

**ORDINANCE NO. 639
CULTIVATION OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA
WITHIN THE CITY OF CORNING**

WHEREAS, California Government Code, Section 65850 (c) (4) provides the authority for the City of Corning to regulate, by ordinance, the intensity of land use; and

WHEREAS, the State of California approved Proposition 215 "The Compassionate Use Act of 1996" (Health and Safety Code Section 11362.5), which was to enable persons who are in need of marijuana for medical purposes; and

WHEREAS, the State also enacted SB 420 in 2004 (Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7 et seq.) to clarify the scope of The Compassionate Use Act to allow local governing bodies to adopt and enforce rules and regulations consistent with SB 420; and

WHEREAS, under the Controlled Substances Act, the use, possession and cultivation of medicinal marijuana are unlawful and subject to federal prosecution without regard to a claimed medical need; and

WHEREAS, marijuana plants, as they begin to flower and for a period of two months or more during the growing season (August through October for outdoor cultivation), produce an extremely strong odor, offensive to many people, and detectable far beyond property boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the City has continually received complaints of odor related to the growing of medicinal marijuana; and

WHEREAS, in the case of multiple qualified patients who are in control of the same legal parcel, or parcels, of property, or in the case of a caregiver growing for numerous patients, a very large number of plants could be grown on the same legal parcel, or parcels, within the City of Corning; and

WHEREAS, the possession and cultivation of large quantities of marijuana has resulted in the armed robberies of residents living in nearby communities and residential areas surrounding the City of Corning; and

WHEREAS, the strong smell of marijuana creates an attractive nuisance, alerting persons to the location of the valuable plants, and creating a risk of burglary, robbery or armed robbery, and the death of a man in the nearby community of Los Molinos; and

WHEREAS, it is the purpose and intent of this ordinance to implement state law by providing a means for regulating the cultivation of medicinal marijuana in a manner that is consistent with state law and balances the needs of medical patients and their caregivers and promotes the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the residents and businesses within the City of Corning. Nothing in this ordinance shall be constructed to allow the use of marijuana (cannabis) for non-medical purposes, or allow any activity relating to the cultivation, distribution,

or consumption of marijuana that is otherwise illegal; and

WHEREAS, the potential adverse secondary effects of allowing the cultivation of medicinal marijuana presents a clear and present danger to the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety of the community because currently the City has no rules or regulations governing the cultivation of medical marijuana; and

WHEREAS, it is the purpose and intent of this ordinance is to ensure that marijuana grown for medical purposes remains secure and does not find its way to non-patients or illicit markets; and

WHEREAS, it is the purpose and intent of this ordinance to help law enforcement agencies perform their duties effectively and in accordance with California law; and

WHEREAS, the cultivation of marijuana within a residence has potential adverse affects to the structural integrity of the residence and the use of high wattage grow lights within a residence increases the chances of a fire which presents a clear and present danger to the occupants; and

WHEREAS, The indoor cultivation of substantial amounts of marijuana also requires excessive use of electricity, which often creates an unreasonable risk of fire from the electrical grow lighting systems used in indoor cultivation; and

WHEREAS, Areas surrounding schools attract large numbers of juveniles and the cultivation of any amount of marijuana at locations or premises within 1,000 feet of a school makes the site vulnerable to theft or recreational consumption by juveniles. Further, the potential for criminal activities associated with marijuana cultivation in such locations poses heightened risks that juveniles will be involved or endangered. Therefore, cultivation of any amount of marijuana in such locations or premises is especially hazardous to public safety and welfare, and to the protection of children and the person(s) cultivating the marijuana plants; and

WHEREAS, The Attorney General's August 2008 *Guidelines for the Security and Non-Diversion of Marijuana Grown for Medical Use* recognizes that the cultivation or other concentration of marijuana in any location or premises without adequate security increases the risk that surrounding homes or businesses may be negatively impacted by nuisance activity such as loitering or crime; and

WHEREAS, The City of Corning Planning Commission held a public hearing on December 15, 2009 and recommended by a 4 : 0 vote that the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 639 regulating the cultivation of medical marijuana within the City of Corning.

Chapter 17.64
Cultivation of Medical Marijuana

Sections:

- 17.64.010 Purpose and Intent**
- 17.64.020 Definitions**
- 17.64.030 Cultivation of Medical Marijuana**
- 17.64.040 Non-Conforming Use**
- 17.64.050 Enforcement**

17.64.010. Purpose and Intent: It is the purpose and intent of this chapter to require that medical marijuana be cultivated in appropriately secured, enclosed, and ventilated structures, so as not to be visible to the public domain, to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public, to prevent odor created by marijuana plants from impacting adjacent properties, and ensure that marijuana grown for medical purposes remains secure and does not find its way to non-patients or illicit markets.

This chapter is in compliance with the California Health & Safety Code Section 11362, and does not interfere with a patient's right to medical marijuana, nor does it criminalize the possession or cultivation of medical marijuana by specifically defined classifications of persons, pursuant to Proposition 215 and Senate Bill 420.

17.64.020. Definitions: Definitions: As used herein the following definitions shall apply:

A. CULTIVATION: The planting, growing, harvesting, drying, or processing of marijuana plants or any part thereof.

B. DETACHED FULLY ENCLOSED AND SECURE STRUCTURE: A building completely detached from a residence that complies with the California Building Code, as adopted in the City of Corning, and has a complete roof enclosure supported by connecting walls extending from the ground to the roof, a foundation, slab or equivalent base to which the floor is secured by bolts or similar attachments, is secure against unauthorized entry, and is accessible only through one or more lockable doors. Walls and roofs must be constructed of solid materials that cannot be easily broken through, such as two inch by four inch (2" x 4") or thicker studs overlaid with three-eighths inch (3/8") or thicker plywood or the equivalent. Exterior walls must be constructed with non-transparent material. Plastic sheeting, regardless of gauge, or similar products do not satisfy this requirement.

C. IMMATURE MARIJUANA PLANT: A marijuana plant, whether male or female, that has not yet flowered and which does not yet have buds that are readily observed by unaided visual examination.

D. INDOORS: Within a fully enclosed and secure structure.

E. MATURE MARIJUANA PLANT: A marijuana plant, whether male or female, that has flowered and which has buds that are readily observed by unaided visual examination.

F. OUTDOOR: Any location within the City of Corning that is not within a fully enclosed and secure structure.

G. LEGAL PARCEL: Any parcel of real property that may be separately sold in compliance with the Subdivision Map Act (Division 2, commencing with Section 66410, of Title 7 of the Government Code).

H. PREMISES. A single, legal parcel of property. Where contiguous legal parcels are under common ownership or control, such contiguous legal parcels shall be counted as a single "premises" for purposes of this chapter.

I. REAR YARD. As defined in Section 17.06.560 of the Corning Municipal Code.

J. SOLID FENCE. A six foot high structure, constructed with material approved by the Building Official that prevents viewing the contents from one side to the other.

K. SCHOOL. An institution of learning for minors, whether public or private, offering regular course of instruction for children attending kindergarten, elementary school, middle or junior high school or senior high school. A residence that provides home schooling and preschool or daycare centers are not included in this definition.

L. PRIMARY CAREGIVER: A "primary caregiver" as defined in Health and Safety Code section 11362.7(d).

M. QUALIFIED PATIENT: A "qualified patient" as defined in Health and Safety Code section 11362.7(f).

N. RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE: Any building or portion thereof which contains living facilities, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation as required by the building code.

17.64.030. Cultivation of Medical Marijuana: The following regulations shall apply to the cultivation of medical marijuana as allowed pursuant to Proposition 215 and Senate Bill 420.

A. Cultivation of medical marijuana shall only be conducted by verifiable qualified patients or primary caregivers as defined in the California Health and Safety Code.

B. Outdoor Cultivation: It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person owning, leasing, occupying, or having charge or possession of any legal parcel or premises within any zoning district in the City of Corning to cause or allow such parcel or premises to be used for the outdoor cultivation of marijuana plants.

C. Residential Structure Cultivation: It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person to cultivate marijuana in any residential structure, occupied or not. It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person to cultivate marijuana on any legal parcel or premises containing two or more attached or detached residential structures.

D. Cultivation in non-residential zones: Cultivation of medical marijuana on any parcel that is not zoned residential must obtain a conditional use permit approved by the Planning Commission prior to the commencement of cultivation.

E. Proximity to Schools: It is hereby declared to be unlawful to cultivate medical marijuana on any legal parcel or premises within 1000 feet of a school as defined in this chapter. The 1000 foot distance shall be measured from the closet property line of the school to the closet property line of the cultivation parcel.

F. Cultivation Area: It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person or persons owning, leasing, occupying, or having charge or possession of any legal parcel or premises within any zoning district in the City of Corning to cultivate medical marijuana, within a detached structure that meets the requirements for cultivation as described in this chapter, an area or areas larger than 120 square feet in size.

G Indoor Cultivation in residential zones: The indoor cultivation of medical marijuana in a residential zone must be conducted within a detached fully enclosed secure structure and shall conform to the following standards:

- 1) Any detached structure, regardless of square footage, constructed, altered or used for the cultivation of medical marijuana must obtain a building permit from the Building Official. Cultivation within this detached structure may not commence without final approval of the Building Official, Planning Director and Chief of Police.
- 2) Indoor grow lights shall not exceed 1200 watts and comply with the California Building, Electrical and Fire Codes as adopted by the City of Corning. Gas products (CO₂, Butane, Propane, Natural Gas, etc) or generators may not be used within a detached structure used for the cultivation of medical marijuana.
- 3) Any detached structure used for the cultivation of medical marijuana must install a ventilation system that will prevent marijuana plant odors from exiting the interior of the structure and that shall comply with the California Building Code Section 402.3 Mechanical Ventilation. The ventilation system must be approved by the Building Official and installed prior to commencing cultivation within the detached structure.
- 4) A detached structure used for the cultivation of marijuana must be located in the rear yard area of a legal parcel or premises, maintain a minimum ten (10) foot setback from any property line, and the area surrounding the structure must be enclosed by a six (6) foot high solid fence. If the entire rear yard area is fenced by a six foot high solid fence, and access from the side yards are fenced by a six foot high solid fence that will suffice for the fencing requirement.

- 5) Adequate mechanical or electronic security systems approved by the Building Official and Chief of Police must be installed in and around the detached structure prior to the commencement of cultivation.
- 6) Prior to commencing cultivation, and upon annual renewal of a qualified patients physicians recommendation, the person(s) owning, leasing, occupying, or having charge or possession of any legal parcel or premises where a detached structure is used for the cultivation of marijuana must register with the Corning Planning Department. The following information will be required with the annual registration:
 - A. A notarized signature from the landowner consenting to the cultivation of marijuana within a detached structure on a legal parcel or premises. The City will supply the letter of consent for signature by the landowner.
 - B. The name of each person, owning, leasing, occupying, or having charge of any legal parcel or premises where marijuana will be cultivated.
 - C. The name of each qualified patient or primary caregiver who participates in the cultivation, either directly or by providing reimbursement for marijuana or the services provided in conjunction with the provision of that marijuana.
 - D. The original current valid medical recommendation or State issued medical marijuana card for each qualified patient identified as required above, and for each qualified patient for whom any person identified as required above is the primary caregiver.
 - E. The physical site address of where the marijuana will be cultivated.
 - F. A signed consent form authorizing city staff, including the police department, authority to do a notified inspection of the detached structure used for the cultivation of marijuana. The City will supply the letter of consent for signature.

The information contained within the registration material shall be received in confidence, and shall be used or disclosed only for purposes of administration of this ordinance or State law, or as otherwise required by law.

17.64.040 Non-Conforming Use

Non-Conforming Cultivation : Any parcel or premises that was used for the cultivation of medical marijuana by a qualified patient or caregiver and had marijuana plants established and growing by March 12, 2010 and does not meet the requirements of this section shall be allowed to continue cultivation activities as established in accordance with regulations for non-conforming land uses in Section 17.52.010 of the Corning Municipal Code until December 31, 2010 at which time Section 17.52.010 will no longer be applicable and any non-conforming cultivation must cease and future cultivation of medical marijuana must comply with this chapter.

17.64.050 Enforcement:

A. Public Nuisance: The violation of this section is hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

B. Abatement: A violation of this section may be abated by the city attorney by the prosecution of a civil action for injunctive relief and by the summary abatement procedure set forth in subsection C of this section.

C. Summary Abatement Procedure:

a. The Chief of Police, Building Official, Planning Director, or a designee (hereafter, the "enforcement official"), are hereby authorized to order the abatement of any violation of this section by issuing a notice to abate. The notice shall:

Describe the location of and the specific conditions which represent a violation of this section and the actions required to abate the violation.

(2) Describe the evidence relied upon to determine that a violation exists, provided that the enforcement official may withhold the identity of a witness to protect the witness from injury or harassment, if such action is reasonable under the circumstances.

(3) State the date and time by which the required abatement actions must be completed.

(4) State that to avoid the civil penalty provided in subsection C.a.(8) of this section and further enforcement action, the enforcement official must receive consent to inspect the premises where the violation exists to verify that the violation has been abated by the established deadline.

(5) State that the owner or occupant of the property where the violation is located has a right to appeal the notice by filing a written notice of appeal with the city clerk by no later than three (3) business days from the service of the notice. The notice of appeal must include an address, telephone number, fax number, if available, and e-mail address, if available. The city may rely on any of these for service or notice purposes. If an adequate written appeal is timely filed, the owner or occupant will be entitled to a hearing as provided in subsection E. of this section.

(6) State that the order to abate the violation becomes final if a timely appeal is not filed or upon the issuance of a written decision after the appeal hearing is conducted in accordance with subsection E. of this section.

(7) State that a final order of abatement may be enforced by application to the superior court for an inspection and/or abatement warrant or other court order.

(8) State that a final order to abate the nuisance will subject the property owner and the occupant to a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each day that the violation continues after the date specified in the notice under subsection C.a.(3) of this section, when the violation must be abated. The penalty may be recovered through an ordinary civil action, or in connection with an application for an inspection or nuisance abatement warrant.

(9) State that in any administrative or court proceeding to enforce the abatement order the prevailing party is entitled to recover reasonable attorney fees from the other party or parties to the action, if the city elects, at the initiation of an individual action or proceeding, to seek recovery of its own attorney fees. In no action, administrative proceeding, or special proceeding shall an award of attorney fees to a prevailing party exceed the amount of reasonable attorney fees incurred by the city in the action or proceeding.

D. The notice described in subsection C.a. of this section shall be served in the same manner as summons in a civil action in accordance with article 3 (commencing with section 415.10) of chapter 4 of title 5 of part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure, or by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the option of the city. If the owner of record, after diligent search cannot be found, the notice may be served by posting a copy thereof in a conspicuous place upon the property for a period of ten (10) days and publication thereof in a newspaper of general circulation pursuant to Government Code section 6062.

E. Not sooner than five (5) business days after a notice of appeal is filed with the city clerk, a hearing shall be held before the city administrator or a hearing officer designated by the city administrator to hear such appeals. The appellant shall be given notice of the date, time and place of the hearing not less than five (5) days in advance. The notice may be given by telephone, fax, e-mail, personal service or posting on the property. At the hearing, the enforcement official shall present evidence of the violation, which may include, but is not limited to, incident and police reports, witness statements, photographs, and the testimony of witnesses. The property owner and the occupant of the property where the violation is alleged to exist shall have the right to present evidence and argument in their behalf and to examine and cross examine witnesses. The property owner and property occupant are entitled at their own expense to representation of their choice. At the conclusion of the hearing, the city administrator or hearing officer shall render a written decision which may be served by regular first class mail on the appellants.

F. A final order to abate the nuisance will subject the property owner or owners and any occupant or occupants of the property who are cultivating marijuana in violation of this section to a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each day that the violation continues after the date specified in the notice under subsection C.a.(3) of this section, when the violation must be abated. The enforcement official or the city administrator or hearing officer hearing an appeal pursuant to subsection C.a.(5) of this section may reduce the daily rate of the civil penalty for good cause. The party subject to the civil penalty shall have the burden of establishing good cause, which may include, but is not limited to, a consideration of the nature and severity of the violation, whether it is a repeat offense, the public nuisance impacts caused by the violation, and the violator's ability to pay. The daily penalty shall continue until the violation is abated. The penalty may be recovered through an ordinary civil action, or in connection with an application for an inspection or nuisance abatement warrant.

G. Violation: Cultivation of marijuana on parcels within the city that does not comply with this section constitutes a violation of the zoning ordinance and is subject to the penalties and enforcement as provided in subsections C.a.(8) and F. of this chapter.

H. Penalties Not Exclusive: The remedies and penalties provided herein are cumulative, alternative and nonexclusive. The use of one does not prevent the use of any others and none of these penalties and remedies prevent the city from using any other remedy at law or in equity which may be available to enforce this section or to abate a public nuisance.

* * * * *

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Corning, held on January 26, 2010 and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Corning, held February 9, 2010, by the following vote:

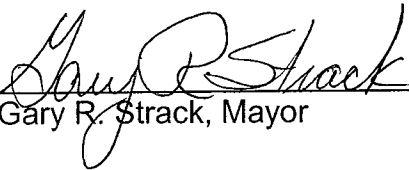
AYES: Strack, Hill, Turner, and Parkins

NOES: Leach

ABSENT: None

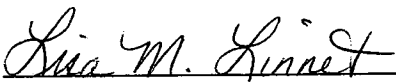
Abstain: None

It shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from the date of its passage, and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage, it or a summary of it, shall be published once, with the names of Council persons voting for and against the same, in a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Tehama.



Gary R. Strack, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Linnet, City Clerk

PUBLISH: Saturday, February 13, 2010

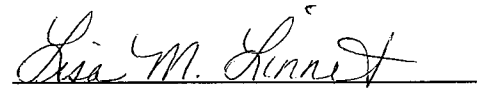
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF TEHAMA

CITY OF CORNING

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 639. This Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Corning held on January 26, 2010, and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Corning held on February 9, 2010 by the votes listed on the attached copy of the Ordinance. Ordinance No. 639 was published in a newspaper of general circulation within the required legal time lines.

ATTEST:


Lisa M. Linnet, City Clerk