

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 1359**

**Final Publication Number 3320. First Publication in the Chronicle on December 5, 2013.**

**City of Cambridge**

**In the Year Two Thousand and Thirteen**

**AN ORDINANCE**

**In amendment to the Ordinance entitled “Zoning Ordinances of the City of Cambridge”**

**Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Cambridge that the Zoning Ordinances of the City of Cambridge be amended as follows:**

- Define Registered Marijuana Dispensary consistent with the definition set forth in the Massachusetts state regulations, 105 CMR 725.000.
- List Registered Marijuana Dispensary within Section 4.35 of the Table of Use Regulations, allowed only by Planning Board Special Permit within the Medical Marijuana Overlay Districts.
- Delete the existing Section 11.700, Interim Regulations for Medical Marijuana Uses.
- Create a new Section 20.700 – Medical Marijuana Overlay Districts, establishing two Medical Marijuana Overlay Districts and setting forth requirements and criteria for Planning Board approval.

In City Council December 16, 2013.

Passed to be ordained as amended by a yeas and nays vote:-

Yeas 8; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 1.

Attest:- Donna P. Lopez, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Donna P. Lopez  
City Clerk

## ***Zoning Regulations for Registered Marijuana Dispensaries – Cambridge, MA***

### *Introduction*

The Law for the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana was adopted by Massachusetts voters in November, 2012. The measure became law on January 1, 2013 (Chapter 369 of the Acts of 2012). In May, 2013, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health promulgated regulations set forth at 105 CMR 725.000 by which it will approve, register and control the establishment of up to 35 Registered Marijuana Dispensaries (RMDs) statewide in the first year, with at least one but no more than five RMDs in each county. Local regulatory oversight is allowed so long as it does not conflict with state regulations.

This proposal includes a set of zoning regulations that will work in concert with state and other local regulations while focusing on land use planning issues such as district character, compatibility among adjacent uses, transportation and parking, and urban design. In addition to the zoning, a proposed set of local public health regulations will be considered to supplement the controls and oversight at the state level, providing guidance on operational matters.

### *Outline of Zoning Proposal*

1. Define Registered Marijuana Dispensary in the Zoning Ordinance  
This definition will parallel the definition in the state regulations.
2. List Registered Marijuana Dispensary in the Table of Use Regulations  
Clarify that the use is allowed by special permit only, and refer to Overlay District provisions that will control the approval of RMDs by special permit.
3. Delete Existing Interim Regulations for Medical Marijuana Uses  
This would end the current “moratorium” when the new regulations are adopted. If the new regulations are not adopted, the moratorium could be extended for an additional six months.
4. Create Medical Marijuana Overlay Districts  
Designate areas of the city where RMDs would be allowed, subject to a set of zoning requirements and approval by the Planning Board.

Note: Additions and creations are underlined. Deletions are in ~~strikeout~~.

1. Create the following Definition within Article 2.000:

**Marijuana Dispensary, Registered.** Registered Marijuana Dispensary, also known as RMD or Medical Marijuana Treatment Center, shall mean an establishment properly registered with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health under 105 CMR 725.100 that acquires, cultivates, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as edible marijuana infused products, tinctures, aerosols, oils, or ointments), transfers, transports, sells, distributes, dispenses, or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials to registered qualifying patients or their personal caregivers.

This proposed definition is the same as the definition provided in the state medical marijuana regulations, found in 105 CMR 725.000.

2. Add the following text to Section 4.35 of the Table of Use Requirements and to the Use Requirements in Article 16.000 for the North Point Residence, Office and Business District:

**4.35 Retail Business and Consumer Service Establishments**

[...]

	Open Space	Res A 1&2	Res B	Res C, C-1, C-1A, 2, 2A, 2B, 3, 3A, 3B	Off 1, 2A,2, 3,3A	Bus A-1, A-2, A-3 <sup>1</sup>	Bus A	Bus B, B-1, B-2	Bus C, C-1	Ind A-1, A-2	Ind A	Ind B-1, B-2	Ind B	Ind C
s. <u>Registered Marijuana Dispensary</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>PB<sup>58</sup></u>	<u>No</u>	<u>PB<sup>58</sup></u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>PB<sup>58</sup></u>	<u>PB<sup>58</sup></u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>

[...]

58. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth elsewhere in this Zoning Ordinance, a Registered Marijuana Dispensary shall be permitted by special permit from the Planning Board only within the Medical Marijuana Overlay Districts pursuant to the requirements of Section 20.700.

**16.21.7** Registered Marijuana Dispensary, Section 4.35 s, permitted by special permit from the Planning Board only within the Medical Marijuana Overlay Districts pursuant to the requirements of Section 20.700.

Listing RMDs in the use table provides a reference to the controlling Overlay District special permit requirements and clarifies that it is not otherwise considered an allowed use under base zoning. The same text is added to Article 16.000 for the “NP” base district, which is not referenced in the Table of Use Regulations.

3. Delete the existing Section 11.700 and replace with a reference as follows:

**11.700 INTERIM REGULATIONS FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA USES**

~~**11.701 Purpose.** This section is intended to provide restrictions that will allow the City adequate time to consider whether to allow facilities associated with the medical use of marijuana, to the extent that such facilities are permitted under state laws and regulations, and, if so, where and under what conditions. Given that a law permitting the medical use of marijuana in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall be in effect beginning January 1, 2013, and that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has yet to promulgate the regulations by which facilities that produce or dispense medical marijuana shall be registered and administered, a restriction on the establishment of such facilities in Cambridge shall provide the opportunity to study their potential impacts on adjacent uses and on general public health, safety and welfare, and to develop zoning and other applicable regulations that appropriately address these considerations consistent with statewide regulations and permitting procedures.~~

~~**11.702 Definition.** A Medical Marijuana Treatment Center shall mean any medical marijuana treatment center, as defined under state law as a Massachusetts not for profit entity that acquires, cultivates, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as food, tinctures, aerosols, oils, or ointments), transfers, transports, sells, distributes, dispenses, or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials to qualifying patients or their personal caregivers, which is properly licensed and registered by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health pursuant to all applicable state laws and regulations.~~

~~**11.703 Exclusion of Other Marijuana Uses.** Any establishment that acquires, cultivates, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as food, tinctures, aerosols, oils, or ointments), transfers, transports, sells, distributes, dispenses, or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials to qualifying patients or their personal caregivers shall not be permitted if such establishment has not been properly registered and licensed in accordance with applicable state and local laws and regulations, or is not operated as a not for profit entity, or otherwise fails to meet the definition of a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center.~~

~~**11.704 Exclusion of Accessory Uses.** In no case shall the acquisition, cultivation, possession, processing, transference, transportation, sale, distribution, dispensing, or administration of marijuana,~~

The interim zoning was enacted in April, 2013, prior to the promulgation of state regulations for the registration of medical marijuana dispensaries. The text of the interim measure reflects the uncertainty at the time in how medical marijuana would be regulated.

In the proposed text, the definition (previous pages) and zoning regulations (following pages) are intended to be harmonious with the regulations that have been promulgated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Therefore, the text in this section is deleted in its entirety.

Note: Additions and creations are underlined. Deletions are in ~~strikeout~~.

---

~~products containing or derived from marijuana, or related products be considered accessory to any use.~~

~~**11.705** *Interim Restriction.* Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers shall not be permitted in any zoning district in the City of Cambridge so long as this Section 11.700 is effective, as set forth in Section 11.706 below. Use variances shall be strictly prohibited.~~

~~**11.706** *Expiration.* The provisions of this Section 11.700, in their entirety, shall no longer apply after one hundred eighty (180) days have elapsed since May 1, 2013. However, if the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has failed to promulgate regulations with regard to the certification and administration of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers by May 1, 2013, the provisions of this Section 11.700 shall continue to apply until one hundred eighty (180) days have elapsed since the date on which such regulations will have been promulgated, or until June 30, 2014, whichever date is earlier.~~

**Section deleted. Refer to Section 20.700 for Medical Marijuana regulations.**

If it is determined through the public hearing process that the proposed zoning should not be enacted at this time, an alternative approach would be to retain all of the existing zoning text except for the 180-day expiration timeframe. This would result in June 30, 2014 being the final expiration date, and would allow an additional six months to develop an alternate proposal.

4. *Create the following New Section within Article 20.000 Overlay Districts:*

**20.700 MEDICAL MARIJUANA OVERLAY DISTRICTS**

**20.701 Purpose**

The purpose of the Medical Marijuana Overlay Districts is to provide for the limited establishment of Registered Marijuana Dispensaries as they are authorized pursuant to state regulations set forth at 105 CMR 725.000, Implementation of an Act for the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana. Given that Registered Marijuana Dispensaries shall be limited in number and strictly regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, these zoning regulations intend to permit them where there is access to both regional roadways and public transportation, where they may be readily monitored by law enforcement for health and public safety purposes, and where they will not impact the character of lower-scale residential neighborhoods, business districts and educational institutions.

**20.702 Establishment.** There is hereby established on the Zoning Map of the City of Cambridge the Medical Marijuana Overlay Districts, which shall be defined as follows:

Medical Marijuana Overlay District 1 shall be coterminous with the area encompassed by the Alewife Overlay Districts 2, 4, 5 and 6, having Office 1, Office 2A, Business A and Industry B-2 base zoning designations.

Medical Marijuana Overlay District 2 shall be the area bounded by Monsignor O’Brien Highway to the south and the Cambridge Municipal Boundary on all other sides, commonly referred to as the North Point area, including the North Point Residence Office and Business District, a portion of Special District 1, and a district with an Industry A base zoning designation.

**20.703 Requirements**

**20.703.1 Use.** Notwithstanding the use limitations of the base zoning district or any other overlay zoning district, a Registered Marijuana Dispensary shall be allowed within the Medical Marijuana Overlay District upon the granting of a special permit by the Planning Board, subject to the requirements set forth in this Section.

The proposed zoning is meant to dovetail with state registration requirements, which will allow for a very limited number of RMDs (up to 35 RMDs statewide), with an allowance for increases only if more service is needed.

If state laws or regulations change in the future to allow for a significant expansion in the number or type of marijuana providers, this zoning should be revisited accordingly.

Because RMDs will be so limited in number, it is important to plan for them as regional service providers rather than typical retail establishments.

The areas proposed are among those in Cambridge with the best access to both regional roadways and public transportation, and the least impact on residential neighborhoods.

(SEE MAP)

**20.703.2 *Registration.*** All permitted Registered Marijuana Dispensaries shall be properly registered with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health pursuant to 105 CMR 725.100 and shall comply with all applicable state and local public health regulations and all other applicable state and local laws, rules and regulations at all times. No Building Permit or Certificate of Occupancy shall be issued for a Registered Marijuana Dispensary that is not properly registered with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

**20.703.3 *Limitation of Approval.*** A special permit authorizing the establishment of a Registered Marijuana Dispensary shall be valid only for the registered entity to which the special permit was issued, and only for the site on which the Registered Marijuana Dispensary has been authorized by special permit. If the registration for a Registered Marijuana Dispensary has not been renewed or has been revoked, transferred to another controlling entity, or relocated to a different site within the Medical Marijuana Overlay Districts, a new special permit shall be required prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

**20.703.4 *Building.*** A Registered Marijuana Dispensary shall be located only in a permanent building and not within any mobile facility. All sales shall be conducted either within the building or by home deliveries to qualified clients pursuant to applicable state and local regulations.

**20.703.5 *Dimensional Requirements.*** Except where it is explicitly stated otherwise in this Section 20.700, a Registered Marijuana Dispensary shall conform to the dimensional requirements applicable to non-residential uses within the base and overlay zoning districts.

**20.703.6 *Parking and Loading.*** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Article 6.000 of this Ordinance, the required number of parking and bicycle parking (both long-term and short-term) spaces and the required number of loading bays for a Registered Marijuana Dispensary shall be determined by the Planning Board based on the transportation analysis and other information related to operational and security plans provided by the applicant. Except as set forth above, all parking, bicycle parking and loading facilities shall conform to the requirements set forth in Article 6.000.

Any special permit must go hand-in-hand with state registration and is conditioned on compliance with local public health regulations. A special permit is not valid for an unregistered dispensary – whether it has not received its registration, has lost its registration, or needs to seek a new registration for any reason.

Based on the state regulations, each RMD is expected to be a secure, stand-alone facility. It will likely be expected to have its own parking and loading facilities and continual monitoring of the site.

Although the design of RMDs will be constrained by state requirements to some extent, zoning can help ensure consistency with the development standards for the district.

Because it is not clear what kind of traffic will be generated by a typical RMD, it will be prudent to review RMDs on a case-by-case basis and apply the City’s general standards to require an adequate supply of parking and bicycle parking while not creating an oversupply of parking and thus encouraging excess auto traffic.

**20.703.7 Signage.** All signage shall conform to the requirements of Article 7.000 of this Ordinance. The Planning Board may impose additional restrictions on signage as appropriate to mitigate any aesthetic impacts.

**20.704 Application Requirements.** An application to the Planning Board shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

- (a) Description of Activities: A narrative providing information about the type and scale of all activities that will take place on the proposed site, including but not limited to cultivating and processing of marijuana or marijuana infused products (MIPs), on-site sales, off-site deliveries, distribution of educational materials, and other programs or activities.
- (b) Service Area: A map and narrative describing the area proposed to be served by the Registered Marijuana Dispensary and the anticipated number of clients that will be served within that area. This description shall indicate where any other Registered Marijuana Dispensaries exist or have been proposed within the expected service area.
- (c) Transportation Analysis: A quantitative analysis, prepared by a qualified transportation specialist acceptable to the Planning Board, modeling the expected origin and frequency of client and employee trips to the site, the expected modes of transportation used by clients and employees, and the frequency and scale of deliveries to and from the site.
- (d) Context Map: A map depicting all properties and land uses within a one thousand-foot (1,000') radius (minimum) of the project site, whether such uses are located in Cambridge or within surrounding communities, including but not limited to all educational uses, daycare, preschool and afterschool programs.
- (e) Site Plan: A plan or plans depicting all proposed development on the property, including the dimensions of the building, the layout of automobile and bicycle parking, the location of pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular points of access and egress, the location and design of all loading, refuse and service facilities, the location, type and direction of all outdoor lighting on the site, and any landscape design.

The information provided in a special permit application should describe the RMD in terms of the type and scale of activities that will occur there. The purpose of this information is so that the Planning Board can fully understand the scope of the operation and what impact it may have on traffic patterns and on the operation of adjacent uses. Much of this information will reflect what is in the RMD's registration issued by the state Department of Public Health.

- (f) Building Elevations and Signage: Architectural drawings of all exterior building facades and all proposed signage, specifying materials and colors to be used. Perspective drawings and illustrations of the site from public ways and abutting properties are recommended but not required.
- (g) Registration Materials: Copies of registration materials issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and any materials submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the purpose of seeking registration, to confirm that all information provided to the Planning Board is consistent with the information provided to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

**20.705** Special Permit Criteria. In granting a special permit for a Registered Marijuana Dispensary, in addition to the general criteria for issuance of a special permit as set forth in Section 10.43 of this Ordinance, the Planning Board shall find that the following criteria are met:

- (a) The Registered Marijuana Dispensary is located to serve an area that currently does not have reasonable access to medical marijuana, or if it is proposed to serve an area that is already served by other Registered Marijuana Dispensaries, it has been established by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health that supplemental service is needed.
- (b) The site is located at least five hundred feet distant from a school, daycare center, preschool or afterschool facility or any facility in which children commonly congregate, or if not located at such a distance, it is determined by the Planning Board to be sufficiently buffered from such facilities such that its users will not be adversely impacted by the operation of the Registered Marijuana Dispensary.
- (c) The site is designed such that it provides convenient, safe and secure access and egress for clients and employees arriving to and leaving from the site using all modes of transportation, including drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and public transportation users.
- (d) Traffic generated by client trips, employee trips, and deliveries to and from the Registered Marijuana Dispensary shall not create a substantial adverse impact on nearby residential uses.

Because RMDs will be regulated by various authorities, most significantly the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, it is important to be clear and specific about what aspects of the RMD will be under the Planning Board’s purview to regulate.

This proposal focuses on those aspects of project review that are typically addressed by the Planning Board (similar to the Article 19.000 process for large projects):

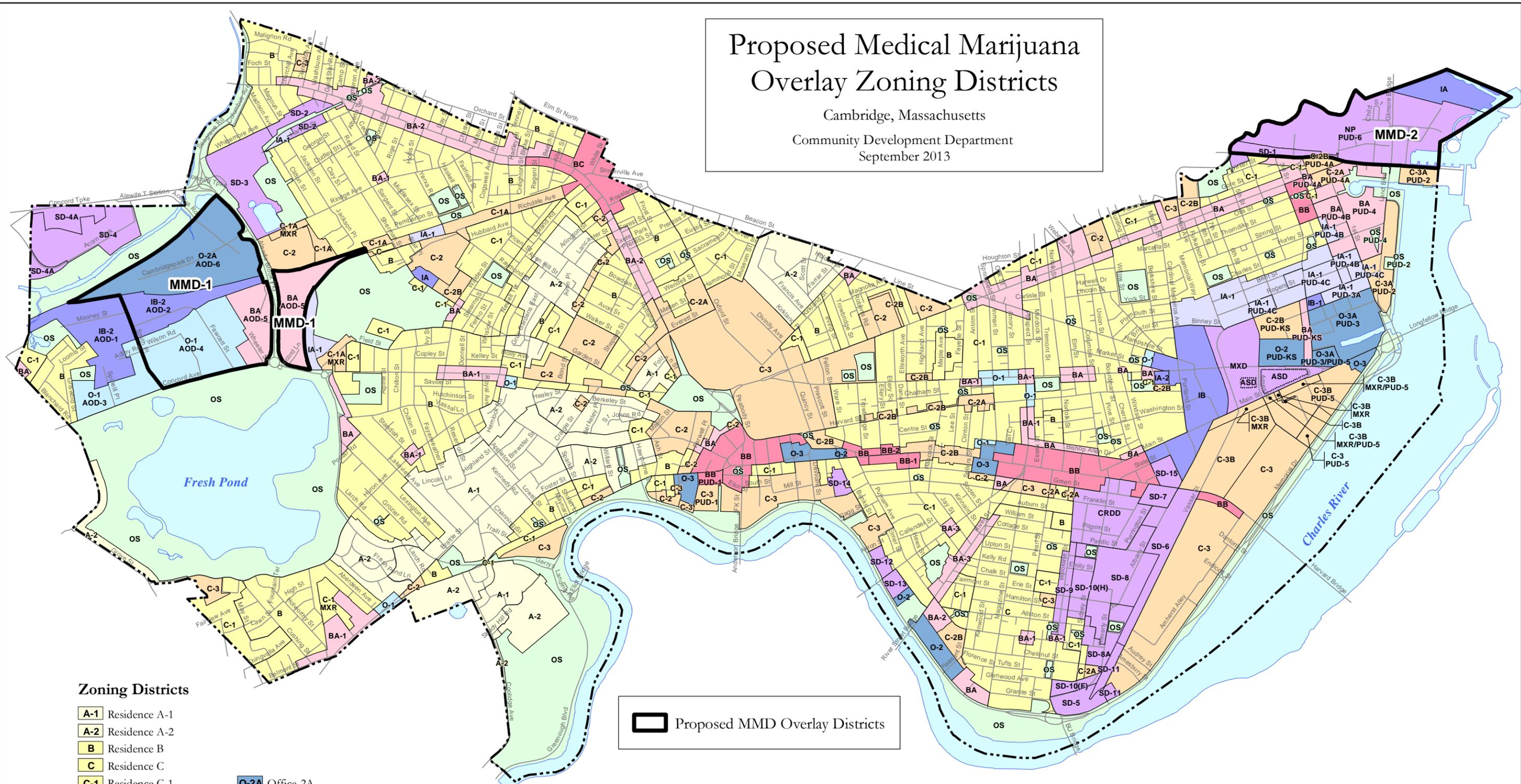
- Compatibility with adjacent uses
- Traffic and transportation
- Environmental impacts on abutters
- Overall urban design

The Planning Board review is meant to supplement the informational and operational requirements imposed at the state and local level while avoiding conflicts with those other jurisdictions and ensuring compatibility with the City’s overall zoning objectives.

- (e) Loading, refuse and service areas are designed to be secure and shielded from abutting uses.
- (f) The building and site have been designed to be compatible with other buildings in the area and to mitigate any negative aesthetic impacts that might result from required security measures and restrictions on visibility into the building's interior.

# Proposed Medical Marijuana Overlay Zoning Districts

Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Community Development Department  
September 2013



## Zoning Districts

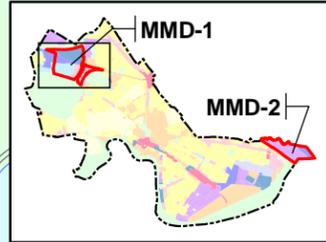
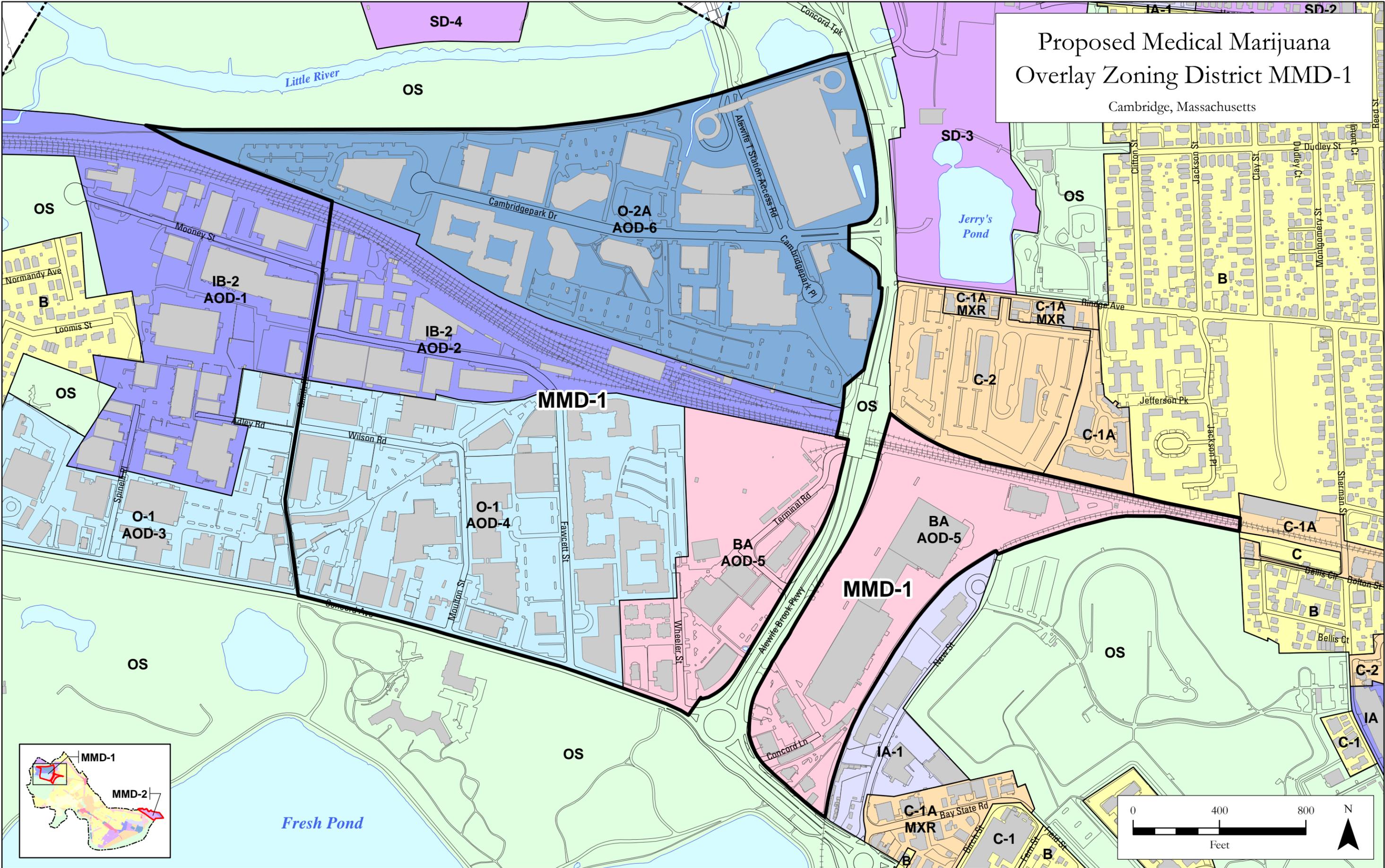
- |                            |                          |                          |   |                                  |  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>A-1</b> Residence A-1   | <b>O-2A</b> Office-2A    | <b>BC</b> Business C     | <b>MXD</b> Mixed Use Development                              | <b>SD-2</b> Special District-2   | <b>SD-9</b> Special District-9         |
| <b>A-2</b> Residence A-2   | <b>O-3</b> Office-3      | <b>BC-1</b> Business C-1 | <b>ASD</b> Ames Street District                               | <b>SD-3</b> Special District-3   | <b>SD-10(F)</b> Special District-10(F) |
| <b>B</b> Residence B       | <b>O-3A</b> Office-3A    | <b>IA-1</b> Industry A-1 | <b>AOD</b> Alewife Overlay District                           | <b>SD-4</b> Special District-4   | <b>SD-10(H)</b> Special District-10(H) |
| <b>C</b> Residence C       | <b>BA</b> Business A     | <b>IA-2</b> Industry A-2 | <b>PUD</b> Planned Unit Development Overlay                   | <b>SD-4A</b> Special District-4A | <b>SD-11</b> Special District-11       |
| <b>C-1</b> Residence C-1   | <b>BA-1</b> Business A-1 | <b>IB-1</b> Industry B-1 | <b>MXR</b> Mixed Use Residential Overlay                      | <b>SD-5</b> Special District-5   | <b>SD-12</b> Special District-12       |
| <b>C-1A</b> Residence C-1A | <b>BA-2</b> Business A-2 | <b>IB-2</b> Industry B-2 | <b>NP</b> North Point District                                | <b>SD-6</b> Special District-6   | <b>SD-13</b> Special District-13       |
| <b>C-2</b> Residence C-2   | <b>BA-3</b> Business A-3 | <b>IC</b> Industry C     | <b>CRDD</b> Cambridgeport Revitalization Development District | <b>SD-7</b> Special District-7   | <b>SD-14</b> Special District-14       |
| <b>C-2A</b> Residence C-2A | <b>BB</b> Business B     |                          |   | <b>SD-8</b> Special District-8   | <b>SD-15</b> Special District-15       |
| <b>C-2B</b> Residence C-2B | <b>BB-1</b> Business-1   |                          |   | <b>SD-8A</b> Special District-8A |  |
| <b>C-3</b> Residence C-3   | <b>BB-2</b> Business 2   |                          |   |                                  |  |
| <b>C-3A</b> Residence C-3A |                          |                          |   |                                  |  |
| <b>C-3B</b> Residence C-3B |                          |                          |   |                                  |  |
| <b>O-1</b> Office-1        |                          |                          |   |                                  |  |
| <b>O-2</b> Office-2        |                          |                          |   |                                  |  |

Proposed MMD Overlay Districts



# Proposed Medical Marijuana Overlay Zoning District MMD-1

Cambridge, Massachusetts



# Proposed Medical Marijuana Overlay Zoning District MMD-2

Cambridge, Massachusetts

SOMERVILLE

BOSTON

