

RESOLUTION NO. 035, SERIES 2018

**A RESOLUTION BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING MEDICAL CANNABIS LEGALIZATION IN KENTUCKY. (AS AMENDED).**

**SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL MEMBERS HOLLANDER, BUTLER, COAN, FOWLER, LEET, JAMES, MULVIHILL, REED, SEXTON SMITH, WELCH, HAMILTON, LANSHIMA, ACKERSON AND YATES**

**WHEREAS**, thousands of Kentuckians suffer from debilitating pain and symptoms from numerous diseases or chronic illnesses, including but not limited to cancer, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, Crohn's disease, and fibromyalgia; and

**WHEREAS**, Kentucky men and women veterans of the United States Armed Forces suffer from severe post-traumatic stress disorder caused by the effects of combat after serving honorably to protect their country and fellow citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, medical cannabis is widely known to limit the negative symptoms and debilitating pain for patients of numerous diseases or chronic diseases, and many citizens are replacing other drugs, including narcotic pain relievers, which have many adverse side effects, because they have found cannabis to be the most effective drug to provide relief; and

**WHEREAS**, more than two million Americans use medical cannabis to ease the symptoms and debilitating pain due to illnesses or ailments in the 29 states and District of Columbia where such treatment is legal; and

**WHEREAS**, the Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine reports that opioid overdose deaths have fallen by 25 percent in states that have legalized medical cannabis; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, where the 2014 veteran suicide rate was 10 percent higher than the national average, many veterans and their physicians say that medical cannabis is the most effective treatment for chronic pain and PTSD; and

**WHEREAS**, medical cannabis cannot be legally administered within the Commonwealth of Kentucky while 29 other states and the District of Columbia have legalized the treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, the Commonwealth of Kentucky legalized the growth and production of hemp through a significantly regulated process even as hemp, like cannabis, is classified as a Schedule I substance by the federal government; and

~~**WHEREAS**, House Bill 166, legislation to legalize medical cannabis within the Commonwealth of Kentucky is being considered in the Kentucky General Assembly.~~

**WHEREAS**: The Louisville Metro Council recognizes the important scientific and enforcement work of the Federal Drug Administration, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the Drug Enforcement Administration; however, cannabis remains illegal at the federal level as a Schedule I drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT (“METRO COUNCIL”) AS FOLLOWS:**


**SECTION I:** The Louisville Metro Council requests that the Federal Drug Administration, National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the Drug Enforcement Agency expedite research on the safety and effectiveness of the use of medical cannabis for certain health purposes.

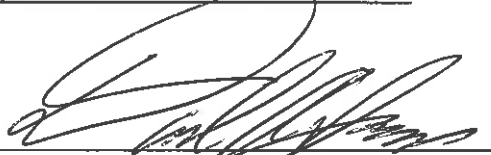
SECTION II: The Metro Council believes that the Controlled Substances Act should be amended to remove cannabis from scheduling.

SECTION III: The Metro Council acknowledges that every state will have differing and sometimes conflicting views of legalized cannabis and how to regulate it, but we would ask the federal government to allow each state the ability to craft its own regulations regarding cannabis.

SECTION IV: The Metro Council urges the Kentucky General Assembly to adopt House Bill 166 or any other legislation that would legalize medical cannabis in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and provide for the care, comfort and relief of any Kentuckian who may benefit.

SECTION IV: This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and approval. and we request the Clerk of the Metro Council forward copies of this Resolution to the Kentucky Legislature, Governor Matt Bevin, the Federal Drug Administration, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

  
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H. Stephen Ott  
Metro Council Clerk

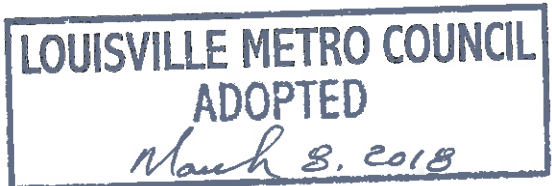
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David James  
President of the Council

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Greg Fischer  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approval Date

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:**

Michael J. O'Connell  
Jefferson County Attorney



BY: Sarah J. Martin

R-024-18 - Ver 2 Support for Medical Cannabis Legalization Resolution as amended 2-28-18.docx



LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL  
CLERK'S OFFICE

H. STEPHEN OTT  
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

## MEMO

To: David James  
Metro Council President

Cc: Council Members Hollander, Butler, Coan, Fowler, Leet, James, Mulvihill, Reed, Sexton Smith, Welch, Hamilton, Lanshima, Ackerson and Yates

From: H. Stephen Ott *H. Ott*  
Clerk of the Metro Council

Date: 3/19/2018

Re: Resolution 035, Series 2018 Unsigned by Mayor Fischer

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Comments: President James,

The Mayor's Office staff member delivered the enclosed copy of Resolution 035, Series 2018 (R-024-18) unsigned by the Mayor. I can only conclude that it was unsigned based on the Mayor's decision to not sign Resolutions directed toward the Kentucky General Assembly.

Pursuant to Metro Council Rule 7.18(a) and KRS 83.500(4):

*If the mayor does not sign an ordinance or resolution presented to him, and does not return it on or before the day on which the board of aldermen holds its regular meeting next after the meeting at which the ordinance or resolution was passed, and three (3) days have intervened between the presentation to the mayor and the meeting, the ordinance or resolution shall be in force as if he had signed it.*

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

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