

ORDINANCE NO.: 2026- 12

INTRODUCED BY: GERALD CAUTON

FIRST READING February 5, 2026

SECOND READING FEBRUARY 7, 2026

THIRD READING FEBRUARY 17, 2026

ORDINANCE ADOPTING A NEW MORATORIUM ON THE REVIEWING, ISSUING, AND PROCESSING OF ANY PERMITS RELATING TO RETAIL DISPENSARIES, CULTIVATORS, OR PROCESSORS OF ADULT USE CANNABIS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH RUSSELL FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2023, Ohio voters passed Issue 2 to enact Chapter 3780 of the Ohio Revised Code, effective December 7, 2023, which legalized and provided for the regulation of “adult use cannabis” as defined in Section 3780.01 of the Revised Code, including cultivation, processing, sale, purchase, possession, and home growth; and

WHEREAS, Section 3780.25 of the Ohio Revised Code gives this Council the authority to adopt an ordinance to prohibit, or limit the number of, adult use cannabis operators licensed under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3780 of the Revised Code within the Village; and

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 2024-05, council adopted a moratorium on the reviewing, issuing and processing of any permits relating to retail dispensaries, cultivators, or processors of adult use cannabis within the Village of South Russell for a period of 12 months and then renewed that moratorium for another period of 12 months by Ordinance No. 2025-05; and

WHEREAS, the moratorium established by Ordinance No. 2025-05 expired on January 13, 2026; and

WHEREAS, this Council has determined that the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare is preserved by establishing a moratorium on the reviewing, issuing and processing of any permits relating to retail dispensaries, cultivators, or processors of adult use cannabis within the Village of South Russell for a new period of twelve (12) months; and

WHEREAS, this Council has further determined that additional time is needed to review the applicable sections of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3780 and any amendments from the Ohio legislature that may go into effect, as well as the Village’s Codified Ordinances, and to plan for and formulate a response to recreational adult use of cannabis within the Village of South Russell.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of South Russell, Geauga County, Ohio that:

SECTION 1. The Council hereby establishes a moratorium on the reviewing, issuing, and processing of any permits relating to retail dispensaries, cultivators, or processors of adult use cannabis within the Village of South Russell for a new period of twelve (12) months from the from the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. The purpose of this moratorium is to allow the Village to consider amendments to the Village's Codified Ordinances to prepare regulations which may be necessary, and to determine where and whether to allow, limit or prohibit cultivators, processors, and retail dispensaries in the Village of South Russell.

SECTION 3. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees on or after December 2, 1975, that resulted in formal actions, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22, Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health and safety of the inhabitants of the Village and for the further reason to enable the Village more time to fully study the impacts of Chapter 3780 of the Ohio Revised Code and its effect on the Village and the health, safety and general welfare of its inhabitants; wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of all members elected to Council, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its passage by this Council.

his Council.

Mayor – Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Danielle Romanowski

Fiscal Officer

I certify that Ordinance No. 2026-12 was duly enacted on the 17th day of FEBRUARY, 2026, by the Council of the Village of South Russell, and published in accordance with the Codified Ordinances of the Village.

Danielle Romanowski
Fiscal Officer