



**Commission 2 District Forum**  
**June 10, 2015**  
**5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Galena High School – Theater**  
**3600 Butch Cassidy Drive**  
**Reno, Nevada**

## **Commission 2 District Forum**

### **Washoe County's role in permitting Medical Marijuana Establishments**

# **Agenda**

**5:30 p.m. Welcome and introduction to the meeting**

**5:40 to 6:00 p.m. Orientation**

*Medicinal cannabis in Washoe County. Washoe County's role in the permitting process*

**6:00 to 7:25 p.m. – Community Question and Answer Session with representative panel**

**Panel Includes:** Commissioner Bob Lucey, Sheriff Allen, Lt. Eric Spratley with additional support from staff representatives in the audience.

**7:25 to 7:30 p.m. Thank you and closing**

*The event will end promptly at 7:30 p.m.; however, representatives will be available to answer additional questions following the meeting.*



## MEDICAL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS – DISPENSARIES *RESIDENTS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS*

*District 2 Town Hall  
June 10, 2015*

One of Washoe County's adopted strategic goals is to work together to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for all of Washoe County's residents. In District 2, residents are concerned about a proposed dispensary for medicinal cannabis and have shared those concerns and questions with local, regional and state officials. Washoe County values and encourages feedback from our citizens. To help answer some of the questions and concerns we've heard from you, we've provided frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers below about medicinal cannabis establishments and the purpose of these facilities.

Preparing for implementation of medicinal cannabis facilities is an identified goal in the coming year for the Board of County Commissioners. The County Commission did not create nor pass the law; and are working to comply with state statutes and regulations in a way that provides secure, professional facilities, similar to a pharmacy or medical establishment. The goal of these facilities is to benefit those individuals who have a prescription for medicinal cannabis.

Washoe County has been preparing for the medical marijuana establishment procedures since late 2012. Over the past few years, several County Commission Board meetings, public discussions and presentations have been held regarding this issue. Washoe County encourages and welcomes citizen feedback. For additional information on Washoe County's permitting process for medical marijuana establishments please visit [www.washoecounty.us/mme](http://www.washoecounty.us/mme). To receive updates on this topic via email, sign up at [www.washoecounty.us/cmail](http://www.washoecounty.us/cmail).

### ***Q: Is medical marijuana legal?***

A: Nevada Constitution Article 4, Section 38, requires the Nevada Legislature to authorize the use of cannabis by a patient, upon the advice of his physician. The Constitution was amended based on a vote of the people in 2000 and 2010. Nevada Revised Statute requires the licensing, taxation and regulation of medical marijuana establishments. Per requirements of the State, Washoe County Code was amended in April of 2014 to meet the requirements for licensing and regulating of medical marijuana facilities.

### ***Q: What are medical marijuana establishments (MME's)?***

A: State Law and County Code provide for four types of establishments to supply medical marijuana to patients including:

- Dispensary: Delivers or sells marijuana, supplies and education materials to patents or care givers with a valid Nevada medical marijuana identification card.
- Production Facility: Supplier of marijuana infused or edible products for dispensaries.





# WASHOE COUNTY



- Cultivation Facility: Supplier of cannabis and related supplies to other medical marijuana establishments.
- Testing Laboratory: Tests marijuana, edible marijuana products and infused products.

***Q: What is Washoe County's role in regulating medical marijuana establishments?***

A: Washoe County regulates medical marijuana establishments the same way as other businesses in unincorporated Washoe County after the establishment receives a provisional registration certificate from the State of Nevada. This certificate is only given to any establishment after a very thorough and extensive review by the State Health Division. Establishments are required to comply with all local ordinances and will include inspections by multiple agencies including: Sheriff's Office, Health District, Code Enforcement, Building & Safety and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

***Q: Where are dispensaries permitted?***

A: Dispensaries are permitted in properties with a regulatory zone of general commercial, neighborhood commercial, tourist commercial or industrial in unincorporated Washoe County. This mirrors State Law requirements that such medical marijuana establishments may only be located on property zoned commercial or industrial. Parcels must also be 1,000 feet from a school, and 300 feet from a park or similar community facility.

***Q: How were the locations of dispensaries determined in Washoe County?***

A: Nevada State Law outlines appropriate zoning and location requirements for dispensary locations and these have been adopted into County Code. Considering requirements by the State and by County Code, 929 parcels were found to be viable areas for medical marijuana dispensaries in the unincorporated County.

Final locations of proposed dispensaries were determined following an in-depth application process by the applicant through the State of Nevada. Five dispensaries, which is the total authorized by State Law and confirmed by the County Commission, were issued a provisional registration certificate specifying the proposed location and allowing them to continue with the Washoe County business licensing process.

***Q: Is Washoe County able to require that the proposed medical marijuana dispensary at the corner of Thomas Creek and Mt. Rose Highway be moved?***

A: Washoe County cannot require the applicant to move a proposed medical marijuana facility. Under current state law, a facility may move within five miles of the proposed site if there are extenuating circumstances. Passage of Senate Bill 276 through this process will allow a project proponent to change their location within the guidelines of State law. This process could then be initiated by the project proponent through the State of Nevada.





***Q: There are other commercial facilities located close to the proposed location, why not open a facility in those areas?***

A: The applicant selected this specific location based on the property's regulatory zoning, its distance from school, parks and other community facilities, and this location was then approved by the State of Nevada. The location of any medical marijuana facility belongs first to the applicant as a business decision, which is then reviewed by the State of Nevada.

***Q: I'm concerned about traffic on Mt. Rose Highway, how will this be addressed?***

A: Nevada Department of Transportation and Washoe County Engineering staff will review the ingress and egress proposed by the applicant to the property based on current and future traffic on the Mt. Rose Highway, and appropriate traffic design measures will be required as part of the site plan for the facility. Those measures must be constructed to both State and County standards.

***Q: Who can obtain medical marijuana from a Medical marijuana dispensary?***

A: A holder of a valid registry identification card in the State of Nevada.

***Q: What is Senate Bill 276?***

A: Regulation of medicinal cannabis in the State of Nevada is new and a developing process. The State of Nevada has worked closely with Washoe County during the legislative session to include, among other changes, allowing facilities more latitude to move to different locations within the same County. Senate Bill 276 allows for medical marijuana dispensaries to relocate further than the five mile limit currently in State Law and provide for public hearings at the local level. As of Tuesday, this bill was awaiting signature from the Governor. Washoe County will continue to work closely with the State on this and other issues.

***Q: Can patients shop between dispensaries?***

A: Individuals holding a valid registry identification card are limited from shopping between dispensaries by state law. Individuals must identify a dispensary as their primary dispensary per State Law and must obtain medication from this location. Per State Law, dispensaries are limited to providing no more than 2.5oz of medical cannabis within any 14-day period to a qualified patient or caregiver (NRS 452A.200).

***Q: What do medical marijuana dispensaries in Washoe County look like?***

A: Nevada Revised Statutes requires that each medical marijuana establishment must have an appearance that is consistent with traditional style of pharmacies and medical offices (NRS 453A.350). Washoe County adopted this specific statute and further requires that medical marijuana and paraphernalia must not be visible or displayed outside of any dispensary.





***Q: Where do I get additional information on medical marijuana establishments?***

A: Additional information about the Washoe County medical marijuana permitting process is available online at [www.washoecounty.us/mme](http://www.washoecounty.us/mme). Information on the State of Nevada Medical Marijuana process is available online at: <http://health.nv.gov/medicalmarijuana.htm>.

***Q: Are there any requirements for employees or volunteers working at a medical marijuana establishment?***

A: Yes. State Law requires that any employee, contractor, or volunteer working at a medical marijuana establishment obtain and maintain a Nevada medical marijuana establishment agent registration card from the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health. County Code further requires each of these persons to obtain a Washoe County Sheriff's Office registration card.

***Q: What safeguards have been established to facilitate professional, medicinal dispensaries?***

A: Washoe County has adopted Nevada State regulations to that provides for medicinal cannabis dispensaries that have the look and feel of a pharmaceutical operation or a professional medical office. Limitations include:

- Medical marijuana or associated paraphernalia cannot be visible from outside of the licensed establishment (County Code).
- Medical marijuana facilities have an appearance, both as to the interior and exterior that is professional, orderly, dignified and consistent with the traditional style of pharmacies and medical offices (NRS 453A.350 and County Code).
- Medical marijuana facilities must have discreet and professional signage that is consistent with the traditional style of signage for pharmacies and medical offices. (NRS 453A.350 and County Code).

***Q: What are the hours of operation for a medical marijuana dispensary?***

A: Medical marijuana dispensaries may only be open from 6a.m. until 8 p.m. or the hours of operation approved by the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, whichever time frame is shorter. Hours of operation must be visible to people entering the dispensary.

***Q: Who is able to obtain medical cannabis from a medical marijuana dispensary?***

A: Medical marijuana dispensaries may only dispense medicinal cannabis to a person who holds a valid registry identification card issued by Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health. As of April 2015, 1,130 such cards have been issued to patients or qualified caregivers in Washoe County.

***Q: What safeguards have been established to prevent unlawful distribution of cannabis from a medical marijuana dispensary in Washoe County?***

A: Safeguards to limit unlawful distribution of medical marijuana include:





- Individuals who do not hold a valid registry identification card are prohibited from loitering on the premises of a facility or entering the facility. This includes minors accompanying a card holding adult.
- Dispensaries are prohibited from dispensing more than two and one-half ounces of usable marijuana in any on 14-day period to an individual cardholder.
- Individuals possessing a card must identify their preferred dispensary for distribution of medical marijuana and obtain their allocation from that specific dispensary.

***Q: What regulations and practices are in place to ensure secure facilities?***

- Medical marijuana dispensaries must have a single entrance for patrons, which must be secure and shall implement strict security measures to deter and prevent the theft of marijuana and unauthorized entrance to areas containing marijuana.
- Medical marijuana must be stored in a secure, locked device, display case, cabinet or room within the enclosed, locked facility. Medical marijuana can only be removed by an employee or volunteer immediately to be dispensed to an authorized user.
- Washoe County Sheriff's Office reviews every plan and final certification is granted upon successful demonstration of the functioning security system.

***Q: Can a Washoe County medical marijuana establishment business license be revoked or an application denied?***

A: Yes. A medical marijuana establishment business license may be revoked for various reasons including:

- Selling or dispensing medical marijuana to a person without a valid State of Nevada medical marijuana registry identification card.
- Employing or using an agent, employee or volunteer who does not possess a valid State medical marijuana establishment agent registration card or a valid Washoe County Sheriff's Office registration card.
- Not allowing Washoe County inspectors to conduct required inspections or to investigate complaints, and/or failing to issue visitor identification cards to Washoe County inspectors.

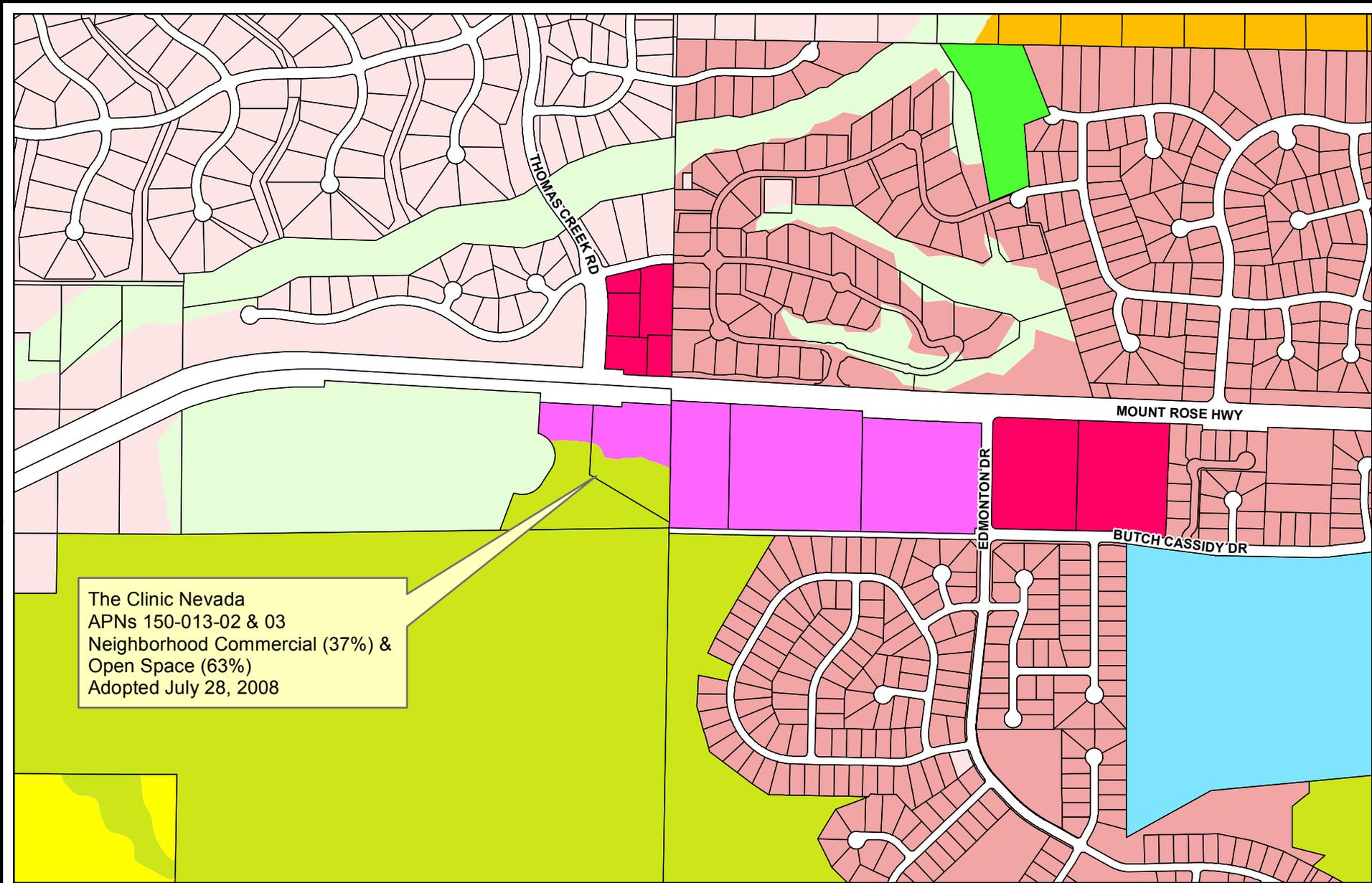
***Q: What signs will be available?***

A: The logos of any signage must be approved by the State Health Division. Additionally, any signage must meet Washoe County sign regulations for any commercial business.

***Q: Who regulates medical marijuana establishments?***

A: Enforcement is provided by state and local personnel to include: Nevada State Division of Behavioral Health, Washoe County Business License, Washoe Sheriff's Office, Health District, and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

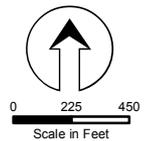




The Clinic Nevada  
 APNs 150-013-02 & 03  
 Neighborhood Commercial (37%) &  
 Open Space (63%)  
 Adopted July 28, 2008

**Proposed Medical Marijuana Dispensary**

- |                        |                           |                                 |                                   |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| LOW DENSITY RURAL      | MEDIUM DENSITY SUBURBAN   | HIGH DENSITY URBAN              | PUBLIC AND SEMI-PUBLIC FACILITIES | DRY LAKE/WATER BODY |
| MEDIUM DENSITY RURAL   | MEDIUM DENSITY SUBURBAN 4 | GENERAL COMMERCIAL              | PARKS AND RECREATION              |                     |
| HIGH DENSITY RURAL     | HIGH DENSITY SUBURBAN     | NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL/ OFFICE | OPEN SPACE                        |                     |
| LOW DENSITY SUBURBAN   | LOW DENSITY URBAN         | TOURIST COMMERCIAL              | GENERAL RURAL                     |                     |
| LOW DENSITY SUBURBAN 2 | MEDIUM DENSITY URBAN      | INDUSTRIAL                      | GENERAL RURAL AGRICULTURAL        |                     |



**Community Services Department**  
**WASHOE COUNTY NEVADA**  
 1987  
 Post Office Box 11130  
 Reno, Nevada 89520 (775) 328-3600