



Mayor Joshua Garcia

Office of Planning & Economic Development

City of Holyoke

Aaron Vega, Director

November 18, 2022

Holyoke City Council
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040
Attention: Councilor Israel Rivera

Councilor Rivera, thank you for your order in regards to utilizing cannabis Impact Fees to address infrastructure repairs.

Item 5: 10-18-22 RIVERA_I -- That the city explore using cannabis impact fee funds to improve sidewalks on the following streets: Main Street, North Bridge St., Lyman Street, and Center St.

I regret that I cannot attend the Public Safety Committee meeting but wanted to say that using Cannabis Impact fee for this use would be allowed by current Impact Fee guidelines. The specific locations of these improvements would be key to approval. I think working with our City Engineer on the scope of work would be a good first step.

OPED has developed a process for using impact fees starting with an application - <https://www.holyoke.org/impact-fee/>, then a review by the Citizens Cannabis Review Committee, a meeting with the Mayor and Auditor, and finally an order to the City Council. The City Council process to allocate these funds would be through the finance committee and then the full council.

If you have additional questions, I can make myself available to discuss. Lastly, I wanted to let you know that we continue to work with the stakeholders on the utilization of these funds and to ensure we are keeping in line with the intent of these funds to address the impacts of this new industry in Holyoke.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Vega,
Director of Planning and Economic Development.