

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
THE CITY OF LONG BEACH, NEW YORK**

To: City Manager; Members of the City Council

Date: November 16, 2021

Re: Opting Out of Licensing and Establishing Retail Cannabis Dispensaries and On-Site Cannabis Consumption Establishments within the City of Long Beach Pursuant to Cannabis Law §131

The Members of the Public Safety Commission are providing recommendation to the City Manager and City Council, as per the Commission's mandate, regarding the decision to "opt-out" of allowing retail marijuana dispensaries and on-site consumption as it pertains to public safety. The Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) provides local municipalities (towns, villages, and cities) an opportunity to "opt-out" of permitting retail dispensaries and on-site consumption licensees to operate within the City of Long Beach by December 31, 2021

We are recommending that the City of Long Beach "**opt-out**" of the MRTA provision to allow retail sales and on-site consumption. This will provide the City and its residents more time to fully assess and evaluate the potential impacts and benefits to our community. If the City does not opt out before the December 31, 2021 deadline, then the City **does not** have the ability to "opt-out" in the future and is required to allow licensed retail dispensaries and on-site consumption establishments indefinitely.

The Commission recognizes that the MRTA permits residents over the age of 21 to legally use recreational marijuana and this alone may increase use within our community and that impact **is not** a part of the Commission's recommendation. It is well documented that increased use of marijuana has had negative impacts on local communities, specifically as it relates to public health and safety¹, pedestrian safety and impacts to local law enforcement and emergency services agencies. Allowing increased points of access to retail dispensaries and on-site consumption may lead further increase in usage within the City.

¹ Emergency Room Visits Caused by Marijuana Statistics - <https://comparecamp.com/marijuana-statistics/#eme>

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If other local municipalities bordering the City “opt-out” of the MRTA retail sales and on-site consumption provision, the City may see an excess increase in ‘marijuana tourism’ to our community which may have an outsized impact on our local community and further impact public safety concerns, including traffic related incidents.

For these reasons, the Commission is urging and recommending the City to “opt-out” at this time of the MRTA retail sales and on-site consumption provision.

Respectfully,

Brendan Healy, Chair

Joe Miccio

William Tansey

Kate Tormey

Judy Vining