

**UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (UACC) – RESOLUTION 2015-03**

DRAFT

**A Resolution of UACC Prohibiting the Establishment or Operation of Cannabis (Marijuana) Facilities Within our Boundaries**

**WHEREAS** the Anchorage Municipal Charter Art, VIII, Sec 8.01 establishes Community Councils as representatives for neighborhoods in planning and development; **and**

**WHEREAS** on January 27, 2015 the Anchorage Assembly passed Ordinance No. AO 2015-7, an ordinance amending Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 8.35 with a new section to prohibit the consumption of marijuana in a public place; **and**

**WHEREAS** on February 24, 2015 recreational use of Marijuana became legal in the State of Alaska under certain regulations. "Know Your Grow" aims to inform citizens and visitors of the Municipality of Anchorage of what they can and cannot do with marijuana within the municipality; **and**

**WHEREAS** on February 24, 2015 the Anchorage Assembly passed an ordinance at special meeting regarding the butane hash oil extraction process of marijuana. Under 8.35.350 (Prohibited Acts Regarding Marijuana) it is unlawful for any person to manufacture a marijuana concentrate hashish, or hash oil by use of solvents containing compressed flammable gases or through use of a solvent-based extraction method using a substance other than vegetable glycerin, unless the person is validly licensed and permitted in accordance with statute, regulation, or ordinance; **and**

**WHEREAS** under state law a person, employer, school, hospital, recreation or youth center, correction facility, corporation or any other entity who occupies, owns or controls private property may prohibit or otherwise regulate the possession, consumption, use, display, transfer, distribution, sale, transportation or growing of marijuana on or in that property. Persons who violate the policy are subject to prosecution for the misdemeanor offense of criminal trespass in violation of AS 11.46.330. In the Municipality of Anchorage, this offense would be cited under 8.45.010; **and**

**WHEREAS** the attached descriptions identifies the negative effects and results marijuana has on the public and private party citizens lives, is overwhelming justification for not allowing it.

**THEREFORE** UACC voted to prohibit the establishment or operation of cannabis facilities within our boundaries.

**NOW THEREFORE** the UACC hereby resolves:

**THAT** we **DO NOT** want the Establishment or Operation of Cannabis Facilities within our boundaries

**Resolution Vote:** For 1                      Against: 14                      Abstain: \_\_\_

This resolution was tabled by the University Area Community Council this day of April 1, 2015.

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Albert K Milspaugh, Vice Present, UACC

One (1) Attachment

**WHEREAS** marijuana affects the Brain. The main chemical in marijuana that affects the brain is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). When marijuana is smoked, THC quickly passes from the lungs into the bloodstream, which carries it to organs throughout the body, including the brain. As it enters the brain, THC attaches to cells, or neurons, with specific kinds of receptors called cannabinoid receptors. Normally, these receptors are activated by chemicals that occur naturally in the body. They are part of a communication network in the brain called the endocannabinoid system. This system is important in normal brain development and function. Most of the cannabinoid receptors are found in parts of the brain that influence pleasure, memory, thinking, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement. Marijuana triggers an increase in the activity of the endocannabinoid system, which causes the release of dopamine in the brain's reward centers, creating the pleasurable feelings or “high.” Other effects include changes in perceptions and mood, lack of coordination, difficulty with thinking and problem solving, and disrupted learning and memory. Certain parts of the brain have a lot of cannabinoid receptors. These areas are the hippocampus, the cerebellum, the basal ganglia, and the cerebral cortex. The functions that these brain areas control are the ones most affected by marijuana; **and**

**WHEREAS** marijuana affects learning and memory. The hippocampus plays a critical role in certain types of learning. Disrupting its normal functioning can lead to problems studying, learning new things, and recalling recent events. A recent study followed people from age 13 to 38 and found that those who used marijuana a lot in their teens had up to an 8 point drop in IQ, even if they quit in adulthood; **and**

**WHEREAS** marijuana affects coordination. THC affects the cerebellum, the area of our brain that controls balance and coordination, and the basal ganglia, another part of the brain that helps control movement. These effects can influence performance in such activities as sports, driving, and video games; **and**

**WHEREAS** marijuana affects judgment. Since THC affects areas of the frontal cortex involved in decision making, using it can cause you to do things you might not do when you are not under the influence of drugs—such as engaging in risky sexual behavior, which can lead to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) like HIV, the virus that causes AIDS—or getting in a car with someone who’s been drinking or is high on marijuana. When marijuana is smoked, its effects begin almost immediately and can last from 1 to 3 hours. Decision making, concentration, and memory can suffer for days after use, especially in regular users. If marijuana is consumed in foods or beverages, the effects of THC appear later—usually in 30 minutes to 1 hour—but can last over 4 hours. Long-term, regular use of marijuana—starting in the teen years—may impair brain development and lower IQ, meaning the brain may not reach its full potential. The changes that take place in the brain when a person uses marijuana can cause serious health problems and affect a person’s daily life; **and**

**WHEREAS** marijuana affects health. Within a few minutes after inhaling marijuana smoke, a person’s heart rate speeds up, the bronchial passages (the pipes that let air in and out of your

lungs) relax and become enlarged, and blood vessels in the eyes expand, making the eyes look red. While these and other effects seem harmless, they can take a toll on the body.

•**Increased heart rate.** When someone uses marijuana, heart rate—normally 70 to 80 beats per minute—may increase by 20 to 50 beats per minute or, in some cases, even double. This effect can be greater if other drugs are taken with marijuana. The increased heart rate forces the heart to work extra hard to keep up.

•**Respiratory (lung and breathing) problems.** Smoke from marijuana irritates the lungs, causing breathing and lung problems among regular users similar to those experienced by people who smoke tobacco—like a daily cough and a greater risk for lung infections such as pneumonia. While research has not found a strong association between marijuana and lung cancer, many people who smoke marijuana also smoke cigarettes, which do cause cancer. And, some studies have suggested that smoking marijuana could make it harder to quit cigarette smoking.

•**Increased risk for mental health problems.** Marijuana use has been linked with depression and anxiety, as well as suicidal thoughts among adolescents. In addition, research has suggested that in people with a genetic risk for developing schizophrenia, smoking marijuana during adolescence may increase the risk for developing psychosis and developing it at an earlier age. Researchers are still learning exactly what the relationship is between these mental health problems and marijuana use.

**Increased risk of problems for an unborn baby.** Pregnant women who use marijuana may risk changing the developing brain of the unborn baby. These changes could contribute to problems with attention, memory, and problem solving; **and**

**WHEREAS** marijuana affects school and social life. The effects of marijuana on the brain and body can have a serious impact on a person's life.

•**Reduced school performance.** Students who smoke marijuana tend to get lower grades and are more likely to drop out of high school than their peers who do not use. The effects of marijuana on attention, memory, and learning can last for days or weeks. These effects have a negative impact on learning and motivation. In fact, people who use marijuana regularly for a long time are less satisfied with their lives and have more problems with friends and family compared to people who do not use marijuana.

•**Impaired driving.** It is unsafe to drive while under the influence of marijuana. Marijuana affects a number of skills required for safe driving—alertness, concentration, coordination, and reaction time—so it's not safe to drive high or to ride with someone who's been smoking. Marijuana makes it hard to judge distances and react to signals and sounds on the road. Marijuana is the most common illegal drug involved in auto fatalities. High school seniors who smoke marijuana are 2 times more likely to receive a traffic ticket and 65% more likely to get into an accident than those who don't smoke. In 2011, among 12th graders, 12.5% reported that within the past 2 weeks they had driven after using marijuana. And combining marijuana with drinking even a small amount of alcohol greatly increases driving danger, more than either drug alone.

**Potential gateway to other drugs.** Most young people who use marijuana do not go on to use other drugs. However, those who use marijuana, alcohol, or tobacco during their teen years are more likely to use other illegal drugs. It isn't clear why some people do go on to try other drugs, but researchers have a few theories. The human brain continues to develop into the early

20s. Exposure to addictive substances, including marijuana, may cause changes to the developing brain that make other drugs more appealing. Animal research supports this possibility—for example, early exposure to marijuana makes opioid drugs (like Vicodin or heroin) more pleasurable. In addition, someone who uses marijuana is more likely to be in contact with people who use and sell other drugs, increasing the risk for being encouraged or tempted to try them. Finally, people at high risk for using drugs may use marijuana first because it is easy to get (like cigarettes and alcohol); **and**

**WHEREAS** marijuana is addictive. A user may feel the urge to smoke marijuana again and again to re-create the “high.” Repeated use could lead to addiction—which means the person has trouble controlling their drug use and often cannot stop even though they want to. It is estimated that about 1 in 6 people who start using as a teen, and 25% to 50% percent of those who use it every day, become addicted to marijuana. What causes one person to become addicted to marijuana and another not to depends on many factors—including their family history (genetics), the age they start using, whether they also use other drugs, their family and friend relationships, and whether they take part in positive activities like school or sports (environment). People who use marijuana may also feel withdrawal when they stop using the drug. Withdrawal symptoms may include:

- Irritability
- Sleeplessness
- Lack of appetite, which can lead to weight loss
- Anxiety
- Drug cravings

These effects can last for several days to a few weeks after drug use is stopped. Relapse (returning to the drug after you’ve quit) is common during this period because people also crave the drug to relieve these symptoms; **and**

**WHEREAS** marijuana has other affects. It is very unlikely for a person to overdose and die from marijuana use. However, people can and do injure themselves and die because of marijuana's effects on judgment, perception, and coordination, for example, when driving under the influence of the drug. Also, people can experience extreme anxiety (panic attacks) or psychotic reactions (where they lose touch with reality and may become paranoid); **and**

**WHEREAS** marijuana affects education standards. Studies show that marijuana interferes with attention, motivation, memory, and learning. Students who use marijuana regularly tend to get lower grades and are more likely to drop out of high school than those who don’t use. Those who use it regularly may be functioning at a reduced intellectual level most or all of the time.