Presented by: Assemblymember Champion
Introduced: 06/19/89

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 1388

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INITIATIVE NO. 88MARI REGARDING THE RECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA BEING PLACED BEFORE THE VOTERS AT THE NEXT STATEWIDE ELECTION.

WHEREAS, Alaska is the only state in the union with a permissive statute for personnel possession of marijuana, and

WHEREAS, the supreme courts of other states and the U.S. Supreme Court have upheld state statutes prohibiting the use and possession of marijuana, and

WHEREAS, current Alaska state statutes are not in conformity with federal drug enforcement laws and International Treaties, and

WHEREAS, the conflict between federal and state law pertaining to marijuana causes unnecessary barriers for local police and the Alaska State Troopers in protecting the public from drug abusers, and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Crime Commission has for the past three years concluded that Alaska's permissive laws on marijuana should be repealed, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse has found that the level of experimentation with and use of marijuana among Alaskan youth 12-17 years of age is twice the national average, and

WHEREAS, there is a strong positive correlation between substance abuse, including use of marijuana, and student discipline problems, absenteeism, and drop-out rates, and

WHEREAS, representatives of 60 Alaskan high schools at the Alaska Association of School Governments' Annual Fall Conference on October 18, 1986, unanimously passed a resolution to repeal the current marijuana law and make the drug in all its forms illegal in Alaska, and

WHEREAS, Alaska is receiving the following amount of federal monies for fiscal year 1989: $695,000 for drug enforcement; $1,421,000 for drug-free schools; $325,000 for juvenile justice; and $2,734,000 for alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health administration, and

WHEREAS, Senator Frank Murkowski received a letter from the Office of the U.S. Attorney General in April of 1987, expressing concern about providing federal funds to states which maintain laws permitting possession of illegal drugs, and

WHEREAS, President Bush opposes legalization or decriminalizing of any illicit drug and further supports that user accountability for drug usage is long overdue, and that the offender of any drug crime be ineligible for discretionary federal assistance, grants, loans, and contracts for a period of time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

1. That the Assembly supports Initiative No. 88MARI being placed on the next statewide ballot to give the people of Alaska the choice of whether or not the display of marijuana in any place, public or private, and possessing less than one-half pound of a substance which has marijuana in it, should be punishable by not more than 90 days in jail and a fine of not more than $1,000.

2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 19th day of June, 1989.

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk