TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE

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RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE
LEGALIZATION OF ADULT RECREATION USE MARIJUANA

WHEREAS, if Rhode Island legalizes marijuana, our cities and towns will bear most of the direct burden to pay for and deal with implementation and public consequences; and

WHEREAS, as we have seen in Massachusetts, 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, our priority is to ensure that local governments have sufficient operational control, oversight and resources in any legalization process; and

WHEREAS, in order to properly support local obligations, cities and towns should directly receive a minimum of 3% local sales tax; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposal requires a special election by November 2021 if a community wants to opt out; and

WHEREAS, as special elections are costly to administer, have historically low turnout and are highly influenced by special interests; and

WHEREAS. cities and towns should be able to opt out through their respective councils rather than through a ballot referendum; and

WHEREAS, communities that opt out will still need to address public safety concerns, we support municipal safety grants and expanding temporary impact fees beyond three months as proposed in the Governor's budget; and

WHEREAS, we support the Governor's budget proposal to maintain a centralized licensing system through the Office of Cannabis Regulation and the Department of Business Regulation; and

WHEREAS, any legalization proposal must seriously address concerns about the impact of impairment in the workforce. The Governor's proposal contains additional employer safeguards, including but not limited to allowing employers to verify whether employees have medical marijuana licenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville supports the position taken by the 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 Burrillville Town Council this 28th day of April, 2021.

Donald A. Fox, President
Burrillville Town Council

ATTEST: Vicki F. Martin
Vicki F. Martin, Town Clerk