



Press Release SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

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ANNOUNCING CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSES (CHAPTER 50) RETAIL STOREFRONT APPLICATION AVAILABILITY

Application Availability Begins Sept. 29; Application Submittal Period is Nov. 2-9

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – On January 14, 2020, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance amendment to Chapter 50 that established a merit-based criteria scoring system for applicants vying for a cannabis retail storefront license.

Per the ordinance, the process commenced with community engagement meetings to gather input from the community plan areas where storefront retail is allowed. After a delay due to the pandemic, six virtual community meetings were held in July to gather input from the community plan areas where storefront retail is allowed. County Code 50-7(b) limits the number of storefront retail licenses to no more than one in each of six community plan areas.

On August 18, the Board of Supervisors approved two criteria-based scoresheets for evaluating the Business Operations Proposal and Neighborhood Compatibility Proposal of the retail storefront application. Staff considered community input in the development of these scoresheets. During the public hearing, the Board also reviewed the methodology outlined in the Code and timelines for the selection process.

As next steps of the cannabis retail storefront selection process, the application availability period begins Tuesday, September 29, 2020, allowing potential applicants approximately 34 days to prepare documents for the application submittal period that begins 8 a.m. Monday, November 2 until the deadline of 5 p.m. Monday, November 9.

The application is available at cannabis.countyofsb.org/retail.sbc, along with links to the County's [Cannabis Permitting and Zoning map](#) and County [Land Use and Zoning map](#). Other helpful information is linked on the website, including an [FAQ](#), PowerPoint presentation in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and videos of each community meeting.