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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2016 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time

RE: Article from today's *Portland Press Herald*

Graham, Gillian, August 1, 2016, **Medical marijuana caregivers face restrictions in Saco**

Councilors are considering the state's first ban on in-home growing of pot for patients, but it may violate state law and would be hard to enforce, *Portland Press Herald*

Retrieved From: <http://www.pressherald.com/2016/08/01/medical-marijuana-caregivers-face-restrictions-in-saco/>

Response and Clarification

Our goal in proposing medical marijuana zoning regulations in Saco is to regulate the future growing of commercial medical marijuana growing businesses. In no way will these new zoning amendments, should they be approved, affect previously established commercial medical marijuana caregivers or individuals growing for non-commercial purposes. We define "commercial businesses" as being operated by individuals with a license to grow marijuana, not those who grow only for themselves or for immediate family members.

The City of Saco is very sensitive to the concerns of medical marijuana caregivers and patients. However, the City feels that it is both helpful and appropriate to clarify where new applications for commercial caregivers may be located within the City. We have proposed that such businesses be located in one of our industrial zones to alleviate logistical and safety concerns for the entire City. The amount of electricity required, the odor often associated with growing of medical marijuana, as well as frequent monetary exchanges are factors that make the placement of such businesses within one of our industrial zones appropriate for commercial growing facilities. In developing this zoning plan, the City of Saco has sought input from various caregivers and developers as well as the City's legal counsel. Should the proposed zoning clarifications related to the placement of new medical marijuana businesses in Saco be approved by the Planning Board and City Council; City officials believe that they will serve both the interests of caregivers and all the City's residents.