

## **“Moving Ahead with Marijuana” Event for Municipalities Slated December 18**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 12, 2018

BOSTON— In partnership with the Social Law Library and in collaboration with the Massachusetts Municipal Association, the Cannabis Control Commission invites local leaders and the public to attend “Moving Ahead with Marijuana: Municipal Perspectives from Marijuana-Forward Communities” on Tuesday, December 18.

City and town officials from communities that have decided to move ahead with hosting marijuana establishments will discuss lessons learned from developing zoning, bylaws, ordinances, and other local administrative structures for the adult-use cannabis industry in Massachusetts. Those who are thinking about incorporating marijuana establishments into their municipalities will hear directly from colleagues at the municipal level about their processes, considerations, challenges, and successes.

“This forum was put together to provide an opportunity for municipalities, regardless of where they are in the process, to hear and learn from peers in cities and towns that have already gone down the path of allowing marijuana establishments,” said Commissioner Britte McBride. “It is intended to promote a balanced dialogue about issues and choices facing municipalities and highlight models already at work in some communities. And, as stores open, moratoria expire and communities look ahead to 2019, it is a timely conversation.”

**When:** Tuesday, December 18, 2018, 1-4 p.m.

**Where:** Social Law Library, Adams Courthouse, 1 Pemberton Square, 4th floor, Boston

Attendees are advised to leave adequate time to proceed through security at the public entrance to the Adams Courthouse at 1 Pemberton Square. Discounted parking at a rate of \$25.00 will be available to attendees at the Government Center Garage (50 Sudbury Street, Boston) through the Social Law Library.

### **Panel 1: A Conversation with Municipal Leaders, 1-2:30 p.m.**

- Moderator: Geoff Beckwith, Executive Director and CEO, Massachusetts Municipal Association
- Mayor David Narkewicz, Town of Northampton
- Mayor Alex B. Morse, City of Holyoke
- Thomas Moses, Executive Assistant, Town of Hudson
- Edward Abrahams, Vice-Chair, Board of Selectmen, Town of Barrington
- Thatcher Kezer, Chief Operating Officer, City of Framingham

### **Panel 2: Specific Issues: Social Equity, Economic Development, Public Health, and Other Considerations, 2:30-4 p.m.**

- Moderator: Shawn Collins, Executive Director, Cannabis Control Commission
- Geoff Kravitz, Esq., Director of Economic Development, Town of Amherst
- Marcos Marrero, Director of Planning and Economic Development, City of Holyoke
- Sam Wong, Director of Public Health, City of Framingham
- George Proakis, Executive Director of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville
- J. Raymond Miyares, Municipal Counsel, Miyares & Harrington LLP
- Michael Dundas, Chief Executive Officer, Sira Naturals, Inc.

Both panels are free and open to the public but [event registration](#) is required and capacity is limited. Light refreshments will be provided.

###