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Ward 7 meeting

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Summary

- Travis Johnson from the Summit County [Child Support Program](#) outlined current restorative justice programs aimed at guiding families through employment assistance, mental health resources and avoiding criminal penalties for child support non-payment through proactive engagement.
- Ward 7 Council Member Donnie Kammer introduced representatives from CannaMed Therapeutics, who will open a medical marijuana dispensary at [235 E. Waterloo Road](#) in Firestone Park. [Owner Craig Maurer](#) detailed dispensary operations, including extensive state oversight, safety protocols, limitations on sales, job creation, community reinvestment initiatives and concerns related to local impact, parking and law enforcement's ability to detect cannabis impairment.
- Maurer expects to hire 20 to 30 people paying at least \$20 per hour. Potential employees must go through a state licensing process.

Follow-Up Questions

- What measures are in place to inform parents of the non-payment driver's license

suspension law?

- Will there be transparency for CannaMed Therapeutics “Day of Giving” as to how those funds are dispersed into the community?
- Since the laws are frequently changing and testing methods are being updated, how can consumers know what to expect regarding driving rules, testing methods and compliance with marijuana regulations?

Notes:

Ward 7 meeting information

- Travis Johnson from the Summit County [Child Support Program](#) talked about current programs they are running:
 - Family Support Matters (FSM): barrier reduction, employment assistance, license renewal, working with both [custodial](#) and non-custodial parents
 - Safe Access Team: resource referrals, mental health counseling/referrals
 - Penitentiaries: resources during lockup, help with employment, [Summit County Fatherhood Initiative](#), [Citizen Circles](#)
 - DNA testing: brought to hospitals or other scheduled locations
 - Child Support non-payment: [New drivers license suspension law](#), process takes 120 days and they must miss three consecutive payments.
- Community questions and comments
 - An attendee asked about the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office budget, and asked if it was adequate.
 - [Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich, said](#) the office receives \$11 million for the Criminal and Child Support Division. They monitor 40,000 support orders and only indict about 100
 - Another person asked how long payments take to get from one parent to another?
 - Johnson said with their use of technology and payment apps, payments are typically transferred in less than a week
- [Kammer](#) introduced Craig Maurer who wants to open a medical marijuana dispensary at [235 E. Waterloo Rd.](#) (old Steinley’s building). The City of Akron has [OK’d](#) several dispensaries recently. The Akron Planning Commission has

recommended approval, but there are concerns with how close it is to [Voris CLC](#).

- Maurer's company, Terrasana operates [four medically licensed dispensaries](#) across Ohio and has a grow and processing facility in Columbus.
- Maurer shared the following about the proposed dispensary:
- State requirements for a medical dispensary include: adult use, licenses, and city approval. Also a dispensary must be at least 500 feet from churches, schools, daycares, rehab facilities (even if not currently operating), or parks. Dispensaries cannot advertise with neon signs, posters, or billboards.
- The building will be updated, including landscaping and a new parking lot.
- Dispensaries are regulated by the state (smoke shops are not) through the [Division of Cannabis Control](#).
- Security guards will be on duty whenever they are open, monitoring parking, among other things. Cameras will cover the entire building and be monitored by a security team. The state has access to all of them.
- No cannabis products can be used or opened on the premises. They will lose their license or suffer a heavy fine.
- All products are regulated from seed to sale, [MetrC](#) monitors product through the process, lab tested and regulated for safety and theft.
- State allows open hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- [All three owners are Ohio residents](#).
- The company holds a [Day of Giving](#) where a portion of sales are donated back to the local community.
- [Tax revenue percentages go back to community](#).
- No dispensary can be within a mile of another dispensary.
- Average client is 40 years old, facilities are busiest on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. Must be 21 and older to enter; can be purchased for someone under 21 with a prescription from a physician.
- Vault holds everything at night, no windows into the lobby. Focus on privacy and security.

- Community Questions/Comments:
 - A resident asked if the picnic table area outside will be taken away.
 - Maurer said the canopy will stay, but picnic tables will go.
 - An 80-year-old veteran and marijuana user said they did not want to get a medical marijuana card due to the background check and it being a permanent fixture on his record. He said he can't conceal-carry a gun with a medical marijuana card.
 - Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich said that laws are constantly changing, and officials are trying to reconcile how marijuana fits into that. An Akron Police Department officer at the meeting was also unaware of the law regarding this.
 - Somebody else asked about the amount someone can buy at a time and the frequency?
 - Maurer said that different rules apply to recreational or medical programs, and they allow for daily visits and monthly allotments. State adult-use rules, vary from other states like Michigan.
 - Kolkovich said he was impressed with security plans and asked if there will be additional parking lot lighting.
 - Maurer said it will be lit up more and up to code and that armed guard will be on duty and have more security than most federal buildings. He said may add another guard for the parking lot if needed. He said they plan to be good neighbors to bar next door.
 - Another member of the public asked if APD will be equipped to assess cannabis usage like they are with alcohol and what happens if someone refuses a test?
 - Kolkovich said that Ohio's [Drug Recognition Testing](#) training program addresses drug usage and is available to agencies. If an officer has any indication that someone is under the influence of something other than alcohol, they will get a drug recognition expert to administer a test, he said. In Ohio, you can be penalized for refusing an OBI exam.
 - Another question that arose: Will a guard enforce parking in neighboring lots?
 - Maurer said they are happy to put signs up for monitoring so it

doesn't infringe on others. The average time someone spends in the store is under 10 mins he said, and orders can be made online.

- Kammer asked about job opportunities and what background would someone need.
 - Maurer said people need to go through a state licensing process, and there will be positions from patient consultants to managers with a pay range above \$20 per hour. He expects there to be 20-30 employees at this location.