



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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CITY COUNCIL

LAUREN MEISTER
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JOHN D'AMICO
Councilmember

JOHN J. DURAN
Councilmember

LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Councilmember

May 5, 2017

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Sawyer:

RE: AB 1578, Marijuana and cannabis programs: cooperation with federal authorities – SUPPORT

The City of West Hollywood support AB 1578 that would prohibit a state or local agency in California from using its resources to cooperate with federal authorities in ways that violate the state's cannabis laws. On May 1, 2017, the West Hollywood City Council unanimously adopted Resolution #17-4944 in support of AB 1578. The resolution is attached.

California voters have approved some of the most progressive laws in the country related to the use, cultivation, distribution, and sale of cannabis. However, with the change in federal leadership and the current federal climate, enactment of AB 1578 is critical as there is every prospect that California's cannabis laws will be undermined.

Given that President Trump and Attorney General Sessions have suggested that they will crackdown on the personal/recreational use of cannabis, it is not only prudent, but imperative that the Legislature step forward and adopt laws to prevent the misuse of state resources and to protect Californians who are operating lawfully under state law.

Support for AB 1578 is consistent with the City's long-held support for the legal use, cultivation, and distribution of cannabis. The City of West Hollywood was an early supporter of the propositions to legalize medical and recreational marijuana, Proposition 215 and Proposition 64, respectively. In particular, in 2001 the City of West Hollywood approved Resolution No. 01-2615, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of West Hollywood Declaring the City of West Hollywood as a Sanctuary for Medical Cannabis Use, Cultivation and Distribution; supporting the Los Angeles Resource Center", which asserts that "local, state and federal government has an ethical obligation to provide comfort and relief to those who suffer serious illness in our society" and declares the City "a sanctuary for medical cannabis use, cultivation and distribution."

The City of West Hollywood thanks you for your leadership in assuring that state law and initiatives approved by California voters are implemented without federal interference.

Respectfully,

Lauren Meister
MAYOR

Cc: Hon Benjamin Allen, SD 26
Hon Richard Bloom, AD 50



RESOLUTION NO. 17-4944

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD IN SUPPORT OF AB 1578 (JONES-SAWYER) TO PROHIBIT LOCAL AND STATE AGENCIES FROM COOPERATING WITH FEDERAL AUTHORITIES IN WAYS THAT VIOLATE THE STATE'S CANNABIS LAW

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, California was the first state to decriminalize the use of medical cannabis through Proposition 215, the California Compassionate Use Act, which made it legal for patients and their designated primary caregivers to possess and cultivate cannabis for their personal medical use if they have the recommendation or approval of a California-licensed physician; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature adopted the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (MMRSA or MCRSA), establishing the regulatory framework for permitting for medical cannabis cultivation and dispensaries, etc. at the state level with local approval; and

WHEREAS, California voters approved Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA), which allows adults 21 and over to purchase and possess a limited amount of cannabis for recreational personal; and

WHEREAS, President Obama's administration provided assurances that if California developed a robust regulatory and enforcement system for medical or personal cannabis use by adults, California residents who complied with state laws and regulations would have a reasonable expectation that they would not be subject to harassment, arrest or incarceration by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, with the change in federal leadership, President Donald Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions have suggested that they will crackdown on the personal/recreational use of cannabis with the expectation that state and local officials will assist in their efforts; and

WHEREAS, using state and local resources for the administration's agenda is an overreach that would completely undermine both the will of California voters and state laws enacted by our State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, AB 1578, introduced by Assembly Member Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles), will protect Californians who are operating lawfully under state law by providing that, absent a court order, local and state

agencies, including regulators and law enforcement, shall not assist in any federal enforcement against state authorized medical cannabis or commercial or noncommercial marijuana activity; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood is on record in supporting previous proposals to legalize the medical and personal/recreational use of cannabis in California including Proposition 215 and Proposition 64.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood supports AB 1578, to prohibit local and state agencies from cooperating with the federal authorities in ways that violate the state's cannabis law.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 1st day of May, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmember:	D'Amico, Duran, Horvath, Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman, and Mayor Meister.
NOES:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSENT:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember:	None.



LAUREN MEISTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



YVONNE QUARKER, CITY CLERK