ORDINANCE NO. 1540

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIALTO, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE RIALTO MUNICIPAL CODE ADDING CHAPTER 9.45 TO PROHIBIT MOBILE MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES, WHICH IS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE PUBLIC PEACE, HEALTH, AND SAFETY.

The City Council of the City of Rialto does ordain as follows:

Section 1. Findings. In enacting this Ordinance, the City Council finds and takes legislative notice as follows:

- 1. In 1970, Congress enacted the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S. C. Section 801 et seq.) which, among other things, makes it illegal to import, manufacture, distribute, possess or use marijuana for any purpose in the United States and further provides criminal penalties for marijuana use; and
- 2. The Compassionate Use Act ("CUA"), codified at California Health and Safety ("H&S") Code Section 11362.5, was approved by California voters in 1996 and legalized the use of marijuana for specific medical purposes; and
- 3. California courts have held that the CUA creates a limited exception for criminal liability for seriously ill persons who are in need of medical marijuana for specified medicinal purposes and who obtain and use medical marijuana under limited, specified circumstances; and
- 4. In 2003 the State of California adopted SB 420, the Medical Marijuana Program ("MMP"), codified at California Health and Safety ("H&S") Code Section 11362.7, which clarifies the scope of the Compassionate Use Act and allows local jurisdictions to adopt and enforce rules consistent with SB 420; and
- 5. The CUA expressly anticipates the enactment of additional local legislation. It provides: "Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede legislation prohibiting persons from engaging in conduct that endangers other, or to condone the diversion of marijuana for nonmedical purposes." (H&S Code Section 11362.5.) The MMP similarly anticipates local regulation, providing: "Nothing in this article shall prevent a city ... from adopting and enforcing ... local ordinances that regulate the location, operation or establishment of a medical marijuana

cooperative or collective ... civil and criminal enforcement of local ordinances; [and] ... other laws consistent with this articles (H&S Code 11362.83.); and

- 6. The California Supreme Court has established that neither the CUA nor the MMP preempts local regulation in the case of *City of Riverside v. Inland Empire Patients Health and Wellness Center, Inc.*, 56 Cal.4th 729 (2013); and
- 7. The exact number of delivery services operating in California is unclear, since the state does not keep a registry of mobile medical marijuana distributors. In March of 2013, over 30 services within 20 miles of Rialto advertised direct delivery of marijuana on "Weedmaps.com", an internet commercial listing service. By May 29, 2013, 50 services within 20 miles of Rialto advertised direct delivery of marijuana on "Weedmaps.com." Most deliver within the Rialto City limits; and
- 8. An increase in mobile dispensaries has been found to coincide with successful enforcement actions involving storefront dispensaries. In other parts of the state, shuttered businesses turned to delivery services instead. There is reason to expect the same in the City of Rialto, particularly in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling that a City's ban on dispensaries is valid and the City's willingness to cooperate with federal law enforcement operations; and
- 9. On a number of occasions, the Rialto Police Department has conducted under-cover operations in which officers have used an online service to identify mobile marijuana dispensaries. Although the dispensaries were located outside the City of Rialto, they immediately agreed to sell marijuana products and deliver them within the City of Rialto; and
- 10. It appears that more and more mobile marijuana dispensaries are popping up in areas where they are willing to sell to customers located in the City of Rialto, possibly leading to greater availability of marijuana products in our community; and
- 11. An Inland Empire attorney who describes himself as one who represents "California dispensary clients battling local government roadblocks" has been advising his marijuana dispensary clients to change their business models as a result of the California Supreme Court decision so that marijuana is distributed from a mobile source. This attorney has represented dispensaries operating in the City of Rialto; and

12. Mobile dispensaries have been associated with criminal activity. Delivery drivers, for example, are targets of armed robbers who seek cash and drugs. As a result, many of the drivers reportedly carry weapons or have armed guards as protection. Examples of such criminal activity reported in the media include the following:

a. In March of 2013, a West Covina deliveryman was reportedly robbed after making a delivery. The deliveryman told police that he was approached by two subjects in ninja costumes who chased him with batons. He was scared and dropped a bag with some marijuana and money, which was taken by the suspects.

b. In February of 2013, a Temecula deliveryman was reportedly robbed of cash outside of a Denny's restaurant, which led to a vehicular chase that continued until the robbers' vehicle eventually crashed on a freeway on ramp.

c. In January of 2013, marijuana deliverymen in Imperial Beach were reportedly robbed after being stopped by assailants (one of whom brandished semi-automatic handgun) after making a stop.

d. In January of 2013, a deliveryman was reportedly robbed of three ounces of marijuana while making a delivery outside a Carl's Jr., restaurant in Riverside, and he told police that the suspect may have had a gun.

e. In May of 2012, a 23-year-old deliverywoman in La Mesa was reportedly shot in the face with a pellet gun. After running away, the assailants carjacked her vehicle.

f. In August of 2011, a medical marijuana deliveryman was reportedly robbed of \$20,000 worth of marijuana (approximately 9 pounds) and a cellular phone in Fullerton. The driver suffered a head cut during the crime.

g. In June 2011, a marijuana delivery from a Los Angeles mobile dispensary turned deadly in Orange County when four individuals reportedly ambushed the mobile dispensary driver and his armed security guard and tried to rob them. One of the suspects approached the delivery vehicle and confronted the driver and a struggle ensued. A second suspect armed with a handgun approached the security guard, who fired at the suspect hitting him multiple times.

h. In April of 2011, a customer reportedly made arrangements for a medical marijuana deliveryman to meet him in a Safeway parking lot in Salinas. The deliveryman had about \$1,000 in cash and 1.5 pounds of marijuana. As the deliveryman began weighing the order, he looked up and saw a silver handgun in his face. The customer stole the money and marijuana. The judge sentenced the customer to five years in state prison.

- i. In May of 2010, a college student who delivers medical marijuana door-to-door was reportedly robbed at gunpoint in Richmond. The assailants took \$1,000 in cash and a pound of marijuana.
- 13. A recent study published on May 27, 2013, in *JAMA Pediatrics* showed that as marijuana appears in an increasing number of homes, so too does evidence of accidental ingestion of marijuana and marijuana-infused food by young children. More children appear to have access to marijuana-laced brownies, cookies and beverages sold through marijuana dispensaries, leading to increased emergency room visits. The results can be frightening to children, who often suffer anxiety attacks when they start to feel unexpected symptoms of being high: hallucinations, dizziness, altered perception and impaired thinking. Ingestion of highly potent marijuana by young children can suppress respiration and even induce coma, according to the study. It is believed that the continued proliferation of mobile dispensaries will provide children greater access to cookies, candies, brownies and beverages that contain marijuana without warning labels or child-resistant containers.
- 14. Concerns about non-medical marijuana use in connection with medical marijuana distribution operations have been recognized by federal and state courts. One example is *People v. Leal* (2012) 210 Cal.App.4th 829:

"Not surprisingly, it seems that the enhanced protection from arrest has proven irresistible to those illegally trafficking marijuana, for if there is even rough accuracy in the anecdotal estimate by the arresting detective in this case – that nearly 90 percent of those arrested for marijuana sales possess either a CUA recommendation or a card – then there is obviously widespread abuse of the CUA and the MMP identification card scheme by illicit sellers of marijuana. Ninety percent far exceeds the proportion of legitimate medical marijuana users one would expect to find in the populace at large. For this and other reasons, it is impossible

for us not to recognize that many citizens, judges undoubtedly among them, believe the CUA has become a charade enabling the use of marijuana much more commonly for recreational than for genuine medical uses;" and

- 15. Despite the Compassionate Use Act and the Medical Marijuana Program, the United States Attorneys in California have all taken action to enforce the federal Controlled Substances Act against marijuana dispensaries, and have issued letters stating that California cities and officials face possible criminal prosecution for enabling dispensaries to violation federal law; and
- 16. The City of Rialto, by and through its City Council, has and may exercise all powers necessary to ensure the general welfare of its inhabitants; and
- 17. There exists a current and immediate threat to public health, safety, and welfare in the absence of the City adopting an ordinance prohibiting establishment, operation, and use of mobile marijuana dispensaries; and
- 18. It is the purpose and intent of this Ordinance prohibiting all mobile marijuana dispensaries to promote health, safety, morals, and general welfare of residents and businesses within the City; and
- 19. The failure to prohibit mobile marijuana dispensaries or medical marijuana dispensaries will expose the City to costs related to regulation, enforcement, and the negative secondary effects of dispensaries including an increase in violent crime.
- Section 2. The City Council has determined that there is a high likelihood that mobile marijuana dispensaries will immediately flourish in the City without the adoption of this Ordinance. The City Council finds that this Ordinance is necessary for preserving the public peace, health, or safety.
 - Section 3. Chapter 9.45 is hereby added to the Rialto Municipal Code as follows:

Chapter 9.45

MOBILE MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES

Sections:

9.45.010 Definitions.

9.45.020 Mobile Marijuana Dispensaries Prohibited.

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1	9.45.0	Marijuana Delivery Prohibited.
2	9.45.0	40 Excluded Operations.
3	9.45.0	50 Public Nuisance Declared.
4	9.45.0	60 Violations.
5	9.45.010	Definitions.
6	The fe	ollowing words and phrases shall, for the purposes of this chapter, have the meanings
7	respectively as	scribed to them by this section, as follows:
8	"Mobi	le Marijuana Dispensary" means any clinic, cooperative, club, business or group which
9	transports or d	lelivers, or arranges the transportation or delivery, of medical marijuana to a Person.
10	"Perso	n" means any person, firm, corporation, association, club, society, or other
11	organization.	The term Person shall include any owner, manager, proprietor, employee, volunteer or
12	salesperson.	
13	"Opera	ation" means any effort to locate, operate, own, lease, supply, allow to be operated, or
14	aid, abet or ass	sist in the operation of a Mobile Marijuana Dispensary.
15	9.45.020	Mobile Marijuana Dispensaries Prohibited.
16	Mobile	Marijuana Dispensaries are prohibited in the City of Rialto. No person shall locate,
17		suffer, allow to be operated, or aid, abet or assist in the operation of any Mobile
	operate, own,	
17	operate, own,	suffer, allow to be operated, or aid, abet or assist in the operation of any Mobile
17 18	operate, own, Marijuana Dis	suffer, allow to be operated, or aid, abet or assist in the operation of any Mobile pensary within the City.
17 18 19	operate, own, Marijuana Dis 9.45.030 (a)	suffer, allow to be operated, or aid, abet or assist in the operation of any Mobile pensary within the City. Marijuana Delivery Prohibited.
17 18 19 20	operate, own, Marijuana Dis 9.45.030 (a) Marijuana Dis	suffer, allow to be operated, or aid, abet or assist in the operation of any Mobile pensary within the City. Marijuana Delivery Prohibited. No Person shall deliver marijuana to any location within the City from a Mobile
17 18 19 20 21	operate, own, Marijuana Dis 9.45.030 (a) Marijuana Dis any Operation	suffer, allow to be operated, or aid, abet or assist in the operation of any Mobile pensary within the City. Marijuana Delivery Prohibited. No Person shall deliver marijuana to any location within the City from a Mobile pensary, regardless of where the Mobile Marijuana Dispensary is located, or engage in
17 18 19 20 21 22	operate, own, Marijuana Dis 9.45.030 (a) Marijuana Dis any Operation (b)	suffer, allow to be operated, or aid, abet or assist in the operation of any Mobile pensary within the City. Marijuana Delivery Prohibited. No Person shall deliver marijuana to any location within the City from a Mobile pensary, regardless of where the Mobile Marijuana Dispensary is located, or engage in for this purpose.
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9.45.040

Public Nuisance Declared.

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Operation of any Mobile Marijuana Dispensary within the City in violation of the provisions of this chapter is hereby declared a public nuisance and shall be abated pursuant to all available remedies.

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9.45.050 Violations.

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Any violation of this Chapter is a misdemeanor and may be punished pursuant to Chapter 1.16 of this Code. Any violation is also subject to Chapter 1.10 of this Code as well as any other applicable municipal or state law.

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Section 4. This ordinance is not a project within the meaning of Section 15378 of the

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State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines, because it has no potential for

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resulting in physical change in the environment, directly or indirectly. In the event that this Ordinance

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is found to be project under CEQA, it is subject to the CEQA exemption contained in CEQA

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Guideline section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty to have no possibility of a

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significant effect on the environment.

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Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from its adoption.

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Section 6. Publication. The City Clerk shall certify the adoption of this Ordinance and cause it, or a summary of it, to be published in a newspaper of general circulation printed and published within the City of Rialto, pursuant to all applicable legal requirements.

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PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 25th day of February, 2014. DEBOARH ROBERTSON, Mayor ATTEST: BARBARA McGEE, City Clerk APPROVED AS TO FORM: FRED GALANTE, City Attorney

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Document No. 24301

1	STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2	COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO) ss CITY OF RIALTO)
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4	I, Barbara McGee, City Clerk of the City of Rialto, do hereby certify that the foregoing
5	Ordinance No. <u>1540</u> was duly passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City
6	of Rialto held on the 25th day of February, 2014.
7	Upon motion of Councilmember Palmer, seconded by Councilmember Baca Jr., the foregoing
8	Ordinance No. <u>1540</u> was duly passed and adopted.
9	Vote on the Motion:
10	AYES: Mayor Robertson, Council Members: Palmer, Baca Jr., O'Connell, Hirtz
11	NOES: None
12	ABSENT: None
13	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the Official Seal of the City of
14	Rialto, this 14th day of March, 2014.
15 16	Barbara A. McGee, City Clerk
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