No ordinary warehouse: Listing for Alum Creek-area space 'perfect' for prospective medical marijuana processor - Columbus - Columbus Business First

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Medical marijuana is legal in a variety of states across the U.S.

By Carrie Ghose Staff reporter, Columbus Business First Oct 26, 2017, 5:24pm

It could be just another ho-hum available warehouse bay in an industrial area of southeast Columbus. But this one is "perfect for processing of medical marijuana."

Location prohibitions in Ohio's medical marijuana program, combined with the number of municipalities banning the program for now, greatly narrows the

available real estate for those seeking state licenses to grow, process or sell cannabis. Draw 500-foot radii from the property lines of every school, church, public library, public playground, or public park in Columbus – not much is left.

Prospective licensees must have a deed or lease in hand before they submit the application, with dispensary hopefuls applying in early November and prospective processors up next in December. Ohio's law will allow only extracted cannabinoid products, not smoking of raw buds.

Several times a week agents use an email blast service of real estate data exchange Xceligent Inc. to seek available sites. This week, one of the wide-broadcast ads was offering one.

"The client has a great processing and distribution facility," says the email from NAI Ohio Equities. "(The) landlord is very supportive of the use and the location qualifies."

A client was ready to lease the site but decided to drop the application process, said Dan Sheeran Jr., the NAI agent listing the site.

Its online description is more vanilla. The 13,000-square-foot warehouse bay on Alum Industrial Drive South is close to the Alum Creek Drive exit off Interstate 70.

"Most of the processing sites want to be strategically located near freeways," he said.

It also has only one drive-up access door.

"Most users might not like that, but for security purposes it sets up very well," he said.

The bay is in a building owned by Columbus developer Arshot Investment Corp. I left a message seeking comment.

NAI also represented clients who sought Central Ohio cultivation sites – those applications are being scored – and is scouting for dispensaries.

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"I have got an entire file in my office devoted to nothing but this," Sheeran said.