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CONSENT CALENDAR

June 22, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
 Councilmember Jesse Arreguin

Subject: Support of the California Regulate, Control, and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution in support of the California Regulate, Control, and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010, which will appear on the November 2010 statewide ballot.

BACKGROUND

Recently adopted by the City of Oakland, passage of the California Regulate, Control, and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010 would result in the legalization of cannabis (marijuana) in a similar manner as alcohol is legalized—available to adults to consume under specified conditions.

Criminalization of cannabis has resulted in back-door, illegal sale and consumption of cannabis similar to the illegal sales and consumptions of alcohol in the days of Prohibition. Legalization of cannabis would result in a number of highly desirable effects in the state of California. An estimated \$15 billion in cannabis revenue would be generated which the State might collect on, and California would have their police force (and state funds) freed up by ceasing police arrests of cannabis consumers. It is estimated by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) that \$200 million is spent by the State yearly on cannabis convictions.

Current cannabis regulation laws have failed the State; the California Regulate, Control, and Tax Cannabis Act would result in legalization of cannabis similar to how alcohol is legalized nationally—and California would be freed of the woes that accompany cannabis criminalization.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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RESOLUTION NO. XX

ENDORING THE CALIFORNIA REGULATE, CONTROL AND TAX CANNABIS ACT OF 2010

WHEREAS, the State of California has current laws which criminalize possession, sale, and consumption of cannabis (marijuana) in non-medical circumstances; and

WHEREAS, these laws have failed and are in need of reform; and

WHEREAS, regulation of cannabis like we do alcohol should be the norm in California, allowing adults to possess and consume small amounts of cannabis; and

WHEREAS, there is an estimated \$15 billion in illegal cannabis transactions taking place in California yearly, which the State sees no revenue of because of the black-market illegal nature of these transactions; and

WHEREAS, taxing and regulating sales of cannabis like we do with alcohol and cigarettes will generate billions of dollars in annual revenue for California, which may reduce the State deficit and fund such State programs which Californians treasure, like funding for higher education; and

WHEREAS, California should stop arresting thousands of non-violent cannabis consumers, freeing up police resources and saving millions of dollars each year, which could be used for apprehending truly dangerous criminals and keeping them locked up, and for other essential state needs that lack funding; and

WHEREAS, the California branch of the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) estimates that \$200 million is spent statewide on cannabis-related convictions; and

WHEREAS, the California Regulate, Control, and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010 would achieve the goals of decriminalizing cannabis usage; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland has already endorsed the Act, and the City of Berkeley could be the second city in the state to endorse the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Berkeley City Council on behalf of the residents of Berkeley, do endorse the California Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council directs this resolution and accompanying council item to be sent to the Governor of the State of California.