

**Staff Responses to Council Questions**  
**9/15/2020**

**Item 8. First Reading A. INF 2020-8666 Information: Consider Regulations and Taxes on Recreational Cannabis Businesses**

*What percentage of our arrests are residents? non-residents?*

Based on a preliminary review of the past three years of adult arrest data, it appears that approximately 30-40% of adult arrests are Downers Grove residents and 60-70% are non-residents.

*How many calls for police services are related to banks?*

A review of 2019 and 2020 service calls show that approximately 150 service calls are related to banks each year. These calls include robberies, customer disputes, suspicious incidents, deceptive practices, false alarms and requests for extra patrol.

*Does staff have a concern that locating cannabis dispensaries in areas near interstates and tollways will increase the likelihood of criminal activities taking place?*

Staff does not have a concern that locating recreational cannabis dispensaries in areas near interstates and tollways will increase the likelihood of criminal activities taking place.

*Please provide a summary of the social equity program requirements in the state law.*

Please see the attached summary.

**Item 8. First Reading B. MOT 2020-8654 Motion: Direct Staff to Construct Sidewalk on the South Side of Norfolk Street between Carpenter Street and Saratoga Avenue**

*Can the existing parkway trees be transplanted onto the adjacent residents' private property?*

Staff inspected the parkway trees in question. Staff does not recommend that these trees be transplanted. They are too large to transplant without a significant risk of death.

**Attachments**

Summary of Cannabis Establishment Social Equity Program

rRemarks - Published as of 4:00pm

## **Cannabis Establishment Social Equity Program**

Article 7 of the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (“the Act”) creates a social equity program in the interest of establishing a legal cannabis industry that is equitable and accessible to those most adversely impacted by the enforcement of cannabis-related laws in the State of Illinois. This program is designed to offer financial assistance and license application benefits to individuals most directly and adversely impacted by the enforcement of cannabis-related laws who are interested in starting cannabis business establishments.

The legislature found that the 55 medical cannabis licenses for dispensing and 20 for cultivation issued since 2014 are held by only a small number of businesses, which does not reflect the population of Illinois. So the legislature determined that the State needs to reduce barriers to entry for certain individuals and communities and promote business ownership by individuals who have resided in areas of high poverty and high enforcement of cannabis-related laws who have been financially, emotionally, psychologically affect from cannabis-related arrests or incarcerations.

To that end, the Act created a Cannabis Business Development Fund to provide low-interest rates and grants to Qualified Social Equity Applicants to pay for expenses to start and operate cannabis businesses; to pay for outreach to attract qualified individuals; to conduct studies; and to assist with job training. DCEO is charged with establishing the grant and loan programs. Social Equity Applicants may qualify for a 50% fee waiver.

A “Social Equity Applicant” must be an Illinois resident with at least a 51% ownership interest and (i) has resided for at least 5 of the preceding 10 years in a “Disproportionately Impacted Area”, or (ii) has been arrested for, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for any offense that is eligible for expungement under the Act or is a member of an impacted family; or (iii) for applicants with a minimum of 10 employees has at least 51% of current employees who (i) currently reside in a Disproportionately Impacted Area, or (ii) have been arrested for, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for any offense that is eligible for expungement under the Act or is a member of an impacted family

A "Qualified Social Equity Applicant" is a Social Equity Applicant who has been awarded a conditional license under this Act to operate a cannabis business establishment.

A “Disproportionately Impacted Area” is a census tract or geographic area that (1) meets one of the following criteria (a) the area has a poverty rate of at least 20% according to the latest federal census; or (b) 75% or more of the children participate in the federal free lunch program; or (c) at least 20% of the households receive assistance under SNAP; or (d) has an unemployment rate of more than 120% of the national unemployment average for at least 2 consecutive calendar years preceding the date of the application; AND (2) has high rates of arrest, conviction and incarceration related to the sale, possession, use, cultivation, manufacture or transport of cannabis.



**Public Comments for September 15, 2020 Village Council Meeting**  
 (Comments published as of 4:00pm. Public comments can still be submitted any time before or during the meeting)

Agenda Section	Agenda Item	Comment	Commenter
First Reading	B. MOT 2020-8654 A motion directing staff to construct a sidewalk on the south side of Norfolk Street between Carpenter Street and Saratoga Avenue	<p>Thank you for your consideration of our proposal to add a sidewalk on the south side of Norfolk St. between Saratoga and Carpenter. I'm a homeowner on that stretch, and am very appreciative of all the discussion that occurred at the previous meetings regarding this subject - and could not agree more with the point made that safety should be prioritized above all else in considering adding the sidewalk. We want to act now, not wait for a tragedy to occur. We have a very unique situation on this stretch, as it is on the same street as both Kingsley Elementary and Downers Grove South - just a few blocks apart. There is high traffic during very specific times of the day - during arrival and dismissal of the schools - and it is important to note that traditional traffic studies do not seem to be geared toward acknowledging those spikes, therefore resulting in an inaccurate representation of the situation and not showing just how dangerous it is in reality.</p> <p>On Sunday, September 13th, Downers Grove Village Commissioner Richard Kulovany was going door-to-door to speak with the homeowners on the stretch of Norfolk mentioned in the petition. He mentioned that adding a sidewalk would most likely involve removal of the trees, but he realizes homeowners may not like that result. Personally, I do not want to lose my tree as it is the only tree we have. He said he's aware of machinery that is able to dig out trees (even mature trees) and move them closer into your property, and this could be a solution to consider. I asked him if it was possible to put the sidewalks over the existing ditches in the parkway and he said that is up for consideration and would require sewers to be put in. I also asked Mr. Kulovany about doing possible "bump outs" of sidewalk around the trees - so the sidewalk would be constructed in the area of the ditches but bump out into our properties when necessary to go around the trees. He acknowledged that a solution like that has been used before and could be a possibility. Will all these options be explored? Overall, Mr. Kulovany was very supportive of working with us and the village to come up with a solution that is acceptable to all parties and I appreciate the fact that he took the time to stop by and talk.</p> <p>Lastly, I have a specific question about a discussion from the previous meeting regarding the homeowners possibly agreeing to an easement on our properties to allow for a temporary solution such as a mulch path for use as a sidewalk. I'm not familiar with how easements work, specifically, would we be liable as homeowners if there was an injury on the easement?</p> <p>Thank you again for your attention to this important petition and I'm hopeful we can continue to progress towards putting a solution in place sooner rather than later.</p>	Amy Dunlap 1121 Norfolk St Downers Grove