



Host agreement struck between Brockton, medical marijuana dispensary

By Staff Reporter

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BROCKTON – The city has reached a deal with the medical marijuana dispensary planned for West Chestnut Street that would provide Brockton at least \$100,000 per year.

The deal, struck between Mayor Bill Carpenter and the non-profit In Good Health, would also provide a percentage of gross revenue to local charitable groups that provide addiction services. The deal is contingent on the dispensary receiving final licensing from the state.

In Good Health received its final city approval last fall for a 16,000-square-foot dispensary and marijuana growing facility in the back of a printing warehouse at 1200 West Chestnut St.

The Brockton dispensary is scheduled to open in April, according to spokesman David Ball.

In Good Health was among 11 organizations last summer given provisional certificates to operate by the DPH, out of 20 originally approved at the beginning of 2014. State officials announced three more approved groups in November.

Municipalities negotiate host agreements individually. Quincy, for instance, reached a deal that guarantees it a portion of dispensary revenue – up to \$500,000 per year – that can be used to fight substance abuse, support schools and improve city parks.

In Brockton, the city will receive \$100,000 during the dispensary's first year of operation, divided into two payments. Half is due six months after the dispensary opens and half at the end of the first year of business, Ball said.

Starting the second year of operation, the city gets 3 percent of gross revenue or \$100,000, whichever is greater. Also starting in the second year, local non-profit addiction service providers will get an additional 1 percent of gross revenue.

"I wanted a percentage so the more they make, the more we get," Carpenter said.

The dispensary agreement, if finalized with the facility's opening, would be the mayor's first with a city nonprofit since he asked larger organizations to voluntarily offer payments in lieu of taxes this spring.

Last May, Carpenter announced he was seeking such payments from the 21 nonprofit organizations in Brockton that own more than \$500,000 in city property but do not pay taxes because they are exempt by law.

Carpenter mentioned the initiative during his State of the City address Thursday night, along with other alternative revenue sources such as licensing electronic billboards and auctioning off abandoned city property.

The mayor has yet to reach an agreement with any of the city's largest non-profits over the last eight months. After his speech, Carpenter said the initiative was never meant as a quick fix and that he is in ongoing discussions with the organizations.

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