

**SAMPLE BALLOT
SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION
CITY OF LEWISTON, MAINE
November 4, 2014**

Instructions to Voters

- ◆ To vote, fill in the oval next to your choice like this: ●
- ◆ To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.
- ◆ If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

QUESTION ONE

Repeal of St. Laurent Housing Associates Joint Development Agreement

Shall the Order, adopted at the April 15, 2014 Lewiston City Council meeting, authorizing the City Administrator to execute a Joint Development Agreement between the City of Lewiston and St. Laurent Housing Associates, be repealed?

CHOOSE ONE:

YES

NO

Copy of Order as adopted:

Whereas, a series of three major fires in downtown Lewiston in April/May 2013 resulted in the loss of over 77 housing units and the displacement of over 200 people; and

Whereas, this area contains the oldest housing stock in the community, with the majority of it built prior to 1940 and many having now lived past their useful life; and

Whereas, the City has aggressively stepped up code enforcement and demolition of blighted properties in this area; and

Whereas, St. Laurent Housing Associates (St. Laurent) owns Pierce Place, a 29 unit affordable housing project that was consumed in the April/May 2013 fires; and

Whereas, all 29 units in Pierce Place had commitments for project based Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) which function similarly to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 housing program; and

Whereas, St. Laurent has approached the city seeking support to assist in the redevelopment of Pierce Place; and

Whereas, St. Laurent wishes to build a \$5 million 29 unit apartment complex which will have project based HAP assistance and in which the majority of the units will be 2 bedroom or larger; and

Whereas, MaineHousing has expressed a willingness to provide a set-aside of Low Income Housing Tax Credits dedicated to Pierce Place so long as the City desires to see the project and provides municipal support to it; and

Whereas, if financing and development contingencies are met by St. Laurent, the City has agreed to acquire and convey 155 Bartlett Street, and 116 and 122 Pierce Street at no cost to St. Laurent. If St. Laurent acquires 141 Bartlett Street, the City will provide \$200,000 in HOME funds. If 141 Bartlett Street is not acquired, the City agrees to convey 139 Bartlett Street to St. Laurent at no cost; and

Whereas, if rebuilt, Pierce Place will replace quality workforce housing lost in the fires, expand the tax base, insure the preservation of HAP assistance for 29 apartments, and help stabilize the neighborhood and set it on the path to recovery;

Now, Therefore, Be It Ordered by the City Council of the City of Lewiston that the City Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the Joint Development Agreement between The City of Lewiston and St. Laurent Housing Associates in a form substantially as is attached hereto.

**Turn Over for
Question on Back**

QUESTION TWO

Proposed Ordinance Regarding the Use of Marijuana by Persons 21 Years of Age or Older

Shall the Ordinance entitled, Use of Marijuana by Persons 21 Years of Age or Older, be adopted? **CHOOSE ONE:**

YES

NO

Proposed Ordinance:

Section. 1. Preamble.

WHEREAS, a 1995 study commissioned by the World Health Organization concluded marijuana poses a much less serious public health problem than is currently posed by alcohol;

WHEREAS, an assessment published in 2009 in *British Columbia's Mental Health and Addictions Journal* found health-related costs for alcohol consumers are more than eight times greater than those for marijuana consumers;

WHEREAS, according to the National Institutes of Health, more than 300 Americans die annually as the result of alcohol overdoses, and there has never been a confirmed marijuana overdose death recorded in the medical literature, as noted by the *British Medical Journal* in September 2003;

WHEREAS, studies conducted in 1999 by the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine and 1994 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse concluded marijuana is less addictive than alcohol;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention attributes more than 30,000 American deaths per year to the health effects of alcohol and zero deaths directly to the health effects of marijuana;

WHEREAS, extensive research documented in official reports by the British government's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and the Canadian Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs, among others, shows that - unlike alcohol use - marijuana use is not generally a cause of violence or aggressive behavior, and, in fact, tends to reduce violence and aggression;

WHEREAS, police officers' and prosecutors' time and resources would be better spent addressing violent crimes and property crimes instead of citing and prosecuting adults 21 years of age and older for possession of small amounts of marijuana;

WHEREAS, marijuana laws are disproportionately enforced against communities of color, and, according to a 2013 report produced by the American Civil Liberties Union, African Americans in Maine are more than two times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white citizens are, despite similar rates of consumption;

WHEREAS, in an interview published in *The New Yorker* in January 2014, President Barack Obama acknowledged that marijuana is less harmful than alcohol in terms of its impact on the consumer;

WHEREAS, police officers and prosecutors have the discretion to refrain from issuing citations to and filing charges against adults 21 years of age and older for possession of small amounts of marijuana; and

Therefore, in the interest of the public health and public safety, and in order to better focus law enforcement resources on crimes involving violence and personal property, the People of Lewiston find and declare that the use of marijuana should be legal for persons 21 years of age or older.

Sec. 2. Notwithstanding any other ordinance, it shall not be unlawful in Lewiston, and must not be used as the basis for prosecution or penalty by Lewiston for persons 21 years of age or older, to possess or use marijuana paraphernalia or one ounce or less of marijuana, except that it is not lawful for a person to:

- (a) use or display marijuana or marijuana paraphernalia in a public place; or
- (b) operate, navigate, or be in actual physical control of any motor vehicle, aircraft, or motorboat while under the influence of marijuana.

Sec. 3. The City of Lewiston, through adoption of this ordinance, resolves to support a change in state law to tax and regulate the sale of marijuana in a manner similar to alcohol.

You Have Now Completed Voting