

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, SECTION 34.3, SECTION 34.4, SECTION 34.5, AND SECTION 34.6 AND CHAPTER 25, SECTION 24.2 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE
(LICENSED CANNABIS ENTITIES)**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY that Chapter 5 and Chapter 25 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of West Orange be and are hereby amended as follows:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to update the provision of the Municipal Code of the Township of West Orange governing the local licensing requirements and zoning conditions for Licensed Cannabis Entities within the Township of West Orange to: (i) clarify that it shall be unlawful for any individual or entity to distribute cannabis or cannabis products that do not have a license from the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission and a local license from the Township of West Orange, including any gifting of cannabis or cannabis produce; (ii) update and amend the total number of local licenses allowable Licensed Cannabis Entities (iii) require approval from the Township for any changes in ownership of a License Cannabis Entity; (iv) provide that all Licensed Cannabis Entities holding a local license, must submit a renewal application not less than sixty (60) days before the expiration of the local license; (v) extend the existing distance from the property line of any property with a school building for which the operation of a Cannabis Entity is prohibited from 100 feet (100') to 200 feet (200'); (vi) add an additional condition whereby a Cannabis Entity shall not be allowed to operate within 200feet (200') from a house of worship; (vii) clarify the parking requirements for Licensed Cannabis Entities; and (viii) provide reference to the Township Municipal Code provisions governing the standards and criteria for commercial signage for Cannabis Entities.

II. CHAPTER 5, SECTION 34.3 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED TO INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING:

5-34.3 Local License Required; Violations and Penalties.

[It shall be unlawful for any individual or entity to distribute cannabis or cannabis products except for a Licensed Cannabis Entity acting within the scope of a license issued by both the Commission and within the scope of a Local License in accord with this section.](#)

Pursuant to [N.J.S.A. 24:6I-45 \(c\)\(2\)](#) of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act, no Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be allowed to operate within the Township of West Orange until such person or entity shall be licensed and registered in accord with this section. For violation of any provision of this subsection, penalties shall be in accordance with Chapter [1](#), § [1-5](#).

III. CHAPTER 5, SECTION 34.4 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED TO INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING:

5-34.4 Local License Standards and Limitations.

- a. The Township may approve or deny an application for a Local License to operate a License Cannabis Entity at its sole discretion, consistent with all governing State Law, based on an evaluation of the benefits compared to the potential harm of the prospective licensee's operation of a Licensed Cannabis Entity as proposed in the prospective licensee's application for a Local License.

The number of Local Licenses shall be limited to a combined total of four (4) active Local Licenses ~~irrespective of the categories of Licensed Cannabis Entities, except that any Local License to a Targeted Microbusiness shall not count towards the total number of Local Licenses pursuant to his section.~~ Notwithstanding the foregoing, all applicants who have received a Resolution of Local Support from the Township, including the applicant referenced in Resolution 23-23 adopted on January 10, 2023, shall be permitted to apply for and obtain a Local License consistent with the class and designation set forth in its Resolution of Local Support upon receipt of a license from the Commission and approval by the Township Council.

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IV. CHAPTER 5, SECTION 34.5 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED TO INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING:

5-34.5 Application for Local License and Local License Fee.

- a. Applications for licensing pursuant to this section shall be submitted to the Office of the Township Clerk under oath on a form furnished by the Township. Upon the filing of the application, the Applicant shall pay to the Township an application fee in an amount to be established by resolution of the Township Council. Applicants shall also submit a copy of the application, except for the transmission of the requirements set forth in subsection (b)(4)(a) of this provision, to the: (i) Board of Education; (ii) the Township Zoning Officer; (iii) the Health Department; (iv) Township Fire Chief; and (v) the Special Improvement District, if the proposed location is within the Special Improvement District. Applicants shall also submit a Certification of Service certifying that the Application has been submitted to each of these departments and/or bodies in accordance herewith. The Office of the Township Clerk shall then transmit the application to the Office of Police Chief for the West Orange Police Department or the Chief's designee for review of the application. ~~The Office of the Township Clerk shall also provide a copy of the application to the: (i) Board of Education; (ii) the Township Zoning Officer; (iii) the Health Department; and the (iv) Township Fire Chief, except for the transmission of the requirements set forth in subsection (b)(4)(a) of this provision. These All~~ departments and/or bodies receiving the application shall review the application and forward their

comments to the Police Chief for the West Orange Police Department or the Chief's designee no later than fourteen (14) days from ~~transmission~~submission of the application.

b. The application shall require submission of the following information:

1. The name and home address of the Applicant. If the Applicant is not a natural person, the Applicant shall submit a statement setting forth the names and home addresses of all stockholders in the corporation or partnership who own any interest~~10% or more of its stock~~; of any class or of all individual partners in the partnership who own any~~a 10% or greater~~ interest therein, as the case may be. If one or more such stockholder or partner is itself a corporation or partnership, the stockholders holding any interest~~in 10% or more of~~ that corporation's stock, or the individual partners owning any interest~~10% or greater interest~~ in that partnership, as the case may be, shall also be listed with its home address. The disclosure shall be continued until names and home addresses of every noncorporate stockholder, and individual partner,~~exceeding the 10% ownership criteria has been listed.~~
2. The name of any other business entities in which any of the individuals identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of this provision have or have had an ownership interest which: (i) cultivates, manufactures, wholesales or dispenses cannabis or cannabis products; (ii) invests or finances in any such entity; or (iii) is regulated by any governmental entity.
3. A copy of the license issued by the Commission authorizing the Applicant to operate as a Licensed Cannabis Entity with a copy of all application materials and documents submitted to the Commission for a license.
4. Plans prepared by a duly licensed architect, engineer, or planner which shall depict the layout and design for the proposed location of the Licensed Cannabis Entity within the Township.
 - (a). The required plans shall depict the proposed security measures for the location in order for the West Orange Police Department to evaluate the sufficiency of the security measures as required under this section. The plans shall be deemed confidential and shall only be transmitted to the Police Chief for the West Orange Police Department or the Chief's designee.
 - (b). The Applicant shall also provide either a lease agreement or agreement of sale for the property where the Applicant intends to operate the Licensed Cannabis Entity. The lease agreement or agreement of sale must be executed by the owner of the property where the Applicant intends to operate the Licensed Cannabis Entity. The lease agreement or agreement of sale may be contingent upon the Applicant's ability to successfully: (i) obtain a Local License; and (ii) if applicable, obtain approval from the West Orange Planning Board or the West Orange Zoning Board of Adjustment. No property owner may execute a lease agreement or agreement of sale for more than one entity at the proposed location and shall notify the Township Clerk in writing of

[any termination and/or expiration in the lease agreement or agreement of sale no later than five \(5\) days of such termination or expiration.](#)

5. Acknowledgment and agreement authorizing the West Orange Police Department to perform background checks and/or investigations regarding any individuals disclosed pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of this provision and any employees of the Applicant.
6. If the Applicant is applying for a Local License as a Targeted Microbusiness, a copy of any and all documents issued by the Commission declaring the Applicant as microbusiness under the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act with a copy of all application materials and documents submitted to the Commission for such a declaration.
- c. The Police Chief for the West Orange Police Department or the Chief's designee shall review the application, review the comments from the departments provided pursuant to subsection (a) of this provision, and prepare a memorandum addressed to the Township Council: (i) analyzing the Applicant's ability to comply with all of the Township's requirements for a Licensed Cannabis Entity, including the required security measures; (ii) assessing the benefits compared to the potential harm of the Applicant's proposed operation of a Licensed Cannabis Entity; and (iii) recommending whether to grant or deny the application for a Local License. The Police Chief or the Chief's designee shall transmit the memorandum to the Office of the Township Clerk.
- d. Within sixty (60) days from the transmission of the memorandum to the Office of the Township Clerk, the Township Council shall adopt a resolution either granting the application or denying the application. The Township Council's failure to adopt a resolution within the sixty (60) day period shall be deemed a denial of the application.

V. CHAPTER 5, SECTION 34.6 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED TO INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING:

5-34.6 License Term, Transferability, and Renewal.

- a. All licenses shall be issued for the term of one_year(s) and shall expire one year(s) after the date of issuance.
- b. Licenses shall not be transferable, assignable, or divisible.
- c. [Any change in ownership subject to disclosure under Chapter 5, Section 34.5\(b\)\(1\) of the Township of West Orange Municipal Code shall be subject to approval by the Township of West Orange.](#)
- d. [All Licensed Cannabis Entities shall submit their applications for renewal no later than sixty \(60\) days before the expiration of the license. In the event, that the renewal application is not timely submitted and the Licensed Cannabis Entity holds one of the](#)

[limited number of Local Licenses identified in Chapter 5, Section 34.4\(b\), the Township may or may not accept new applications for that Local License.](#)

VI. CHAPTER 5, SECTION 34.8 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED TO INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING:

5-34.8 Operating Requirements and Prohibitions.

- a. A Licensed Cannabis Entity may only operate from the hours of 8:00 A.M. through 7:00 P.M.
- b. No persons under the age of twenty-one (21) shall be allowed in a Licensed Cannabis Establishment no person under the age of eighteen (18) shall be allowed in a Licensed Medical Marijuana Facility.
- c. The sale or consumption of alcohol at a Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be prohibited.
- d. Cannabis Consumption Areas, as defined in the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act, N.J.S.A. 24:6I-31, et. seq., shall be prohibited.
- e. ~~e.~~ A Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be secured and have full-time security protocols in place subject to review and approval from the West Orange Police Department which shall include at least a twenty-four (24) hour security video system with footage to be kept for at least thirty (30) days and a vault for storage of money when the Licensed Cannabis Entity is closed. Prior to the commencement of any operations, a Licensed Cannabis Entity must first obtain from the Police Chief, or designee, written approval of the Licensed Cannabis Entity's security protocols. The Police Chief, or designee, shall have to authority to require additional safety and security measures.

[f. A Licensed Cannabis Retail and a Licensed Medical Cannabis Dispensary shall have no less than one \(1\) on site parking space for every 250 square feet \(250'\) of space being utilized by the Licensed Cannabis Retail or Licensed Medical Cannabis Dispensary.](#)

VII. CHAPTER 25, SECTION 24.2 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED TO INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING:

25-24.2 Conditional Uses.

- b. Specific Requirements. Subject to the stipulations, guiding principles and conditions contained in this section, the Planning Board shall have the power to grant conditional uses authorized by the Table of District Regulations, in specified districts, as follows:
 - 2. Business and Industrial Districts.

(o) Licensed Cannabis Entities. Licensed Cannabis Retailers and Licensed Medical Cannabis Dispensaries shall be permitted as a conditional use in the B-1, B-2, and I Districts. All other Licensed Cannabis Entities shall be permitted as a conditional use in the I Districts. These conditional uses shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) The Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be required to have a Local License pursuant to Chapter 5, Section 34 of the Township of West Orange Municipal Code.

(2) No Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be located within ~~one hundred~~ two hundred feet (~~100'~~ 200') of any school building ~~owned and operated by the West Orange Board of Education~~

(3) No Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be located within 200 feet (200') from the property line of any property with a House of Worship, as defined under Chapter 25, Section 4.

(4) All Licensed Cannabis Entities shall comply with the following Parking Requirements for Nonresidential Uses: (i) Licensed Cannabis Retailers shall comply with the minimum required number of parking spaces for Retail Stores and personal services stores or studios not separately listed; and (ii) all other Licensed Cannabis Entities shall comply with the minimum required number of parking spaces for Light industrial, laboratory and research uses.

~~(3)(5)~~ No Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be housed in a vehicle or any movable or mobile structure.

~~(4)(6)~~ No Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be allowed to operate as a Home Occupation.

~~(5)(7)~~ Any signage for a Licensed Cannabis Entity shall be subject to the approval from either the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Adjustment under the guidelines and standards governing commercial signs as set forth within the Township Municipal Code.

~~(6)(8)~~ A Licensed Cannabis Entity shall meet of the required security measures as set forth in Chapter 5, Section 34 of the Township of West Orange Municipal Code.

~~(7)(9)~~ Cannabis Consumption Areas, as defined in the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act, N.J.S.A. 24:6I-31, et. seq., shall be prohibited from all Licensed Cannabis Entities.

VIII. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

Any Ordinances of the Township which are in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

IX. SEVERABILITY

If any part of this Ordinance shall be deemed invalid, such parts shall be severed and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this Ordinance.

X. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

SUSAN McCARTNEY, MAYOR

**TAMMY WILLIAMS
COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

KAREN J. CARNEVALE, R.M.C., MUNICIPAL CLERK

INTRODUCED:

ADOPTED:

Legislative History

The purpose of this ordinance is to update the provision of the Municipal Code of the Township of West Orange governing the local licensing requirements and zoning conditions for Licensed Cannabis Entities within the Township of West Orange to: (i) clarify that it shall be unlawful for any individual or entity to distribute cannabis or cannabis products that do not have a license from the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission and a local license from the Township of West Orange, including any gifting of cannabis or cannabis produce; (ii) update and amend the total number of local licenses allowable Licensed Cannabis Entities (iii) require approval from the Township for any changes in ownership of a License Cannabis Entity; (iv) provide that all Licensed Cannabis Entities holding a local license, must submit a renewal application not less than sixty (60) days before the expiration of the local license; (v) extend the existing distance from the property line of any property with a school building for which the operation of a Cannabis Entity is prohibited from 100 feet (100') to 200 feet (200'); (vi) add an additional condition whereby a Cannabis Entity shall not be allowed to operate within 200feet (200') from a house of worship; (vii) clarify the parking requirements for Licensed Cannabis Entities; and (viii) provide reference to the Township Municipal Code provisions governing the standards and criteria for commercial signage for Cannabis Entities.