

**City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS**

In City Council, November 7, 2013

Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and City Council President William H. Dwight

RESOLUTION

Whereas, in November 2012 the voters of Massachusetts approved a statewide ballot measure eliminating criminal and civil penalties for the use of marijuana by qualifying patients who have been diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition; and

Whereas, the voters of Northampton overwhelmingly supported the legalization of medical marijuana by a margin of 81%; and

Whereas, five applicants have been qualified under Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH) regulations to apply for a Registered Marijuana Dispensary license as part of its competitive final Phase 2 application process; and

Whereas, several applicants have expressed an interest in opening a medical marijuana dispensary in the City of Northampton and have met with city officials and community stakeholders to discuss their plans; and

Whereas, the City of Northampton has an established history and network of quality palliative care services and is an appropriate location for a Hampshire County medical marijuana dispensary; and

Whereas, the siting of a medical marijuana facility in the City of Northampton will provide economic development benefits through temporary construction jobs, permanent facility jobs, and the generation of new local revenue through property taxes or payments in lieu of taxes; and

Whereas, the Northampton City Council, with input and recommendations from the Planning Board and the Board of Health, has implemented responsible zoning regulations to ensure that any proposed medical marijuana facilities meet reasonable site plan criteria for issues like parking, traffic, hours of operation, lighting, security, and neighborhood character; and

Whereas, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's final Phase Two application for a Registered Marijuana Dispensary license seeks a demonstration of support or non-opposition furnished by the local municipality; and so

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the Mayor and the City Council support the award of a license(s) by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for a Hampshire County medical marijuana dispensary to be located in the City of Northampton subject to its local health, public safety, and zoning regulations.