

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 25

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING \$700,000 OF RETAIL MARIJUANA SALES TAX REVENUE BE ALLOCATED TO THE COLORADO SPRINGS CLEAN & SAFE PILOT INITIATIVE AND \$700,000 TO POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2022, the voters of the City of Colorado Springs approved a citizen-initiated ordinance establishing a 5% sales tax on retail (recreational) marijuana, with revenues to be used exclusively for public safety programs, mental health services, and post-traumatic stress disorder treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, since 2019, the Greater Downtown Colorado Springs area has experienced a significant increase in disturbances (200% increase), vandalism (500% increase), and requests from merchants for assistance related to public safety (200% increase); and

WHEREAS, Downtown Ventures and the Downtown Partnership have proposed an innovative and results-oriented public safety program—the Clean & Safe Pilot Initiative—aimed at enhancing the downtown experience for residents, businesses, and visitors by fostering a cleaner, safer, and more welcoming environment; and

WHEREAS, the Clean & Safe Pilot Initiative will utilize a coordinated, data-driven, and human-centered approach to address growing concerns around public safety, homelessness, and cleanliness in the Greater Downtown area; and

WHEREAS, by fostering a vibrant and inviting urban core and ensuring positive experiences, this initiative is expected to encourage repeat visitation, stimulate private investment, support local businesses, and generate long-term positive economic impact for the City of Colorado Springs and the broader Pikes Peak region; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Colorado Springs finds that allocating \$700,000 in retail marijuana sales tax revenue to support this initiative is consistent with the voter-approved purposes of public safety programs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Colorado Springs is a proud home to over tens of thousands of veterans and has been recognized with numerous awards as a top location for veterans to call home; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress disorder treatment programs for veterans are vital in the Pikes Peak Region. 87% of veterans have been exposed to potentially traumatic events, with the average veteran being exposed to 3.4 potentially traumatic events during their service. Post-traumatic stress disorder is twice as likely in veterans compared to non-veteran civilians. Less than half of returning veterans needing mental health services receive any treatment at all, and of those receiving treatment for PTSD and major depression, less than one-third are receiving evidence-based care; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Colorado Springs affirms our duty to express our enduring gratitude to veterans, both in words and in actions, for their service and finds allocating \$700,000 to post-traumatic stress disorder treatment programs for veterans is in line with what voters approved.

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

Section 1. The City Council respectfully urges Mayor Yemi Mobolade to propose a budget amendment in the amount of \$1,400,000 and to bring it forward for City Council appropriation and further urges the Mayor to execute a contract with Downtown Ventures to implement the Clean & Safe Pilot Initiative in the amount \$700,000. Additionally, City Council calls on Mayor Mobolade to collaborate with City Council to fund \$700,000 for post-traumatic stress disorder treatment programs for veterans in the Pikes Peak Region.

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado this 12th day of August, 2025.

Council President

ATTEST:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk