



## **City of Pontiac Bringing New Resources, Accelerated Timelines to Medical Marihuana Business Certifications as City Emerges Post Covid-19**

A virtual Town Hall Meeting to discuss the status of medical marihuana business certifications was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> led by Mayor Deirdre Waterman with Planning Manager Vernon Gustafsson, Special Counsel/Economic Development Matthew Gibb and City Attorney Anthony Chubb all providing updates.

Following months of moratoriums, amendments and ordinance changes, the City of Pontiac is preparing to fast-track medical marihuana in the city with new and reinvigorated resources, collaborations and an accelerated timeline. The announcement comes on the heels of the May 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting where budget amendments and resolutions related to the medical marihuana application process introduced by Interim City Clerk Garland Doyle were approved.

Four additional consultants will begin working with the City Clerk's office in the areas of finance, legal and planning to review the 108 medical marihuana applications that have been received. Subsequent to their review over the next 60-90 days, the Clerk's office will then announce 20 new medical marihuana provisioning centers, growers, processors, safety compliance and secure transporter businesses that will be operating in the city. Funding for the consultants will be underwritten by a portion of the \$525,000 in application fees generated to date, encompassing approximately 85% of those fees.

As the City of Pontiac reemerges from the Covid-19 epidemic, the pending opening of medical marihuana businesses is poised to serve as a vital catalyst for economic development. Among the projected figures for potential economic impact:

- \$261 million in development city wide
- \$8.4 million in annual tax revenue
- More than 200 new jobs

Currently, 29 largely vacant properties are awaiting cannabis licensing.

The road to medical marihuana in the City of Pontiac has been a long and arduous. We remain dedicated to supporting Interim City Clerk Doyle in every way possible. It is what our citizens want and our city and business community so desperately needs.

You can view the entire Town Hall meeting at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YwrLMFiiIo>