

Ancel Glink Today

Your Authority on Local Government Law

Fire and Vice Edition

Governor Issues Marijuana Licenses

In a surprise move, Governor Rauner recently issued 71 licenses for medical cannabis facilities across the state. Before the announcement, it was unclear whether Rauner would issue any licenses. Rauner had repeatedly criticized Illinois' medical cannabis law while campaigning and after taking office. Nevertheless, Rauner's decision is welcome news to those communities that adopted cannabis zoning regulations and worked with cannabis businesses to secure zoning approval. License recipients must now pay the required state license fees and work with Illinois officials to implement their business plans. Local authorities can also expect to begin working with licensees to secure all necessary local permits and occupancy certificates. A full list of the 18 cannabis farms and 53 cannabis retailers that received licenses is available below.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

It's 5 O'clock Somewhere? School Cannot Fire Drunk Teacher

Bad Teacher was a 2011 movie chronicling the misadventures of a Chicago-area educator that loved to imbibe. Although the teacher's hijinks were fictitious, it appears that the film may not have completely missed the mark. An Illinois appellate court recently reversed Chicago Public Schools' decision to fire a teacher for being drunk on the job. CPS terminated the teacher for violating its alcohol free workplace policy after a breathalyzer test revealed that her blood alcohol content was 0.053 at 11:30 a.m. on a Thursday. The appellate court found that CPS' decision was arbitrary because a BAC test alone was not sufficient to establish that the teacher was under the influence. This unexpected decision appears to suggest that an employer may not base disciplinary action on a BAC test alone. Employers should also consider documenting additional evidence of impairment.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

Fire Protection District Owes \$2.1 Million in Attorneys' Fees

A federal court recently ordered the Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District to pay several fire alarm companies \$2.1 million in attorneys' fees. The alarm companies incurred the fees challenging a district ordinance that required alarm companies to transmit their emergency signals to the district's fire stations instead of the alarm companies' facilities. The fee award concludes a half decade of litigation that also resulted in the court striking down the district's ordinance. This case is a reminder of the need to carefully consider regulations before adopting them and the excessive costs associated with defending against lawsuits that challenge those regulations.

For more information, click [HERE](#).



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4849-5843-9970, v. 1