

RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 151

A RESOLUTION REJECTING THE APPLICATION OF
ARISE CANNABIS NJ, LLC FOR A CANNABIS CLASS
1 CULTIVATING LICENSE.

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2024, the City of Vineland (the "City") issued Request For Proposals #2024-64 (the "RFP") for the issuance of a Cannabis Class 1 Cultivating License pursuant to the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act, N.J.S.A. 24:6I-31 et seq. (the "Act") and the City's Cannabis Ordinance, Chapter 266 of the City Code; and

WHEREAS, an application for the award of a Cannabis Class 1 Cultivating License was submitted in response to the RFP by Arise Cannabis NJ, LLC (the "Applicant") on or about November 13, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant had previously applied for and obtained approval for a Cannabis micro-cultivation grow license on March 1, 2023, which expired on February 29, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vineland Cannabis Advisory Committee (the "Committee"), established pursuant to Section 266-3 of the City Code, thoroughly reviewed the Applicant's application in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP and the City's Cannabis Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration, the Committee did not issue a favorable recommendation to approve the application for the following reasons:

I. Insufficient Odor Mitigation Plan

The Applicant failed to provide a sufficient odor mitigation plan to assure odor is not a nuisance to the surrounding community, as required by Section 266-2 of the City's Cannabis Ordinance;

II. Lack of Industry Experience

- a. The Committee has significant concerns regarding the Applicant's lack of experience in the cannabis industry, which raises substantial questions about the Applicant's suitability and qualifications to be issued a Cannabis Class 1 Cultivating License;
- b. The Applicant's management team has not demonstrated the requisite expertise in large-scale cannabis cultivation, quality control, or regulatory compliance, as required by the City's Cannabis Ordinance;

III. Inappropriate Site Selection

- a. The Committee and City Council do not believe the site previously approved for the Applicant's micro-cannabis operation is appropriate or suitable for a full Cannabis Class 1 Cultivating License operation;
- b. The prior operation occupied less than 5,000 square feet, while the new application proposes to exceed 10,000 square feet, raising concerns about zoning compliance, traffic impact, and neighborhood compatibility;

IV. Regulatory Compliance Concerns

The significant increase in the proposed cultivation area from the Applicant's previous micro-cultivation license to the current application raises substantial concerns about the Applicant's ability to comply with applicable public health and safety standards, including but not limited to security measures, waste management, and environmental impact mitigation;

V. Lack of Competition

The City received no other responses to the RFP, limiting the City's ability to compare and evaluate multiple proposals to ensure the selection of the most qualified and suitable applicant for the Cannabis Class 1 Cultivating License;

VI. Insufficient Scoring

The score assigned to the Applicant's submission by the Committee was 65 points on a 100-point scale, falling significantly below the City's historical practice of only awarding cannabis licenses to applicants scoring 80 points or higher;

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the City Council finds that the Applicant's application for a Cannabis Class 1 Cultivating License should be rejected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VINELAND, COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Rejection of Application. The application submitted by Arise Cannabis NJ, LLC in response to COV RFP #2024-64 for the issuance of a Cannabis Class 1 Cultivating License is hereby rejected for the reasons set forth in the preamble of this Resolution, which are incorporated herein by reference.
2. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted: March 25, 2025

President of Council pfs

ATTEST:

City Clerk rgf