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By [Ed Donga](#)

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Brockton pot business met with caution

City officials believe they have established the necessary safeguards for the operation.

BROCKTON - Mayor Bill Carpenter is going to "proceed with caution." Ward 3 Councilor Dennis Eaniri is "confident." Councilor-at-large Robert Sullivan said he feels that residents' interests have been "protected." The subject? A medical marijuana dispensary that is slated to open at 1200 West Chestnut St. after the nonprofit organization In Good Health Inc. received a provisional license from the state's Department of Public Health to operate the facility. "The bottom line is I didn't support it. I'm not crazy about it, but it's the law," said Carpenter. In November 2012, Massachusetts voters approved a ballot measure that legalized medical marijuana; however, the DPH announced the recipients of the first batch of dispensary licenses two weeks ago. While Carpenter still has not met with David Noble, In Good Health's president and CEO, the mayor said he is interested in hearing about the nonprofit's plan and even voiced some support for the venture. "If it's a legal business and it's going to bring some tax revenue and water sales into the city, I'm going to support it. But at the same time, I'm going to make sure that it's done properly," Carpenter said. When asked about the dispensary, interim Police Chief Robert Hayden said he did

not have an opinion on the matter yet and he needs to look into the facility's proposed policies and security procedures. However, Hayden added that he could see both sides of the issue with marijuana being used as a medicine to ease suffering and as a substance with a reputation as a gateway drug. For its part, the City Council was proactive in trying to regulate the marijuana dispensary's location by passing an ordinance that zoned an overlay district specifically for dispensaries. "We spent a lot of time and a lot of effort on it," said Sullivan. "All the safeguards will be in place." The ordinance, which limits dispensaries to a commercial/industrial neighborhood in Ward 3, also stipulates that the dispensary must be 250 feet from any residential zone, 500 feet from any public or private school, 500 feet from any Brockton park or conservation land and 500 feet from any boys and girls club or children-oriented activity establishment. Signs or ornamentation that promotes or indicates the nature of the business other than the name are also prohibited. "Probably at this point, it's the best place for it to be within the city," said Eaniri, who added that if the council had not zoned for medical marijuana, the decision would have been left up to the DPH. Eaniri added that safety is his main concern for his ward's newest business, but expressed optimism about its future. "I think it's going to be interesting to see what type of business is going to flourish over these next few years," Eaniri said. Edward Donga may be reached at edonga@enterpriseneews.com.



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Brockton's pot dispensary would be located at 1200 West Chesnut St.

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