

RESOLUTION NO. 12-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX URGING CONGRESS AND THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION TO RESCHEDULE CANNABIS AS A DRUG WITH RECOGNIZED MEDICAL BENEFITS

WHEREAS, under current federal law, marijuana (cannabis) is classified as a Schedule I drug with no known medical uses; and,

WHEREAS, there is an increasing body of peer reviewed scientific research which establishes medical benefits and uses for cannabis. In 2010, the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research, an entity created by the California State Legislature, concluded that cannabis provided a wide array of medical benefits including relief of HIV-related peripheral neuropathy, effective analgesic pain relief, and reduction of muscle spasticity in Multiple Sclerosis patients. A more recent study from the University of California San Francisco found that cannabis can reduce the dosage of opiate pain relief medications required by patients who suffer chronic pain. In addition, The California Medical Association and The National Institute of Cancer (A Federal Agency) have stated that Medical Marijuana is helpful in the treatment of cancer; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Californians voted overwhelmingly to approve the Compassionate Use Act which permits the use and possession of cannabis by patients with a licensed physician's recommendation; and,

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are over 200,000 Californians who have received physician recommendations for medical marijuana; and,

WHEREAS, since 1996, sixteen states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation permitting the use of marijuana for medical purposes; and,

WHEREAS, ten more states are considering doing the same; and,

WHEREAS, the current efforts of the United States Attorneys and the Internal Revenue Service have forced the closure the Marin Alliance and other licensed medical marijuana dispensaries; and

WHEREAS, the closure of locally regulated dispensaries will cause a loss of dignity and liberty for patients who will be forced to purchase cannabis on the black market or to needlessly endure discomfort and pain; and

WHEREAS, such consequences are counterproductive to the health of Marin residents and will increase public safety concerns associated with illicit street sales and organized trafficking of marijuana;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax Town Council:

- 1) *Opposes the current efforts by the Department of Justice and the Internal Revenue Service to close publicly licensed medical marijuana dispensaries in California; and*
- 2) *Urges the Drug Enforcement Administration and the United States Congress to reclassify cannabis as a Schedule 2 drug in recognition of the overwhelming evidence of its medical uses and to permit legally regulated dispensing to qualified patients; and*
- 3) *Urges California Governor Jerry Brown to join with Governors of the State of Rhode Island and Washington in publicly supporting reclassification of cannabis.*

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Fairfax Town Council of the Town of Fairfax, County of Marin, State of California, held on the 11th day of January, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

PAM HARTWELL-HERRERO, Mayor

Attest:

Town Clerk

AGENDA ITEM # 12