

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BARRINGTON, RI
LEGALIZATION OF ADULT RECREATION USE MARIJUANA**

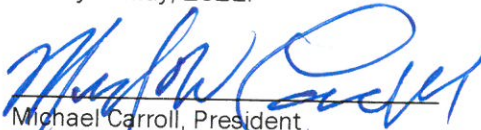
- WHEREAS, if Rhode Island legalizes recreational marijuana, our cities and towns will bear most of the direct burden to pay for and deal with implementation and public consequences; and
- WHEREAS, neighboring states, such as Massachusetts, have seen that retail stores often bring traffic and congestion, while local public safety will need to respond to emergency calls, complaints and other impacts including but not limited to nuisance properties; and
- WHEREAS, local governments must have sufficient operational control, oversight and resources in any legalization process; and
- WHEREAS, the Governor's proposal requires a special election by November 2021 if a community wants to opt-out; and
- WHEREAS, special elections are costly to administer, have historically low turnout and are highly influenced by special interests; and
- WHEREAS, all communities in Rhode Island, including those that opt-out, will still need to address public safety concerns; and
- WHEREAS, licensing retail establishments on a per capita basis, as recommended in the Senate proposal (S0568) could authorize over 250 retail establishments statewide, overwhelming all cities and towns; and
- WHEREAS, any state authority must ensure equitable geographic distribution of retail establishments so that some communities do not bear disproportionate impacts; and
- WHEREAS, any legalization proposal must seriously address public education on substance use disorders through community-based health initiatives, in addition to enhancing treatment, prevention, and surveillance capacity; and
- WHEREAS, any legalization proposal must seriously address concerns about the impact of impairment in the workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rhode Island General Assembly should adopt the following recommendations regarding the legalization of adult recreational use marijuana:

1. To properly support local obligations, cities and towns should directly receive a minimum of 3% local sales tax.
2. Cities and towns should be able to opt-out through their respective councils rather than through a ballot referendum.
3. Municipal safety grants and expanded temporary impact fees should extend beyond three months as proposed in the Governor's budget.
4. Any state licensing authority should set reasonable limits on the number and location of licensed establishments and ensure that all facilities comply with local zoning, public safety and other relevant requirements.
5. Funding should be included in the budget to increase public education on substance use disorders through community-based health initiatives.
6. Employer safeguards must be allowed to ensure a safe work environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Barrington supports the position taken by the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns that any legislation enacted by the Rhode Island General Assembly regarding the legalization of adult recreational use marijuana should maximize local control.

Passed as a resolution of the Barrington Town Council this 3rd day of May, 2021.


Michael Carroll, President
Barrington Town Council

ATTEST: 
Meredith DeSisto, Town Clerk