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**RESOLUTION 21-91**

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**Resolution Establishing a Cannabis Task Force**

WHEREAS, in 2020 New Jersey voters approved Public Question No. 1, which amended the New Jersey Constitution to allow for the legalization of a controlled form of marijuana called “cannabis” for adults at least twenty-one years of age; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law *P.L. 2021, c. 16*, known as the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act” (the “Act”), which legalizes the recreational use of marijuana by adults twenty-one years of age or older, and establishes a comprehensive regulatory and licensing scheme for commercial recreational (adult use) cannabis operations, use and possession; and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes the following six marketplace classes of licensed businesses:

- Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator license, for facilities involved in growing and cultivating cannabis;
- Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer license, for facilities involved in the manufacturing, preparation, and packaging of cannabis items;
- Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler license, for facilities involved in obtaining and selling cannabis items for later resale by other licensees;
- Class 4 Cannabis Distributer license, for businesses involved in transporting cannabis plants in bulk from one licensed cultivator to another licensed cultivator, or cannabis items in bulk from any type of licensed cannabis business to another;
- Class 5 Cannabis Retailer license, for locations at which cannabis items and related supplies are sold to consumers; and
- Class 6 Cannabis Delivery license, for businesses providing courier services for consumer purchases that are fulfilled by a licensed cannabis retailer in order to make deliveries of the purchased items to a consumer, and which service would include the ability of a consumer to make a purchase directly through the cannabis delivery service which would be presented by the delivery service for fulfillment by a retailer and then delivered to a consumer.

WHEREAS, section 31a of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to adopt regulations governing the number of cannabis establishments (defined in section 3 of the Act as “a cannabis cultivator, a cannabis manufacturer, a cannabis wholesaler, or a cannabis retailer”), cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services allowed to operate within their boundaries, as well as the location manner and times operation of such establishments, distributors or delivery services, and establishing civil penalties for the violation of any such regulations; and

WHEREAS, section 31b of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to prohibit the operation of any one or more classes of cannabis establishments, distributors, or delivery services anywhere in the municipality; and

WHEREAS, section 31b of the Act also stipulates, however, that any municipal regulation or prohibition must be adopted within 180 days of the effective date of the Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 31b of the Act, the failure to do so shall mean that for a period of five years thereafter, the growing, cultivating, manufacturing, selling and reselling of cannabis and cannabis items shall be permitted uses in all industrial zones, and the retail selling of cannabis items to consumers shall be a conditional use in all commercial and retail zones; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the initial and any subsequent five-year period following a failure to enact local regulations or prohibitions, the municipality shall again have 180 days to adopt an ordinance regulating or prohibiting cannabis businesses, but any such ordinance would be prospective only and would not apply to any cannabis business already operating within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, Princeton is committed to social and restorative justice in terms of cannabis policing and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, because the burden of the criminalization of cannabis has fallen heavily on communities of color and the poor, social and racial justice considerations must be highly valued in all decision-making; and

WHEREAS, these critical considerations must be evaluated in the context of the complexities and novelty of the Act; the many areas of municipal law that are or may be implicated in decisions as to whether or to what extent cannabis or medical cannabis should be permitted for land use purposes or otherwise regulated in Princeton; and the short duration in which the Act allows such decisions to be made before imposing an automatic authorization of such uses in specified zoning districts subject to unspecified conditions; and

WHEREAS, to that end, the Princeton Mayor and Council finds that it is in the best interests of the public to establish a task force comprising a diverse constituency to examine the impact of the legalization of cannabis in New Jersey generally and in Princeton specifically; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the task force will serve in an advisory capacity to provide input to Mayor and Council on these major areas of concerns and make recommendations regarding next steps; and

WHEREAS, the task force will be a working group and a substantial time commitment from each member (ten to fifteen hours per month during the next six to eight months) is anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the task force shall include representatives from various agencies, boards and commissions, community organizations, and members of the community, with additional expertise added as deemed necessary by Mayor and Council;

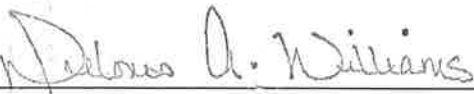
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Princeton in Mercer County, New Jersey, as follows:

1. The preamble to this resolution is hereby incorporated as if more fully set forth herein.
2. There is hereby established a task force to be known as the “Princeton Cannabis Task Force,” which shall comprise the following members:
  - Councilwoman Eve Niedergang
  - Council President Leticia Fraga
  - Councilwoman Michelle Pirone Lambros
  - The Chief of Police or his designee
  - One representative from the Board of Health selected by the board, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council
  - One representative from the Civil Rights Commission selected by the commission, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council
  - One representative from Corner House selected by Corner House, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council
  - One representative from Doctors for Cannabis Regulation selected by said organization, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council
  - One representative from LALDEF selected by said organization, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council
  - One representative from Not In Our Town selected by said organization, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council
  - One representative from the Princeton Public Schools selected by the district, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council
  - One representative from the Princeton Senior Resource Center selected by said organization, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council
  - One representative from Princeton University selected by the University, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council
  - One representative from Students for Sensible Drug Policy selected by said organization, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council
  - Up to four representatives from the business community selected by the Mayor and Council
  - Up to six representatives at large selected by the Mayor and Council from among interested members of the public

3. The task force shall be chaired by Councilwoman Niedergang. In the event Councilwoman Niedergang is no longer able or willing to serve as chair, the task force shall select a new chair from among the other Council members on the task force.
4. The task force shall remain in effect until such time as it has completed its tasks and presented its final recommendations to the Mayor and Council, unless terminated sooner by resolution of the Mayor and Council.
5. The Municipal Attorney shall be available to provide such legal guidance as the task force might require from time to time.
6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Councilperson	Absent	Present	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Disqualified
Mr. Cohen		X			X			
Ms. Fraga		X			X			
Ms. Niedergang		X	X		X			
Ms. Pirone Lambros		X		X	X			
Ms. Sacks		X			X			
Mr. Williamson		X			X			
Mayor Freda		X						

I, Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk of Princeton, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Princeton at a meeting held March 8, 2021.

  
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 Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk