

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS ADDING CHAPTER 3-
21 (CANNABIS BUSINESS TAX) TO TITLE 3 OF THE
THOUSAND OAKS MUNICIPAL CODE

The City Council of the City of Thousand Oaks, California, DOES ORDAIN
AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. CODE AMENDMENT. Chapter 3-21 of Title 3 of the Thousand
Oaks Municipal Code to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 3-21
CANNABIS BUSINESS TAX**

3-21.01 Title.

This ordinance shall be known as the Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance.

3-21.02 Authority and Purpose.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to adopt a tax, for revenue purposes, pursuant to Sections 37101 and 37100.5 of the California Government Code, upon Cannabis Businesses that engage in business in the City. The Cannabis Business Tax is levied based upon business gross receipts and square footage of plant canopy. It is not a sales and use tax, a tax upon income, or a tax upon real property.

The Cannabis Business Tax is a general tax enacted solely for general governmental purposes of the City and not for specific purposes. All of the proceeds from the tax imposed by this Chapter shall be placed in the City's general fund and be available for any legal municipal purpose.

3-21.03 Intent.

The intent of this Ordinance is to levy a tax on all Cannabis Businesses that operate in the City, regardless of whether such business would have been legal at the time this Ordinance was adopted. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be interpreted to authorize or permit any business activity that would not otherwise be legal or permissible under laws applicable to the activity at the time the activity is undertaken.

3-21.04 Definitions.

The following words and phrases shall have the meanings set forth below when used in this Chapter:

- A. "Business" shall include all activities engaged in or caused to be engaged in within the City, including any commercial or industrial enterprise, trade, profession, occupation, vocation, calling, or livelihood, whether or not carried on for gain or profit, but shall not include the services rendered by an employee to his or her employer.
- B. "Calendar quarter" means a period of three consecutive months starting on one of January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1.
- C. "Calendar year" shall mean January 1 through December 31.
- D. "Cannabis" means all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa* Linnaeus, *Cannabis indica*, or *Cannabis ruderalis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin, whether crude or purified, extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or resin. "Cannabis" also means the separated resin, whether crude or purified, obtained from cannabis. "Cannabis" also means marijuana as defined by Section 11018 of the California Health and Safety Code and is not limited to medical cannabis.
- E. "Cannabis product" means raw cannabis that has undergone a process whereby the raw agricultural product has been transformed into a concentrate, an edible product, or a topical product. "Cannabis product" also means marijuana products as defined by Section 11018.1 of the California Health and Safety Code and is not limited to medical cannabis products.
- F. "Canopy" means all areas occupied by any portion of a cannabis plant whether contiguous or noncontiguous on any one site. When plants occupy multiple horizontal planes (as when plants are placed on shelving above other plants) each plane shall be counted as a separate canopy area.
- G. "Cannabis business" means any business activity involving cannabis, including but not limited to cultivating, transporting, distributing, manufacturing, compounding, converting, processing, preparing, storing, packaging, delivering, testing, dispensing, retailing and wholesaling of cannabis, of cannabis products or of ancillary products and accessories, whether or not carried on for gain or profit.

H. "Cannabis business tax" or "business tax," means the tax due pursuant to this Chapter for engaging in cannabis business in the City.

I. "Commercial cannabis cultivation" means cultivation in the course of conducting a cannabis business.

J. "City permit" means a permit issued by the City to a person to authorize that person to operate or engage in a cannabis business.

K. "Cultivation" means any activity involving the planting, growing, harvesting, drying, curing, grading, or trimming of cannabis and includes, but is not limited to, the operation of a nursery.

L. "Employee" means each and every person engaged in the operation or conduct of any business, whether as owner, member of the owner's family, partner, associate, agent, manager or solicitor, and each and every other person employed or working in such business for a wage, salary, commission, barter or any other form of compensation.

M. "Engaged in business as a cannabis business" means the commencing, conducting, operating, managing or carrying on of a cannabis business, whether done as owner, or by means of an officer, agent, manager, employee, or otherwise, whether operating from a fixed location in the City or coming into the City from an outside location to engage in such activities. A person shall be deemed engaged in business within the City if:

1. Such person or person's employee maintains a fixed place of business within the City for the benefit or partial benefit of such person;
2. Such person or person's employee owns or leases real property within the City for business purposes;
3. Such person or person's employee regularly maintains a stock of tangible personal property in the City for sale in the ordinary course of business;
4. Such person or person's employee regularly conducts solicitation of business within the City; or
5. Such person or person's employee performs work or renders services in the City.

The foregoing specified activities shall not be a limitation on the meaning of "engaged in business."

N. "Evidence of doing business" means evidence such as, without limitation, use of signs, circulars, cards or any other advertising media, including the use of internet or telephone solicitation, or representation to a government agency or to the public that such person is engaged in a cannabis business in the City.

O. "Gross Receipts," except as otherwise specifically provided, means, whether designated a sales price, royalty, rent, commission, dividend, or other designation, the total amount (including all receipts, cash, credits and property of any kind or nature) received or payable for sales of goods, wares or merchandise or for the performance of any act or service of any nature for which a charge is made or credit allowed (whether such service, act or employment is done as part of or in connection with the sale of goods, wares, merchandise or not), without any deduction therefrom on account of the cost of the property sold, the cost of materials used, labor or service costs, interest paid or payable, losses or any other expense whatsoever. However, the following shall be excluded from Gross Receipts:

1. Cash discounts where allowed and taken on sales;
2. Any tax required by law to be included in or added to the purchase price and collected from the consumer or purchaser;
3. Such part of the sale price of any property returned by purchasers to the seller as refunded by the seller by way of cash or credit allowances or return of refundable deposits previously included in gross receipts;
4. Receipts derived from the occasional sale of used, obsolete or surplus trade fixtures, machinery or other equipment used by the taxpayer in the regular course of the taxpayer's business;
5. Cash value of sales, trades or transactions between departments or units of the same business;
6. Whenever there are included within the gross receipts amounts which reflect sales for which credit is extended and such amount proved uncollectible in a subsequent year, those amounts may be excluded from the gross receipts in the year they prove to be uncollectible; provided, however, if the whole or portion of such amounts excluded as uncollectible are subsequently collected they shall be included in the amount of gross receipts for the period when they are recovered;
7. Receipts of refundable deposits, except that such deposits when forfeited and taken into income of the business shall not be excluded when in excess of one dollar;

8. Amounts collected for others where the business is acting as an agent or trustee and to the extent that such amounts are paid to those for whom collected. These agents or trustees must provide the finance department with the names and the addresses of the others and the amounts paid to them. This exclusion shall not apply to any fees, percentages, or other payments retained by the agent or trustees;

9. Retail sales of t-shirts, sweaters, hats, stickers, key chains, bags, books, posters or other personal tangible property which the Tax Administrator has excluded in writing by issuing an administrative ruling per Section 3-21.14 shall not be subject to the cannabis business tax under this chapter. However, any retail sales not subject to this Chapter as a result of the administrative ruling shall be subject to the appropriate business tax under Chapter 3-1 or any other Chapter or Title as determined by the Tax Administrator.

P. "Lighting" means a source of light that is primarily used for promoting the biological process of plant growth. Lighting does not include sources of light that primarily exist for the safety or convenience of staff or visitors to the facility, such as emergency lighting, walkway lighting, or light admitted via small skylights, windows or ventilation openings.

Q. "Nursery" means a facility or part of a facility that is used only for producing clones, immature plants, seeds, and other agricultural products used specifically for the planting, propagation, and cultivation of cannabis.

R. "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, corporation, limited liability company, estate, trust, business trust, receiver, syndicate, or any other group or combination acting as a unit, whether organized as a nonprofit or for-profit entity, and includes the plural as well as the singular number.

S. "Sale" means and includes any sale, exchange, or barter.

T. "State" means the State of California.

U. "State license," "license," or "registration" means a state license issued pursuant to California Business & Professions Code Sections 19300, *et seq.* or other applicable state law.

V. "Tax Administrator" means the Finance Director of the City of Thousand Oaks or his or her designee.

W. "Testing Laboratory" means a cannabis business that (i) offers or performs tests of cannabis or cannabis products, (ii) offers no service other than such tests, (iii) sells no products, excepting only testing supplies and materials,

(iv) is accredited by an accrediting body that is independent from all other persons involved in the cannabis industry in the state and (v) is registered with the State Department of Public Health.

3-21.05 Tax imposed.

A. Beginning January 1, 2019, there is imposed upon each person who is engaged in business as a cannabis business a cannabis business tax regardless if the business has been issued a permit to operate lawfully in the City or is operating unlawfully.

B. The initial rate of the cannabis business tax shall be as follows:

1. For every person who is engaged in commercial cannabis cultivation in the City:
 - a. Seven dollars (\$7.00) annually per square foot of canopy space in a facility that uses exclusively artificial lighting.
 - b. Four dollars (\$4.00) annually per square foot of canopy space in a facility that uses a combination of natural and supplemental artificial lighting.
 - c. Two dollars (\$2.00) annually per square foot of canopy space in a facility that uses no artificial lighting.
 - d. One dollar (\$1.00) annually per square foot of canopy space for any nursery.

For purposes of this subdivision (B), the square feet of canopy space for a business shall be rebuttably presumed to be the maximum square footage of canopy allowed by the business's City permit for commercial cannabis cultivation, or, in the absence of a City permit, the square footage shall be the maximum square footage of canopy for commercial cannabis cultivation allowed by the state license type. Should a City permit be issued to a business which cultivates only for certain months of the year, the City shall prorate the tax as to sufficiently reflect the period in which cultivation is occurring at the business. In no case shall canopy square footage which is authorized by the City commercial cannabis permit but not utilized for cultivation be deducted for the purpose of determining the tax for cultivation, unless the Tax Administrator is informed in writing and authorizes such reduction for the purpose of relief from the tax prior to the period for which the space will not be used, that such space will not be used.

2. For every person who engages in the operation of a testing laboratory: one percent (1%) of gross receipts.
3. For every person who engages in the retail sales of cannabis as a retailer (dispensary) or non-store front retailer (delivery) or microbusiness (retail sales): Four percent (4%) of gross receipts.
4. For every person who engages in a cannabis distribution business: two percent (2%) of gross receipts.
5. For every person who engages in a cannabis manufacturing, processing, or microbusiness (non-retail), or any other type of cannabis business not described in Section (B) (1), (2), (3) or (4): Two and half percent (2.5%) of gross receipts.

C. The City Council may, by resolution or ordinance, adjust the rate of the cannabis business tax. However, in no event may the City Council set any adjusted rate that exceeds the maximum rate calculated pursuant to Subdivision (D) of this Section for the date on which the adjusted rate will commence.

D. The maximum rate shall be calculated as follows:

1. For every person who is engaged in commercial cannabis cultivation in the City:
 - a. Through December 31, 2021, the maximum rate shall be:
 - i. Ten dollars (\$10.00) annually per square foot of canopy space in a facility that uses exclusively artificial lighting.
 - ii. Seven dollars (\$7.00) annually per square foot of canopy space in a facility that uses a combination of natural and supplemental artificial lighting.
 - iii. Four dollars (\$4.00) annually per square foot of canopy space in a facility that uses no artificial lighting.
 - iv. Two dollars (\$2.00) annually per square foot of canopy space for any nursery.

- b. On January 1, 2022 and on each January 1 thereafter, the maximum annual tax rate per square foot of each type of canopy space shall increase by the percentage change between January of the calendar year prior to such increase and January of the calendar year of the increase in the Consumer Price Index (“CPI”) for all urban consumers in the Thousand Oaks area as published by the United States Government Bureau of Labor Statistics. However, no CPI adjustment resulting in a decrease of any tax imposed by this subsection shall be made.
2. For every person who engages in the operation of a testing laboratory, the maximum tax rate shall not exceed two and a half percent (2.5%) of gross receipts.
3. For every person who engages in the retail sales of cannabis as a retailer (dispensary) or non-store front retailer (delivery business), or microbusiness (retail sales activity) the maximum tax rate shall not exceed six percent (6%) of gross receipts.
4. For every person who engages in a cannabis distribution business, the maximum tax rate shall not exceed three percent (3%) of gross receipts.
5. For every person who engages in a cannabis manufacturing, processing, or microbusiness (non-retail activity) or any other type of cannabis business not described in Section (D) (1), (2), (3) or (4), the maximum tax rate shall not exceed four percent (4%) of gross receipts.

3-21.06 Reporting and remittance of tax.

A. The cannabis business tax imposed by this Chapter shall be paid, in arrears, on a quarterly basis. For commercial cannabis cultivation, the tax due for each calendar quarter shall be based on the square footage of the business’s canopy space during the quarter and the rate shall be 25% of the applicable annual rate. For all other cannabis businesses activities, the tax due for each calendar quarter shall be based on the gross receipts for the quarter.

B. Each person owing cannabis business tax for a calendar quarter shall, no later than the last day of the month following the close of the calendar quarter, file with the tax administrator a statement of the tax owed for that calendar quarter and the basis for calculating that tax. The Tax Administrator may require that the statement be submitted on a form prescribed by the Tax Administrator. The tax for each calendar quarter shall be due and payable on that same date as the statement for the calendar quarter is due.

C. Upon cessation of a cannabis business, tax statements and payments shall be immediately due for all calendar quarters up to the calendar quarter during which cessation occurred.

D. The Tax Administrator may, at his or her discretion, establish shorter report and payment periods for any taxpayer as the Tax Administrator deems necessary to ensure collection of the tax. The Tax Administrator may also require that a deposit, to be applied against the taxes for a calendar quarter, be made by a taxpayer at the beginning of that calendar quarter. In no event shall the deposit required by the Tax Administrator exceed the tax amount he or she projects will be owed by the taxpayer for the calendar quarter. The Tax Administrator may require that a taxpayer make payments via a cashier's check, money order, wire transfer, or similar instrument.

E. For purposes of this section, the square feet of canopy space for a business shall be rebuttably presumed to be no less than the maximum square footage of canopy allowed by the business's City permit for commercial cannabis cultivation, or, in the absence of a City permit, the square footage shall be the maximum square footage of canopy for commercial cannabis cultivation allowed by the state license type. In no case shall canopy square footage which is authorized by the permit or license but not utilized for cultivation be excluded from taxation unless the Tax Administrator is informed in writing, prior to the period for which the space will not be used, that such space will not be used.

3-21.07 Payments and communications – timely remittance.

Whenever any payment, statement, report, request or other communication is due, it must be received by the Tax Administrator on or before the final due date. A postmark will not be accepted as timely remittance. If the due date would fall on a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, the due date shall be the next regular business day on which the City is open to the public.

3-21.08 Payment - when taxes deemed delinquent.

Unless otherwise specifically provided under other provisions of this Chapter, the taxes required to be paid pursuant to this Chapter shall be deemed delinquent if not received by the Tax Administrator on or before the due date as specified in Sections 3-21.06 and 3-21.07.

3-21.09 Notice not required by the City.

The City may as a courtesy send a tax notice to the business. However, the Tax Administrator is not required to send a delinquency or other notice or bill to any person subject to the provisions of this Chapter. Failure to send such notice or bill shall not affect the validity of any tax or penalty due under the provisions of this Chapter.

3-21.10 Penalties and interest.

A. Any person who fails or refuses to pay any cannabis business tax required to be paid pursuant to this Chapter on or before the due date shall pay penalties and interest as follows:

1. A penalty equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount of the tax, in addition to the amount of the tax, plus interest on the unpaid tax calculated from the due date of the tax at the rate of one percent (1.0%) per month.

2. If the tax remains unpaid for a period exceeding one calendar month beyond the due date, an additional penalty equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount of the tax, plus interest at the rate of one percent (1.0%) per month on the unpaid tax and on the unpaid penalties.

3. Interest shall be applied at the rate of one percent (1.0%) per month on the first day of the month for the full month and will continue to accrue monthly on the tax and penalty until the balance is paid in full.

B. Whenever a check or electronic payment is submitted in payment of a cannabis business tax and the payment is subsequently returned unpaid by the bank for any reason, the taxpayer will be liable for the tax amount due plus any fees, penalties and interest as provided for in this Section, and any other amount allowed under state law.

3-21.11 Refunds and credits.

A. No refund shall be made of any tax collected pursuant to this Chapter, except as provided in Section 3-21.12.

B. No refund of any tax collected pursuant to this Chapter shall be made because of the discontinuation, dissolution, or other termination of a business.

3-21.12 Refunds and procedures.

A. Whenever the amount of any cannabis business tax, penalty or interest has been overpaid, paid more than once, or has been erroneously collected or received by the City under this Chapter, it may be refunded to the claimant who paid the tax provided that a written claim for refund is filed with the Tax Administrator within one (1) year of the date the tax was originally due and payable.

B. The Tax Administrator, his or her designee or any other City officer charged with the administration of this Chapter shall have the right to examine and audit all the books and business records of the claimant in order to determine the eligibility of the claimant to the claimed refund. No claim for refund shall be allowed if the claimant refuses to allow such examination of claimant's books and business records after request by the Tax Administrator to do so.

C. In the event that the cannabis business tax was erroneously paid, and the error is attributable to the City, the City shall refund the amount of tax erroneously paid up to one (1) year from when the error was identified.

3-21.13 Personal Cultivation Not Taxed.

The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to personal cannabis cultivation as defined in the "Medicinal and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act". This Chapter shall not apply to personal use of cannabis that is specifically exempted from state licensing requirements, that meets the definition of personal use or equivalent terminology under state law, and for which the individual receives no compensation whatsoever related to that personal use.

3-21.14 Administration of the tax.

A. It shall be the duty of the Tax Administrator to collect the taxes, penalties, fees, and perform the duties required by this Chapter.

B. For purposes of administration and enforcement of this Chapter generally, the Tax Administrator may from time to time promulgate such administrative interpretations, rules, and procedures consistent with the purpose, intent, and express terms of this Chapter as he or she deems necessary to implement or clarify such provisions or aid in enforcement.

C. The Tax Administrator may take such administrative actions as needed to administer the tax, including but not limited to:

1. Provide to all cannabis business taxpayers forms for the reporting of the tax;
2. Provide information to any taxpayer concerning the provisions of this Chapter;
3. Receive and record all taxes remitted to the City as provided in this Chapter;
4. Maintain records of taxpayer reports and taxes collected pursuant to this Chapter;

5. Assess penalties and interest to taxpayers pursuant to this Chapter;
6. Determine amounts owed and enforce collection pursuant to this Chapter.

3-21.15 Appeal procedure.

Any taxpayer aggrieved by any decision of the Tax Administrator with respect to the amount of tax, interest, penalties and fees, if any, due under this Chapter may appeal to the City Council by filing a notice of appeal with the City Clerk within thirty (30) days of the serving or mailing of the determination of tax due. The City Clerk, or his or her designee, shall fix a time and place for hearing such appeal, and the City Clerk, or his or her designee, shall give notice in writing to such operator at the last known place of address. The finding of the City Council shall be final and conclusive and shall be served upon the appellant in the manner prescribed by this Chapter for service of notice of hearing. Any amount found to be due shall be immediately due and payable upon the service of the notice.

3-21.16 Enforcement - action to collect.

Any taxes, penalties and/or fees required to be paid under the provisions of this Chapter shall be deemed a debt owed to the City. Any person owing money to the City under the provisions of this Chapter shall be liable in an action brought in the name of the City for the recovery of such debt. The provisions of this Section shall not be deemed a limitation upon the right of the City to bring any other action including criminal, civil and equitable actions, based upon the failure to pay the tax, penalties and/or fees imposed by this Chapter or the failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Chapter.

3-21.17 Apportionment.

If a business subject to the tax is operating both within and outside the City, it is the intent of the City to apply the cannabis business tax so that the measure of the tax fairly reflects the proportion of the taxed activity actually carried on in the City. To the extent federal or state law requires that any tax due from any taxpayer be apportioned, the taxpayer may indicate said apportionment on his or her tax return. The Tax Administrator may promulgate administrative procedures for apportionment as he or she finds useful or necessary.

3-21.18 Constitutionality and legality.

This tax is intended to be applied in a manner consistent with the United States and California Constitutions and state law. None of the tax provided for by this Chapter shall be applied in a manner that causes an undue burden upon interstate commerce, a violation of the equal protection or due process clauses of

the Constitutions of the United States or the State of California or a violation of any other provision of the California Constitution or state law. If a person believes that the tax, as applied to him or her, is impermissible under applicable law, he or she may request that the Tax Administrator release him or her from the obligation to pay the impermissible portion of the tax.

3-21.19 Audit and examination of premises and records.

A. For the purpose of ascertaining the amount of cannabis business tax owed or verifying any representations made by any taxpayer to the City in support of his or her tax calculation, the Tax Administrator shall have the power to inspect any location where commercial cannabis cultivation occurs and to audit and examine all books and records (including, but not limited to bookkeeping records, state and federal income tax returns, and other records relating to the gross receipts of the business) of persons engaged in cannabis businesses. In conducting such investigation, the tax administrator shall have the power to inspect any equipment, such as computers or point of sale machines, that may contain such records.

B. It shall be the duty of every person liable for the collection and payment to the City of any tax imposed by this Chapter to keep and preserve, for a period of at least three (3) years, all records as may be necessary to determine the amount of such tax as he or she may have been liable for the collection of and payment to the City, which records the Tax Administrator or his/her designee shall have the right to inspect at all reasonable times.

3-21.20 Other licenses, permits, taxes, fees or charges.

A. Nothing contained in this Chapter shall be deemed to repeal, amend, be in lieu of, replace or in any way affect any requirements for any permit or license required by, under or by virtue of any provision of any other Chapter of this code or any other ordinance or resolution of the City, nor be deemed to repeal, amend, be in lieu of, replace or in any way affect any tax, fee or other charge imposed, assessed or required by, under or by virtue of any other Chapter of this code or any other ordinance or resolution of the City. Any references made or contained in any other Chapter of this code to any licenses, license taxes, fees, or charges, or to any schedule of license fees, shall be deemed to refer to the licenses, license taxes, fees or charges, or schedule of license fees, provided for in other Chapter of this Code.

B. Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this Section a cannabis business shall not be required to pay the license fee required by Chapter 3-1 of Title 3 of this Code so long as all of business's activities within the City that would require payment of a license fee are activities subject to the cannabis business tax.

C. The Tax Administrator may revoke or refuse to renew the license required by Chapter 3-1 of this Code for any business that is delinquent in the payment of any tax due pursuant to this Chapter or that fails to make a deposit required by the tax administrator pursuant to Section 3-21.060.

3-21.21 Payment of tax does not authorize unlawful business.

A. The payment of a cannabis business tax required by this Chapter, and its acceptance by the City, shall not entitle any person to carry on any cannabis business unless the person has complied with all of the requirements of this Code and all other applicable state laws.

B. No tax paid under the provisions of this Chapter shall be construed as authorizing the conduct or continuance of any illegal or unlawful business, or any business in violation of any local or state law.

3-21.22 Deficiency determinations.

If the Tax Administrator is not satisfied that any statement filed as required under the provisions of this Chapter is correct, or that the amount of tax is correctly computed, he or she may compute and determine the amount to be paid and make a deficiency determination upon the basis of the facts contained in the statement or upon the basis of any information in his or her possession or that may come into his or her possession within three (3) years of the date the tax was originally due and payable. One or more deficiency determinations of the amount of tax due for a period or periods may be made. When a person discontinues engaging in a business, a deficiency determination may be made at any time within three (3) years thereafter as to any liability arising from engaging in such business whether or not a deficiency determination is issued prior to the date the tax would otherwise be due. Whenever a deficiency determination is made, a notice shall be given to the person concerned in the same manner as notices of assessment are given under Section 3-21.24.

3-21.23 Failure to report, nonpayment, or fraud.

A. Under any of the following circumstances, the Tax Administrator may make and give notice of an assessment of the amount of tax owed by a person under this Chapter at any time:

1. If the person has not filed a complete statement required under the provisions of this Chapter;
2. If the person has not paid the tax due under the provisions of this Chapter;

3. If the person has not, after demand by the Tax Administrator, filed a corrected statement, or furnished to the Tax Administrator adequate substantiation of the information contained in a statement already filed, or paid any additional amount of tax due under the provisions of this Chapter; or

4. If the Tax Administrator determines that the nonpayment of any business tax due under this Chapter is due to fraud, a penalty of twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount of the tax shall be added thereto in addition to penalties and interest otherwise stated in this Chapter and any other penalties allowed by law.

B. The notice of assessment shall separately set forth the amount of any tax known by the Tax Administrator to be due or estimated by the Tax Administrator, after consideration of all information within the Tax Administrator's knowledge concerning the business and activities of the person assessed, to be due under each applicable section of this Chapter, and shall include the amount of any penalties or interest accrued on each amount to the date of the notice of assessment.

3-21.24 Tax assessment - notice requirements.

The notice of assessment shall be served upon the person either by personal delivery, or by a deposit of the notice in the United States mail, postage prepaid thereon, addressed to the person at the address of the location of the business or to such other address as he or she shall register with the Tax Administrator for the purpose of receiving notices provided under this Chapter; or, should the person have no address registered with the Tax Administrator for such purpose, then to such person's last known address. For the purposes of this Section, a service by mail is complete at the time of deposit in the United States mail.

3-21.25 Tax assessment - hearing, application and determination.

Within thirty (30) days after the date of service the person may apply in writing to the Tax Administrator for a hearing on the assessment. If application for a hearing before the City is not made within the time herein prescribed, the tax assessed by the Tax Administrator shall become final and conclusive. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of any such application for hearing, the Tax Administrator shall cause the matter to be set for hearing before him or her no later than sixty (60) days after the receipt of the application, unless a later date is agreed to by the Tax Administrator and the person requesting the hearing. Notice of such hearing shall be given by the Tax Administrator to the person requesting such hearing not later than five (5) days prior to such hearing. At such hearing said applicant may appear and offer evidence why the assessment as made by the Tax Administrator should not be confirmed and fixed as the tax

due. After such hearing the Tax Administrator shall determine and reassess the proper tax to be charged and shall give written notice to the person in the manner prescribed in Section 3-21.24 for giving notice of assessment.

3-21.26 Relief from taxes -disaster relief.

(a) If a business is unable to comply with any tax requirement due to a disaster, the business may notify the Tax Administrator of this inability to comply and request relief from the tax requirement;

(b) The Tax Administrator, in its sole discretion, may provide relief from the cannabis business tax requirement for businesses whose operations have been impacted by a disaster of such tax liability does not exceed five thousand (\$5,000) dollars. If such tax liability is five thousand one (\$5,001) dollars or more than such relief shall only be approved by the City Council;

(c) Temporary relief from the cannabis tax may be relieved for a reasonable amount of time as determined by the Tax Administrator in order to allow the cannabis business time to recover from the disaster;

(d) The Tax Administrator may require that certain conditions be followed in order for a cannabis business to receive temporary relief from the cannabis business tax requirement;

(e) A cannabis business shall not be subject to an enforcement action for a violation of a cannabis business requirement in which the licensee has received temporary relief from the tax administrator;

(f) For purposes of this section, "disaster" means fire, flood, storm, tidal wave, earthquake, or similar public calamity, whether or not resulting from natural causes.

(1) The cannabis business must notify the Tax Administrator in writing a request for temporary relief from imposition of the tax requirement pursuant to subsection (a) of this section of such disaster clearly indicates why relief is requested from, the time period for which the relief is requested, and the reasons relief is needed for the specified amount of time;

(2) The cannabis business agrees to grant the tax collector or his/her designee access to the location where the cannabis business has been impacted due to a disaster.

3-21.27 Conviction for violation - taxes not waived.

The conviction and punishment of any person for failure to pay the required tax shall not excuse or exempt such person from any civil action for the tax debt unpaid at the time of such conviction. No civil action shall prevent a criminal prosecution for any violation of the provisions of this Chapter or of any state law requiring the payment of all taxes.

3-21.28 Violation deemed misdemeanor.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this Chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

3-21.29 Remedies cumulative.

All remedies and penalties prescribed by this Chapter or which are available under any other provision of the Thousand Oaks Municipal Code and any other provision of law or equity are cumulative. The use of one or more remedies by the City shall not bar the use of any other remedy for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Chapter.

3-21.30 Amendment or repeal.

This Chapter may be repealed or amended by the City Council without a vote of the people to the extent allowed by law. However, as required by Article XIII C of the California Constitution, voter approval is required for any amendment that would increase the rate of any tax levied pursuant to this Chapter. The people of the City of Thousand Oaks affirm that the following actions shall not constitute an increase of the rate of a tax:

- A. The restoration of the rate of the tax to a rate that is no higher than that set by this Chapter, if the City Council has acted to reduce the rate of the tax;
- B. An action that interprets or clarifies the methodology of the tax, or any definition applicable to the tax, so long as interpretation or clarification (even if contrary to some prior interpretation or clarification) is not inconsistent with the language of this Chapter; or
- C. The collection of the tax imposed by this Chapter even if the City had, for some period of time, failed to collect the tax.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.