

CITY OF



ONTARIO

303 EAST "B" STREET, CIVIC CENTER

ONTARIO

CALIFORNIA 91764-4105

(909) 395-2000
FAX (909) 395-2070

PAUL S. LEON
MAYOR

RUBEN VALENCIA
MAYOR PRO TEM

ALAN D. WAPNER
JIM W. BOWMAN
DEBRA DORST-PORADA
COUNCIL MEMBERS

May 14, 2019

SCOTT OCHOA
CITY MANAGER

SHEILA MAUTZ
CITY CLERK

JAMES R. MILHISER
TREASURER

The Honorable Phil Ting
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 1356 – Notice of Opposition

Dear Assemblymember Ting,


The City of Ontario must respectfully oppose Assembly Bill 1356. As the legislation is currently drafted, if more than 50 percent of the electorate in our jurisdiction voted in favor of Proposition 64, we would be required to issue a minimum number of licenses authorizing retail cannabis activity within our City. More specifically, the bill would require us to issue a minimum of one retail cannabis license for every four liquor licenses, or one retail cannabis license for every 10,000 residents.

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

The sudden obstruction of local control will give rise to a number of logistical problems, requiring jurisdictions to hastily develop and implement licenses they have never issued before, with very little time to prepare. Furthermore, it will shift public safety resources away from high risk areas in order to adequately patrol cannabis businesses to ensure safe transactions and transportation. Lastly, 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, AB 1356 proposes an arbitrary land use standard for individual cities and counties based on the results of a statewide ballot measure.

While we understand and respect our residents' need to access certain medical treatments, AB 1356 would ultimately strip cities and counties of the ability to decide what is appropriate for their communities – a premise that directly contravenes the framework understood by the voters when approving proposition 64. For these reasons, the City of Ontario must oppose AB 1356.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul S. Leon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Paul S. Leon
Mayor

c: The Honorable Senator Connie M. Leyva
The Honorable Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez