

Administrator

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LEGALIZATION OF
RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA USE

WHEREAS, recent news stories have indicated that the Governor of the State of New Jersey will move to legalize recreational marijuana use within his first 100 days in office; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America outlaws recreational cannabis pursuant to the Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC Section 811; and

WHEREAS, only eight states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational marijuana; and

WHEREAS, Colorado, one of the states that legalized recreational marijuana has seen an increase in documented traffic deaths involving drivers that had used marijuana (in 2013, the year before marijuana was fully legalized in Colorado, there were 55 documented traffic deaths and in 2016 the number was 125); and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Rocky Mountain High Density Drug Trafficking Area ("RMHDDTA") annual report shows that the number of medical marijuana centers in Colorado is greater than the number of Starbucks coffee shops, and the number of recreational marijuana outlets is greater than the number of McDonald's restaurants; and

WHEREAS, the RMHDDTA report also demonstrates that marijuana use among Colorado teens aged 12 to 17 is 74% above the national average; and

WHEREAS, medical marijuana is generally carefully controlled for the amount of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, generally referred to as "THC"; recreational marijuana, on the other hand, is specifically designed to have as much "THC" as possible; and

WHEREAS, "THC" is known to impair physical function in the user including reaction time while operating a vehicle and the user's ability to perceive danger; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey utilizes drug recognition experts ("DRE") to determine whether someone is under the influence of a drug including marijuana when operating a motor vehicle and there is no current objective standard for operating under the influence of drugs like marijuana as compared to standards established for driving while intoxicated (.08%); and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs such as marijuana is very difficult; and

WHEREAS, the Freeholders continue to strive to support the local law enforcement effort and recognize that the resources of law enforcement is already drastically strained; and,

WHEREAS, many health professionals consider marijuana a "gateway" drug; and

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic is well known to residents of the County of Monmouth and the State of New Jersey even though opioids are currently "legal" and available by

prescription and has not been controlled and, in fact, has become an epidemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Monmouth that this Board does hereby oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board shall forward a certified true copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey, the members of the Monmouth County Legislative Delegation, all County Boards of Chosen Freeholders, and the Mayor and Council of all towns within the County of Monmouth.