

## FAQ's

**Q: I have heard a marijuana business is opening or has opened near my home or business, what can I do?**

A: You can first call the City Planning Department to verify if it is an allowed location for a marijuana business. They can be reached at 625-6188.

**Q: What are the State's rules?**

A: In 2012, Initiative 502 was approved by the voters, calling for the establishment of a regulatory system for recreational marijuana. All licenses are issued by the State Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB). There are three different types of licenses: producers, processors, and retailers. Only state-licensed retail stores are allowed to sell product to the public. I-502 indicated that no license would be approved within 1,000ft of the perimeters of any of the following protected entities:

- A state recognized elementary or secondary school;
- A playground owned or managed by a city, county, state or federal government;
- A recreation center or facility;
- A state licensed child care center;
- A public park;
- A public transit center;
- A library; or
- A game arcade where admission is not restricted to individuals 21 years or older

In 2015 a new law was passed, which allowed location jurisdictions to reduce the 1,000ft buffer to 300ft for all protected entities, except schools or playgrounds, but the City would have to adopt this reduced buffer; it is not automatic.

**Q: What are the City's rules?**

In 2013, after recommendation from Plan Commission and a public hearing, Spokane City Council passed a local ordinance regulating marijuana businesses within the city limits. The ordinance outlined allowed zones and adopted the same State-identified protected entities listed above, along with the requirement to maintain a distance of 1,000 feet from any of those protected entities. The City did not reduce the buffer to 300ft for any protected entities, as the new law allowed.

**Q: How does someone get a license?**

A: Typically an applicant first works with the City to find a location that meets the zoning and spacing requirements, which are identified above under “What are the City’s rules?” If they are able to find an allowed location, they apply for a license with the State LCB. The state’s requirements for license applicants can be found here: <http://lcb.wa.gov/mjlicense/marijuana-licensing>. As the application progresses forward, the City is provided with Notice of Marijuana License Application. As allowed by RCW 69.50.331(7), the City has 20 days to provide objections, if any, to the issuance of the marijuana license. Written objections must include a statement of all facts upon which the objection is based.

**Q: How many marijuana shops could there be?**

A: State-wide there is a limit to the number of retail stores and, at this time, the City of Spokane has been allocated 16 stores. The limit for producers and processors is different. That limit is on the overall plant canopy state-wide and may be broken up over many different stores. But remember, a producer or processor cannot sell product to the public, only a state-licensed retailer can.

**Q: What can I do?**

A: An amendment to the existing city ordinance would require a vote of the City Council.