

**TOWN OF NARRAGANSETT
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

CC: 13
Amend No. _____

Date Prepared: March 2, 2017
Council Meeting Date: March 6, 2017

TO: Honorable Town Council
FROM: Susan Cicilline-Buonanno, Council President
SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution Opposing the Legalization of Marijuana
and creation of commercial marijuana industry

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Town Council adopts a Resolution Opposing the Legalization of Marijuana and the Creation of a Commercial Marijuana Industry in Rhode Island and the Town of Narragansett.

SUMMARY:

On January 3, 2017, Jonee Lindbeck, Assistant Attorney General addressed the council at a work session regarding the issues that will incur in Rhode Island if the creation of a commercial marijuana industry and legalization of marijuana is passed in the General Assembly. This industry would introduce new and additional drug based activity in the community.

The attached resolution opposes the legalization of Marijuana and the creation of a commercial marijuana industry.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Proposed Resolution

**A Resolution to Oppose the Legalization of Marijuana
And the Creation of a Commercial Marijuana Industry
in Rhode Island and the Town of Narragansett**

Whereas: The Rhode Island General Assembly has and will be considering legislation to “legalize” marijuana in the state of Rhode Island, which would create an alleged billion-dollar commercial marijuana industry in Rhode Island to promote and support the consumption of so-called “recreational” marijuana by residents and visitors to Rhode Island and its’ thirty-nine (39) cities and towns.

Whereas: Legislation “legalizing” marijuana and creating a commercial marijuana industry may authorize to be located in Rhode Island and its cities and towns an unlimited number of marijuana retail stores, wholesale growers and manufacturers, to produce and distribute marijuana and marijuana products, including specifically marijuana candy and other edibles and highly potent marijuana concentrates.

Whereas: The states of Colorado and Washington that have been the earliest adopters of commercial marijuana are already experiencing highest-in-the-nation teenage use and a doubling of marijuana impaired driving fatalities.

Whereas: Legislation “legalizing” marijuana and creating a commercial marijuana industry may severely limit the right and ability of cities and towns and their elected governments to impose reasonable and meaningful restrictions on the marijuana industry, including impediments to local rules around the number, type and location of marijuana retail stores, growers and manufacturers and on “home grows.”

Whereas: Legislation “legalizing” marijuana and creating a commercial marijuana industry would introduce new and additional drug-based activity into cities and towns at a time when so many residents, families and communities are struggling with the human and social consequences of addiction and Rhode Island faces an unprecedented opioid crisis.

Whereas: Legislation “legalizing” marijuana and creating a commercial marijuana industry risks creating a new industry that, much like Big Tobacco, subverts public health for private gain, even as so many questions about its consequences remain unanswered and so much information that is available casts grave doubt on its merits and desirability.

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Whereas: A detailed fiscal impact statement of the regulatory, public safety, health care and addiction treatment costs, has not been prepared and circulated for public review and comment.

Therefore: Be it resolved, that the Town Council of the Town of Narragansett places itself on record as opposing legislation “legalizing” marijuana and creating a commercial marijuana industry and urges the members of the General Assembly to oppose this legislation when it is brought to a vote.

Be it further resolved: That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Representatives and Senators representing the Town of Narragansett, to the Honorable Speaker of the House, Nicholas A. Mattiello, the Honorable President of the Senate, M. Teresa Paiva Weed, and Her Excellency, Governor Gina Raimondo, and to each municipality in Rhode Island requesting their support in opposing any legislation that would “legalize” marijuana and create a commercial marijuana industry in Rhode Island.

TOWN OF NARRAGANSETT

Susan Cicilline-Buonanno, Council President

ATTEST:

Anne M. Irons, CMC – Town Clerk