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TO: Goodhue County Board
FROM: Lucas Dahling, Finance Director
SUBJECT: Two Cannabis Retail Registration Applications
DATE: March 3, 2025

Background:

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, chapter 342, local units of government cannot outright ban cannabis business; however, they can limit the number of active cannabis retail registrations for cannabis retailers, cannabis microbusinesses with retail endorsements, and cannabis mezzobusinesses with retail endorsements to one (1) per every 12,500 residents. The Goodhue County Cannabis Ordinance, passed on October 15, 2024, follows these limits as authorized by statute. The number of medical cannabis combination business registrations and lower-potency hemp edible retail registrations cannot be limited. Additionally, the County's Ordinance does not include retail stores operated on land held in trust for the Prairie Island Indian Community in the limitations noted above.

Discussion:

Based on current population levels, Goodhue County's maximum number of cannabis retail registrations is four (4). The City of Red Wing and the City of Pine Island have retained their cannabis retail registration authority while all other cities have delegated this to the County. The City of Red Wing approved one (1) cannabis retail registration in August 2025. Goodhue County approved one (1) cannabis retail registration in December 2025. Pine Island has not approved any cannabis retail registrations to date. This means there are two (2) available cannabis retail registrations at this time.

Big Northern Lights LLC DBA The Green Zone submitted a complete registration application for cannabis retail business form on Friday, February 20th, 2026. The application indicates the business will be a cannabis retailer. The location is in the City of Cannon Falls, which performs its own zoning function but has delegated retail registration authority to the County. County staff verified with City staff that the location is suitable for a cannabis retail establishment.

Sky High Cannabis submitted a complete registration application for cannabis retail business form on Friday, February 20th, 2026. The application indicates the business will be a cannabis retailer. The location is in the City of Kenyon, which performs its own zoning function but has delegated retail registration authority to the County. County staff verified with City staff that the location is suitable for a cannabis retail establishment.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend the County Board approve the Cannabis Retail Registration Applications for both Big Northern Lights LLC DBA The Green Zone and Sky High Cannabis.

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