



## **Chamber Policy on Allowing Cannabis-Related Businesses to Join**

Properly licensed marijuana- and hemp-related businesses are eligible for membership in the Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce under the conditions outlined in Article 2 of the Bylaws. The President is authorized to develop the policies and procedures under which such companies are allowed to use the chamber's name, logo and facility and otherwise associate with the Chamber. Adopting this policy does not condone the use of a federally-controlled substance but is a practical recognition of the ambiguity between state and federal law and a reasonable attempt to accommodate entrepreneurs in this line of business. - *Adopted April 21, 2014*

**Marijuana- and Hemp-related Businesses  
Policy for Membership and Membership Benefits  
Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce**

While Colorado voters approved medicinal and recreational marijuana, the Controlled Substances Act makes it illegal under federal law to manufacture, distribute or dispense marijuana.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, Fort Collins city government allows marijuana companies to operate in the community. This creates a conflict for the Chamber between fulfilling its mission of supporting commerce while not condoning and supporting unlawful activities. Until the ambiguity between local, state and federal law is resolved, the Chamber has elected to accommodate marijuana-related businesses by allowing them to join under the following conditions:

- Properly licensed marijuana- and hemp-related businesses are eligible for membership in the Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce under the conditions outlined in Article 2 of the Bylaws. (See attached)
- Members of marijuana- and hemp-related businesses will have the same voting rights as any member and are eligible to serve on Chamber committees.
- Use of the Chamber's name and logo and advertising and sponsorships of Chamber programs and events by marijuana- and hemp-related businesses will be considered on an individual basis. Because of the unsettled legal status of cannabis production and consumption, the Chamber reserves the right to limit access to benefits that closely associate the Chamber's name and brand with firms operating in industries covered under the federal Controlled Substances Act. Such benefits include but are not limited to website banner ads, major sponsorships, tradeshow booths and use of the "proud member of" electronic plaque.
- The use of the Chamber's boardroom or conference room for training, seminars, promotion or sampling of federally-controlled substances will not be allowed.
- The Chamber is a general advocate for the interests of business but does not advocate for the narrow interests of specific business sectors. That applies to the cannabis industry as well.
- The Chamber wants to ensure that employers in Colorado can continue to maintain zero tolerance drug policies. It is important that

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<sup>1</sup> Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C.

cannabis-related companies interested in joining the Chamber understand that position.

- When joining the Chamber, marijuana- and hemp-related companies are effectively signing a code of ethics that says they agree to:
  - prevent the distribution of cannabis to minors,
  - prevent revenue from the sale of cannabis products from going to criminal enterprises, gangs, and cartels,
  - prevent the diversion of cannabis from Colorado to other states,
  - prevent state-authorized cannabis activity from being used as a cover or pretext for trafficking of other illegal drugs or other illegal activity, and
  - and prevent drugged driving and the exacerbation of other adverse public health consequences associated with cannabis use

Failure to comply with these conditions or by otherwise working against the aims of the Chamber will result in expulsion per Article 2, Section 4 of the Bylaws.

**EXCERPT FROM  
Bylaws of the  
Fort Collins Area  
Chamber of Commerce**

**ARTICLE 2 – MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1 (Eligibility):** Any business, individual, association, corporation, limited liability company or partnership subscribing to the objectives and purposes of the organization shall be eligible to apply for membership.

**Section 2 (Classification):** Members of the Chamber are classified as active or honorary members.

**Section 3 (Dues):** The Chamber Board of Directors, hereafter the Board, shall set membership dues and payment schedules.

**Section 4 (Termination and Expulsion):** (a) Any member may resign upon notice to the Chamber. Such resignation will not release the member from any financial obligations to the Chamber already incurred. (b) Any member may be expelled for nonpayment of dues after 90 days from the due date unless otherwise extended. (c) Any member may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, at a regularly scheduled meeting thereof, for conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the aims or repute of the Chamber, after notice and opportunity for a hearing are afforded the member complained against.

**Section 5 (Transfer):** No member may sell, assign, transfer, or in any manner dispose of the Chamber membership without approval of the President.

**Section 6 (Representatives):** Any person, firm, association or corporation holding one or more memberships shall have the right at any time to change any or all of its representatives upon written notice of the Chamber.

**Section 7 (Voting):** Should the Board request a vote of the membership, each member of the Chamber in good standing is entitled to one vote.