



**IN THE CITY COUNCIL  
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN**

**Resolution – October 10, 2016**

**Urging a No Vote on Question 4  
“The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act”**

Whereas... “The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act,” would create a billion-dollar commercial marijuana industry in Massachusetts to promote and support the consumption of recreational marijuana by residents and visitors to the Commonwealth and its 351 cities and towns, and

Whereas...The Act severely limits the right and ability of cities and towns and their elected governments to impose reasonable restrictions on the marijuana industry, including impediments to local rules around the number, type and location of marijuana retail stores, growers and manufacturers and on “home grows.” and

Whereas...The Act would introduce additional drug-based activity into cities and towns at a time when so many residents, families and communities are struggling with the human and social consequences of addiction and the Commonwealth faces an unprecedented opioid crisis, and

Whereas...The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) opposes the legalization of recreational marijuana with recent reports stating that “despite ongoing regulation of the tobacco and alcohol industries, youth remain common targets and ultimately consumers of these products,” and studies have shown negative effects on cognition and brain development in youth and young adults who use marijuana, and

Whereas...The Act risks creating a new industry that subverts public health for private gain, even as so many questions about its consequences remain unanswered and so much information that is available casts grave doubt on its merits and desirability, and

Whereas...The states of Colorado and Washington that have been the earliest adopters of commercial marijuana are already experiencing highest-in-the-nation teenage use and a doubling of marijuana impaired driving fatalities, and Colorado has had an increase in marijuana related hospital visits and school suspensions.

Whereas...The following organizations and individuals are among the many to oppose this initiative; The Massachusetts Municipal Association, Waltham Overcoming Addiction, Massachusetts Hospital Association, Massachusetts Medical Society, Association of School Superintendents, Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Massachusetts Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police, Massachusetts Sheriffs Association, All Massachusetts District Attorneys, Governor Charlie Baker, Attorney General Maura Healey and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, now therefore

Be it Resolved...That the Waltham City Council places itself on record as opposing adoption of the initiative petition known as “The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act” and urges the voters of Waltham to oppose this measure by voting No on Question 4.

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Diane P. LeBlanc  
Vice President

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Robert G. Logan  
Councillor, Ward 9

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John J. McLaughlin  
Councillor, Ward 4

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Joseph M. Giordano, Jr.  
Councillor, Ward 7

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Patrick J. O’Brien  
Councillor At Large

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Daniel P. Romard  
Councillor, Ward 1

VOTED ON OCTOBER 24, 2016  
PASSED WITH A VOTE OF 11 IN FAVOR AND 1 OPPOSED. TWO COUNCILLORS  
WERE ABSENT.

Adopted: Rosario C. Malone, CMC