

ORDINANCE NO. 14-686-O**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A TAX ON THE SALE OF MARIJUANA AND MARIJUANA-INFUSED PRODUCTS IN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY, OREGON; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia City is an Oregon home-rule municipal corporation having all the authority and power under the terms of its Charter to exercise all the powers that the constitution, statutes, and common law of the United States and this State expressly or impliedly grant or allow as fully as though each such powers were specifically enumerated therein; and

WHEREAS, the powers of the City under its Charter shall be liberally construed to the end that the City may have all the powers necessary or convenient for the conduct of its municipal affairs, including all powers that cities may assume pursuant to state laws and to the municipal home rule provisions of the State constitution; and

WHEREAS, the City's legislative authority resides in the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to exercise that authority to tax the sale or transfer of marijuana and marijuana-infused products within the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section I. Purpose

For the purposes of this ordinance, every person who sells marijuana, medical marijuana or marijuana-infused products in the City of Columbia City is exercising a taxable privilege. The purpose of this ordinance is to impose a tax upon the retail sale of marijuana, medical marijuana, and marijuana-infused products.

Section II. Definitions

As used in this ordinance, unless the context requires otherwise:

1. "Administrator" means the City Administrator/Recorder for the City of Columbia City or his/her designee.
2. "Gross Sales" means the total amount received in money, credits, property or other consideration from sales of marijuana, medical marijuana and marijuana-infused products that is subject to the tax imposed by this ordinance.
3. "Marijuana" means all parts of the plant of the Cannabis family Moraceae, whether growing or not; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant or its resin, as may be defined by Oregon Revised Statutes as they

currently exist or may from time to time be amended. It does not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks (except the resin extracted there from), fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seed of the plant which is incapable of germination.

4. "Oregon Medical Marijuana Program" means the office within the Oregon Health authority that administers the provisions of ORS 475.300 through 475.346, the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act, and all policies and procedures pertaining thereto.
5. "Person" means natural person, joint venture, joint stock company, partnership, association, club, company, corporation, business, trust, organization, or any group or combination acting as a unit, including the United States of America, the State of Oregon and any political subdivision thereof, or the manager, lessee, agent, servant, officer or employee of any of them.
6. "Purchase or Sale" means the acquisition or furnishing for consideration by any person of marijuana or marijuana-infused product within the City.
7. "Registry identification cardholder" means a person who has been diagnosed by an attending physician with a debilitating medical condition and for whom the use of medical marijuana may mitigate the symptoms or effects of the person's debilitating medical condition, and who has been issued a registry identification card by the Oregon Health Authority.
8. "Retail sale" means the transfer of goods or services in exchange for any valuable consideration.
9. "Seller" means any person who is required to be licensed or has been licensed by the State of Oregon to provide marijuana or marijuana-infused products to purchasers for money, credit, property or other consideration.
10. "Tax" means either the tax payable by the seller or the aggregate amount of taxes due from a seller during the period for which the seller is required to report collections under this ordinance.
11. "Taxpayer" means any person obligated to account to the Administrator for taxes collected or to be collected, or from whom a tax is due, under the terms of this ordinance.

Section III. Tax Imposed

A tax is hereby levied and shall be paid by every seller exercising the taxable privilege of selling marijuana and marijuana-infused products as defined in this ordinance. The

Administrator is authorized to exercise all supervisory and administrative powers with regard to the enforcement, collection, and administration of the marijuana tax.

Section IV. Amount and Payment, Deductions

1. In addition to any fees or taxes otherwise provided for by law, every seller engaged in the sale of marijuana and marijuana-infused products shall pay a tax as follows:
 - a. Ten percent (10%) of the gross sale amount paid to the seller by a registry identification cardholder.
 - b. Twenty percent (20%) of the gross sale amount paid to the seller of marijuana and marijuana-infused products by individuals who are not registry identification cardholders purchasing marijuana or marijuana-infused products under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program.
2. The following deductions shall be allowed against sales received by the seller providing marijuana or marijuana-infused products:
 - a. Refunds of sales actually returned to any purchaser;
 - b. Any adjustments in sales which amount to a refund to a purchaser, providing such adjustment pertains to the actual sale of marijuana or marijuana-infused products and does not include any adjustments for other services furnished by a seller.

Section V. Seller Responsible for Payment of Tax

1. Every seller shall, on or before the last day of the month following the end of each calendar quarter (in the months of April, July, October and January) make a return to the Administrator, on forms provided by the City, specifying the total sales subject to this ordinance and the amount of tax collected under this ordinance. The seller may request or the Administrator may establish shorter reporting periods for any seller if the seller or Administrator deems it necessary in order to ensure collection of the tax and the Administrator may require further information in the return relevant to payment of the tax. A return shall not be considered filed until it is actually received by the Administrator.
2. At the time the return is filed, the full amount of the tax collected shall be remitted to the Administrator. Payments received by the Administrator for application against existing liabilities will be credited toward the period designated by the taxpayer under conditions that are not prejudicial to the interest of the City. A condition considered prejudicial is the imminent expiration of the statute of limitations for a period or periods.
3. Non-designated payments shall be applied in the order of the oldest liability first, with

the payment credited first toward any accrued penalty, then to interest, then to the underlying tax until the payment is exhausted. Crediting of a payment toward a specific reporting period will be first applied against any accrued penalty, then to interest, then to the underlying tax. If the Administrator, in his or her sole discretion, determines that an alternative order of payment application would be in the best interest of the City in a particular tax or factual situation, the Administrator may order such a change. The Administrator may establish shorter reporting periods for any seller if the Administrator deems it necessary in order to ensure collection of the tax. The Administrator also may require additional information in the return relevant to payment of the liability. When a shorter return period is required, penalties and interest shall be computed according to the shorter return period. Returns and payments are due immediately upon cessation of business for any reason. All taxes collected by sellers pursuant to this ordinance shall be held in trust for the account of the City until payment is made to the Administrator. A separate trust bank account is not required in order to comply with this provision.

4. Every seller required to remit the tax imposed in this ordinance shall be entitled to retain five percent (5%) of all taxes due to defray the costs of bookkeeping and remittance.
5. Every seller must keep and preserve in an accounting format established by the Administrator records of all sales made by the dispensary and such other books or accounts as may be required by the Administrator. Every seller must keep and preserve for a period of three (3) years all such books, invoices and other records. The Administrator shall have the right to inspect all such records at all reasonable times.

Section VI. Penalties and Interest

1. Any seller who fails to remit any portion of any tax imposed by this ordinance within the time required shall pay a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the tax, in addition to the amount of the tax.
2. Any seller who fails to remit any delinquent remittance on or before a period of 60 days following the date on which the remittance first became delinquent, shall pay a second delinquency penalty of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the tax in addition to the amount of the tax and the penalty first imposed.
3. If the Administrator determines that the nonpayment of any remittance due under this ordinance is due to fraud, a penalty of twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount of the tax shall be added thereto in addition to the penalties stated in subparagraphs 1 and 2 of this section.
4. In addition to the penalties imposed, any seller who fails to remit any tax imposed by this ordinance shall pay interest at the rate of one percent (1%) per month or fraction thereof on the amount of the tax, exclusive of penalties, from the date on which the remittance first became delinquent until paid.

5. Every penalty imposed, and such interest as accrues under the provisions of this section, shall become a part of the tax required to be paid.
6. All sums collected pursuant to the penalty provisions in subparagraphs 1 and 3 of this section shall be distributed to the City of Columbia City General Fund to offset the costs of auditing and enforcement of this tax.

Section VII. Failure to Report and Remit Tax – Determination of Tax by Administrator

If any seller should fail to make, within the time provided in this ordinance, any report of the tax required by this ordinance, the Administrator shall proceed in such manner as deemed best to obtain facts and information on which to base the estimate of tax due. As soon as the Administrator shall procure such facts and information as is able to be obtained, upon which to base the assessment of any tax imposed by this ordinance and payable by any seller, the Administrator shall proceed to determine and assess against such seller the tax, interest and penalties provided for by this ordinance. In case such determination is made, the Administrator shall give a notice of the amount so assessed by having it served personally or by depositing it in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the seller so assessed at the last known place of address. Such seller may make an appeal of such determination as provided in Section VIII of this ordinance. If no appeal is filed, the Administrator's determination is final and the amount thereby is immediately due and payable.

Section VIII. Appeal

Any seller aggrieved by any decision of the Administrator with respect to the amount of such tax, interest and penalties, if any, may appeal pursuant to the Mayor within thirty (30) days of the serving or mailing of the determination of tax due. The Mayor shall hear and consider any records and evidence presented bearing upon the Administrator's determination of amount due, and make findings affirming, reversing or modifying the determination. The Mayor's decision may be appealed to City Council within thirty (30) days of the serving or mailing of the determination. The findings of the City Council shall be final and conclusive. Any amount found to be due shall be immediately due and payable upon the service of notice.

Section IX. Refunds

1. Whenever the amount of any tax, interest or penalty has been overpaid or paid more than once, or has been erroneously collected or received by the City under this ordinance, it may be refunded as provided in subparagraph 2 of this section, provided a claim in writing, stating under penalty of perjury the specific grounds upon which the claim is founded, is filed with the Administrator within one year of the date of payment. The claim shall be on forms furnished by the Administrator.
2. The Administrator shall have twenty (20) calendar days from the date of receipt of a

claim to review the claim and make a determination in writing as to the validity of the claim. The Administrator shall notify the claimant in writing of the Administrator's determination. Such notice shall be mailed to the address provided by claimant on the claim form. In the event a claim is determined by the Administrator to be a valid claim, in a manner prescribed by the Administrator a seller may claim a refund, or take as credit against taxes collected and remitted, the amount overpaid, paid more than once or erroneously collected or received. The seller shall notify Administrator of claimant's choice no later than fifteen (15) days following the date Administrator mailed the determination. In the event claimant has not notified the Administrator of claimant's choice within the fifteen (15) day period and the seller is still in business, a credit will be granted against the tax liability for the next reporting period. If the seller is no longer in business, a refund check will be mailed to claimant at the address provided in the claim form.

3. Any credit for erroneous overpayment of tax made by a seller taken on a subsequent return or any claim for refund of tax erroneously overpaid filed by a seller must be so taken or filed within three (3) years after the date on which the overpayment was made to the City.
4. No refund shall be paid under the provisions of this section unless the claimant established the right by written records showing entitlement to such refund and the Administrator acknowledged the validity of the claim.

Section X. Actions to Collect

Any tax required to be paid by any seller under the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed a debt owed by the seller to the City. Any such tax collected by a seller which has not been paid to the City shall be deemed a debt owed by the seller to the City. Any person owing money to the City under the provisions of this ordinance shall be liable to an action brought in the name of the City of Columbia City for the recovery of such amount. In lieu of filing an action for the recovery, the City of Columbia City, when taxes due are more than 30 days delinquent, can submit any outstanding tax to a collection agency. So long as the City of Columbia City has complied with the provisions set forth in ORS 697.105, in the event the City turns over a delinquent tax account to a collection agency, it may add to the amount owing an amount equal to the collection agency fees, not to exceed the greater of fifty dollars (\$50.00) or fifty percent (50%) of the outstanding tax, penalties and interest owing.

Section XI. Violation

1. It is a violation of this ordinance for any seller or other person to:
 - a. Fail or refuse to comply as required herein;
 - b. Fail or refuse to furnish any return required to be made;
 - c. Fail or refuse to permit inspection of records;

- d. Fail or refuse to furnish a supplemental return or other data required by the Administrator;
 - e. Render a false or fraudulent return or claim; or
 - f. Fail, refuse or neglect to remit the tax to the City by the due date.
2. Upon a finding that the violation was committed by the defendant, the court:
 - a. Shall assess a penalty pursuant to the applicable penalty section.
 - b. May assess hearing costs and witness fees, if any;
 - c. Shall order the defendant to abate the violation;
 - d. May order the defendant to appear at a subsequent hearing for the presentation of evidence of abatement.
3. Any person adjudged to have violated any of the provisions or to have failed to comply with any of the mandatory requirements of this ordinance of the City, shall pay a penalty of not less than \$150.00 nor more than \$500.00, unless superseded by state law.
4. Each and every day during any portion of which any violation of any provision of this ordinance is committed, continued or permitted by any person shall constitute a separate violation.
5. The penalty or fine for a third or any subsequent separate judgment of violation of the same offense by the same person shall be no less than \$1,000, unless superseded by state law.
6. Any penalty and costs assessed shall be paid no later than 30 days after the final order. Such period may be extended upon order of the court.
7. Any penalty and costs assessed shall be a judgment against defendant in favor of the City.
8. The remedies provided by this section are not exclusive and shall not prevent the City from exercising any other remedy available under the law, nor shall the provisions of this ordinance prohibit or restrict the City or other appropriate prosecutor from pursuing criminal charges under state law or City ordinance.

Section XII. Confidentiality

Except as otherwise required by law, it shall be unlawful for the City, any officer, employee or agent to divulge, release or make known in any manner any financial information submitted or disclosed to the City under the terms of this ordinance. Nothing in this section shall prohibit:

1. The disclosure of the names and addresses of any person who is operating a licensed establishment from which marijuana or marijuana-infused products are sold or provided; or
2. The disclosure of general statistics in a form which would not reveal an individual seller's financial information; or
3. Presentation of evidence to the court, or other tribunal having jurisdiction in the prosecution of any criminal or civil claim by the Administrator or an appeal from the Administrator for amount due the City under this ordinance; or
4. The disclosure of information when such disclosure of conditionally exempt information is ordered under public records law procedures; or
5. The disclosure of records related to a business' failure to report and remit the tax when the report or tax is in arrears for over six (6) months or the tax exceeds five thousand dollars (\$5,000). The City Council expressly finds and determines that the public interest in disclosure of such records clearly outweighs the interest in confidentiality under ORS 192.501(5).

Section XIII. Audit of Books, Records, or Persons

1. The City, for the purpose of determining the correctness of any tax return, or for the purpose of an estimate of taxes due, may examine or may cause to be examined by an agent or representative designated by the City for that purpose, any books, papers, records, or memoranda, including copies of seller's state and federal income tax return, bearing upon the matter of the seller's tax return. All books, invoices, accounts and other records shall be made available within the City limits and be open at any time during regular business hours for examination by the Administrator or an authorized agent of the Administrator.
2. If the examinations or investigations disclose that any reports of sellers filed with the Administrator pursuant to the requirements herein have shown incorrectly the amount of tax accruing, the Administrator may make such changes in subsequent reports and payments, or make such refunds, as may be necessary to correct the errors disclosed by its examinations or investigations.
3. The seller shall reimburse the City for reasonable costs of the examination or investigation if the action disclosed that the seller paid 95 percent or less of the tax owing for the period of the examination or investigation. In the event that such examination or investigation results in an assessment by and an additional payment due to the City, such additional payment shall be subject to interest at the rate of 9 percent per year from the date the original tax payment was due.
4. If any taxpayer refuses to voluntarily furnish any of the foregoing information

when requested, the Administrator may immediately seek a subpoena from the Columbia City Municipal Court to require that the taxpayer or a representative of the taxpayer attend a hearing or produce any such books, accounts and records for examination.

5. Every seller shall keep a record in such form as may be prescribed by the Administrator of all sales of marijuana and marijuana-infused products. The records shall at all times during the business hours of the day be subject to inspection by the Administrator or authorized officers or agents of the Administrator.
6. Every seller shall maintain and keep, for a period of three (3) years, all records of marijuana and marijuana-infused products sold.

Section XIV. Forms and Regulations

The Administrator is hereby authorized to prescribe forms and promulgate rules and regulations to aid in the making of returns, the ascertainment, assessment and collection of said marijuana tax and in particular and without limiting the general language of this ordinance, to provide for:

1. A form of report on sales and purchases to be supplied to all vendors;
2. The records which sellers providing marijuana and marijuana-infused products are to keep concerning the tax imposed by this ordinance.

[Section XV. Severability]

[Section XVI. Savings]

[Section XVII. Emergency]

Passed by the council October 16, 2014 and approved by the mayor October 17, 2014.