

ORDINANCE 2024-08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTOWN, IN GRANT COUNTY, KENTUCKY, PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF ANY MEDICAL CANNABIS FACILITIES IN THE CITY AS PERMITTED BY KRS 218B.130.

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has adopted KRS 218B.010, et. seq., providing for the legalization of the use of medical cannabis and the operation of medical cannabis facilities in the Commonwealth pursuant to the terms and conditions of state law, which statutes *inter alia* contain KRS 218B.130 which allows local governments like this City to prohibit all cannabis business operations within its territories through passage of an ordinance; and

WHEREAS, legalizing cannabis for medical use could lead to increased recreational use and abuse, especially among young people; and

WHEREAS, using medical cannabis could serve as a gateway to using harder drugs; individuals who start using cannabis for medical purposes might be more likely to experiment with other, more harmful substances; and

WHEREAS, the psychoactive effects of cannabis, particularly THC, impair cognitive function and could potentially pose risks, such as impaired driving or operating heavy machinery; and

WHEREAS, the operation of even-legal medical cannabis facilities create complex legal and regulatory challenges for law enforcement, healthcare providers, and policymakers, leading to difficulties in enforcement and compliance; and

WHEREAS, medical cannabis goes against our City's societal norms or cultural values, as cannabis use is still stigmatized; and

WHEREAS, there are already approved pharmaceutical drugs available to treat many of the conditions for which medical cannabis is proposed as a remedy; these alternatives should be utilized instead; and

WHEREAS, federal law still prohibits its use, and so conflicts between local, state and federal regulations could potentially lead to legal challenges and uncertainties;

WHEREAS, for the reasons stated above, which the City Council finds as true and accurate, the City Council hereby determines it to be in the interest of public health, safety and welfare to prohibit the operation of any medical cannabis facilities in the City.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTOWN, IN GRANT COUNTY, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

Pursuant to KRS 218B.130, all cannabis business operations as defined in KRS 218B.010 shall be prohibited within the City of Williamstown.

SECTION 2.

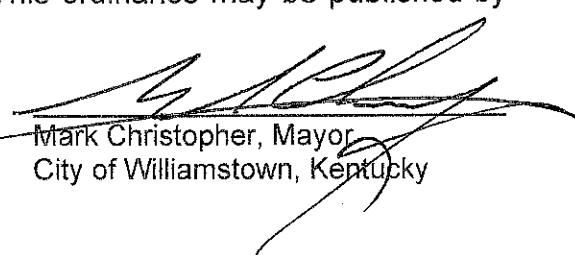
Any and all Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance shall be, and hereby are, repealed to the extent of said conflict.

SECTION 3.

If any part of this ordinance or its application is deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the city council intends that such invalidity will not affect the effectiveness of the remaining provisions or applications and, to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

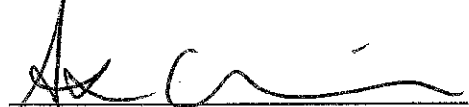
SECTION 4.

That this ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and shall be published under KRS 83A.060(9) and other applicable law. This ordinance may be published by summary.



Mark Christopher, Mayor
City of Williamstown, Kentucky

ATTEST:



Alexandra Cummins, City Clerk/Treasurer

2024-08

1 st Reading	<u>08/05/2024</u>
2 nd Reading	<u>08/20/2024</u>
Published	<u>09/12/2024</u>

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF WILLIAMSTOWN ORDINANCE NO. 2024-08

TITLE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTOWN IN GRANT COUNTY KENTUCKY PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF ANY MEDICAL CANNABIS FACILITIES IN THE CITY AS PERMITTED BY KRS 218B.130

NARRATIVE

The City of Williamstown Ordinance No. 2024-008 was enacted on August 20, 2024; and it is an ordinance prohibiting in the City all cannabis business operations as defined in KRS 218B.010.

TAXES AND FEES

No section of Williamstown Ordinance No. 2024-08 imposes any tax or fee.

