

CITY COUNCIL OF EAST ORANGE

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
EAST ORANGE, N.J.
RESOLUTION
No. 1 149

Resolution offered by Council Member HOLMAN

RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION I-138
RESOLUTION PROVIDING LOCAL SUPPORT FOR KRESS GREEN LLC TO
OPERATE AS A CLASS 5 STANDARD RETAILER IN THE CITY

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of P.L. 2021, c. 16, known as the "New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act," the City of East Orange adopted Ordinance No. 45-2021 (as amended) to regulate and tax cannabis businesses within the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-7.8, and N.J.A.C. 17:30-7.10 applicants for cannabis business licenses need to submit proof of local support from the City in the form of a resolution from the City Council as part of either their conversion-to-annual or annual license application(s) to the State Cannabis Regulatory Commission ("CRC"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a Notice of Local Support Application Acceptance dated October 17, 2022, the City's Board of Cannabis Control ("BCC") reviewed Kress Green LLC's ("Applicant") local support application to operate as a Class 5 Standard Retailer in the City, and endorsed Applicant to the City Council for a resolution of local support pursuant to the BCC's Resolution attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 45-2021 (as amended) authorizes up to three (3) Class 5 Standard Retailer permits to be issued to Applicants; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the issuance of a permit to Applicant by the CRC would not exceed any licensing limits; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the East Orange City Council hereby authorizes the issuance of this resolution of local support to Applicant for the purpose described herein; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to Ordinance No. 26-2022 the foregoing resolution of support shall expire 180 days from the date of issuance, unless extended by the City Counsel in its sole discretion.

Council Member	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B
GOMEZ	✓			
CLAYBROOKS	✓			
BRENT	✓			
GARRETT-WARD	✓			
LENEUS	✓			

Council Member	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.
HOLMAN	✓			
PULLINS, JR.	✓			
LEWIS				✓
JAMES				✓
AWE	✓			

X - Indicates Vote A.B. - Absent
Action on Veto - ✓ To Sustain

N.V - Not Voting (Abstained or Excused)
✓ To Over-Ride

VOTES REQUIRED _____

Approved as to:
Factual Contents _____ Department Head _____ Appropriation _____ Comptroller _____
Form and Legality _____ Counsel _____
Tabled _____ Removed from Table _____
Presented to Mayor April 25, 2023 Adopted April 24, 2023
Approved _____ Christopher Awe, City Council Chairman
Vetoed _____ City Clerk
Ted R. Green Mayor Entered on Council Minutes, Page _____

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT FOREGOING TO BE A TRUE COPY
OF RESOLUTION NO. 149 ADOPTED BY THE CITY
COUNCIL OF EAST ORANGE AT ITS MEETING HELD
April 24, 2023
CITY CLERK, EAST ORANGE, NJ

CITY COUNCIL OF EAST ORANGE

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
EAST ORANGE, N.J.
RESOLUTION
No. 1 138

Resolution offered by Council Member HOLMAN

RESOLUTION PROVIDING LOCAL SUPPORT FOR KRESS GREEN LLC TO OPERATE AS A CLASS 5 STANDARD RETAILER IN THE CITY

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of P.L. 2021, c. 16, known as the "New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act," the City of East Orange adopted Ordinance No. 45-2021 (as amended) to regulate and tax cannabis businesses within the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-7.8, and N.J.A.C. 17:30-7.10 applicants for cannabis business licenses need to submit proof of local support from the City in the form of a resolution from the City Council as part of either their conversion-to-annual or annual license application(s) to the State Cannabis Regulatory Commission ("CRC"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a Notice of Local Support Application Acceptance dated October 17, 2022, the City's Board of Cannabis Control ("BCC") reviewed Kress Green LLC's ("Applicant") local support application to operate as a Class 5 Standard Retailer in the City, and endorsed Applicant to the City Council for a resolution of local support pursuant to the BCC's Resolution attached hereto; and

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WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the issuance of a permit to Applicant by the CRC would not exceed any licensing limits; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the East Orange City Council hereby authorizes the issuance of this resolution of local support to Applicant for the purpose described herein.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT FOREGOING TO BE A TRUE COPY OF RESOLUTION NO. 138 ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF EAST ORANGE AT ITS MEETING HELD April 10, 2023
CITY CLERK, EAST ORANGE, NJ

Council Member	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.
GOMEZ	✓			
CLAYBROOKS	✓			
BRENT				✓
GARRETT-WARD	✓			
LENEUS		✓		

Council Member	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.
HOLMAN		✓		
PULLINS, JR.	✓			
LEWIS	✓			
JAMES	✓			
AWE	✓			

X - Indicates Vote A.B. - Absent
Action on Veto - ✓ To Sustain

N.V - Not Voting (Abstained or Excused)
✓✓ To Over-Ride

VOTES REQUIRED _____

Approved as to: Factual Contents Department Head Appropriation Comptroller

Form and Legality Counsel

Tabled
Presented to Mayor
Approved
Vetoed
Mayor
Ted R. Green

Removed from Table
Adopted 2023
Christopher Awe, City Council Chairman
City Clerk
Entered on Council Minutes, Page

RESOLUTION

**City of East Orange
Board of Cannabis Control**

In the Matter of Kress Green LLC

**Approving an Endorsement to the City Council for a Resolution of Local Support to Operate a
Class 5 Cannabis Retailer Standard Business**

**578-580 Central Avenue
Block # 710, Lot # 26**

**BCC 22-006
Decided on December 8, 2022**

WHEREAS, pursuant to its Notice of Local Support Application Acceptance dated October 17, 2022 (the “*Notice*”), the Board of Cannabis Control (the “*BCC*”) of the City of East Orange (the “*City*”) opened an application acceptance period between October 21, 2022 and November 18, 2022 for applicants seeking Resolutions of Support from the City Council to operate Class 1 Cultivator, Class 2 Manufacturer and Class 5 Retailer Cannabis Establishments in the City; and

WHEREAS, Kress Green LLC (hereinafter the “*Applicant*”) filed a complete Local Support Application with the BCC proposing to operate a Class 5 Cannabis Retailer Standard Business at premises located at 578-580 Central Avenue and within an area governed by the CAC – Central Avenue Commercial District (the “*Premises*”), which Applicant leased from its current owner, an affiliate of Applicant, on or before the submission deadline (the “*LSA*”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the BCC’s Notice of Local Support Application Acceptance dated October 17, 2022, the LSA was reviewed and scored by the BCC and having received a total final score of 85.9, Applicant was scheduled for a hearing before the BCC on December 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, due notice of the special public meeting held on Thursday, December 8, 2022 for the purpose of hearing the LSA, among others, was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (“*OPMA*”); and

WHEREAS, Applicant having appeared before the Board at a public hearing held on December 8, 2022 (the “*Hearing*”) and provided witness testimony from (a) husband and wife owners, Mahin Hashemi and Amir Hashemisohi, (b) compliance consultant, Rachel Ardanuy, Esq., (c) advisory board member, Dr. Gary Ellis, M.D., and (d) security consultant, Alex Hawkins, who testified with respect to all aspects of the LSA including, without limitation, Applicant’s: (a) prior business experience as local business owners for more than 30 years, (b) history of philanthropy in East Orange, (c) ability to self-finance the proposed cannabis operations, and (d) Premises suitability with availability of on-street parking; and

WHEREAS, the BCC requested additional information with respect to Amir Hashemisohi’s term as president of the East Orange Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Applicant having presented its plans and responded to inquiries from the BCC Commissioners to their satisfaction, and one individual from the public, Terry Swanson-Tucker, having spoken in support of Applicant by referencing a time when Mr. and Mrs. Hashemisohi donated furniture to convert a home office into a bedroom for her Alzheimer’s stricken mother and speaking as to the type of business owners and community members they have been in East Orange historically, during the public comment period; and

WHEREAS, upon the affirmative vote of the BCC members, Applicant was approved for an endorsement to the City Council to operate a Class 5 Cannabis Retailer Standard Business at the Premises on December 8, 2022 (the “*Endorsement Date*”); and

NOW, THEREFORE, the BCC makes the following findings of fact based upon the evidence presented at the aforesaid Hearing, at which a record was made.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. All the Recitals set forth above are incorporated herein by reference. Further, the LSA with all drawings, exhibits and supporting documents, Applicant’s own testimony and that of any sworn witnesses, are hereby incorporated by reference.

2. Applicant is a WBE Certified business, wholly owned by husband and wife, Mahin Hashemi and Amir Hashemisohi, of Montville, NJ.
3. Applicant entered into a 5-year lease for the Premises (totaling approximately 8,883 square feet) which is located in the CAC subdistrict of the TVD Redevelopment Area.
4. Pursuant to the City's Cannabis Ordinance, all Retailer (with or without consumption areas) and Delivery Service Cannabis Business operations shall be permitted uses in IND, IND-1, CBD, CAC, ACD, and C2 zones.
5. Further, Applicant's Zoning Determination Letter provides the CAC District permits "cannabis retail facilities are a permitted use in this district."
6. Applicant proposes to operate a Class 5 Cannabis Retailer Standard Business at the existing ground floor commercial space upon State and local licensure.
7. Applicant received a Conditional License (No. RE000339) from the Cannabis Regulatory Commission (the "**CRC**") to operate as a Class 5 Cannabis Retailer Standard Business which is scheduled to expire on or about April 30, 2023, absent any automatic extensions already granted by the CRC to applicants issued licenses between March 24 and October 11, 2022, or any other extensions requested by Applicant and approved by the CRC (the "**Conditional License**").
8. Applicant further proposes interior alterations, and/or façade and signage changes consistent with architectural renderings submitted with the LSA, which must be approved by the City's Department of Policy, Planning and Development (the "**Planning Board**").
9. Pursuant to the LSA and/or testimony offered at the Hearing, the Premises are not located within 100 feet of a daycare, elementary school, or high school, as measured from the main entrance of each establishment (the "**School Buffer**").

10. As of the Endorsement Date, the BCC has not issued any permits to operate Class 5 Retailer Cannabis Businesses (whether a Microbusiness or Standard Business), in the City. Consequently, the Premises are not currently determined to be situated within 625 of another Cannabis Business, as measured from the main entrance of each establishment (the “*Cannabis Business Buffer*”).

11. Applicant does not seek approval to operate an on-site Consumption Area at the Premises, nor does Applicant propose to conduct curb-side pick-up or home delivery services from the Premises, at this time.

NOW, THEREFORE, the BCC makes the following conclusions of law based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Enforcement Assistance and Marketplace Modernization Act, N.J.S.A. 24:61-31, et al. (2021) (the “*Act*”), grants municipalities the authority to adopt ordinances governing: the classes, types and number of Cannabis Businesses permitted to operate within their boundaries; zoning and land use requirements for the premises of permitted Cannabis Businesses; the location, manner and times of operation for permitted Cannabis Businesses, the establishment and collection of local transfer and user taxes; and civil penalties for local violations of the Act.

Pursuant to the Act, the City passed a cannabis ordinance, most recently amended on or about September 12, 2023 (No. 26 of 2022), which established the BCC to Act as the local permitting and regulating authority for recreational cultivation, manufacturing, wholesale, distribution, retail, delivery, possession, consumption, use and local taxation of Cannabis and Cannabis Items in the City in accordance with the Act (the “*Cannabis Ordinance*”).

The Cannabis Ordinance authorizes the BCC to, among others, establish criteria and a formal process for applicants to apply for a Resolution of Support for their Conditional License Conversion or Annual License applications and to hear applications for Resolutions of Support, determine whether

applicants meet the applicable criteria, and issue recommendations for endorsement to the Council for applicants that meet the applicable criteria or denials to applicants that do not.

The BCC evaluated the measures contained in the Cannabis Ordinance and the Notice including, without limitation, Applicant's business experience, the suitability of the Premises for its intended use, the location of the Premises with respect to any School or Cannabis Establishment Buffers, any vehicle information provided, Applicant's business, security, workforce development, community impact plan and nuisance mitigation plans, its social responsibility statement and Bonus Point eligibility for East Orange residency and site control. Having weighed the measures and finding that Applicant has met the standards required by the Cannabis Ordinance and the Notice for a Resolution of Support, a motion to approve Applicant for an Endorsement to the City Council for a Resolution of Local Support to Operate a Class 5 Cannabis Retailer Standard Business was made.

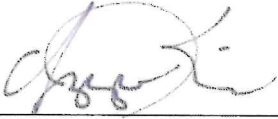

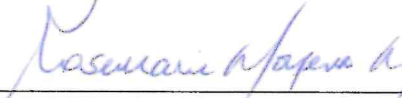
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the BCC that the LSA of Kress Green LLC (Case No. 22-006) seeking approval for an Endorsement to the City Council for a Resolution of Local Support to Operate a Class 5 Cannabis Retailer Standard Business at the Premises, is approved with the following conditions:

1. All testimony given by the Applicant and any witnesses in accordance with this Application shall be binding;
2. Prior to the issuance of any Cannabis Business Permit, the Applicant shall seek and receive any site plan approvals required for the intended use of the Premises by the Planning Board and an Annual License from the CRC; and
3. Applicant shall adhere to any conditions of approval set forth on the record by the BCC, the City Council and/or the Planning Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the BCC that a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the City Clerk and made available to Applicant upon request.

Adopted this 2nd day of March 2023 by a majority of the members of the Board present at such a meeting who voted for the action to be taken on the 8th day of December 2022.

ENDORSEMENT
City of East Orange
Board of Cannabis Control
In the Matter of Kress Green LLC
BCC 22-006
Decided on December 8, 2022
Memorialized on March 2, 2023
Resolution of Local Support

DATE OF HEARING:	December 8, 2022
VOTE:	5-0
VOTING IN FAVOR:	Chairwoman Aziza McGill-Ayinde Vice Chairwoman Theresa Pollard Commissioner Thomas Bullock Commissioner Phillip Reed Commissioner Kevin T. Mickens
VOTING AGAINST:	None
ABSTAINING:	None
 AZIZA MCGILL-AYINDE, CHAIRWOMAN EAST ORANGE BOARD OF CANNABIS CONTROL	 DONYALE HARRIS, SECRETARY EAST ORANGE BOARD OF CANNABIS CONTROL
APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:	 ROSEMARIE MOYENO MATOS, ESQ. EAST ORANGE BOARD OF CANNABIS CONTROL
DATE OF MEMORIALIZATION:	March 2, 2023