

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the sale of recreational marijuana within our city, and oppose Ordinance No. 24-70. As a concerned and engaged citizen, I believe that this step could offer numerous benefits to our community, and I urge you to consider these points as you deliberate on this important issue.

### **Economic Benefits**

By allowing licensed dispensaries to operate, the city could generate substantial tax revenue that could be used to fund essential services such as our need for infrastructure improvements. The sales tax rate on recreational use is 10% and the city receives 36% of that income. Other states and cities that have legalized recreational marijuana have reported millions of dollars in additional revenue, which has been instrumental in addressing budget shortfalls and improving community resources.

### **Public Health and Safety**

Allowing the sale of recreational marijuana would also enhance public health and safety by reducing the illicit market. A well-regulated system ensures that marijuana products are safe, tested, and free from harmful substances, reducing overdoses. This means less of a strain on our local healthcare system and reducing the number of unintended overdoses due to laced drugs.

### **Access**

It is important to note that public opinion has increasingly shifted in favor of marijuana sales. It allows those who may not be able to afford going through the medical card process access to marijuana that has helped cancer patients, hospice patients, those who live with autoimmune diseases, etc. It would also allow these same people to access it within our community, with their tax money going to our community, versus going to a neighboring community and the tax money benefiting their community.

### **Job Creation**

Allowing the sale of recreational marijuana without our city would allow for the creation of jobs. From retail positions to cultivation and distribution, this market would stimulate economic growth and provide stable employment for many individuals in our city. Employment opportunities for city residents would also help in reducing the stress on local organization that help those in need. It would also mean that these employees would be paying city taxes to our city through their jobs, which also benefits our city given the need for increased tax revenue.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the city council to consider the numerous benefits that the sale of recreational marijuana could bring to our community. By taking this step, we can promote economic growth, improve public health and safety, and help the city in reducing their budget shortfall. I appreciate your attention to this matter and hope that you will take my views into consideration as you make your decision.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rev. Heather Rodenberg

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