

**TOWN OF SEVERANCE, COLORADO  
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-09**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE SEVERANCE TOWN COUNCIL  
IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE SUBMISSION,  
ACCEPTANCE, PROCESSING, AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR AND/OR  
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATURAL MEDICINE HEALING CENTERS AND  
BUSINESSES WITHIN TOWN LIMITS**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Severance, Colorado (Town) is duly organized and validly exists as a Home Rule Town under Article XX, Section 6 of the Colorado Constitution and the Town's Home Rule Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to C.R.S. § 31-15-401, the Town possesses the authority to adopt laws and ordinances within its police power in furtherance of the public health, safety, and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, C.R.S. § 31-16-105 and the Severance Home Rule Charter § 6.04 authorize the Town to enact and publish emergency ordinances; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado voters adopted citizen initiated Proposition 122, which amended Title 12 of the Colorado Revised Statutes to include Article 170, now designated as the "Natural Medicine Health Act of 2022" (NMHA); and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado Natural Medicine Code (Regulatory Act), codified in C.R.S. §§ 44-50-101 through 904 authorizes Town Council to enact ordinances regulating the time, place, and manner of the operation of licenses issued pursuant to the Regulatory Act; and

**WHEREAS**, C.R.S. §§ 12-170-115 and 44-50-104 establish that the Town shall not adopt, enact, or enforce any ordinance, rule, regulation, or resolution that is otherwise in conflict with the provisions of the NMHA or the Regulatory Act.; and

**WHEREAS**, C.R.S. §§ 12-170-104(12)(a)(I)-(II) and 44-50-103(13)(a)(I)-(II) establish that the term "natural medicine" currently applies to psilocybin and psilocin; in the event the substances to which the term "natural medicine" applies is expanded this temporary moratorium shall apply thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, C.R.S. §§ 12-170-104(8) and 44-50-103(6) define "healing center" as a facility licensed by the state licensing authority that permits a facilitator to provide and supervise natural medicine services for a participant; and

**WHEREAS**, C.R.S. § 44-50-103(14) defines "natural medicine business" as "a natural medicine healing center, a natural medicine cultivation facility, a natural medicine products manufacturer, a natural medicine testing facility, or another licensed entity created by the state licensing authority;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Town's Municipal Code (Code) contains Land Use and Development standards enacted to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents of the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Town's current Land Use and Development standards, the operation of natural medicine healing centers and natural medicine businesses are not permitted land uses and the Town has not approved any such land use; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town does not currently have any zoning regulations addressing natural medicine healing centers and natural medicine businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, DORA and CDOR have now issued regulations pertaining to the NMHA and the Regulatory Act and the Town requires an appropriate amount of time to thoroughly review such regulations to determine what, if any, additional local regulations can and/or need to be adopted by the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town requires additional time to prepare and propose for adoption any and all local regulations deemed necessary within its authority including, but not limited to, time, place, and manner of operation regulations for natural medicine healing centers and natural medicine businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the six (6) month temporary moratorium imposed by this Ordinance is intended to prevent the establishment and operation of natural medicine healing centers and natural medicine businesses in the Town on a temporary basis in order to allow the Town to analyze and apply the state of the law and regulations, to draft appropriate local ordinances, and to allow public comment prior to adoption of any such ordinance; to ensure that prospective operators and owners of natural medicine healing centers and natural medicine businesses are able to make business and investment decisions with sufficient knowledge of local ordinances surrounding natural medicine; and in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the six (6) month temporary moratorium imposed by this Ordinance also prevents the submission, acceptance, processing, and approval of applications for the establishment of a natural medicine healing center or natural medicine business in the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town finds and determines that this Temporary Moratorium is necessary for the immediate preservation of public health, safety, and welfare and this Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption as authorized by C.R.S. § 31-16-105 and the Severance Home Rule Charter § 6.04.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SEVERANCE, COLORADO:**

**Section 1.** The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein as conclusions, facts, determinations, and findings by the Town Council.

**Section 2.** Temporary Moratorium.

- (a) Restrictions. During the effective term of this Ordinance, there shall be no establishment or operation of natural medicine healing centers and natural medicine businesses in the Town nor shall the submission, acceptance, processing, or approval of applications for the establishment or operation of a natural medicine healing center or natural medicine business be permitted in the Town. For purposes of this Temporary Moratorium, the terms natural medicine, natural medicine healing center, natural medicine business, and the like are as defined by Colorado Revised Statutes and any applicable and authorized regulations.
- (b) Termination. This moratorium shall terminate on the day of 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025 unless it is terminated at an earlier date or extended by further Ordinance by the Severance Town Council.

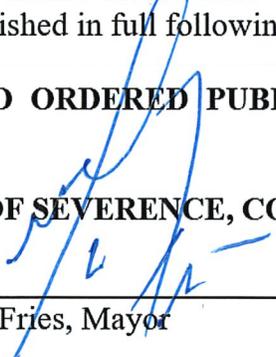
**Section 3.** Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and the invalidity of any section, phrase, clause, or portion of the Ordinance as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the ordinance.

**Section 4.** Emergency Declaration. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 31-16-105 and the Severance Home Rule Charter § 6.04, the Town Council hereby finds, determines, and declares that an emergency exists and that this Ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare of the Town because an analysis must be conducted on the impact on Town residents, property owners, workforce, visitors, and customers concerning the state law and regulations concerning Natural Medicine and the manner in which it should be regulated in the Town as permitted by law and any local ordinance surrounding the same must be clear and consistently applied among all residents and property owners without any gaps in enforcement or implementation and, therefore, this Ordinance must be passed as an Emergency Ordinance.

**Section 5.** In accordance with Section 6.04(3) of the Severance Home Rule Charter, this Ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and shall be published in full following adoption.

**INTRODUCED, READ, ADOPTED, APPROVED, AND ORDERED PUBLISHED IN FULL THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.**

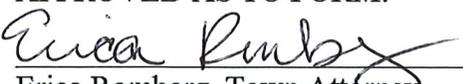
**TOWN OF SEVERENCE, COLORADO**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Fries, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Jacobsen, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Erica Romberg, Town Attorney

