

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY CLERK TO SUBMIT TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF VINELAND, AT THE GENERAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 6, 2018, A NON-BINDING REFERENDUM ASCERTAINING PUBLIC SENTIMENT REGARDING MEDICINAL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION AND DISPENSARY SITES IN VINELAND.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 24:6I-1 et seq., cited as the “New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act,” establishes that modern medical research has discovered a beneficial use for marijuana in treating or alleviating the pain or other symptoms associated with certain debilitating medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the statutes provide for medical marijuana alternative treatment centers, approved by the State of New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, medical marijuana alternative treatment centers are authorized to acquire a reasonable initial and ongoing inventory, as determined by the NJ Department of Health and Human Services, of marijuana seeds or seedlings and paraphernalia, possess, cultivate, plant, grow, harvest, process, display, manufacture, deliver, transfer, transport, distribute, supply, sell, or dispense marijuana, or related supplies to qualifying patients or their primary caregivers who are registered with the NJ Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, Governor Philip Murphy executed Executive Order No. 6 which directs the Department of Health undertake a review of all aspects of New Jersey’s Compassionate Use medical Marijuana Act to include siting new dispensaries to adequately serve those residents who need treatment for debilitating medical conditions for which medical marijuana may be authorized; and

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2018 the Department of Health issued a summary which states that the State’s medical marijuana program is providing greater access to treatment for medical conditions including anxiety, migraines, Tourette’s syndrome, chronic pain related to musculoskeletal disorders and chronic visceral pain and that the number of patients receiving prescriptions for medical marijuana is growing; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health has found that studies have shown that medical marijuana has benefitted patients with chronic pain, cancer, HIV, Epilepsy, Multiple Sclerosis, IBD and Rheumatoid Arthritis, among many other conditions and more importantly, found that “studies have shown a strong correlation between the availability of medical marijuana and the reduction of opioid prescriptions, saving many from a lifetime of addiction and possible overdose death. Two studies in the journal of the American Medical Association showed a 6% decrease in opioid prescriptions in states with strong medical marijuana laws; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the findings of the Department of Health, it is apparent that the need for medical marijuana is growing far beyond the number of licensed facilities which supply the same and therefore has recommended additional licenses be created, two of which shall be located within the southern part of the state; and

WHEREAS, entities operating alternative treatment centers apply to obtain a permit from the NJ Department of Health and Human Services, and may be nonprofit or for-profit entities, and are thoroughly investigated during the application process, including background checks; and

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WHEREAS, physicians, patients and caregivers are strictly regulated and registered by the NJ Department of Health and Human Services to qualify for certification in a bona fide physician-patient relationship; and

WHEREAS, while the Governing Body accepts Executive Order No. 6 and the findings of the State of New Jersey Department of Health regarding the benefits of medical marijuana and the need associated with its use as prescribed by a licensed physician, the Governing Body wishes to ascertain the public sentiment regarding the location of such facilities in the City of Vineland.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Vineland that the Cumberland County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to submit to the voters of the City of Vineland at the General Election of November 6, 2018, the following non-binding public question:

SHALL THE CITY OF VINELAND PERMIT THE SITING OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION AND DISPENSARY ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT CENTERS WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES OF VINELAND?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the City of Vineland shall deliver to the Cumberland County Clerk a certified copy of this resolution.

Adopted:

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk