



CITY of LAGUNA NIGUEL

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CITY COUNCIL

Mayor John Mark Jennings
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Council Member Elaine Gennawey
Council Member Fred Minagar
Council Member Sandy Rains

May 13, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol Building, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to A.B. 1356

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez,

On behalf of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express our opposition to A.B. 1356 (Ting) – Cannabis: Local Jurisdiction: Retail Commercial Cannabis Activity

Laguna Niguel unreservedly opposes A.B. 1356 due to the requirement that it creates if more than 50 percent of the voters of a local jurisdiction voted in favor of Proposition 64, these local jurisdictions would be required to issue a minimum number of licenses authorizing retail cannabis activity within that jurisdiction. More specifically, this bill requires these cities to issue a minimum of one retail cannabis license for every four liquor licenses, or one retail cannabis license for every 10,000 residents.

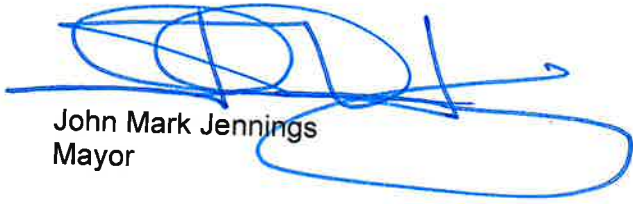
Existing law, under both the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA) and Proposition 64, states that local jurisdictions have the ability to adopt and enforce local ordinances to regulate cannabis businesses. By removing local governments' ability to regulate brick and mortar retail cannabis shops, A.B. 1356 undermines the very foundation of local control and thereby negates the primary purpose of California's established dual licensing structure.

With regard to the measure's mandated 1-to-4 ratio, there is simply no nexus between a city's regulation of citizens' access to retail commercial cannabis and the number of liquor establishments within a community. By requiring such a ratio, A.B. 1356 proposes an arbitrary land use standard for individual cities and counties based on the results of a statewide ballot measure.

In seeking to eliminate local authority to ban or regulate retail commercial cannabis businesses, A.B. 1356 would ultimately strip cities and counties of the ability to decide what is appropriate for their communities—a premise that directly contradicts the framework understood by the voters when approving Proposition 64.

Laguna Niguel has always and will continue to oppose any piece of legislation that dwindles down the local control and authority that cities ought to maintain in the State of California. Every city in California has its own value system and principles. Legislators in Sacramento should respect this diversity of thought and stop attempts to legislate for cities. Laguna Niguel regulates in accordance with the values and principles of our residents of our remarkable City. As a result, we oppose measures that prevent the City's ability to require fair and proper permits and to regulate cannabis dispensaries. Our community knows what is best for itself and we therefore oppose A.B. 1356.

Yours in service to others,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Mark Jennings", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible.

John Mark Jennings
Mayor

- cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Senator Patricia Bates
The Honorable Assembly Member Bill Brough
Tony Cardenas, League of California Cities, tcardenas@cacities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org