

1 [Delay local implementation of the State's cannabis identification card system.]

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3 **Resolution urging the Director of Health to delay local implementation of the State's**  
4 **cannabis identification card program until patients, advocates and City and State**  
5 **Legislators have sufficient time to petition the State Health Department to modify its**  
6 **card program protocols to better protect the anonymity of patients and caregivers, and**  
7 **physicians can be informed of their new obligations under the State card program.**

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9 WHEREAS, currently and for the past several years the City and County of San  
10 Francisco has been administering an identification card system for medical cannabis users  
11 and primary caregivers; and

12 WHEREAS, the City's identification card system provides that the City keeps no  
13 information identifying patients or caregivers; and,

14 WHEREAS, the City's identification card system requires that card applicants provide  
15 the Health Department with a verifiable recommendation from a physician; and,

16 WHEREAS, pursuant to State law, the State of California has implemented a State-  
17 wide medical cannabis identification card system and protocols for the City's participation in  
18 that program; and,

19 WHEREAS, the State's program mandates City and State retention of information  
20 identifying patients and caregivers and requires that physicians submit specific forms to the  
21 Health Department, document the patient's need for medical cannabis in the medical record,  
22 and verify the recommendation to the Health Department within seven days of inquiry by the  
23 Department; and,

24 WHEREAS, the City's participation in the State-wide card program is mandatory and  
25 will result in the cessation of the City's card program; and,

1           WHEREAS, the City has some flexibility regarding when it implements the State-wide  
2 card program but is scheduled to begin participation on November 7, 2005; and,

3           WHEREAS, patients and caregivers have expressed concerns that the State's program  
4 does not adequately protect the anonymity of patients and caregivers, and that the imminent  
5 implementation of the State's program does not provide sufficient time to educate physicians  
6 regarding their new obligations under the State program; and,

7           WHEREAS, delaying the City's participation in the State card program will afford  
8 advocates additional time to petition the State to modify its card program protocols to better  
9 protect the anonymity of patients and caregivers, and inform physicians of their new  
10 obligations under the State card program; now, therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Director of the Health  
12 Department of the City and County of San Francisco to delay local implementation of the  
13 State's cannabis identification card program until patients, advocates and City and State  
14 Legislators have sufficient time to petition the State to modify its card program protocols to  
15 better protect the anonymity of patients and caregivers; and, be it

16           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Director of the Health  
17 Department of the City and County of San Francisco to delay local implementation of the  
18 State's cannabis identification card program until physicians can be informed of their new  
19 obligations under the State card program.

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