

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 – 126

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG HARBOR, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, HEREBY OPPOSING THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION TO LEGALIZE THE RECREATIONAL USE AND SALE OF MARIJUANA

WHEREAS, under the Federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970, it is illegal to possess, use, buy, sell or cultivate marijuana for recreational purposes in all United States jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Ocean County follows the Rule of Law and Federal Law clearly states that marijuana is considered to have a high potential for abuse and physical or psychological dependence and that marijuana use is illegal for any reason, with the exception of FDA approved research; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency lists marijuana as a Schedule 1 Drug and that other Schedule 1 Drugs include Heroin, LSD, Ecstasy and Quaalude; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Little Egg Harbor strives to support our local law enforcement effort and recognizes that making recreational marijuana use legal will further strain the resources of law enforcement already dealing with the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, recent public media accounts have indicated that Governor Phil Murphy, some State Legislators and other officials will move to legalize recreational marijuana use; and

WHEREAS, only eight states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational marijuana; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Jeff Sessions has rolled back an Obama-era policy that allowed “legal” marijuana without Federal intervention and has effectively unleashed Federal prosecutors to crack down on marijuana-related offenses; and

WHEREAS, a recent poll taken by Fairleigh Dickinson University found that 58 percent of those polled believe the State should not legalize marijuana for recreational use, highlighting a trend which shows support for legalization declining in recent years; and

WHEREAS, Colorado, one of the states that has legalized recreational marijuana, has seen an increase in documented traffic deaths involving drivers that had used marijuana as well as increased use in teens aged 12 to 17 which is 74 percent above the national average; and

WHEREAS, recreational marijuana is specifically designed to have as much THC as possible; and

WHEREAS, THC is known to impair physical function in the user, including recreation time while operating a vehicle and the user's ability to perceive danger; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey utilizes Drug Recognition Experts, "DRE" to determine whether someone is under the influence when operating a motor vehicle; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has a standard established for Driving While Intoxicated, .08% however, since marijuana THC is known to stay in a person's system for up to 30 days, there is no current test or standard established for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of marijuana, making enforcement difficult; and

WHEREAS, several Ocean County municipalities including Point Pleasant Beach, Berkeley and Bay Head have already passed ordinances to ban sales in their jurisdiction with Toms River, Ocean Gate and Lavallette strongly considering similar ordinances; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Little Egg Harbor Mayor and Committee hereby opposes the enactment of legislation to legalize the recreational use and sale of marijuana; and further encourage all Ocean County municipalities to join in opposing this issue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be made available to Governor Phil Murphy, the 3rd, 9th, 10th, 12th, and 30th Legislative Districts representatives, Ocean County Freeholders, Ocean County mayors, Prosecutor Joseph Coronato, Sheriff Michael Mastronardy, Ocean County Chiefs of Police and the New Jersey Association of Counties.

Motion to Approve: Kehm Second: Stevens

Roll Call: Crea yes
Gormley yes
Kehm yes
Schlick yes
Stevens yes

CERTIFICATION

I, **DIANA K. MCCRACKEN**, Township Clerk of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Little Egg Harbor Township Committee at a meeting held on the 10th day of May, 2018.

Diana K. McCracken, RMC
DIANA K. MCCRACKEN, Township Clerk
Little Egg Harbor Township