

**Stockton Borough Council
Resolution 2026-56**

EXTENDING TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF CANNABIS BUSINESS APPLICATIONS UNTIL JANUARY 31, 2027

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2024, Council adopted Ordinance 24-12 to define the process and criteria for municipal approval of up to one Class 5 retail license in the Borough's CR zone; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a Request for Cannabis Applications ("RFA"), the Borough received two applications on or before the August 6, 2025 deadline; and

WHEREAS, based on its evaluations and scoring of both applications, and its thorough investigations of the two applicants and contents of their applications, the Cannabis Review Committee issued to Council written findings and analysis which concluded that neither applicant achieved the minimum score prerequisite to consideration of issuance of a resolution of local support by the Borough, and as a result, recommended that Council deny the issuance of a resolution of support to both applicants; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 25-88, Council accepted the Review Committee's recommendations and found it to be in the best interests of the Borough to deny the issuance of a resolution of support; and

WHEREAS, the Borough utilized a significant amount of its limited resources, including municipal funding and numerous officials' time, to complete all of the work necessary to solicit, review, consider and ultimately reject the two cannabis business applications in 2025; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 26-40, Council imposed a temporary moratorium on the Borough's solicitation and acceptance of new cannabis applications for a term of 90 days, which moratorium is set to expire on or about May 10, 2026; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of Resolution No. 26-40, the Cannabis Review Committee has been in the process of reviewing the Borough's cannabis ordinance and regulations, the existing RFA documentation, as well as the Borough's options in connection with the future of cannabis licensing in the Borough, all for purposes of making recommendations to Council as to its determination as to what is in the Borough's best interests; and

WHEREAS, as part of its analysis, the Cannabis Review Committee has continued to consult with the Borough Attorney and as well as special counsel hired to assist the Cannabis Review Committee during its review; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 26-40 provides that the temporary moratorium may be extended by subsequent resolution of Council should Council and the Cannabis Review Committee need additional time to complete their analysis and review; and

WHEREAS, at this time, the Cannabis Review Committee requests that Council extend the moratorium until January 31, 2027 to enable the Cannabis Review Committee and Council to have additional time to consider all of these matters; and

WHEREAS, Council acknowledges the Cannabis Review Committee's concerns, and in support of these concerns, finds the following:

1. The Borough has very limited resources and staff, and therefore relies heavily on the Mayor and Council members to undertake many of the necessary administrative and executive town functions and to assist staff with running the town on a day-to-day basis; and
2. Currently there are more pressing matters facing the Borough and community which demand the Mayor and Council members' attention and limited time; and
3. The urgency of the other issues and matters necessitating immediate attention is driven by increased State regulatory mandates, as well as by deferred operational, maintenance, and capital demands, and require all members of the governing body to prioritize, plan for, implement, and monitor critical and complex new policy and administrative changes; and
4. It is in the public interest that these matters take priority in the use of the Borough's limited resources and officials' limited time; and
5. As a result of the foregoing, Council and its Cannabis Review Committee cannot prioritize the cannabis analysis over other critical municipal needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The recitals in the above "Whereas" clauses are hereby incorporated herein as if fully restated.
2. For the reasons set forth above, Council hereby extends the temporary moratorium on the Borough's solicitation and acceptance of new cannabis business applications until January 31, 2027.
3. The purpose of this temporary moratorium is to enable Council and the Cannabis Review Committee sufficient time to complete the appropriate analysis and review of the Borough's cannabis ordinance and all matters related to cannabis licensing thereunder, including but not limited to a thorough review and analysis of: the current status of cannabis business licensing and regulation throughout the State; relevant market conditions; and the Borough's options in connection with the future of cannabis business licensing in the Borough.
4. The temporary moratorium may be extended by subsequent resolution of Council

should Council and the Cannabis Review Committee need additional time to complete their analysis and review.

Certification:

I, Laurie A. Courter, Clerk of the Borough of Stockton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Stockton on: April 20, 2026.

Laurie A. Courter, RMC

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the Borough this 20th day of April, 2026.

[SEAL]