

RESOLUTION 17- 06

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

MEDICAL MARIJUANA FACILITIES

A **RESOLUTION** regarding the Queen Anne's County Department of Planning and Zoning's responsibilities to comment upon the applicability of the Queen Anne's County Zoning Code (Title 18:1) to potential medical marijuana growing, processing, and dispensing facilities within Queen Anne's County.

WHEREAS, in May, 2015, the State of Maryland finalized legislation authorizing the growing, processing, and dispensing of medical marijuana, and

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland has indicated that local jurisdictions must allow medical marijuana facilities to be located in their jurisdiction whether or not such facilities are supported by the citizens, and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners do not support the establishment of medical marijuana facilities in Queen Anne's County but may be prohibited by State law from banning them completely, and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2016, the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission issued pre-approval notices for medical marijuana growing, processing, and dispensing licenses, and

WHEREAS, the recipients of the pre-approval notices may now seek final licensing approval, and

WHEREAS, a recipient of pre-approval for a processing facility and a recipient of pre-approval for a dispensary have expressed interest in locating in Queen Anne's County, and

WHEREAS, the process for seeking final licensing approval is set forth in COMAR 10.62.25.07 and must be concluded by December 16, 2017, and

WHEREAS, the issuance of final licensing approval requires applicants to demonstrate a variety of financial, security, land use, professional, and operational qualifications, and

WHEREAS, the criteria for final licensing approval bear directly upon the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Queen Anne's County, and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners are unable to fully assess the effect of licensed medical marijuana processing and dispensing facilities upon the health, safety, and welfare of the Queen Anne's County citizens without full access to completed applications for final licensing approval, and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners have authority to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Queen Anne's County citizens through the planing and zoning authority conferred upon them in the Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and

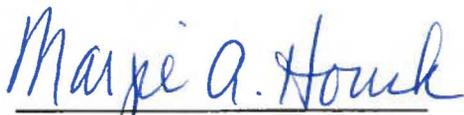
WHEREAS, until the full parameters of licensed medical marijuana processing and dispensing facilities are available for study, the County Commissioners are unable to make fully informed decisions regarding land use policies and initiatives, and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners believe a cautious approach to the land use implications of licensed medical marijuana processing and dispensing facilities is prudent,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 31 day of Jan, 2017 that the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County hereby direct the Queen Anne's County Department of Planning and Zoning (1) to maintain close contacts with the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission, (2) to request copies of all documents, plans, and studies submitted to the Cannabis Commission by applicants for final licensing approval that wish to locate in Queen Anne's County, (3) to study the submissions made by such applicants for the reasonably expected land use impacts of medical marijuana facilities, and (4) to refrain from issuing any zoning approvals or statements regarding the permissibility of medical marijuana processing and dispensing facilities pending the issuance of a report by the Department on the land use implications of such facilities in Queen Anne's County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Planning and Zoning shall submit its report to the Cannabis Commission on or before October 1, 2017 provided the Department is satisfied that the submissions made to the Cannabis Commission by applicants seeking to locate in Queen Anne's County are sufficient to assess the land use implications of medical marijuana processing and dispensing facilities in Queen Anne's County.

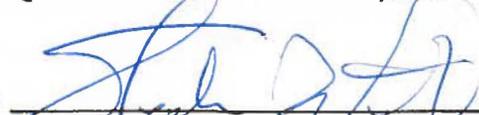
ATTEST:



Margie A. Houck,
Executive Assistant

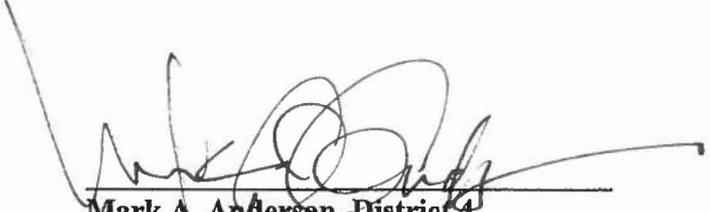
**THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

BY:

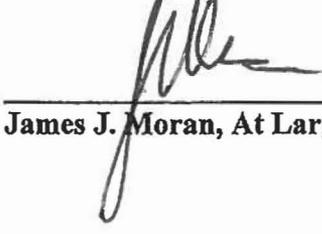

Stephen Wilson, District 2, President


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