

**TOWN OF SEVERANCE, COLORADO
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-21**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE SEVERANCE TOWN COUNCIL
EXTENDING THE 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, 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 Natural Medicine Health Act or the Natural Medicine Code 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, on March 11, 2025, Town Council adopted Ordinance No. 2025-09 which imposed a temporary moratorium on the submission, acceptance, processing, and approval of applications for the establishment of a business that cultivates, processes, or dispenses natural

medicine and the establishment of any business, occupation, or operation for healing centers in the Town of Severance, Colorado (“Temporary Moratorium”); and

WHEREAS, the Temporary Moratorium set forth in Ordinance No. 2025-09 expires on September 11, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council held a Work Session regarding local regulation of natural medicine on July 8, 2025, during which it provided policy guidance to the Town Attorney’s Office regarding local regulation of natural medicine; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to Town Council regarding the proposed Ordinance re: Natural Medicine following its August 20, 2025, Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Town Council will hold a Public Hearing regarding the proposed Natural Medicine Ordinance on September 9, 2025 and if a Natural Medicine Ordinance is adopted on that date, it will not go into effect until October 9, 2025, which is after the date the Temporary Moratorium is set to expire; and

WHEREAS, the Temporary Moratorium was imposed to prevent the operation of Natural Medicine and/or Healing Center businesses, facilities, and operations 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 an appropriate Ordinance pertaining to the same, and to allow public comment prior to adoption of any such Ordinance; to ensure that prospective operators and owners of Healing Centers and/or Natural Medicine businesses, facilities, and operations are able to make business and investment decisions with sufficient knowledge of local ordinances surrounding the same; and in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Town; and

WHEREAS, extending the Temporary Moratorium for the aforementioned reasons is both urgent and necessary to preserve the status quo in order to allow the Town the time and ability to engage in a thorough review and analysis of Natural Medicine law and its attendant regulations, to ensure appropriate time for public engagement regarding local regulation, and to preserve the status quo during such time to promote the public health, safety, and welfare by allowing a deliberate and well-reasoned decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, the Town finds that the ongoing review and analysis of the law, its attendant regulations, and development of time, manner, and place regulations related to Natural Medicine risks being significantly delayed or altered in scope should the Town accept land development and use applications for Natural Medicine and/or Healing Center businesses, facilities, and operations that materially change the physical, natural, and economic fabric of the Town prior to the time final decisions are made regarding the adoption of local regulations regarding the same; and

WHEREAS, the Town also finds and determines that this extension of the Temporary Moratorium is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare and that this Ordinance should therefore 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. Extension of Temporary Moratorium.

An extension of the Temporary Moratorium regarding natural medicine healing centers and natural medicine businesses set forth in Ordinance No. 2025-09 from September 11, 2025 to October 9, 2025 shall become effective immediately upon adoption of this Emergency Ordinance:

(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) Effective Date and Termination. This Temporary Moratorium shall be in effect immediately upon adoption and shall terminate on October 9, 2025 unless it is terminated at an earlier date or extended by further Ordinance by the Severance Town Council.

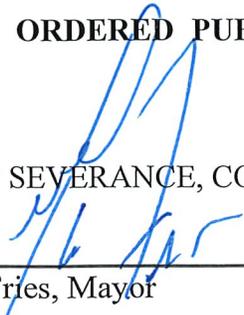
Section 3. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and the invalidity of any section, phrase, clause, or portion of the Ordinance as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the ordinance.

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.

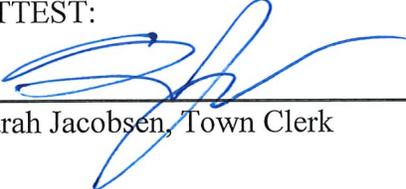
INTRODUCED, READ, ADOPTED, APPROVED, AND ORDERED PUBLISHED IN FULL THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

TOWN OF SEVERANCE, COLORADO



Matthew Fries, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Jacobsen, Town Clerk



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF COLORADO)
)
COUNTY OF WELD)

I, Sarah Jacobsen, Town Clerk for the Town of Severance, Colorado do solemnly swear and affirm that I published in full a true and correct copy of Emergency Ordinance No. 2025-21, enacted by the Town Council on September 9, 2025, on the Town of Severance’s website, <https://www.townofseverance.org/>, on the 12 day of September 2025.

Witness my hand and seal this 12 day of September 2025.



Sarah Jacobsen, Town Clerk

