



## THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

*HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME*

### PRESS RELEASE



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## **CITY OF SPRINGFIELD RECEIVES RESPONSE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAW AND REGULATIONS**

*December 6, 2013 -Springfield, MA-* In response to the City of Springfield's implementation process of the State Medical Marijuana Law and the Department of Public Health Regulations; the City has received a response to its Phase I RFQ/P from Baystate Compassion Center, Inc.

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno stated; "The City's intent in carrying out this process is to implement, at the local regulatory level, a careful balance of appropriate access for patients with identified need, while mitigating security, community and fiscal impacts to the City." Mayor Sarno went on to say "I would like to thank the City's Public Health Council for their thoughtful review and input on this issue".

The purpose of the Phase I-RFQ/P is to pre-qualify enterprises desirous of participating in the City's Phase II-RFQ/P selection process. The proposal submitted in response to the Phase I-RFQ/P will be evaluated by the City's Internal Review Group as determined by the Mayor and assuming the filing requirements have been met, will automatically qualify for participation in Phase II. The information provided will be used in the City's Planning and shared with the Public Health Council in the process by engaging and informing them as our internal process moves forward to develop local land use, health and public safety regulations as necessary.

The City's Internal Review Group includes, Division of Health and Human Services Commissioner Helen Caulton-Harris, Police Commissioner William Fitchet, Planning Director Phil Dromey, Code Enforcement Commissioner Steve Desilets, DPW director Al Chwalek, and Deputy Associate City Solicitor Theo Theocles.

Once the City Reviews the response; the next step is to Issue a Phase II – RFQ/P to a Qualified Responder by December 18, 2013. Thereafter, the City plans to hold an Informational Meeting with the applicant on December 20, 2013; a Public presentation by the Applicant on January 7, 2014; and a Response to the Phase II-RFQ/P will be due January 21, 2013. The City then plans to announce whether the Proposer Qualifies for the Right to Negotiate a Host Community Agreement with the City by February 17, 2014. Thereafter, any Host Community Agreement reached is planned to be announced by March 31, 2014.

As part of the DPH process, 105 CMR 725.100(B)(2), Baystate Compassion Center, Inc. provided notice to the City that its intent to submit a Phase 2 application planned to be sited in the City of Springfield.

Another DPH applicant submitting such a notice, Debilitating Medical Condition Treatment Centers, Inc., was also invited to participate in the City's Phase I process. However, that applicant submitted a supplemental notification indicating that it has subsequently decided to seek a site in Holyoke instead of Springfield. A copy of the supplemental notice and the City's response is posted on the City's website.

Under the DPH Phase 1 process, dispensary applicants were reviewed for, among other things, non-profit status and financial viability. Applicants were also required to report whether any member of their proposed organization has a felony drug conviction.

Applicants who met the DPH qualifications in Phase 1 were eligible to proceed to the DPH Phase 2 process where a selection committee will conduct an in-depth review and select dispensaries through a competitive process. The DPH Phase II application was filed with DPH on November 21, 2013. The DPH committee will evaluate and score DPH Phase 2 applications based on such factors as appropriateness of the site, geographical distribution of dispensaries, local support, and the applicant's ability to meet the overall health needs of registered patients, while ensuring public safety.

The Phase I DPH process is not site specific. As part of the RFQ/P process, the City does expect to impose location restrictions on the Project. The City expects that any proposed Project will take into account potential impacts on and compatibility with the area surrounding the Project. The City's Planning Board proposed interim zoning as discussed in the RFP/Q, and the City Council has enacted the interim zoning measure. The zoning regulations include the definition of a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center while also implementing interim regulations which would restrict this use until June 30, 2014 or until such time that superseding regulations have been adopted, whichever is sooner.

The City maintains a website to keep the public informed as the planning process goes forward at <http://www3.springfield-ma.gov/law/med-marijuana.html>

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