



Department Source: City Manager

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: December 18, 2017

Re: Resolution Expressing Support for Medical Marijuana

## Executive Summary

At the request of Council Member Trapp, Council Report 86-17 and a draft resolution expressing support for medical marijuana was submitted. The report and draft resolution was discussed at the Council meeting on November 6, 2017. Based on the feedback from Council, staff added a clause to the proposed resolution which states that legal access to marijuana as medicine reduces death from opioid overdose. Also, at the request of Council, Public Health and Human Services staff reviewed studies on Medical Marijuana Legalization and have provided a summary of the findings in the discussion section of this memo.

## Discussion

At Council's request, Public Health and Human Services staff have reviewed studies related to Medical Marijuana Legalization (MML) and potential reduction in opioid overdoses. There are some studies of limited scope, and with noted limitations, which indicate that legalized use of medical marijuana may lead to a reduction in opioid overdose. One of the more comprehensive studies, *Medical Cannabis Laws and Opioid Analgesic Overdose Mortality in the United States, 1999-2010* published in the JAMA Internal Medicine-August 25, 2014, found that states with medical cannabis laws had a 24.8% lower mean annual opioid overdose mortality rate compared to states without medical cannabis laws. This study also states "further investigation is required to determine how medical cannabis laws may interact with policies aimed at preventing opioid analgesic overdose."

Staff also reviewed a report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine related to the health effects of cannabis and cannabinoid use. This reports categorized the weight of evidence regarding whether cannabis or cannabinoids used for therapeutic purposes are an effective or ineffective treatment for various health conditions. This report found that there is limited evidence of a statistical association between cannabis use and changes in the rates and use patterns of other licit and illicit substances. A summary of this report is included.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None.

Long-Term Impact: None.



## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### [Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
11/06/2017	REP 86-17: Proposed resolution expressing support for medical marijuana.

## Suggested Council Action

Council should vote on the resolution and provide guidance on whether or not to add this issue to our list of state legislative priorities.