

ORDINANCE NO.: 170 -2023  
INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Thomas and All of Council

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A MORATORIUM ON APPLICATIONS FOR, AND THE GRANTING OF, ZONING APPROVALS, BUILDING PERMITS, AND CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY FOR ANY BUILDING, STRUCTURE, USE, OR CHANGE OF USE THAT WOULD ENABLE THE CULTIVATION, PROCESSING, DISTRIBUTION, OR SALE OF ADULT USE CANNABIS FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED SIX MONTHS IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE CITY TO REVIEW APPLICABLE STATE AND LOCAL LAWS; TO PLAN FOR REGULATIONS RELATING TO SUCH USES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2023, Ohio voters passed Issue 2 to enact Chapter 3780 of the Ohio Revised Code, effective December 7, 2023, which legalized and provided for the regulation of “adult use cannabis” as defined in Section 3780.01 of the Revised Code, including cultivation, processing, sale, purchase, possession, and home growth;

WHEREAS, the Ohio Senate passed H.B. 86 on December 6, 2023, which made changes to the provisions in Chapter 3780 enacted by the passage of Issue 2, but H.B. 86 remains pending in the Ohio House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, Section 3780.25 of the Revised Code gives this Council the authority to adopt an ordinance to prohibit, or limit the number of adult use cannabis operators licensed under Chapter 3780 of the Revised Code within the City;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City Charter, as well as the Ohio Constitution, this Council also has the inherent power to enact planning, zoning and business regulations and laws that further the health, safety, welfare, and peace of its citizens, including restricting or prohibiting certain business uses;

WHEREAS, this Council has determined that the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare is preserved by establishing a moratorium on the applications for zoning approvals, building permits, and certificates of occupancy related to adult use cannabis while the legislature deliberates changes to R.C. Chapter 3780.

WHEREAS, this Council has further determined that additional time is needed to review the applicable sections of R.C. Chapter 3780 once the amendments go into effect, as well as the City’s Codified Ordinances, and to plan for and formulate a response to adult use cannabis within the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, County of Cuyahoga, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1. This Council hereby establishes a moratorium on the acceptance of any application for, or the granting of, any zoning approvals, building permits, and certificates of occupancy for any building, structure, use, expansion of use, or change of use that would enable

the cultivation, processing, distribution, or sale of adult use cannabis in the City of Richmond Heights for a period of six (6) months from the date of the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 2. No existing business in the City of Richmond Heights may expand in any way that would establish the cultivation, processing, distribution, or sale of adult use cannabis for the duration of the moratorium period established by this Ordinance.

Section 3. All formal actions of this Council related to this Ordinance and all deliberations of this Council and of any of its Committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4. This Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation for the public peace, health and safety of the City and the inhabitants thereof for the reason that this action is necessary to enable the City to fully study the impacts of Chapter 3780 of the Revised Code and its effects on the City and the health, safety and general welfare of its inhabitants, and provided it receives approval of two-thirds of the members of Council, shall be in full force and effect from and after its approval by the Mayor, or otherwise take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period provided by law.

PASSED: December 19, 2023

APPROVED: December 19, 2023  
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Kim A. Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST: Donnie Hunter  
Donnie L. Hunter  
Clerk of Council

Bobby Jordan  
Bobby Jordan  
President of Council