

Resolution Number _____

A RESOLUTION INITIATING A MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTING NEW BUSINESS LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR CANNABIS DISPENSARY OPERATIONS AND CALLING FOR A REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS REGARDING THE LARGE NUMBER OF CANNABIS DISPENSARY OPERATIONS WITHIN THE CITY.

WHEREAS, since the legalization of adult-use cannabis, Missoula has seen an explosion of cannabis dispensaries around the City, with 59 cannabis dispensaries operating around Missoula.

WHEREAS, the Cannabis and Missoula Youth report¹, produced by the Healthy Missoula Youth coalition, found that Missoula has more cannabis dispensaries per capita than any other U.S. city. *Cannabis and Missoula Youth*, Pg. 9.

WHEREAS, recommendations from public health providers are that Missoula should have between 5 to 12 recreational marijuana dispensaries based on the current population of Missoula. *Cannabis and Missoula Youth*, Pg. 15.

WHEREAS, In the medical journal The Lancet, Volume 32, 100708, April 2024, in a systematic and extensive review of literature, the authors found that the literature suggests that greater cannabis retail store access is associated with increased cannabis-related health harms.

WHEREAS, Marijuana use has been linked to a range of mental health problems, such as depression and social anxiety. People who use marijuana are more likely to develop temporary psychosis (not knowing what is real, hallucinations, and paranoia) and long-lasting mental disorders, including schizophrenia (a type of mental illness where people might see or hear things that aren't there).⁵ The association between marijuana and schizophrenia is stronger in people who start using marijuana at an earlier age and use marijuana more frequently. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

WHEREAS, symptoms of overconsumption seen in Emergency Room visits include agitation, panic attacks, fast heart rate, chest pain, uncontrollable shaking or seizures, sudden high blood pressure with a headache, cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome or unresponsiveness. 2023 Youth Cannabis Report.

WHEREAS, in Montana marijuana is the most commonly used drug among ages 12-17 who visit treatment centers for drug misuse or abuse, as 52% of youth being treated are seen

¹ Found online at https://9ed61beb-d8a2-4e6a-bc5e-7ff50b6f6dfc.usrfiles.com/ugd/9ed61b_37063f073aec4c8680a1bcf350f0d649.pdf

for cannabis related issues. 2023 Youth Cannabis Report, 2019 Montana DPHHS Medicaid Treatment Data.

WHEREAS, Cannabis related DUI's have more than doubled in the last seven years in Missoula; multiple studies have shown that the presence of THC metabolite in blood, saliva or urine is associated with a 20-30% higher odds of a motor vehicle crash. 2023 Youth Cannabis Report.

WHEREAS, the Missoula City Council believes a moratorium on accepting new business license applications for adult-use recreational cannabis dispensaries is necessary while the City explores whether its current rules applicable to location and operation of cannabis dispensaries are adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Missoula City Council deems that it is in the public interest to place a 180-day moratorium on accepting business license applications for cannabis dispensaries while City Council reviews the applicable rules concerning the location and operation of cannabis dispensaries in the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that starting 14 days from adoption of this Resolution City staff is directed to not accept business license applications for adult-use recreational cannabis dispensaries within the City limits during the period of this moratorium. This moratorium shall apply to applications for new businesses as well as new locations for existing dispensary operations (thereby prohibiting existing business from expanding to new locations or moving during the moratorium). City staff may accept applications to renew business licenses for existing cannabis dispensary operations if they are compliant with applicable laws and regulations. City staff may process applications that are already submitted or that are submitted within the 14 day grace period.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 20__.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Claire Trimble
City Clerk

Andrea Davis
Mayor

(SEAL)