



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

June 29, 1983

Frederick Carlson, Director  
Food and Drug Administration  
Boston District Office  
585 Commercial Street  
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Mr. Carlson:

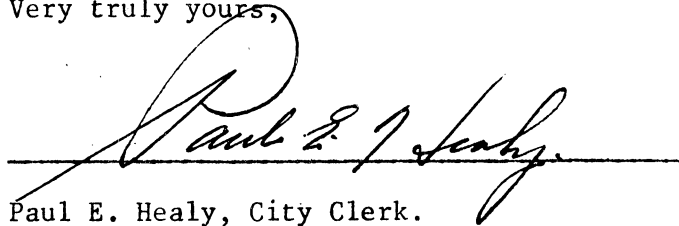
Pursuant to the request of the Cambridge City Council, I am forwarding a copy of the enclosed communication from Dr. H.L. Humes, dated June 15, 1983, proposing for adoption by the City Council a resolution with regard to the uses of cannabis in medicine.

The City Council at its meeting of June 20, 1983 "tabled" this petition, pending report from the Cambridge Commissioner of Health and Hospitals, Dr. Melvin Chalfen. Dr. Chalfen, in his report dated June 22, 1983, a copy of which is enclosed, indicated that cannabis is not a recognized medical treatment and suggested that this matter be referred to the Food and Drug Administration, which has jurisdiction in such matters.

The City Council at its meeting of Monday, June 27, 1983 requested that this office contact your office and request your views on this issue, prior to its taking any further action on this proposed resolution.

Your very kind cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated, both by the City Council and this office.

Very truly yours,



Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

PEH/mh

Enclosures: resolution of Dr. H.L. Humes  
letter of Dr. Chalfen dated 6/22/83

JUN 13 3 55 PM '83  
CANNABIS, MASS

WHEREAS recent research in many countries has confirmed the broad utility of cannabis in medicine; and

WHEREAS cannabis is one of the least toxic substances in materia medica; and

WHEREAS the use of cannabis as a relaxant and tonic herb has been known for thousands of years and widely reconfirmed; and

WHEREAS the industrialized nations in particular are suffering from anxiety-tension in epidemic form; and

WHEREAS the cancer-proneness profile appears closely to match the anxiety profile; and

WHEREAS the potential role of cannabis and other relaxation therapies in preventing and regressing cancer has never been adequately assessed; and

WHEREAS among the debilitating psychosocial results of this epidemic, the current arms race appears to be symptomatic of weapons-fetishism--a well-known symptom of anxiety-neurosis--on an unprecedented scale; and

WHEREAS the high cost of mass psychosis in wars and potential economic failure has never been adequately assessed; and

WHEREAS the cost of the anxiety/tension epidemic in psychosocial disorders such as arson, rape, vandalism, child and wife abuse, etc., has never been adequately assessed; and

WHEREAS the potential role of cannabis and other relaxation therapies in alleviating epidemic anxiety-tension has never been adequately assessed; and

WHEREAS the exclusion of cannabis from the pharmacopoeia has resulted in the widespread adulteration and poisoning of this herb; and

WHEREAS the bulk of serious drug abuse in the industrialized nations is actually of toxic addictive legal substances (such as alcohol and pharmaceutical sedatives and tranquilizers); and

WHEREAS cannabis is neither toxic nor addictive; and

WHEREAS the use of cannabis to detoxify from various kinds of drugs that have an addictive cycle, including heroin and alcohol, has been widely reported; and

WHEREAS the potential role of cannabis in such detoxification from addictive drugs has never been adequately assessed; and

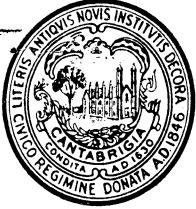
WHEREAS present interpretation of the law has inhibited potentially valuable further research on the medical uses of cannabis; and

WHEREAS it is clear from the legislative history that it was not the intent of Congress or the Massachusetts legislature to prohibit research; and

WHEREAS: the right to conduct and publish research is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

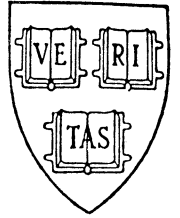
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this City Council go on record as noting that nothing in the statutory law should be construed as prohibiting research, public or private, on the uses of cannabis in medicine; and further

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislature of Massachusetts be and hereby is requested to re-examine the legislation relative to the use of cannabis in medicine with a view towards taking corrective action through legislation to clarify and ensure that research in the uses of cannabis in medicine is protected and encouraged.



# The Cambridge Hospital

Affiliated with  
Harvard Medical School



JUN 22 1983  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

June 22, 1983

Mr. Paul E. Healy,  
City Clerk  
City of Cambridge  
City Hall  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Healy,

Thank you for sending me a copy of a proposed resolution by Dr. H.L. Humes in regard to cannabis.

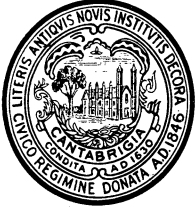
I do not feel competent to comment upon the legal restrictions on the use of cannabis in general.

Cannabis is not a recognized medical treatment. It would be more appropriate to refer this type of question to the Food and Drug Administration which has authority over the use of drugs and exclusive jurisdiction over the investigation and use of drugs in treatment.

Yours sincerely,

Melvin H. Chalfen, M.D.,  
Commissioner of Health & Hospitals

MHC:vls



**The Cambridge Hospital**  
RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK  
JUN 22 4 52 PM '83  
Affiliated with  
**Harvard Medical School**  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.



June 22, 1983

Mr. Paul E. Healy,  
City Clerk  
City of Cambridge  
City Hall  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Healy,

Thank you for sending me a copy of a proposed resolution  
by Dr. H.L. Humes in regard to cannabis.

I do not feel competent to comment upon the legal  
restrictions on the use of cannabis in general.

Cannabis is not a recognized medical treatment. It would be  
more appropriate to refer this type of question to the Food and  
Drug Administration which has authority over the use of drugs and  
exclusive jurisdiction over the investigation and use of drugs in  
treatment.

Yours sincerely,

Melvin H. Chalfen, M.D.,  
Commissioner of Health & Hospitals

MHC:vls

6.

8-389

Comm. from Paul E. Healy, City Clerk, transmitting a comm. from Dr. Melvin Chalfen, Commissioner of Health & Hospitals Re: proposed resolution from Dr. H.L. Humes regarding the uses of cannabis in medicine.

*Copy of proposed resolutions & Dr. Chalfen's communication with letter sent to Frederick Carlson, Director, Regional office, Food & Drug Administration 6/29/83 mlh*

In City Council,

June 27, 1983

*6/27/83*

*Resolutions to Food  
and Drug Admin  
for Report -*