

**Charlotte County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary**

Item Number: R- 1

1 DEPARTMENT MAKING REQUEST

Commission Office

2 MEETING DATE

10/14/2014 9:00:00 AM

3 REQUESTED MOTION/ACTION

- a) Presentation by Sheriff Prummell; and
- b) Approve a Resolution opposing Amendment 2, the Florida Medical Marijuana Initiative.

4 AGENDA

Regular

5 IS THIS ITEM BUDGETED (IF APPLICABLE) -

Budget Action

No budget action

Financial Impact Summary Statement

No financial impact.

Detailed Analysis Attached -

Budget Officer-

6 BACKGROUND (Why is this Action Necessary, and What Action will be accomplished)

The Board, during their regular meeting of September 23, 2014, directed staff to prepare a Resolution opposing Amendment 2, the Florida Medical Marijuana Initiative.

ATTACHMENTS:

Name:

Description:

Type:

[Resolution Opposing Amendment 2.doc](#)

Resolution

Exhibit

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 2014-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING AMENDMENT 2, THE
FLORIDA MEDICAL MARIJUANA INITIATIVE.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Amendment 2, the Florida Medical Marijuana Initiative, is on the November 4, 2014, ballot in the State of Florida as an initiated constitutional amendment to the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the measure, upon voter approval, would legalize the cultivation, purchase, possession and use of marijuana to treat medical conditions when recommended by a licensed physician; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) has serious concerns about the effects of Amendment 2 from a public health and law enforcement perspective; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Medical Association (FMA), at their conference in July, 2014, adopted by unanimous vote a Resolution opposing Amendment 2 for public health and safety reasons; and

Whereas, the FMA, in their Resolution, adopted the following policy statements from the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM):

1. That cannabis, cannabis-based products, and cannabis delivery devices should be subject to the same standards that are applicable to other prescription medications and medical devices and that these products should not be distributed or otherwise provided to patients unless and until such products or devices have received marketing approval from the Food and Drug Administration;
2. To reject smoking as a means of drug delivery since it is not safe;
3. To reject a process whereby State and local ballot initiatives approve medicines because these initiatives are being decided by individuals not qualified to make such decisions based upon a careful science-based review of safety and efficacy, standardization and formulation for dosing, or provide a means for a regulated, closed system of distribution for

marijuana which is a CNS (central nervous system) drug with abuse potential; and

4. Recommends its members and other physician organizations and their members reject responsibility for providing access to cannabis and cannabis-based products until such time that these materials receive marketing approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

WHEREAS, in addition, the Florida Sheriffs Association, has previously adopted a Resolution opposing Amendment 2 for public health and safety reasons as well finding in part that:

1. Marijuana as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act, is defined as having a high potential for abuse and has no accepted medical use in the U.S.;

2. The American Medical Association, National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society have rejected smoked marijuana as medicine;

3. Recent analysis from the National Institute on Drug Abuse reveals the potency of marijuana has reached the highest level since scientific analysis of the drug began, with THC amounts rising from 4% in 1980s to 15% in 2012;

4. The higher potency of today's marijuana may be contributing to the substantial increase in the number of teenagers and adults in treatment for marijuana dependence; and

5. Marijuana is a gateway drug and according to the RAND Drug Policy Research Center, there is a high incidence of progression from the use of marijuana to the use of heroin and cocaine, with supporting studies indicating the younger an individual is when first using marijuana, the more they are to end up using cocaine and heroin.

WHEREAS, the Board finds that there are medically acceptable alternatives to smoked marijuana such as Marinol pills which contain THC, marijuana's active ingredient, that are available at US pharmacies today; and

WHEREAS, for the above stated reasons, the Board believes that approval of Amendment 2 is contrary to the interests of the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Charlotte County and the State of Florida.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County, Florida:

1. That the foregoing recitals are hereby adopted by the Board and incorporated by reference herein.

2. That the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County, Florida, hereby oppose Amendment 2, the Florida Medical Marijuana Initiative, and urges all citizens to vote "No" on Amendment 2 on the November 4, 2014, ballot.

3. That the County Administrator is hereby directed to send a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor Rick Scott, to Charlotte County's legislative delegation and to the Executive Director of the Florida Association of Counties.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2014.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Kenneth W. Doherty, Chairman

ATTEST:
Barbara T. Scott, Clerk of
Circuit Court and Ex-Officio
Clerk to the Board of County
Commissioners

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

By: _____
Janette S. Knowlton, County Attorney