

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING YOUTH ACCESS TO MARIJUANA THROUGH
RETAIL STOREFRONTS, CULTIVATION, MANUFACTURING, AND
TESTING OF COMMERCIAL CANNABIS**

WHEREAS, the Morgan Hill Unified School District is committed to serving a diverse community of students in an inclusive, safe, and secure environment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is also committed to safeguarding the wellness of all students, having established policies by which staff work to ensure well-being of the students MHUSD serves; and

WHEREAS, the Morgan Hill City Council is currently considering local ordinances regarding the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, testing, and retail sale of commercial cannabis per California state law; and

WHEREAS, in its clinical report entitled, *Counseling Parents and Teens About Marijuana Use in the Era of Legalization of Marijuana* (March 2017, the American Academy of Pediatrics) has documented numerous published findings indicating that cannabis use has harmful effects on adolescents and youth, citing a host of recent medical and scientific research studies to evidence these claims; and

WHEREAS, in this report, the American Academy of Pediatrics references longitudinal studies that link marijuana to negative effects on intellectual function and higher rates of mental health disorders such as addiction, depression, and psychosis; and

WHEREAS, in its publication entitled *Marijuana and Tobacco Use* (May 2017), the California Department of Public Health cites research showing that the highest rates of past month marijuana use among adolescents aged 12 to 17 were in states or jurisdictions that had legalized commercial marijuana and that nationally the perceived risk of harm associated with marijuana use by adolescents is decreasing while the daily use of marijuana is increasing among high school students; and

WHEREAS, marijuana is addictive, particularly for youth; and

WHEREAS, the frequency of marijuana use among youth has surpassed the use of tobacco in Morgan Hill; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use is harmful to the developing brain, affecting the parts of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, thinking, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement; and

WHEREAS, frequent youth users of today’s highly potent marijuana lose an average of eight IQ points; and

WHEREAS, students who are frequent marijuana users are 60 percent less likely to complete high school, 60 percent less likely to graduate college; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use is associated with additional health risks such as respiratory illnesses, asthma, and immune system suppression; and

WHEREAS, population studies reveal an association between youth marijuana use and increased risk of mental health disorders including anxiety, paranoia, psychosis and schizophrenia, and users are seven times more likely to attempt suicide than non-users; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use disorders have increased in all age groups over the past decade, and marijuana accounts for most youth drug treatment admissions across the nation and in Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, government data show that almost 40 percent of U.S. high school students have tried marijuana, about 20 percent are current users, and close to 10 percent first tried it before age 13; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado, where recreational marijuana is legal and commercialized, youth use of marijuana is 50% above the national average, and marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 92% from 2010 to 2014 while all traffic deaths increased only 8 percent during the same time period; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado and Washington where recreational marijuana is legal and commercialized, emergency room admissions for accidental poisoning due to marijuana ingestion by children under the age of 12 has increased by 25% over the last three years; and

WHEREAS, evidence that the commercialization of marijuana through commercial storefronts and cultivation would increase its availability and normalize its use, leading to increased negative health consequences, particularly among youth; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes that the Morgan Hill community would benefit from ordinances that do not allow the retail sales of commercial cannabis and municipal codes to ensure that cannabis businesses or dispensaries are not located in the City of Morgan Hill; and

WHEREAS, Morgan Hill Unified School District is committed to actively supporting its students with wellness education and harm reduction counseling to address the harmful effects of cannabis on youth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Morgan Hill Unified School District supports the decrease of access to marijuana and cannabis related products through commercial cultivation, manufacturing, testing, and retail storefronts in an effort to decrease marijuana use by adolescents and the negative consequences to their health and to public safety that would follow; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby respectfully requests that any cannabis retail storefront, commercial cultivation, manufacturing, and/or testing business be prohibited in the City of Morgan Hill. **PASSED AND ADOPTED** at the regular meeting of the Morgan Hill Unified School District Board of Education duly held on the 19th day of March 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: Escoto, Gittens, Horner, Orosco, Patterson, Sullivan, Sutter
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

DATED: March 19, 2019

SIGNED:



Mary Patterson, President
Board of Education

I, Steve Betando, Secretary of the Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT at the regular meeting on March 19, 2019 which resolution is on file in the office of said Board.

DATED: March 19, 2019

SIGNED:



Steve Betando, Secretary
Board of Education