



Department of Excise & Licenses

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www.denvergov.org/businesslicensing

To: Denver City Council
From: Denver Excise and Licenses
CC: Skye Stuart, Mayor's Office
Subject: Repeal of cannabis consumption pilot program ordinance

In 2016, Denver voters approved the Cannabis Consumption Pilot Program, which allowed for designated cannabis consumption areas within the city. In 2019, the state legislature passed House Bill 19-1230, which adopted two types of marijuana hospitality licenses and created a state framework for social consumption of marijuana. Denver recently adopted the state's marijuana hospitality framework with the passage of Council Bill 21-0217.

Council Bill 21-0217 created a more robust marijuana social consumption program than Cannabis Consumption Pilot Program. Marijuana hospitality licenses offer better opportunities for entrepreneurs and better options for consumers by allowing for marijuana sales in small quantities, indoor smoking and vaping, and the ability to co-locate with a retail food establishment. The marijuana hospitality program renders the Cannabis Consumption Pilot Program obsolete.

By Charter, within the first 10 years after approval, any voter-approved initiated ordinance can only be amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of City Council and only after a public hearing is held. A public hearing has been scheduled for June 28, 2021. Repeal of the ordinance will require nine affirmative votes.