

RESOLUTION 2019-017

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LEGALIZATION OF THE RECREATIONAL USE OF MARIJUANA

WHEREAS, the possession and use of marijuana is illegal in the United States under federal law, but a few states have permitted the recreational use of marijuana for non-medical purposes; and

WHEREAS, there is legitimate concern about the potential increase in cases of “Driving Under the Influence” with many police departments expressing concern that there is not yet a reliable and accurate way to measure the impairment of a driver who may have consumed marijuana;

WHEREAS, several other states, including Colorado, have recently legalized the recreational use of marijuana and are beginning to record data related to this change in policy; such data will illustrate both the benefits and possible detrimental effects of legalization, whether related to health, public safety, the effects on children, or any number of other issues;

WHEREAS, the social costs appear to far outweigh any short-term revenue gains from legalization of recreational marijuana; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Vernon Hills, Lake County, Illinois, that:

The Village of Vernon Hills has concerns on any policy and program initiatives to legalize the recreational use of marijuana for non-medical purposes by adults, because of the social impact, the short-term and long-term risks for children and adolescents, in terms of their health and future intellectual potential; and for the general well-being of youth and the community.

In the event that the legislature decides to pursue expansion of marijuana usage in Illinois, we urge lawmakers to slow the process of legalizing recreational marijuana in Illinois, so that lawmakers, stakeholders, and experts alike have the chance to consider the societal impact of legalization and examine all of the data from other states that have passed similar legislation. Lawmakers should not rush irresponsible legislation purely for perceived short term tax revenues without considering data regarding social costs and should consider the health and safety of Illinoisans as their first priority when considering the question of legalization;

Municipalities must be guaranteed the right to retain local authority to regulate the distribution of cannabis in their communities to ensure proper compliance with all local and state rules. Cannabis distribution should follow the long-established liquor licensing model, where the Illinois Liquor Commission issues state licenses and each municipality has licensing authority and the ability to oversee and swiftly address violations.

Municipalities must retain the right of control over zoning and siting of cannabis distribution locations.

Home cultivation without local oversight is problematic, therefore the Village of Vernon Hills opposes home cultivation. If allowed, at a minimum, any legislation must include a process

requiring home cultivators to register with local authorities and provide permission to access cultivation sites in order to monitor compliance.

Legalization should not be considered until a standardized method of determining the potency of edibles can be established to reliably inform and protect consumers of edible cannabis products;

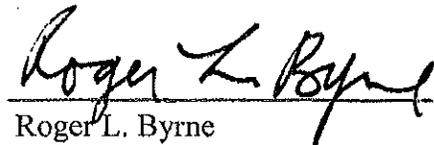
Recreational cannabis legislation must address impaired driving standards and enforcement including observational standards permitting local authorities to establish prima facie cases of impaired driving.

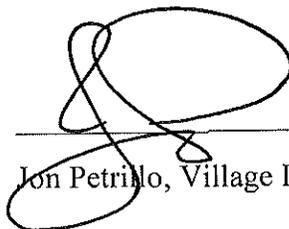
Municipal law enforcement agencies must be provided the necessary funding to both fully train their patrol officers for this new environment (such as the Intensive Drug Recognition Expert training program) and purchase and necessary equipment (such as cannabis impairment detection testing devices that may be authorized for future use in Illinois). Funding for law enforcement is required **even if the municipality does not have a cannabis distribution facility.**

Adopted by roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 6 – Brown, Schultz, Marquardt, Koch Oppenheim, Takaoka
NAYES: 0 - None
ABSTAIN: 1 – Byrne
ABSENT: 0 - None

PASSED: 05/07/2019
APPROVED: 05/07/2019
ATTEST: 05/07/2019


Roger L. Byrne
Village President


Jon Petriolo, Village Deputy Clerk
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