional use only in residential and mixed-use neighborhoods;

(4) operational standards should establish limited hours (10-5, M-Sat.; closed on Sundays; no drive-throughs, and security guards patrolling both the interior and exterior of the outlet;

(5) outlet concentration should be avoided;

(6) all advertising should be appropriate to medical marijuana, not recreational, which is illegal in La.;

(7) data reporting is necessary, with an annual review upon renewal of the business license; and

(8) strict enforcement with graduated penalties.

The Louisiana Dept. of Health should in addition be held strictly accountable for its oversight of the state's medical marijuana program.

I request that the CPC include these considerations in their staff recommendations.

Thank you,
Van Tran

1034 Joliet Street
New Orleans, LA 70118



Outlook

Cannabis, Tobacco, and Nicotine Study

From Tim Traycoff <ttraycoff@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 7:51 AM

To CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Cc Rachael Berg <rberg@nola.gov>; Susan Johnson <susanpjohanson@hotmail.com>

I support the creation of definitions and use standards in the CZO for cannabis, tobacco, and nicotine sales.

For medical cannabis in particular, the City Planning Commission should adopt the following recommendations:

- (1) 1,000 ft distancing or buffer zones for daycare centers, K–12 schools and churches (where youth programs are frequently held); and 500-1000 ft distancing from colleges and institutes of higher learning;
- (2) strict limits on exterior signage;
- (3) permitting in commercial zoning only; or permitting by conditional use only in residential and mixed-use neighborhoods;
- (4) operational standards should establish limited hours (10-5, M-Sat.; closed on Sundays; no drive-throughs, and security guards patrolling both the interior and exterior of the outlet;
- (5) outlet concentration should be avoided;
- (6) all advertising should be appropriate to medical marijuana, not recreational, which is illegal in La.;
- (7) data reporting is necessary, with an annual review upon renewal of the business license; and
- (8) strict enforcement with graduated penalties.

The Louisiana Dept. of Health should in addition be held strictly accountable for its oversight of the medical marijuana program.

I request that the CPC include these considerations in their staff recommendations.

Thank you,

Tim Traycoff
3337 Nashville Ave



Outlook

Cannabis, Tobacco and Nicotine Outlets Study

From Lane Trippe <ltrippe@mac.com>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 8:17 AM

To CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Cc Rachael Berg <rberg@nola.gov>; Lane Trippe <ltrippe@mac.com>

I strongly support the creation of definitions and use standards in the CZO for cannabis, tobacco and nicotine sales, but emphatically for cannabis sales. Note that I do not oppose cannabis use by adults, and support legitimate medical marijuana use if properly regulated.

For medical cannabis sales outlets, especially, the City Planning Commission should adopt the following recommendations:

- (1) Distancing or buffer zones of at least 1,000 feet for K-12 schools, daycare centers, libraries and churches (where youth programs and addiction counseling such as AA are frequently held);
- (2) permitting in commercial zoning only — at a minimum, no permitting in residential neighborhoods and permitting by conditional use only as to mixed-use neighborhoods;

Although there should be no permitting in residential or mixed-use neighborhoods, if it is permitted by conditional use in either, then in those neighborhoods:

- (3) Strict limits on exterior signage;
- (4) Operation standards establishing limited hours (10-5, Mon-Sat; closed on Sundays); no drive-through sales, and security patrolling of interior and exterior areas;
- (5) No use of product permitted on the premises, or in adjacent public areas.
- (6) Mandatory minimum distance (5,000 feet) between next closest outlet(s).

As to all medical marijuana outlets, there should be:

- (6) Data reporting to the public and to the City Council including annual sales (\$ and number), customer base (number of distinct customers, parish/state of residence), taxes paid, complaints lodged (number and type) with Dept. Public Health, NOPD, and via 311 - required for renewal of business license.
- (7) Strict enforcement of regulations, with graduated penalties, including loss of license.

In the event that sale of recreational marijuana/cannabis becomes legal, on a pilot or permanent basis, there should be no sale of recreational marijuana/cannabis permitted in residential or mixed-use neighborhoods. This condition must be included now, although such sales have not yet been permitted by the Legislature.

The Louisiana Dept. of Health should be held strictly accountable for oversight of the medical marijuana program.

I ask that the CPC include these considerations in their staff recommendations.

Thank you,
Lane Trippe
Resident and homeowner, 1418 Short Street
New Orleans

MAPLE AREA RESIDENTS, INC.
maplearearesidentsinc@gmail.com

VIA EMAIL

April 6, 2026

City Planning Commission
City Hall, 1300 Perdido St., 7th Fl.
New Orleans, La. 70112

Re: Public comment on the CPC's Cannabis, Tobacco and Nicotine Study

To the CPC:

Maple Area Residents, Inc. (MARI), submits the following written public comment on the CPC Staff's Cannabis, Tobacco, and Nicotine Sales Study (from City Council Motion M-25-470), which will be heard at the CPC hearing of April 14, 2026.

This comment is specifically directed to the regulation of cannabis sales (medical marijuana).

Louisiana legalized medical marijuana via Act 261 (2015 Session)—eleven years ago. This means there has been enough time to contemplate the creation of distancing laws; and yet, unlike neighboring states (Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri), Louisiana has none.

As it happens, the New Orleans CZO was adopted within a few months of the passage of Act 261. Unaccountably, no one in New Orleans has had the foresight in the intervening years to suggest that the CZO provide for definitions and use standards for the sale of medical marijuana.

As an indirect result, the zoning verification letter (ref. #F7J3BE) issued by the Department of Safety and Permits on 2/12/25 for a medical marijuana outlet at 1407 S. Carrollton determined that the proper zoning classification for the purveyor of a Schedule I federally controlled substance was "Retail Goods Establishment"—presumably as provided by the Generic Use rule at CZO Art. 26.3.A.

The Maple Area and other Carrollton neighborhoods have been directly affected by this development, which opened for business on 12/19/25. Operated by NOLA Cannabis Co., it is the only marijuana retailer in Louisiana that is adjacent to a residential neighborhood. It is located next door to one- and two-family residences; next door to a public library branch, Nix Library (est. 1930); and within 500-2000 feet of many churches and schools.

Through a series of errors in the City of New Orleans/Department of Safety & Permits permitting procedure, the immediate neighborhood was deprived of a conditional use process that would have accounted for the rights and wishes of nearby residents in the development of a business that is, again, a purveyor of a Schedule I federally controlled substance. (If this had been a packaged liquor store, for example, a conditional use would have been required.)

And so the neighbors of 1407 S. Carrollton Ave. have borne the brunt of the cumulative negligence of both the city and state with respect to zoning controls. The issues are many: public consumption of marijuana in the parking lot and the surrounding neighborhood by the store's customers and its employees; loitering; loud music; idling cars; arguments; and erratic behavior. The hours of operation are excessive: Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with employees arriving at 7:30 a.m. and leaving at 10:30 p.m.—accompanied by noise and bright lights. On Sundays, the operating hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Every day, public consumption and other nuisance problems affect the quality of life for neighbors both inside and outside their properties.

The businessowners have refused (through the District A City Councilmember) to meet with neighbors, citing a pending lawsuit.

Given this experience, MARI is positioned to request that the CPC implement the following zoning controls on cannabis retailers:

- (1) Distancing or buffer zones:
 - a. 500 ft from residences
 - b. 1,000 ft from daycare centers, K–12 schools, and churches (where youth programs are frequently held); and
 - c. 500-1000 ft distancing from colleges and institutes of higher learning;
- (2) Strict limits on exterior signage;
- (3) Permitting henceforth in commercial zoning only;
- (4) Operational standards should establish limited hours—10 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; closed on Sundays; no drive-throughs; and security guards patrolling both the interior and exterior of the outlet;
- (5) Outlet concentration should be avoided;
- (6) All advertising should be appropriate to medical marijuana, not recreational use, which is illegal in La.;
- (7) Restrict on-site and visible advertising to reduce youth appeal;
- (8) Data reporting is necessary, with an annual review upon renewal of the business license; and
- (9) Strict enforcement with graduated penalties.

The Louisiana Dept. of Health should in addition be held strictly accountable for its oversight of the medical marijuana program.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Jeffrey Berniard

President, Maple Area Residents, Inc.

Respond to: Jeff@GetJeff.com

Fw: MARI Comment on Cannabis Study

From CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Date Wed 4/8/2026 9:37 AM

To Haley H Webb <Haley.Webb@nola.gov>

 1 attachment (661 KB)

MARI Comment on Cannabis Study.pdf;

From: Maple Area Residents Inc. <maplearearesidentsinc@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 8:55 PM

To: CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>

Cc: Jenna D. Burke <Jenna.Burke@nola.gov>

Subject: MARI Comment on Cannabis Study

Attached please see MARI comment on the Cannabis Study. Please file into the record.

Maple Area Residents, Inc.

maplearearesidentsinc@gmail.com

<https://www.maplearearesidents.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/MapleAreaResidents>

City Planning Commission Speaker Card

Date: 4/14

I would like to speak regarding CPC Docket: cannabis & tobacco study

INFORMATION ONLY

Name: Brad Nelson

Address: 3043 St. Philip, NOLA 70118

☐ I am the applicant for this docket

☐ I'd like to cede my time to: _____

I hereby affirm that the written or oral statements I give before the City Planning Commission will be true and correct. By ascribing my signature below, I acknowledge all information presented is of my own volition and true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

☒ Please check if you are a paid representative or receiving any type of compensation or thing of value in exchange for speaking or attending today.

Signature of Speaker: [Signature]

City Planning Commission Speaker Card

Date: 4/14/2026

I would like to speak regarding CPC Docket: cannabis, Tobacco, Nicotine

IN SUPPORT

Name: Daisy Ellis, New Orleans Health Dept

Address: 1717 7 S. Dupre St, New Orleans, LA 70126

☐ I am the applicant for this docket

☐ I'd like to cede my time to: _____

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☐ Please check if you are a paid representative or receiving any type of compensation or thing of value in exchange for speaking or attending today.

Signature of Speaker: [Signature]

City Planning Commission Speaker Card

Date: 4-14-26

I would like to speak regarding CPC Docket: cannabis, etc., study

IN OPPOSITION

Name: Ryan Boehm

Address: 8009 Willow 70118

☐ I am the applicant for this docket

☐ I'd like to cede my time to: _____

I hereby affirm that the written or oral statements I give before the City Planning Commission will be true and correct. By ascribing my signature below, I acknowledge all information presented is of my own volition and true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

☐ Please check if you are a paid representative or receiving any type of compensation or thing of value in exchange for speaking or attending today.

Signature of Speaker: [Signature] **not paid**

City Planning Commission Speaker Card

Date: 4/14/26

I would like to speak regarding CPC Docket: 10 Cannabis, etc.

IN OPPOSITION

Name: Susan Johnson

Address: 2822 LePage 70119

☐ I am the applicant for this docket

☐ I'd like to cede my time to: _____ **not paid**

I hereby affirm that the written or oral statements I give before the City Planning Commission will be true and correct. By ascribing my signature below, I acknowledge all information presented is of my own volition and true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

☐ Please check if you are a paid representative or receiving any type of compensation or thing of value in exchange for speaking or attending today.

Signature of Speaker: [Signature]