

RESOLUTION 2020 – 298

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, New Jersey voters, in this 2020 General Election, will be asked to approve or disapprove an amendment to the State Constitution that legalizes the recreational use of cannabis and cannabis-related products, including marijuana, for persons 21-years-of age and older; and

WHEREAS, this constitutional amendment will not limit the amount of tetrahydrocannabinol (or THC, the chemical in cannabis that induces the “high”) that can be present in these recreational cannabis products and could have 99% THC content; and

WHEREAS, it is a well-established medical fact that the habitual use of cannabis products with high THC content can have detrimental health effects. Young adults whose brains are still developing are susceptible to severe psychosis, such as schizophrenia; and

WHEREAS, this constitutional amendment also does not limit the types of cannabis products that can be sold and consumed; and can be sold in candy-form, such as gummies and chocolates, which are attractive to young children, and as oils used in vaping devices; and

WHEREAS, THC consumed via cannabis edibles can take hours to be absorbed into the human system and provide the sought-after “high” so it is very common for these consumers to overdose on these edibles thereby inducing hallucinations, paranoia, or severe nausea; and

WHEREAS, this constitutional amendment provides municipalities that have previously banned cannabis stores can be forced to allow pot stores within their borders; and

WHEREAS, a bill to accomplish the same ends could not even gain enough support in the NJ Legislature to be voted on; and

WHEREAS, according to the NJ Legislature’s non-partisan professional staff, the constitutionally-imposed tax on cannabis products will raise only \$126 million in State revenue or just 0.031% of Governor Murphy’s \$40 billion-plus proposed FY21 budget; and

WHEREAS, this paltry new revenue is not likely to cover the lost revenues from the local businesses adversely affected by legalized recreational cannabis combined with the new costs from the added regulatory bureaucracy and from the negative health consequences of legalized cannabis, costing New Jersey taxpayers money; and

WHEREAS, this meager amount of revenue cannot make up for the costly potential impact and loss of life associated with individuals operating motor vehicles under the influence of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, the preceding facts clearly demonstrate that it is utterly inappropriate and dangerous to use the Constitution of the State of New Jersey as the means to legalize the recreational use of marijuana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Barnegat Township Committee members **oppose** the constitutional amendment legalizing recreational cannabis use and sales and, accordingly, urges voters to vote “No” on the ballot question.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Local Board of Education, and Ocean County Mayors.

CERTIFICATION

I, Michele Rivers, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Governing Body at their meeting held on the 6th of October, 2020 a quorum being present and voting in the majority.

Michele A. Rivers, RMC
Municipal Clerk