

RESOLUTION R:259-2023

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE IN SUPPORT OF THE LOCATION AND OPERATION OF A CLASS 5 CANNABIS RETAIL FACILITY BY NATURES BLISS

WHEREAS, in November 2020, New Jersey voters approved Public Question No. 1, which amended the New Jersey Constitution to legalize a controlled form of marijuana called “cannabis” for adults at least 21 years of age; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2021, c. 16, known as the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act (the “Act”), which legalizes the recreational use of cannabis by adults 21 years of age or older, and establishes a comprehensive regulatory and licensing scheme for commercial recreational cannabis operations, use and possession; and

WHEREAS, section 31a of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to adopt regulations governing the number of cannabis businesses allowed to operate within their boundaries, as well as the location, manner, and times of operation of such businesses, and establishing civil penalties for the violation of any such regulations; and

WHEREAS, by Ordinance introduced June 29, 2021, the Governing Body of the Township of Monroe permitted and established land use regulations and local taxes for regulated cannabis businesses within the Township in accordance with the Act and the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law; and

WHEREAS, under the Act, prospective cannabis business license-applicants are required to submit to the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission (“CRC” or “Commission”), inter alia, a Resolution from the governing body of any potential host-municipality, certifying that the municipality has authorized the type of cannabis business license being sought by the license-applicant to operate within its jurisdiction, and a confirmation that, if the municipality has imposed a limit on the number of licensed cannabis businesses, the issuance of a license to the applicant by the Commission would not exceed that limit; and

WHEREAS, the Township recognizes that the ultimate decision to approve any new cannabis licensees is guided by the standards identified within the New Jersey Cannabis Laws and vested to the discretion of the CRC; and

WHEREAS, the Township supports cannabis businesses that might otherwise seek to operate within the Township, subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions imposed by any lawfully adopted ordinance; and

WHEREAS, such a business would create job opportunities for residents of Monroe Township and contribute to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the Township has received a request for such an aforementioned Resolution from Natures Bliss which seeks approval from the CRC for a Class 5 Retailer Cannabis Business License to be located within the Township at the address 929 South Black Horse Pike, Williamstown, New Jersey 08094, further identified as Block 3303, Lot 25 on the Tax Map of the Township, where retail cannabis is permitted.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Natures Bliss recognizes that the issuance of this Resolution nevertheless obligates it to comply with the conditions identified under the Ordinance, with the Township recognizing that the issuance of this Resolution permits Natures Bliss to submit its application for licensure to the CRC, while simultaneously pursuing any and all local approvals required to become operational.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township also hereby confirms that the ultimate issuance of a license to Natures Bliss by the CRC would not exceed any limit on retailers identified by the Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Natures Bliss, understands and acknowledges that this Resolution of Support does not guarantee Natures Bliss an award of the ability for Natures Bliss to operate such a business within the Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township Administrator, Director of Community Development, and Natures Bliss.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

ADOPTED at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe on October 23, 2023.

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE

CNCL. PRES. CAROLANN FOX

ATTEST:

**Twp. Clerk, Aileen Chiselko, RMC
or Deputy Clerk, Jennifer Harbison, RMC**

CERTIFICATION OF CLERK

The foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, held on the 23rd day of October 2023 in the Municipal Complex located at 125 Virginia Avenue, Williamstown, New Jersey.

**Twp. Clerk, Aileen Chiselko, RMC
or Deputy Clerk, Jennifer Harbison, RMC**

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ROLL CALL VOTE

	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Cncl. Adams				
Cncl. Garbowski				
Cncl. Heverly				
Cncl. McKinney				
Cncl. O'Reilly				
Cncl. Valcourt				
Cncl. Pres. Fox				
Tally:				