ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 20220118-002 ORDERING A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION REGARDING MEASURES TO ELIMINATE LOW-LEVEL MARIJUANA ENFORCEMENT AND BAN NO-KNOCK WARRANTS TO REVISE SECTION 16-1-1 TO REFLECT THE CORRECT SECTION LETTERING AS SET FORTH IN THE CITIZEN-INITIATED ORDINANCE; TO SET THE HOURS OF VOTING ON ELECTION DAY AND ADD EXHIBIT A REGARDING EARLY VOTING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. Ordinance No. 20220118-002 ordering a special municipal election regarding measures to eliminate low-level marijuana enforcement and ban no knock warrants is amended to correct lettering in Section 16-1-1 of the citizen-initiated ordinance so that it accurately reflects the petitioners’ ordinance, as follows:

§ 16-1-1 ENDING CITATIONS AND ARRESTS FOR MISDEMEANOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA.

(A) Austin police officers shall not issue citations or make arrests for Class A or Class B misdemeanor possession of marijuana offenses, except in the limited circumstances described in §16-1-1(B).

(AB) The only circumstances in which Austin police officers are permitted to issue citations or make arrests for Class A or Class B misdemeanor possession of marijuana are when such citations or arrests are part of:

(1) the investigation of a felony level narcotics case that has been designated as a high priority investigation by an Austin police commander, assistant chief of police, or chief of police; and/or

(2) the investigation of a violent felony.

(BC) In every instance other than those described in §16-1-1(B), if an Austin police officer has probable cause to believe that a substance is marijuana, an officer may seize the marijuana. If the officer seizes the marijuana, they must write a detailed report and release the individual if possession of marijuana is the sole charge.
(CD) Austin police officers shall not issue any charge for possession of marijuana unless it meets one or both of the factors described in § 16-1-1(B).

PART 2. Ordinance No. 20220118-002 ordering a special municipal election regarding measures to eliminate low-level marijuana enforcement and ban no-knock warrants is further amended to provide that the hours of voting on election day will be between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and to add Exhibit A, attached herein, regarding the location of the main early voting polling place, the dates and hours for early voting, and the early voting clerk’s official mailing address.

PART 3. The Council finds that the need to immediately begin required preparations for this election constitutes an emergency. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect immediately on its passage for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_________________________  _________________________
§ ___________________     § _________________________

_________________________, 2022

Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: ________________________  ATTEST: ________________________

Anne L. Morgan  Myrna Rios
City Attorney     City Clerk

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