



**MODEL LOCAL RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGALIZING, TAXING AND REGULATING MARIJUANA FOR ADULTS**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey law currently makes possession by adults of small amounts of marijuana illegal; and

**WHEREAS**, someone is arrested for marijuana possession in New Jersey approximately every 22 minutes, totaling more than 24,000 possession arrests each year; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey spent more than an estimated one billion dollars in the last decade on enforcement of marijuana possession laws; and

**WHEREAS**, marijuana enforcement wastes resources of police, prosecutors, and courts that could be better spent on keeping [town/county] safe from serious crime; and

**WHEREAS**, Black people in New Jersey are arrested for marijuana possession at a rate nearly three times higher than White people, despite similar rates of marijuana use; and

**WHEREAS**, an arrest for a single marijuana cigarette in New Jersey can lead to up to six months in jail, loss of a job, a driver's license suspension, up to \$1,225 in fees and fines, immigration consequences, loss of student financial aid, and eviction; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the prohibition of marijuana and the approximately 800,000 marijuana possession arrests that occur in the United States each year, federal government data estimates 111 million Americans have tried marijuana and more than 30 million Americans use marijuana each year; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2014 the New Jersey State Municipal Prosecutors Association, whose members are primarily responsible for prosecuting marijuana possession arrests, voted to publicly support the legalization of marijuana, subject to reasonable regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the editorial boards of the New York Times, Star-Ledger, Times of Trenton, Daily Record, and Daily Targum have endorsed the legalization, taxation and regulation of marijuana; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey is projected to receive an estimated \$300 million dollars per year in new revenue from taxation of regulated marijuana sales; and

**WHEREAS**, tax revenue can be used to reinvest in our communities, schools, drug education and treatment programs, and re-entry and job training programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the marijuana trade currently thrives in an illegal market that creates unsafe and unregulated access points for people of all ages; and

**WHEREAS**, regulating marijuana in a state-controlled system will limit access to marijuana to adults aged 21 and over in licensed locations; and

**WHEREAS**, regulation will ensure strict controls over marijuana testing, advertising, labeling, and quality, preventing access to youth and controlling quality and potency; and

**WHEREAS**, driving under the influence of marijuana will remain illegal in New Jersey and regulating marijuana will not change that; and

**WHEREAS**, marijuana has been legalized, taxed, and regulated in Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, in addition to Washington, D.C.;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that [town/county] supports fair and effective criminal justice and drug policies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that [town/county] urges the New Jersey State Legislature to pass legislation and urges the Governor to sign legislation to legalize, tax, and regulate marijuana for adults; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded by the Municipal Clerk to the offices of Senator \_\_\_\_\_; [Assemblyman/woman \_\_\_\_\_]; [Assemblyman/woman \_\_\_\_\_]; and Governor Murphy.