

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

..title

A RESOLUTION concerning the creation of enforcement priorities for city departments regarding non-state-licensed marijuana establishments.

..body

WHEREAS, the residents of the state of Washington voted in favor of Initiative 692 creating the

Medical Use of Marijuana Act (MUCA);

WHEREAS, the MUCA does not create any legal right to grow, process, or distribute medical marijuana but only allows for an affirmative defense for patients and providers;

WHEREAS, Initiative 502 was passed statewide and by voters in the state of Washington;

WHEREAS, said Initiative 502 creates a highly regulated system for the production, processing, and distribution of marijuana for adult use;

WHEREAS, the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board has allowed for the provision of 21 retail marijuana stores within the City of Seattle;

WHEREAS, 14 recreational marijuana retail stores have opened in the City of Seattle as of June 2, 2015;

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance and Administrative Services and the Department of Planning and Development have determined that there are approximately 99 marijuana retailers operating in the City of Seattle without licenses issued by the Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board;

WHEREAS, an estimated 54 marijuana retailers without state licenses have established operations in the City of Seattle since January 1, 2013;

WHEREAS, there have been numerous armed robberies and thefts of medical marijuana dispensaries endangering staff at these establishments and the surrounding community;

1 WHEREAS, access to medical marijuana for qualifying patients and recreational marijuana by  
2 adults should be equitably distributed throughout the city;

3 WHEREAS, access to recreational marijuana should be limited to those over 21 years of age;

4 WHEREAS, access to medical marijuana by those under 21 years of age should be available  
5 only to those patients with a qualifying medical condition that has been confirmed by a  
6 healthcare provider;

7 WHEREAS, the proliferation of ~~purported medical~~ unregulated marijuana businesses have seen  
8 an attendant increase in elementary and secondary school students, who are not  
9 qualifying patients, accessing marijuana-infused products;

10 WHEREAS, 77 percent of drug/alcohol discipline incidents in Seattle public schools in 2014  
11 ~~were for~~ involved marijuana;

12 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the people of the City of Seattle to prevent those under 21  
13 years of age from accessing marijuana and marijuana infused products;

14 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the people of the City of Seattle to halt the proliferation of  
15 non-state licensed, and therefore unlawful, marijuana businesses while maintaining  
16 access to medical marijuana for qualifying patients;

17 WHEREAS, the state legislature and Governor Inslee signed into law SSB 5052 that reforms  
18 medical marijuana law in Washington State;

19 WHEREAS, SSB 5052 prioritizes non-state licensed marijuana establishments operating before  
20 January 1, 2013 having an opportunity to obtain a state license by July 1, 2016; and

21 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the people of the City of Seattle to allow qualifying patients to  
22 access safe, quality controlled medical marijuana; NOW, THEREFORE,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**  
2 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

3 Section 1. To ensure that the City of Seattle has the ability to prevent the further  
4 proliferation of non-state-licensed marijuana business operations that operate outside the I-502  
5 system, the Mayor ~~intends to submit and the City Council intends to consider and City Council~~  
6 ~~intend to consider~~ legislation that would require all marijuana producers, processors, and retailers  
7 operating in Seattle to acquire a regulatory business license. Further, the Mayor, City Council,  
8 and Department of Finance and Administrative Services will seek to develop policy and  
9 procedures in which Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Title 5 business licenses can be revoked  
10 according to the enforcement priorities identified in Section 2 of this resolution, including any  
11 business license issued to an entity operating in violation of the law or that is required to have an  
12 SMC Title 6 regulatory business license.

13 The City of Seattle favors civil remedies to address compliance of non-state-licensed  
14 marijuana establishments. However, should civil remedies fail to gain compliance from a  
15 specific establishment, criminal sanctions may be employed.

16 Section 2. Consistent with Section 1, the Mayor and the City Council intend to  
17 consider the creation of a regulatory license under SMC Title 6, which would ensure that:

18 ~~a)A.~~ a)A. The City of Seattle has the ability to effectively regulate and address community  
19 concerns regarding state-licensed marijuana business activity;

20 ~~b)B.~~ b)B. Only marijuana businesses that have obtained state licenses issued under Title 69  
21 RCW can operate in Seattle; and

22 ~~c)C.~~ c)C. Non-state-licensed marijuana establishments that began operations prior to January  
23 1, 2013 would be permitted to operate until July 1, 2016 if their operations do not run afoul of

1 the enforcement priorities described herein and apply for a state license by the deadline set by  
2 the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board. Operators of said establishments shall  
3 forward a copy of their application to the Director of Finance and Administrative Services.

4 The Mayor and the City Council will consider adopting the rules promulgated by the  
5 newly renamed Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board under Washington  
6 Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 314-55 as the regulatory requirements of any regulatory  
7 license required under an SMC Title 6 license. Doing so will allow the City of Seattle to  
8 enforce the same requirements as the Liquor and Cannabis Board enforces regarding  
9 advertising, signage, and other areas regulated by the Liquor and Cannabis Board.

10 Section 3. The City Council and the Mayor request that the Finance and  
11 Administrative Services Department ([FAS](#)), the Department of Planning and Development, the  
12 Seattle Police Department, and the City Attorney's Office work cooperatively to identify and  
13 develop enforcement procedures against non-state-licensed marijuana businesses according to the  
14 following levels of priority:

15 A. Highest Priority - Tier 1

16 1) ~~Individuals or entities that distribute or deliver~~ marijuana, marijuana  
17 concentrates, or marijuana-infused products to those people under 21 years of age or people  
18 other than qualifying patients.

19 ~~ia.~~ Only designated providers 21 years of age or older, as defined by  
20 RCW 69.51A.010 (as amended by Chapter 70, Laws of 2015), may acquire, produce or  
21 provide marijuana, marijuana concentrates, and marijuana-infused products to a qualifying  
22 patient of any age.

1                                    **ii**b****. Only qualifying patients 21 years of age or older, as defined by  
2 RCW 69.51A.010 (as amended by Chapter 70, Laws of 2015), or designated providers 21  
3 years of age or older, as defined by RCW 69.51A.010 (as amended by Chapter 70, Laws of  
4 2015), may handle or acquire marijuana from a non-state-licensed marijuana establishment.  
5 Until July 1, 2016, qualifying patients between the ages of 18-21 may not handle or acquire  
6 marijuana directly from any marijuana establishment. Qualifying patients under the age of 21  
7 may only be upon the premises of a non-state-licensed marijuana establishment if they are  
8 accompanied by their designated provider who is over the age of 21. Qualified patients under  
9 the age of 18 may not be upon the premises of any marijuana establishment. Qualifying  
10 patients and designated providers must have Washington state-issued identification and valid  
11 documentation as defined in RCW 69.51A.010, written on tamper-resistant paper, to enter the  
12 premises. Marijuana establishments without I-502 licenses that provide marijuana to anyone  
13 other than qualifying patients or designated providers are operating entirely outside the scope  
14 of both I-502 and the Medical Use of Cannabis Act (MUCA) and are illegal.

15                                    **iii**c****. Individuals or entities that distribute marijuana products are  
16 responsible for verifying the identity, age and valid documentation of each qualifying patient  
17 that enters their establishment. Only Washington State issued identification and valid  
18 documentation as defined in RCW 69.51A.010 may be accepted. Non-state-licensed marijuana  
19 establishments must verify the authenticity of the documentation by contacting the issuing  
20 healthcare professional, and keeping a record of such contact.

21                                    **iv**d****. Only qualifying patients with valid documentation written on  
22 tamper-resistant paper or their designated providers may be allowed to access marijuana from a  
23 non-state-licensed marijuana establishment.

1                   2)-. Any individual, enterprise, or entity that provides delivery services for  
2 recreational marijuana.

3                   3)-. Individuals or entities that operate non-state-licensed marijuana  
4 establishments and are under law enforcement investigation for criminal violations or that have  
5 become public safety concerns as evidenced by 911 calls, incident reports, and other factors.

6                   34)-. Individuals or entities that manufacture or distribute marijuana products  
7 that mimic or imitate trademark protected products or are packaged or designed in any manner  
8 that would be especially appealing to children. The depiction of objects, such as toys,  
9 characters, or cartoon characters, is prohibited on the labels or packaging of any marijuana  
10 package.

11                   45)-. Non-state-licensed marijuana establishments that are operating without a  
12 business license issued by the City of Seattle or are operating with a business license issued  
13 after January 1, 2013.

14                   B. Second Highest Priority - Tier 2

15                   1)-. Any non-state-licensed marijuana establishment that is growing, processing  
16 or distributing marijuana and that is in violation of building and construction, land use, fire, or  
17 other city codes.

18                   2) Any individual, enterprise or entity that provides delivery services for  
19 medical marijuana.

20                   3)-. Any individual, enterprise or entity that allows the consumption of  
21 marijuana or marijuana infused products on their business premises in violation of law.

22                   C. Third Highest Priority - Tier 3

1                   1.) A non-state licensed marijuana establishment that received a business  
2 license after January 1, 2013, but is at least 80 percent owned by a non-state licensed marijuana  
3 establishment that received a business license before January 1, 2013.

4                   i. The predecessor operations must have been in continuous operation in  
5 a standalone retail location since commencing business prior to January 1, 2013 and must  
6 submit documentation to the FAS Director establishing 80 percent ownership by the  
7 predecessor entity of the establishment opened after January 1, 2013.

8                   ii. The FAS Director shall determine the nature and sufficiency of  
9 documents submitted by these establishments to meet this requirement.

10                  2.) Any individual or entity that is distributing marijuana that has not undergone  
11 quality assurance testing, which testing includes a microbial screening, and that does not  
12 disclose the percentage of THC, THCD, CBD, and any pesticides used in the production of  
13 marijuana it distributes.

14                  ~~23)~~ Any medical marijuana establishment that is distributing marijuana and is  
15 located within 500 feet of another state-licensed or non-state-licensed marijuana establishment.

16                  ~~34)~~ Any medical marijuana establishment that is not operating within the  
17 parameters of MUCA's provisions governing collective gardens.

18                  Section 4. In order to address community concerns regarding public health and safety,  
19 the Mayor intends to submit and the City Council intends to ~~pass~~ consider legislation that will  
20 require non-state licensed marijuana retail establishments to be at least 1000 feet from any  
21 private or public elementary or secondary school or playground and ~~at least 500 feet~~ an  
22 acceptable distance from another state-licensed or non-licensed marijuana retail establishment.

1           A. All distance measurements shall be measured as the shortest straight line distance  
2 from the property line of the proposed building/business location to the property line of those  
3 entities listed. If allowed by state and federal law, other methods of distance measurement,  
4 such as common path of travel, may be considered by the City Council.

5           B. A marijuana retail establishment may, at ~~their~~its own cost and expense, submit a  
6 certified surveyor report establishing the distance of their location from another entity.

7           C. The presence of ~~two or more~~more than two marijuana retail establishments, either  
8 licensed by the state or not, will trigger the mutual dispersion requirement. The entity that  
9 established its use earlier in time will be allowed to remain in place.

10          D. If a state-licensed marijuana retail establishment ~~arrived~~arrives after a non-licensed  
11 marijuana establishment, the state-licensed retail establishment will be given preference.

12  
13  
14  
Substitute Reso. 31595



1           Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, and  
2 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
3 of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

6  
7           The Mayor concurred the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

8  
9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

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12           Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

13  
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

16  
17 (Seal)