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ORDINANCE NO. 28250

AN ORDINANCE relating to land use regulations associated with Initiative 502; extending interim land use regulations for a six-month term, to May 16, 2015, concerning the production, processing, and retail sale of recreational marijuana.

WHEREAS Initiative 502 ("I-502"), approved by Washington voters in November 2012, provides a framework for licensing and regulating the production, processing, and retail sale of recreational marijuana, and

WHEREAS the Washington State Liquor Control Board ("WSLCB") is tasked with establishing rules and procedures to implement I-502 and determining a "maximum number of retail outlets that may be licensed in each county," and

WHEREAS, according to the WSLCB's timeline, the rules became effective on November 16, 2013, and the state began accepting applications for all license types on November 18, 2013, and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2013, the City Council adopted Substitute Ordinance No. 28182, and enacted the interim land use regulations concerning the production, processing, and retail sale of recreational marijuana, effective for one year from November 17, 2013, to November 16, 2014, and

WHEREAS the interim regulations were intended to provide policy and regulatory guidance to facilitate the review, in a proactive and timely manner, of those marijuana license applications within the City limits that were expected to come forward starting December 2013, and



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WHEREAS the interim regulations were also intended to provide adequate time for the City to evaluate the operations and impacts of the licensed marijuana businesses and allow the state to rectify the outstanding problems with the existing, largely unregulated medical marijuana system before deliberating on a permanent local regulatory resolution, and

WHEREAS the WSLCB did not begin issuing marijuana production and processing licenses until March 2014, and marijuana retailing licenses until July 2014, and as of early September 2014, only two production/processing licenses and three retail licenses within Tacoma have been issued, and

WHEREAS, while the state legislature deliberated regarding potential changes to address the medical marijuana industry in 2014, they have not as yet adopt any changes, and

WHEREAS, considering the fledgling stage of recreational marijuana licensing and operation within the City, the unresolved issues regarding medical marijuana at the state level, and the unresolved conflict between Initiative 502 and federal law, it is premature to develop a permanent regulatory resolution, and

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the City to keep the interim regulations in effect upon their expiration in November 2014 and extending the interim land use regulations for a six-month term, to May 16, 2015; Now, Therefore,



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BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby extends the interim land use regulations for a six-month term, to May 16, 2015, concerning the production, processing, and retail sale of recreational marijuana.

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