

**RESOLUTION IMPOSING TEMPORARY STAY
ON ISSUANCE OF ANY NEW LICENSE OR PERMIT
RELATED TO THE SALE AND/OR DISTRIBUTION
OF MEDICINAL MARIJUANA FOR A PERIOD OF 90 DAYS**

WHEREAS, in April 2015, Governor Nathan Deal signed HB 1, *Haleigh's Hope Act*, which created a patient registry for persons with certain qualifying conditions and permitted possession of oil with less than 5% THC by weight; however, the bill made no provision for in-state sales of THC oil; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2018, Governor Deal signed SB 16 to expand patient access to low-THC oil, which extended access to Georgia hospice care residents; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2019, Governor Brian Kemp signed into law HB 324, Georgia's *Hope Act*, legalizing the purchase of low-THC oil by registered persons in an amount not to exceed 20 fluid ounces. HB 324 further provided for in-state cultivation, production, and dispensation, to be overseen by the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission under the auspices of the Secretary of State's office; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2021, Act 141 took effect which provided for new treatment and delivery methods for medical cannabis, including low-THC oil products, revised provisions relating to the dispensation of low-THC oil products, and provided for medical cannabis producers to obtain state dispensation licenses; and

WHEREAS, the sale and distribution of medical cannabis in the state of Georgia is a relatively new development, one which necessitates careful consideration by local governments pertaining to safe and legal distribution, with minimal impact upon neighborhoods and residential areas; and

WHEREAS, federal law classifies marijuana as a Schedule 1 substance under the Controlled Substances Act, creating potential conflicts between state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, due to these potential conflicts, the sale of cannabis and cannabis products is largely cash-driven, resulting in an increase of robberies of dispensaries in states with more evolved cannabis industries; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah recognize the need to formulate appropriate public safety plans and zoning criteria to ensure that dispensaries are permitted only within zoning districts that will not compromise the public health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Savannah; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah have determined that a stay on issuance of licenses and permits for the dispensation of medicinal marijuana and medicinal marijuana products for a period of 180 days will enable City staff to adequately study and formulate public safety and land use recommendations consistent with Act 141;

NOW, THEREFRE, BE IT RESOLVED, a temporary stay of 180 days is hereby imposed, barring the issuance of any new license or permit to any establishment for the sale or dispensation of medical cannabis, low-THC oil, or any other product derived from cannabis. This Resolution shall expire 180 days following the date below unless extended by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah.

ADOPTED AND EFFECTVE this _____ day of _____, 2022.

Van R. Johnson II
Mayor

ATTEST:

Mark Massey
Clerk of Council