



## **RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

### **OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA**

#### **RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NEVADA COUNTY CANNABIS EQUITY ASSESSMENT AND CANNABIS LOCAL EQUITY PROGRAM MANUAL AND CREATING THE NEVADA COUNTY CANNABIS LOCAL EQUITY PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA CANNABIS EQUITY ACT OF 2018**

WHEREAS, the past criminalization of cannabis has had an impact on Nevada County communities and residents and there is a need for the creation of an equity program that provides assistance to qualifying local equity applicants; and

WHEREAS, the mounting equity and economic problems related to the local cannabis businesses have had a significant impact on the county's population and overall economy; and

WHEREAS, Nevada County has a recognized long history of cannabis cultivation and manufacturing during a period when laws relating to cannabis were in flux. Beginning with the availability of relatively cheap, isolated rural land and unemployed or underemployed lumber, mining, and other local industry workers. Nevada County provided an environment where cultivation could be hidden and located where cultivation techniques flourished; and

WHEREAS, past criminalization of cannabis adversely impacted communities throughout both rural and urban parts of Nevada County including individuals, who were subjected to arrest, prosecution, conviction, and incarceration, and their family members; and

WHEREAS, this experience in part engendered a widespread and deep-seated multi-generational mistrust of government and regulation that significantly inhibits efforts to transform the legacy cannabis culture and economy in Nevada County to the new legal, regulated commercial cannabis market established under California law beginning in October 2015, and expanded with the passage of Proposition 64 in November 2016; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of entry, with applications requiring understanding of and compliance with complex requirements from multiple local and state agencies, is especially daunting for smaller cultivators. The application fees, fees for professional studies of environmental, water supply and road engineering, and the cost of compliance with mitigation measures are significant barriers for smaller scale operators, which historically predominated in Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, Nevada County seeks to focus its cannabis local equity program on assisting smaller scale cannabis cultivators to overcome these barriers to entry, and build support for longer term viability through activities and implementation of supportive services; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada desires to use grant funds from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) to assist local equity applicants and licensees through a new local equity program for commercial cannabis activities as described in its County of Nevada Cannabis Local Equity Program Manual and its application for grant funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

1. Hereby adopts the Nevada County Cannabis Local Equity Assessment, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and the Nevada County Local Equity Program Manual, attached hereto as Exhibit B, to focus on inclusion and support of individuals and communities in Nevada County's cannabis industry who are linked to populations or neighborhoods that were negatively or disproportionately impacted by cannabis criminalization.
2. Hereby creates a Nevada County Cannabis Local Equity Program.