Chapter 5.80 - MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY PERMITS

Sections:

Footnotes:

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Editor's note—Ord. No. 13370, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016, amended Chapter 5.80 in its entirety to read as herein set out. Formerly, Chapter 5.80 pertained to similar subject matter, and derived from Ord. No. 13086, § 1, adopted July 26, 2011.

5.80.010 - Definitions.

The following words or phrases, whenever used in this chapter, shall be given the following definitions:

A. "Applicant" shall mean any individual or business entity that applies for a permit required by this chapter.

B. "Cannabis" or "Marijuana" shall have the same definition as Business and Professions Code Section 19300.5(f), as may be amended, which, as of March 2016, defines "cannabis" as all parts of the plant Cannabis sativa Linnaeus, Cannabis indica, or Cannabis ruderalis, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin, whether crude or purified, extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound. Manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or resin. "Cannabis" also means the separated resin, whether crude or purified, obtained from marijuana. "Cannabis" also means marijuana as defined by Health and Safety Code Section 11018, "Cannabis" also means marijuana as defined by Health and Safety Code Section 11018, "Cannabis" does not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom), fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seeds of the plant which is incapable of germination. "Cannabis" does not mean "industrial hemp" as defined by Section 81000 of the Food and Agricultural Code or Section 11018.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

C. "Cannabis dispensary" or "Dispensary" shall mean a facility where medical cannabis, medical cannabis products, or devices for the use of medical cannabis or medical cannabis products are offered, either individually or in any combination, for retail sale, including an establishment that delivers medical cannabis and medical cannabis products as part of a retail sale.

D. "City Administrator" means the City Administrator of the City of Oakland or his/her designee.

E. "Collective" means any association, affiliation, or establishment jointly owned and operated by its members, which facilitates the collaborative efforts of qualified patients and primary caregivers, as described in State law.

F. "Delivery" means the commercial transfer of medical cannabis or medical cannabis products from a dispensary to a primary caregiver or qualified patient as defined in Section 11362.7 of the Health and Safety Code, or a testing laboratory. "Delivery" also includes the use by a dispensary of any technology platform that enables qualified patients or primary caregivers to arrange for or facilitate the commercial transfer by a licensed dispensary of medical cannabis or medical cannabis products.

G. "Delivery only dispensary" means a cannabis dispensary that provides medical cannabis or medical cannabis products to primary caregivers or qualified patients as defined in Section 11362.7 of the Health and Safety Code exclusively through delivery.
H. “Equity Applicant” shall mean an Applicant whose ownership/owner:
   1. Is an Oakland resident; and
   2. Has an annual income at or less than 80 percent of Oakland Average Medium Income (AMI)
      adjusted for household size; and
   3. Either (i) has lived in any combination of Oakland police beats 2X, 2Y, 6X, 7X, 19X, 21X,
      21Y, 23X, 26Y, 27X, 27Y, 29X, 30X, 30Y, 31Y, 32X, 33X, 34X, 5X, 8X and 35X for at least
      ten of the last twenty years or (ii) was arrested after November 5, 1996 and convicted of a
      cannabis crime committed in Oakland, California.

I. “General Applicant” shall mean an Applicant other than an Equity Applicant.

J. “Medical marijuana” or “Medical cannabis” means marijuana authorized in strict compliance with
   Health and Safety Code Sections 11362.5, 11362.7 et seq., as such sections may be amended
   from time to time.

K. “Ownership” shall mean the individual or individuals who:
   (i) with respect to for-profit entities, including without limitation corporations, partnerships,
       limited liability companies, has or have an aggregate ownership interest (other than a
       security interest, lien, or encumbrance) of 50 percent or more in the entity.
   (ii) with respect to not for-profit entities, including without limitation a non-profit corporation
       or similar entity, constitutes or constitute a majority of the board of directors.
   (iii) with respect to collectives, has or have a controlling interest in the collective’s governing
       body.

L. “Parcel of land” means a single contiguous parcel of real property as identified by the county
   assessor's parcel number (APN), which is used to identify real property and its boundaries for
   legal purposes.

M. “Primary caregiver” shall have the same definition as California Health and Safety Code Section
   11362.7, as may be amended, which, as of March 2016, defines “Primary Caregiver” as an
   individual designated by a qualified patient or by a person with an identification card, who has
   consistently assumed responsibility for the housing, health, or safety of that patient or person,
   and may include a licensed health care facility, a residential care facility, a hospice, or a home
   health agency as allowed by California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7(d)(1)—(3).

N. “Qualified patient” shall have the same definition as California Health and Safety Code Section
   11362.7 et seq., as may be amended, which, as of March 2016, means a person who is entitled
   to the protections of California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.5. For purposes of this
   ordinance, qualified patient shall include a person with an identification card, as that term is
   defined by California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7 et seq.

O. “Smoking” shall have the same definition as Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 8.30, which as of
   March 2017 means “inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, weed, or
   other combustible substance.”

P. “Youth Center” means a community or recreation facility that primarily serves persons eighteen
   (18) years or younger.

(Ord. No. 13424, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13370, § 3, 5-17-2016)

5.80.020 - Business permit and application required.

A. Except for hospitals, research facilities, or an entity authorized pursuant to Section 8.46.030, it is
   unlawful for any owner, operator, or association to own, conduct, operate, maintain, participate therein,
   or to cause or allow to be conducted, operated, or maintained, any dispensary, delivery or delivery
   only dispensary in or into the City unless there exists a valid business permit in compliance with the
provisions of Chapter 5.02 and a permit issued under this chapter. However, entities authorized under OMC Chapter 8.46 must abide by the same requirements imposed herein on dispensaries.

B. This chapter, and the requirement to obtain a business permit, do not apply to the individual possession or cultivation of medical marijuana for personal use, nor does this chapter and such requirement apply to the usage, distribution, cultivation or processing of medical marijuana by qualified patients or primary caregivers when such group is of three (3) or fewer individuals, and distributing, cultivating or processing the marijuana from a residential unit or a parcel of land. Such associations shall not be required to obtain a permit under Chapter 5.80, but must comply with applicable State law.

C. The City Administrator shall issue no more than eight new valid permits for the operation of dispensaries in the City per calendar year, with a minimum of half of the dispensary permits issued each calendar year issued to Equity Applicants. Delivery only dispensaries shall not be subject to these limits. Dispensary permits shall be issued through an equity permit process done in collaboration with the department of race and equity.

D. In addition to the requirements specified in Section 5.02.020 for business permits, the application for a dispensary permit shall set forth the following information:

1. Unless the City Administrator in his/her discretion determines that the location will not impact the peace, order and welfare of the public evidence that the proposed location of such dispensary is not within six hundred (600) feet of a public or private school providing instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive (but not including any private school in which education is primarily conducted in private homes), another dispensary or youth center, unless the school or youth center moved into the area after the dispensary was issued a permit under this chapter. The distance between facilities shall be measured via path of travel from the closest door of one facility to the closest door of the other facility. The proposed dispensary or delivery only dispensary must be located in a commercial or industrial zone, or its equivalent as may be amended, of the City.

2. A plan of operations that will describe how the dispensary or delivery only dispensary will operate consistent with State law and the provisions of this chapter, including but not limited to:
   a. Controls to ensure medical marijuana will be dispensed only to qualified patients and primary caregivers, and
   b. Controls to acquire, possess, transport and distribute marijuana to and from State licensed medical cannabis entities.

3. A security plan, as a separate document, outlining the proposed security arrangements to deter and prevent unauthorized entrance into areas containing medical cannabis or medical cannabis products and theft of medical cannabis or medical cannabis products at the dispensary, in accordance with minimum security measures required by State law. The security plan shall be reviewed by the Police Department and the Office of the City Administrator and shall be exempt from disclosure as a public record pursuant to Government Code Section 6255(a).

4. A community beautification plan to reduce illegal dumping, littering, graffiti and blight and promote beautification of the adjacent community.

5. If the applicant is an Equity Applicant, information documenting such status, as described in Section 5.80.045 and any applicable administrative guidelines.

6. Such other information deemed necessary to conduct any investigation or background check of the applicant, and for the City Administrator to determine compliance with this chapter, the City's Municipal Code and Zoning Code.
   a. Background checks shall only apply to Dispensary and Delivery-Only Dispensary and they shall be limited to determining whether an Applicant has been convicted or plead nolo contender or guilty to a violent offense or crime of fraud or deceit as defined by the City Administrator's administrative guidelines.
b. Applicants with recent relevant convictions may still petition the City Administrator for reconsideration if they can demonstrate evidence of rehabilitation, such as participation in rehabilitative services and payment of restitution.

7. An applicant for a dispensary permit shall not be disqualified from receiving a permit under this Chapter on the ground that the applicant also operates or intends to operate in a cannabis-related field by providing additional, non-dispensary activities (such as cultivation).

E. Applications for dispensaries shall be subject to a public hearing with public notice of the hearing in accordance with Section 5.02.050. Applications for delivery only dispensaries shall not be subject to a hearing requirement. The City Administrator shall be the investigating official referred to in Section 5.02.030 to whom the application shall be referred. All General applicants shall pay an application fee, a permit fee, and all inspection fees that may be required as part of the application process, as specified in the City’s Master Fee Schedule. There shall be no application fee for Equity Applicants.

F. All dispensary permits shall be special business permits and shall be issued for a term of one year. No property interest, vested right, or entitlement to receive a future license to operate a medical marijuana business shall ever inure to the benefit of such permit holder.

(Ord. No. 13424, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13370, § 3, 5-17-2016)

5.80.025 - Onsite consumption permit.

A. A dispensary must obtain a secondary onsite consumption permit in order for cannabis to be consumed on the premises of the dispensary.

B. An onsite consumption permit may be issued at the discretion of the City Administrator to existing dispensaries in good standing following a public hearing conducted according to the requirements of Chapter 5.02 and based on an evaluative point system that takes into consideration the operating history and business practices of the applicant, and any other factors that are deemed necessary to promote the peace, order and welfare of the public. An application for an onsite consumption permit may be denied for failure to meet requirements of the City Building Code, City Fire Code, City Planning Code, this chapter, and/or any violation of State or local law relevant to the operation of dispensaries.

C. The City Administrator shall establish conditions of approval for each onsite consumption permit, including but not limited to a parking plan, ventilation plan, anti-drugged driving plan, and set hours of operation. Set hours of operation may only be adjusted by submitting a written request to and obtaining approval from the City Administrator's Office.

D. The permit shall be subject to suspension or revocation in accordance with Section 5.80.070, and the owner/operator shall be liable for excessive police costs related to enforcement.

E. The application fee and annual fee for the onsite consumption permit shall be specified in the City’s Master Fee Schedule.

F. All onsite consumption permits shall be special business permits and shall be issued for a term of one year. No property interest, vested right, or entitlement to receive a future license to operate a medical marijuana business shall ever inure to the benefit of such permit holder as such permits are revocable at any time with or without cause by the City Administrator subject to Section 5.80.070.

(Ord. No. 13424, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13370, § 3, 5-17-2016)

5.80.030 - Regulations.

The City Administrator shall establish administrative regulations for the permitting of dispensaries, delivery only dispensaries, and onsite consumption, and may set further standards for such operations and activities through administrative guidance and formal regulations. In order to maintain a dispensary or delivery only dispensary permit in good standing, each dispensary and delivery only dispensary must meet
all the operating criteria for the dispensing of medical marijuana required pursuant to State law, the City Administrator's administrative regulations, and this Chapter.

(Ord. No. 13424, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13370, § 3, 5-17-2016)

5.80.040 - Performance and operating standards.

The City Administrator shall develop and implement performance and operating standards consistent with those set forth in Ordinance No. 12585 in the Office of the City Administrator Guidelines and shall modify such Guidelines from time to time as required by applicable law and consistent with public health, welfare and safety. Noncompliance of such operating standards shall constitute a breach of the permit issued hereunder and may render such permit suspended or revoked based upon the City Administrator's determination.

The following performance standards shall be included in the City Administrative regulations:

A. No cannabis shall be smoked inside the premises of the dispensary.

B. The dispensary shall not hold or maintain a license from the State Department of Alcohol Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages, or operate a business that sells alcoholic beverages.

C. Dispensaries must maintain a staff comprised of at least fifty percent (50%) Oakland residents and twenty-five percent (25%) Oakland residents in census tracts identified by the City Administrator as having high unemployment rates or low household incomes. The City Administrator's guidelines and regulations may provide details of these requirements, including for phasing in this requirement for existing facilities.

D. Dispensaries and delivery only dispensaries that hire and retain formerly incarcerated current Oakland residents may apply for a tax credit or license fee reduction based on criteria established by the City Administrator.

E. All dispensary employees and delivery only dispensary employees shall be paid a living wage as defined by OMC Chapter 2.28.

F. Dispensaries and delivery only dispensaries must implement a track and trace program as prescribed by state law that records the movement of medical cannabis and medical cannabis products in their custody and make these records available to the City Administrator upon request.

G. No cannabis odors shall be detectable outside of the permitted facility.

(Ord. No. 13424, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13370, § 3, 5-17-2016)

5.80.045 - Equity Permit Program.

A. Equity Criteria. Applicant ownership/owner must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Be an Oakland resident; and
2. Have an annual income at or less than 80% Oakland average median income (AMI) adjusted for household size; and
3. Either (i) has lived in any combination of Oakland Police Department Beats 2X, 2Y, 6X, 7X, 19X, 21X, 21Y, 23X, 26Y, 27X, 27Y, 29X, 30X, 30Y, 31Y, 32X, 33X, 34X, 5X, 8X and 35X for at least ten of the last twenty years; or (ii) was arrested after November 5, 1996 and convicted of a cannabis crime committed in Oakland, California.

B. Review of Criteria.
1. Proof of Income shall be supported with federal tax returns and at least one of the following documents: two months of pay stubs, current Profit and Loss Statement, or Balance Sheet.

2. Residency must be for a total of ten years in any combination of the designated Oakland police beats as set forth in Section 5.80.010.H.3. A minimum of two of the documents listed below, evidencing 10 years of residency, shall be considered acceptable proof of residency. All residency documents must list the applicant’s first and last name, and the Oakland residence address in the police beats set forth in Section 5.80.010.H.3:
   • California driver’s record; or
   • California identification card record; or
   • Property tax billing and payments; or
   • Verified copies of state or federal income tax returns where an Oakland address within the police beats is listed as a primary address; or
   • Utility company billing and payment covering any month in each of the ten years.

3. Proof of Incarceration should be demonstrated through Department of Corrections or Federal Bureau of Prisons documentation.

C. Assistance. Equity Applicants will be eligible for participation in the Equity Assistance program, which will include industry specific technical assistance, business ownership technical assistance, no interest business start-up loans, and waivers from City permitting fees.

D. Initial Permitting Phase.

1. The period of time before the Equity Assistance Program referred to in OMC 5.80.045(C), is established, funded and implement shall be referred to as the Initial Permitting Phase

2. At any point during the Initial Permitting Phase, a minimum of fifty (50) percent of all permits collectively issued under OMC Chapters 5.80 and 5.81 shall be issued to Equity Applicants.

3. In the Initial Permitting Phase, a General Applicant will receive the next available General Applicant permit if it serves as an Equity Incubator by providing free real estate or rent to an Equity Applicant who obtains a medical cannabis permit. In order to receive this permitting priority, the General Applicant must also comply with the following conditions:
   a. The free real estate or rent shall be for a minimum of three years.
   b. The Equity Applicant shall have access to a minimum of 1,000 square feet to conduct its business operations.
   c. The General Applicant must provide any City required security measures, including camera systems, safes, and alarm systems for the space utilized by the Equity Applicant.
   d. The General Applicant is otherwise compliant with all other requirements of OMC Chapter 5.80 or 5.81.

4. If a General Applicant obtains a medical cannabis permit utilizing the Equity Incubator priority provisions of OMC 5.80.045 (D)(3) and the Equity Applicant ceases its business operations, the General Applicant must:
   a. Notify the City Administrator within thirty (30) days of the Equity Applicant ceasing its business operations; and
   b. Re-apply for a medical cannabis permit subject to the permitting restrictions of this Chapter, including OMC 5.80.045 (D)(2).

5. Failure to notify the City Administrator, submit a new application and obtain a new medical cannabis permit as required under OMC 5.80.045 (D) is grounds for revocation and a violation of this chapter.
E. Renewal.
   1. In order to continue to receive new Equity Assistance Program services, an Equity Applicant must provide proof that it continues to satisfy the Equity Criteria at the time of its annual permit renewal.
   2. An Equity Applicant who no longer satisfies the Equity Criteria but is compliant with all other requirements of OMC Chapter 5.80 or 5.81 will be entitled to renew the permit but will no longer be entitled to receive new Equity Assistance Program services. Such an Applicant may utilize any services previously granted under the Equity Assistance Program, though, such as previously issued loans.

(Ord. No. 13424, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13370, § 3, 5-17-2016)

5.80.050 - Regulatory fees; seller's permit.

A. Unless exempted under OMC 5.80.045, in addition to the dispensary application fee, the dispensary shall pay an annual regulatory fee. The dispensary shall post a copy of the dispensary permit and onsite consumption permit (if applicable) issued pursuant to this chapter in a conspicuous place in the premises approved as a dispensary at all times.

B. The fees referenced herein shall be set by the Master Fee Schedule, as modified from time to time.

(Ord. No. 13424, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13370, § 3, 5-17-2016)

5.80.060 - Sales.

Retail sales of medical marijuana that violate California law or this chapter are expressly prohibited.

(Ord. No. 13424, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13370, § 3, 5-17-2016)

5.80.070 - Revocation, suspension and appeals.

   The City Administrator's decision to issue or deny a permit shall be subject to an appeal by the Applicant pursuant to Section 5.02.100, except that the appeal authorized in Section 5.02.100 shall be to an independent hearing officer and not the City Council. The request for an appeal must be made in writing within fourteen (14) days of the City Administrator's decision. The decision of the independent hearing officer shall be final and conclusive.

   For suspensions or revocations of permits the City shall follow the procedures set forth in Section 5.02.080, except that the City Administrator shall provide fourteen (14) days' notice of the hearing on the proposed action to suspend or revoke the permit. The appeal authorized in Section 5.02.100 shall be to an independent hearing officer, and such request for appeal must be made in writing within fourteen (14) days of the City Administrator's decision. The decision of the independent hearing officer shall be final and conclusive.

(Ord. No. 13424, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13370, § 3, 5-17-2016)

5.80.080 - Prohibited operations; nonconforming uses.

A. Operation of a dispensary or delivery only dispensary in violation of California Health and Safety Code Section 11326.7, et seq., 11362.5, and this chapter are expressly prohibited. It is unlawful for any dispensary or delivery only dispensary in the City, or any agent, employee or representative of such dispensary or delivery only dispensary, to permit any breach of peace therein or any disturbance of
public order or decorum by any tumultuous, riotous or disorderly conduct on the premises of the dispensary or during the delivery of medical cannabis.

B. Except for uses established pursuant to Chapter 8.46, no use which purports to have distributed marijuana prior to the enactment of this chapter shall be deemed to have been a legally established use under the provisions of the Oakland Planning Code, this Code, or any other local ordinance, rule or regulation, and such use shall not be entitled to claim legal nonconforming status.

C. Any violations of this chapter, including administrative regulations authorized by this chapter, may be subject to administrative citation, pursuant to Chapters 1.08 and 1.12, and other applicable legal, injunctive or equitable remedies.

(Ord. No. 13424, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13370, § 3, 5-17-2016)

5.80.090 - Liability and indemnification.

A. To the fullest extent permitted by law, any actions taken by a public officer or employee under the provisions of this chapter shall not become a personal liability of any public officer or employee of the City.

B. To the maximum extent permitted by law, the permittees under this chapter shall defend (with counsel acceptable to the City), indemnify and hold harmless the City of Oakland, the Oakland City Council, and its respective officials, officers, employees, representatives, agents and volunteers (hereafter collectively called City) from any liability, damages, actions, claims, demands, litigation, loss (direct or indirect), causes of action, proceedings or judgment (including legal costs, attorneys’ fees, expert witness or consultant fees, City Attorney or staff time, expenses or costs) (collectively called “action”) against the City to attack, set aside, void or annual, any medical cannabis-related approvals and actions and comply with the conditions under which such permit is granted, if any. The City may elect, in its sole discretion, to participate in the defense of said action and the permittee shall reimburse the City for its reasonable legal costs and attorneys' fees.

C. Within ten (10) calendar days of the service of the pleadings upon the City of any action as specified in Subsection B. above, the permittee shall execute a letter of agreement with the City, acceptable to the Office of the City Attorney, which memorializes the above obligations. These obligations and the letter of agreement shall survive termination, extinguishment or invalidation of the medical cannabis-related approval. Failure to timely execute the letter of agreement does not relieve the applicant of any of the obligations contained in this section or any other requirements or performance or operating standards that may be imposed by the City.

(Ord. No. 13424, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13370, § 3, 5-17-2016)

5.80.100 - Examination of books, records, witnesses—Penalty.

A. Permittees must provide the City Administrator with access to any licensed dispensary during normal business hours to verify compliance with this chapter.

B. Permittees must provide the City Administrator with access to any and all financial information regarding the dispensary at any time, as needed to conduct an audit of the permittees under this chapter to verify tax compliance under Chapter 5.80 and/or gross receipts tax requirements.

C. The City Administrator is authorized to examine the books, papers, tax returns and records of any permittee for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any declaration made, or if no declaration was made, to ascertain the business tax due.

D. The City Administrator is authorized to examine a person under oath, for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any declaration made, or if no declaration was made, to ascertain the business tax, registration or permit fees due under this chapter. In order to ascertain the business tax, registration or permit fees due under this chapter, the City Administrator may compel, by administrative subpoena,
the production of relevant books, papers and records and the attendance of all persons as parties or witnesses.

E. Every permittee is directed and required to furnish to the City Administrator, the means, facilities and opportunity for making such financial examinations and investigations.

F. Any permittee refusal to comply with this section shall be deemed a violation of this chapter, and administrative subpoenas shall be enforced pursuant to applicable law.

(Ord. No. 13424, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13370, § 3, 5-17-2016)
Chapter 5.81 - MEDICAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION, MANUFACTURING AND OTHER FACILITY PERMITS

Sections:

Footnotes:

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5.81.010 - Findings and purpose.

A. The City Council, based on evidence presented to it in the proceedings leading to the adoption of this chapter hereby finds that the lack of regulation of medical cannabis facilities other than medical cannabis dispensaries, including unregulated cultivation, manufacturing and processing of medical cannabis in the City has caused and is causing ongoing impacts to the community. These impacts include disparities in enforcement of drug laws, damage to buildings containing indoor medical cannabis cultivation facilities, including improper and dangerous electrical alterations and use, inadequate ventilation leading to mold and mildew, increased frequency of home-invasion robberies and similar crimes, and that many of these impacts have fallen disproportionately on residential neighborhoods. These impacts have also created an increase in response costs, including code enforcement, building, fire, and police staff time and expenses.

B. The City acknowledges that the voters of the State have provided an exemption to prosecution for the cultivation, possession of cannabis for medical purposes under the Compassionate Use Act (CUA), but that the CUA does not address land use or building code impacts or issues arising from the resulting increase in cannabis cultivation within the City.

C. The City acknowledges that sales of medical marijuana are subject to taxation by both the City and the State and that the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is also requiring that businesses engaging in such retail transactions hold a seller’s permit.

D. The primary purpose and intent of this chapter is to regulate non-dispensary medical cannabis facilities, including the cultivation of medical cannabis, in a manner that protects the public health, safety and welfare of the community, as authorized by the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)

5.81.020 - Definitions.

The following words or phrases, whenever used in this chapter, shall be given the following definitions:

A. "Applicant" as used only in this chapter shall be any individual or business entity that applies for a permit required under this chapter.

B. "Batch" as used only in this chapter shall be defined by the City Administrator to mean a discrete quantity of dried cannabis produced and sold together.

C. "Cannabis" or "Marijuana" as used only in this chapter shall be the same, and as may be amended, as is defined in Section 5.80.010.
D. “Cannabis concentrate” as used only in this chapter shall mean manufactured cannabis that has undergone a process to concentrate the cannabinoid active ingredient, thereby increasing the product's potency.

E. “Cannabis Dispensary” as used only in this chapter shall be the same, and as may be amended, as is defined in Section 5.80.010 and is also referred to herein as “dispensary.”

F. “City Administrator” as used only in this chapter shall mean the City Administrator for the City of Oakland and his or her designee.

G. “Cultivate” as used only in this chapter shall mean to plant, grow, harvest, dry, cure, grade or trim cannabis in an area greater than two-hundred and fifty square feet of total area within one parcel of land.

H. “Distribute” as used only in this chapter shall mean the procurement, sale, and transport of medical cannabis and medical cannabis products between State licensed medical cannabis entities.

I. “Edible cannabis product” as used only in this chapter shall mean manufactured cannabis that is intended to be used, in whole or in part, for human consumption, including, but not limited to, chewing gum.

J. “Equity Applicant” shall mean an Applicant whose ownership/owner:
   1. Is an Oakland resident; and
   2. Has an annual income at or less than 80 percent of Oakland Average Medium Income (AMI) adjusted for household size; and
   3. Either (i) has lived in any combination of Oakland police beats 2X, 2Y, 6X, 7X, 19X, 21X, 21Y, 23X, 26Y, 27X, 27Y, 29X, 30X, 30Y, 31Y, 32X, 33X, 34X, 5X, 8X and 35X for at least ten of the last twenty years or (ii) was arrested after November 5, 1996 and convicted of a cannabis crime committed in Oakland.

K. “General Applicant” shall mean an Applicant other than an Equity Applicant.

L. “Manufactured cannabis” as used only in this chapter shall mean raw cannabis that has undergone a process whereby the raw agricultural product has been transformed into a concentrate, an edible product, or a topical product.

M. "Manufacture" as used only in this chapter shall mean to produce, prepare, propagate, or compound manufactured medical cannabis or medical cannabis products, directly or indirectly, by extraction methods, independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis.

N. "Medical cannabis collective" as used only in this chapter shall be the same, and as may be amended, as is defined in Section 5.80.010.

O. "Medical marijuana" or "Medical cannabis" as used only in this chapter shall be the same, and as may be amended, as is defined in Section 5.80.010.

P. "Ownership" as used only in this chapter shall mean the individual or individuals who:
   (i) with respect to for-profit entities, including without limitation corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, has or have an aggregate ownership interest (other than a security interest, lien, or encumbrance) of 50 percent or more in the entity.
   (ii) with respect to not for-profit entities, including without limitation a non-profit corporation or similar entity, constitutes or constitute a majority of the board of directors.
   (iii) with respect to collectives, has or have a controlling interest in the collective's governing body.

Q. "Parcel of land" as used only in this chapter shall be the same, and as may be amended, as is defined in Section 5.80.010.
R. "Permittees" as used only in this chapter are individuals or businesses that have obtained a permit under this chapter to cultivate, distribute, manufacture, test or transport.

S. "Primary caregiver" as used only in this chapter shall be the same, and as may be amended, as is defined in Section 5.80.010.

T. "Qualified patient" as used only in this chapter shall be the same, and as may be amended, as is defined in Section 5.80.010.

U. "Testing" as used only in this chapter shall mean the conducting of analytical testing of cannabis, cannabis-derived products, hemp, or hemp-derived products.

V. "Topical cannabis" as used only in this chapter shall mean a product intended for external use such as with cannabis-enriched lotions, balms and salves.

W. "Transport" as used only in this chapter means the transfer of medical cannabis or medical cannabis products from the permitted business location of one licensee to the permitted business location of another licensee, for the purposes of conducting commercial cannabis activity, as defined by State law.

X. "Transporter" as used only in this chapter means a person licensed to transport medical cannabis or medical cannabis products between State licensed medical cannabis facilities.

Y. "Volatile solvents" as used only in this chapter shall mean those solvents used in the cannabis manufacturing process determined to be volatile by the California Department of Public Health or Oakland Fire Department.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)

5.81.030 - Business permit and application required.

A. Except for hospitals and research facilities that obtain written permission for cannabis cultivation under federal law, it is unlawful to cultivate, distribute, manufacture, test or transport without a valid business permit issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. Possession of other types of State or City permits or licenses does not exempt an applicant from the requirement of obtaining a permit under this chapter.

B. The City Administrator shall issue, as detailed below, special business permits for medical cannabis cultivation, distributing, manufacturing, testing and transporting. All General Applicants shall pay any necessary fees including without limitation application fees, inspection fees and regulatory fees that may be required hereunder.

C. All cultivation, distribution, manufacturing, testing and transporting permits shall be special business permits and shall be issued for a term of one year. No property interest, vested right, or entitlement to receive a future license to operate a medical marijuana business shall ever inure to the benefit of such permit holder.

D. Cultivation, distribution, manufacturing, testing, and transporting permits shall only be granted to entities operating legally according to State law.

E. More than one medical cannabis operator may situate on a single parcel of land, however, each operator will be required to obtain a permit for their applicable permit category.

F. No proposed use under this Chapter shall be located within a 600-foot radius of any public or private school providing instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive (but not including any private school in which education is primarily conducted in private homes). The distance between facilities shall be measured via path of travel from the closest door of one facility to the closest door of the other facility.
G. An applicant for a permit under this chapter shall not be disqualified from receiving a permit on the ground that the applicant also operates or intends to operate in an additional cannabis related field, such as a dispensary.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)

**Editor's note**—Ord. No. 13425, § 3, adopted March 28, 2017, changed the title of section 5.81.030 from "Permit required" to "Business permit and application required." The historical notation has been preserved for reference purposes.

5.81.040 - Cultivation, distribution, testing and transporting of medical marijuana.

A. Proposed cultivation, distribution, testing or transporting locations shall be in areas where "light manufacturing industrial," "research and development," or their equivalent use, is permitted by right under the Oakland Planning Code, as may be amended; provided, however, that no vested or other right shall inure to the benefit of any cultivation, distribution, testing or transporting facility permittee.

B. The aforementioned location restrictions shall not apply to existing dispensary cultivation facilities located at a retail location that are compliant with building and fire codes.

C. The maximum size of any areas of cultivation shall not exceed any limitations or restrictions set forth in State law.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)

5.81.045 - Manufacturing of medical marijuana.

A. Proposed locations for manufacturing of medical cannabis products using nonvolatile solvents shall be in areas where "custom manufacturing industrial," or its equivalent use, is permitted by right under the Oakland Planning Code, as may be amended, or in residential zones if the manufacturing is compliant with the restrictions imposed on cottage food operators under the California Homemade Food Act, Chapter 6.1 (commencing with Section 51035) of Part 1 of Division 1 of Title 5 of the Government Code.

Applicants seeking to engage in the production of infused edible cannabis products and topicals may be located in commercial zones where commercial kitchens are allowed.

B. Proposed locations for manufacturing of medical cannabis products using volatile solvents shall be in areas where "general manufacturing industrial" or its equivalent use, is permitted by right under the Oakland Planning Code, as may be amended.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)

5.81.050 - Application for permit.

A. All General applicants shall pay an application fee as specified in the Master Fee Schedule. There shall be no application fee for Equity Applicants.

B. All applicants shall submit written information to the City Administrator that shall include, as applicable, plans for security, odor mitigation, waste disposal, pest management, product testing, worker safety and compensation, local hiring, non-diversion of product, facility location, applicant complaint history, criminal background checks, plan for minimizing environmental impacts, compliance with City building and fire codes, and any additional information deemed necessary by the City Administrator. The City Administrator may design application forms specific to each permitted category and require inspections of proposed facilities before issuing a permit under this chapter.
1. Background checks shall only apply to Applicants and they shall be limited to determining whether an Applicant has been convicted or plead nolo contendere or guilty to a violent offense or crime of fraud or deceit as defined by the City Administrator’s administrative guidelines.

2. Applicants with recent relevant convictions may still petition the City Administrator for reconsideration if they can demonstrate evidence of rehabilitation, such as participation in rehabilitative services and payment of restitution.

C. The City Administrator shall establish criteria for minimizing the carbon footprint, environmental impact and resource needs of permitted facilities. Applicants that demonstrate they can satisfy these environmental criteria, such as cultivators seeking to operate greenhouse facilities, will be given preference in the processing of their application.

D. All applicants shall demonstrate compliance with State law, during the course of the permit application procedure described under this section, prior to issuing any permit, and upon the issuance of a permit, thereafter.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)

5.81.060 - Equity Permit Program.

A. Equity Criteria. Applicant ownership/owner must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Is an Oakland resident; and

2. Has an annual income at or less than 80% Oakland Average Median Income (AMI) Adjusted for household size; and

3. Either (i) has lived in any combination of Oakland Police Department Beats 2X, 2Y, 6X, 7X, 19X, 21X, 21Y, 23X, 26Y, 27X, 27Y, 29X, 30X, 30Y, 31Y, 32X, 33X, 34X, 5X, 8X and 35X for at least ten of the last twenty years or (ii) was arrested after November 5, 1996 and convicted of a cannabis crime committed in Oakland, California.

B. Review of Criteria.

1. Proof of Income shall be supported with federal tax returns and at least one of the following documents: two months of pay stubs, current Profit and Loss Statement, or Balance Sheet.

2. Residency must be for a total of ten years in any combination of the designated Oakland police beats as set forth in Section 5.81.020.J.3. A minimum of two of the documents listed below, evidencing 10 years of residency, shall be considered acceptable proof of residency. All residency documents must list the applicant’s first and last name, and the Oakland residence address in the police beats set forth in Section 5.81.020.J.3:
   • California driver’s record; or
   • California identification card record; or
   • Property tax billing and payments; or
   • Verified copies of state or federal income tax returns where an Oakland address is listed as a primary address; or
   • Utility company billing and payment covering any month in each of the ten years.

3. Proof of Incarceration should be demonstrated through Department of Corrections or Federal Bureau of Prisons documentation.

C. Assistance. Equity Applicants will be eligible for participation in the Equity Assistance Program, which will include industry specific technical assistance, business ownership technical assistance, no interest business start-up loans, and waivers from City permitting fees.
D. Initial Permitting Phase.
   1. The period of time before the Equity Assistance Program referred to in OMC 5.81.060(C) is established, funded and implemented shall be referred to as the Initial Permitting Phase.
   2. At any point during the Initial Permitting Phase, a minimum of fifty (50) percent of all permits collectively issued under OMC Chapters 5.80 and 5.81 shall be issued to Equity Applicants.
   3. In the Initial Permitting Phase, a General Applicant will receive the next available General Applicant permit if it serves as an Equity Incubator by providing free real estate or rent to an Equity Applicant who obtains a medical cannabis permit. In order to receive this permitting priority, the General Applicant must also comply with the following conditions:
      a. The free real estate or rent shall be for a minimum of three years.
      b. The Equity Applicant shall have access to a minimum of 1,000 square feet to conduct its business operations.
      c. The General Applicant must provide any City required security measures, including camera systems, safes, and alarm systems for the space utilized by the Equity Applicant.
      d. The General Applicant is otherwise compliant with all other requirements of OMC Chapter 5.80 or 5.81.
   4. If a General Applicant obtains a medical cannabis permit utilizing the Equity Incubator priority provisions of OMC 5.81.060 (D) (3) and the Equity Applicant ceases its business operations, the General Applicant must:
      a. Notify the City Administrator within thirty (30) days of the Equity Applicant ceasing its business operations.
      b. Re-apply for a medical cannabis permit subject to the permitting restrictions of this Chapter, including OMC 5.80.045 (D) (2).
   5. Failure to notify the City Administrator, submit a new application and obtain a new medical cannabis permit as required under OMC 5.80.045 (D) is grounds for revocation and a violation of this chapter.

E. Renewal.
   1. In order to continue to receive new Equity Assistance Program services, an Equity Applicant must provide proof that it continues to satisfy the Equity Criteria at the time of its annual permit renewal.
   2. An Equity Applicant who no longer satisfies the Equity Criteria but is compliant with all other requirements of OMC Chapter 5.80 or 5.81 will be entitled to renew the permit but will no longer be entitled to receive new services under the Equity Assistance Program. Such an Applicant may utilize any services previously provided granted under the Equity Assistance Program, though, such as previously issued loans.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)

5.81.070 - Operating and performance standards.

A. Facilities permitted under this chapter shall not be open to the public. The City Administrator shall establish operating and performance standards for permittees. The intent of these operating and performance standards is to minimize any negative effects and enhance the benefits of permitted facilities on the surrounding community.

B. The following standards shall be included in the City Administrator’s regulations:
   1. No cannabis or cannabis odors shall be detectable by sight or smell outside of a permitted facility.
2. Permitted facilities must install security cameras capable of documenting activity inside and outside the facility, as determined by the Oakland Police Department.

3. Permitted facilities must implement a community beautification plan to reduce illegal dumping, littering, graffiti and blight and promote beautification of the adjacent community.

4. Permitted facilities that hire and retain formerly incarcerated Oakland residents may apply for a tax credit or license fee reduction based on criteria established by the City Administrator.

5. All employees shall be paid a living wage as defined by OMC Chapter 2.28.

6. Permitted facilities must implement a track and trace program as prescribed by state law that records the movement of medical cannabis and medical cannabis products in their custody and make these records available to the City Administrator upon request.

C. Noncompliance of such operating standards shall constitute a breach of the permit issued hereunder and may render such permit suspended or revoked based upon the City Administrator's determination.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)

5.81.080 - Examination of books, records, witnesses—Information confidential—Penalty.

A. The City Administrator shall be provided access to any licensed medical cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, and other facility during normal business hours to verify compliance with this chapter.

B. The City Administrator shall be provided access to any and all financial information at any time, as needed to conduct an audit of the permittees under this chapter to verify tax compliance under Chapter 5.81 and/or gross receipts tax requirements.

C. The City Administrator is authorized to examine the books, papers, tax returns and records of any permittee for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any declaration made, or if no declaration was made, to ascertain the business tax due.

The City Administrator is authorized to examine a person under oath, for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any declaration made, or if no declaration was made, to ascertain the business tax due. In order to ascertain the business tax, registration or permit fees due under this chapter, the City Administrator may compel, by administrative subpoena, the production of relevant books, papers and records and the attendance of all persons as parties or witnesses.

D. Every permittee is directed and required to furnish to the City Administrator, the means, facilities and opportunity for making such financial examinations and investigations.

E. Any permittee refusal to comply with this Section shall be deemed a violation of this chapter, and administrative subpoenas shall be enforced pursuant to applicable law.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)

5.81.100 - Liability and indemnification.

A. To the fullest extent permitted by law, any actions taken by a public officer or employee under the provisions of this chapter shall not become a personal liability of any public officer or employee of the City.

B. To the maximum extent permitted by law, the permittees under this chapter shall defend (with counsel acceptable to the City), indemnify and hold harmless the City of Oakland, the Oakland City Council, and its respective officials, officers, employees, representatives, agents and volunteers (hereafter collectively called "City") from any liability, damages, actions, claims, demands, litigation, loss (direct or indirect), causes of action, proceedings, or judgment (including legal costs, attorneys' fees, expert witness or consultant fees, City Attorney or staff time, expenses or costs) (collectively called "action")
against the City to attack, set aside, void or annual, any medical cannabis-related approvals and actions and strictly comply with the conditions under which such permit is granted, if any. The City may elect, in its sole discretion, to participate in the defense of said action and the permittee shall reimburse the City for its reasonable legal costs and attorneys’ fees.

C. Within ten (10) calendar days of the service of the pleadings upon the City of any action as specified in Subsection B. above, the permittee shall execute a letter of agreement with the City, acceptable to the Office of the City Attorney, which memorializes the above obligations. These obligations and the letter of agreement shall survive termination, extinguishment or invalidation of the medical cannabis-related approval. Failure to timely execute the letter of agreement does not relieve the applicant of any of the obligations contained in this section or any other requirements or performance or operating standards that may be imposed by the City.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)

5.81.101 - Personal use and individual limits for non-licensed medical cannabis cultivation.

A collective or cooperative of qualified patients or primary caregivers, may cultivate medical cannabis covering an area of no more than 250 square feet inside a residential unit or if in a nonresidential building on one parcel of land.

In the absence of a permit under this chapter, such cultivation shall be subject to the following operating standards:

A. Cultivation, processing, possession, and/or manufacturing of medical marijuana in any residential areas shall be limited to qualified patients, primary caregivers, and medical cannabis collectives or cooperatives comprised of no more than three (3) qualified patients and/or their primary caregivers. Every member of the medical cannabis collective or cooperative shall possess an identification card issued by the County of Alameda, or the State of California, or another agency recognized by the City pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7 et seq.

B. Cultivation, processing, possessing, and/or manufacturing of medical cannabis in residential areas shall conform to the following standards:

1. The residential facility shall remain at all times a residence with legal and functioning cooking, sleeping and sanitation facilities. Medical cannabis cultivation, processing, possession, and/or manufacturing shall remain at all times secondary to the residential use of the property;

2. Cultivation possession, processing and/or manufacturing of medical cannabis in residential areas shall occur only in a secured residence occupied by the qualified patient or primary caregiver;

3. No individual residential facility or other facility housing the cultivation, processing and/or manufacturing of medical cannabis shall contain more than two-hundred and fifty (250) square feet of cultivation area;

4. If required by the building or fire code, the wall(s) adjacent to the indoor cultivation area shall be constructed with 5/8” Type X fire resistant drywall;

5. The cultivation area shall be in compliance with the current adopted edition of the California Building Code;

6. The cultivation area shall not adversely affect the health or safety of the residence or nearby properties through creation of mold, mildew, dust, glare, heat, noise, noxious gasses, odor, smoke, traffic, vibration, or other impacts, or be hazardous because of the use or storage of materials, processes, products or wastes;

7. All high amperage electrical equipment (exceeding six (6) amps) used in the cultivation of medical cannabis, (e.g., lighting and ventilation) shall be plugged directly into a wall outlet or
otherwise hardwired; the use of extension cords to supply power to high amperage electrical equipment (exceeding six (6) amps) used in the cultivation of medical cannabis is prohibited;

8. Any electrical rewiring or remodeling shall first require an electrical permit from the City;

9. The use of butane gas products for personal use medical cannabis cultivation is prohibited; and

10. From a public right-of-way, there shall be no exterior evidence of medical cannabis cultivation occurring at the property.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)

5.81.110 - Prohibited operations.

A. Any cultivating, manufacturing, testing, or transporting without a permit under this chapter is expressly prohibited. No use that purports to have cultivated, distributed, manufactured, tested or transported marijuana shall be deemed to have been a legally established use under the provisions of the Oakland Planning Code, the Oakland Municipal Code, or any other local ordinance, rule or regulation, and such use shall not be entitled to claim a vested right, legal nonconforming or other similar status.

B. Any violations of this chapter may be subject to administrative citation, pursuant to Chapters 1.08 and 1.12, and other applicable legal, injunctive or equitable remedies. No enforcement of this provision shall take place, though, until after the City Administrator has published information on how to apply for cultivation, distribution, laboratory, manufacturing and transporting permits and no enforcement shall take place against a permit applicant while their application is pending.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)

5.81.120 - Revocation, suspension and appeals.

The City Administrator's decision to issue or deny a permit shall be subject to an appeal by the Applicant pursuant to Section 5.02.100, except that the appeal authorized in Section 5.02.100 shall be to an independent hearing officer and not the City Council. The request for an appeal must be made in writing within fourteen (14) days of the City Administrator's decision. The decision of the independent hearing officer shall be final and conclusive.

For suspensions or revocations of permits the City shall follow the procedures set forth in Section 5.02.080, except that the City Administrator shall provide fourteen (14) days' notice of the hearing on the proposed action to suspend or revoke the permit. The appeal authorized in Section 5.02.100 shall be to an independent hearing officer, and such request for appeal must be made in writing within fourteen (14) days of the City Administrator's decision. The decision of the independent hearing officer shall be final and conclusive.

(Ord. No. 13425, § 3, 3-28-2017; Ord. No. 13371, § 3, adopted May 17, 2016)