

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 22

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING BALLOT QUESTION 300 AND
BALLOT ISSUE 301 REGARDING THE LEGALIZATION OF
RETAIL/RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS
WITHIN THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

WHEREAS, City Council formally opposes Ballot Question 300 and Ballot Issue 301 on the November 2022 ballot repealing the prohibition against retail/recreational establishments and authorizing medical marijuana establishments to be licensed as retail/recreational marijuana establishments within the City of Colorado Springs; and

WHEREAS, City Council is gravely concerned about the dangers of allowing retail marijuana by expanding access within the City of Colorado Springs and strongly encourages greater awareness regarding the harms and dangers of marijuana use; and

WHEREAS, The City of Colorado Springs known as Olympic City USA is consistently ranked as one of the best places to live in the United States. The legalization of retail marijuana may jeopardize not only our national reputation as such a desirable place to live but also our tourism industry and economy; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Ballot Question 300 would allow for 114 retail marijuana stores within the City of Colorado Springs. Our neighbors in the City of Manitou Springs allow for two recreational stores and the City of Pueblo allows eight. These 10 stores have easily been meeting the needs of the residents who are seeking retail marijuana in El Paso County; and

WHEREAS, the Pikes Peak Region has many companies that employ contract workers with the Department of Defense and Federal Government. Allowing retail marijuana is in direct contradiction with the Federal Government as it classifies cannabis as a Schedule 1 Controlled Substance. The Federal Government has strong penalties, prohibitions and restrictions associated with its use for both employees and contractors. Statewide the use of marijuana has created challenges limiting the number of applicants that can successfully pass drug tests and secure and maintain necessary clearances for these jobs; and

WHEREAS, the legalization of marijuana is destroying the health and social fabric of Colorado with negative side effects affecting all aspects of our daily lives from increases in traffic fatalities, public health services, black market operations, and underage marijuana use; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 marijuana tax revenue made up less than one percent of State of Colorado's Budget. The proponents of the ballot initiative have cited increased tax revenues that would benefit the City of Colorado Springs; however, the cost to our Public Safety departments of enforcement could exceed the revenue collected; and

WHEREAS, the City Council strongly opposes the passage of Ballot Question 300 and Ballot Issue 301, and asks that all citizens strongly consider the negative impacts of retail marijuana and urges the residents of the City Colorado Springs to vote NO.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

Section 1. City Council formally opposes Ballot Question 300 and Ballot Issue 301 on the November 2022 ballot repealing the prohibition against retail/recreational establishments and authorizing medical marijuana establishments

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado this 11th of October, 2022.

Council President

ATTEST:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk