



## City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

*In the Year Two Thousand Twenty-Four*

Upon the Recommendation of Councilors Jeremy Macomber-Dubs and Rachel Maiore

### R-24.153

#### A RESOLUTION In Support of Massachusetts State Ballot Question 4 To Decriminalize Natural Psychedelics For Therapeutic Use

*Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Northampton in City Council assembled, as follows:*

WHEREAS nearly one in three Massachusetts adults struggles with mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS pioneering research from respected institutions such as Johns Hopkins University and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute finds that natural psychedelics can be effective in managing treatment-resistant depression and other forms of mental illness; and

WHEREAS the FDA recently granted psilocybin, one of the psychedelics, “breakthrough therapy” designation for treatment-resistant depression and major depressive disorder; and

WHEREAS natural psychedelics have been found to treat severe forms of mental illness, including PTSD, OCD, anxiety, depression, end-of-life distress, and some forms of addiction; and

WHEREAS The Northampton City Council unanimously passed [R-21.207 A Resolution Decriminalizing Controlled Substance Possession As Well As Cultivation And Distribution Of Psychedelic Plants](#) which supports the decriminalizing and regulation of psychedelic plants for therapeutic purposes; and

WHEREAS, ballot question 4 would decriminalize five naturally occurring psychedelic substances in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS the ballot question would create a regulated framework for psychedelic-assisted therapy for adults 21 and older, similar to ballots passed in Colorado (2022) and Oregon (2020);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Northampton supports the passage of Ballot question 4 on the November 5th, 2024 election ballot and urges Massachusetts voters to vote yes on 4; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall send a copy of this Resolution to state Representative Lindsay Sadoski and state Senator Jo Comerford, Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan, Northampton Police Chief John Cartledge, Northampton Director of Veteran Services Steve Connor, Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans' Services Jon Santiago and the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions.

In City Council, October 17, 2024  
Adopted in Final Reading on Roll Call Vote of 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Councilor Rothenberg)

Attest: *Laura Krutzler*, Clerk of Council

Passed final reading and enrolled.  
I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Northampton City Council on October 17, 2024

Per Charter Section 3-6, non-binding resolutions are not required to be presented to the Mayor for approval.

Attest: *Laura Krutzler*, Clerk of Council