ITEM 189-16

TOWN OF FREEPORT, MAINE
Town Manager's Office
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council
FROM: Peter Joseph, Town Manager
DATE: 12/01/16
RE: Retail Marijuana Moratorium

Attached you will find a proposed ordinance setting forward a moratorium on retail marijuana establishments and retail marijuana social clubs.

While similar to the previously proposed medical marijuana moratorium, I am proposing this moratorium be handled as a separate ordinance for the following reasons:

1) Since retail and medical marijuana are authorized by two separate laws, it is appropriate to address them separately, rather than by amending an ordinance originally noticed as a medical marijuana ordinance to include retail marijuana as well. Town Attorney is in concurrence with the approach of addressing these two issues with two separate ordinances instead of amending the current medical marijuana ordinance to include retail marijuana as well.

2) A medical marijuana moratorium is a time sensitive matter. As it is currently authorized by law, applications for medical marijuana cultivation facilities have been and are being submitted to the Town for action. Final approval for the retail marijuana law is still pending a recount, and a 30 day waiting period after vote certification. This gives us plenty of time to address this issue separately on 12/20/16, without having to delay our "already noticed" hearing on the medical marijuana moratorium ordinance.

If you have any questions before Tuesday's meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.