

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning & Zoning Commission

FROM: Tim Hansen – GIS Coordinator

DATE: April 4, 2018

RE: **COOLPZ 18-03-05 Proposed Zoning Code Amendment:** An amendment changing the distance requirements between *Medical Marijuana Uses*.

Article X, Section 1008.D lists several distance requirements between *Medical Marijuana Uses* derived from Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) requirements and other local input. Staff believes the majority of the distance requirement to be prudent, though one seems unreasonably broad. Staff believes requiring a five-hundred (500) separation between all uses is a disservice to the community, industry, and the City itself. Adequate spacing between dispensaries, or “store fronts”, that serve customers make sense to avoid clustering of such uses, similar to what used to happen with payday loan companies years ago. In fact, staff believes the distance between dispensary locations should be increased from the five-hundred (500) feet now required. Inversely, staff finds the distance requirements now in place related to locating other *Medical Marijuana Uses* (cultivation sites, infusion facilities, etc) that have no direct dealings with the public to be counterproductive. From a regulation/policing standpoint, clustering these uses makes far more sense. The following change is recommended:

Section 1008.D of the City of Coolidge Zoning Code is amended by adding the following correction:

Section 1008 Medical Marijuana Uses

D. Distance requirements

1. ~~500 feet from any other medical marijuana use.~~ ***Medical Marijuana Dispensaries shall not be located within 500 feet of another Medical Marijuana Dispensary.***

It is recommended that the Planning and Zoning Commission forward a favorable recommendation to the Mayor and City Council for the passage of the Zoning Amendment as presented.