



**City of Seattle**  
Office of the Mayor

## News

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### **Mayor Mike McGinn signs ordinance regulating medical marijuana operations in Seattle**

*Provides framework for ensuring operations follow City rules and regulations*

SEATTLE– Mayor Mike McGinn today signed an ordinance creating a regulatory framework for medical cannabis operations within the City of Seattle. The ordinance, approved 8-0 by the City Council on July 18, was crafted in consultation with patients, businesses, and advocates to provide safe access to medical marijuana.

“This ordinance gives us more tools to protect public safety while ensuring businesses are good neighbors in their communities,” said Mayor Mike McGinn. “This will help us work toward a more rational and sensible way of regulating marijuana use, instead of continuing an irrational policy of prohibition that just doesn’t work.”

The ordinance requires that the medical use of cannabis under state law shall be conducted in compliance with all local laws and regulations applicable to similar activities. That includes medical cannabis operations, which must comply with the same land use codes, business licensing rules, public health regulations, and chronic nuisances laws as other businesses.

Under the new ordinance, the public can report issues at medical cannabis facilities to the Customer Service Bureau, the Seattle Police Department, or the Department of Planning and Development, as appropriate based on the specific issue.

Mayor McGinn will continue working with state legislators and the Governor to support a bill to provide greater clarity and legal protections for qualified medical marijuana users and providers at the state level. The mayor’s office will also work in the coming months with the City Council and the Department of Planning and Development to develop appropriate zoning regulations for medical cannabis facilities.

For photos of the event and background materials, visit: <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/media/>

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