ORDINANCE NO. 2022-10

AUTHORIZING THE OPERATION OF A MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF VERNON

WHEREAS, On May 17, 2021 the Governor of the State of Alabama signed Darren Wesley 'ATO' Hall Compassion Act into law (the Act); and

WHEREAS, the act provides for the medical use of Medical Cannabis for patients with a qualifying medical condition and a valid medical cannabis card; and

WHEREAS, a dispensary may only be operated in a municipality if the municipality has passed an ordinance authorizing the operation of dispensaries within the municipality's corporate limits; and

WHEREAS, the Act authorizes and requires the Medical Cannabis Commission heavily regulates dispensary operation, (see, **20-2A-50 - 20-2A-68, <u>Code of Alabama</u>), thus addressing any health, safety or welfare concerns for the citizens of the City of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the location of a dispensary within the corporate limits of the City of Vernon will bring the potential of over a hundred new employment opportunities for the citizens of the city of Vernon; and additional revenues.

WHEREAS, ONLY in M-3 Zoning Districts within the City Limits, will licensed Growing and or Processing facilities be allowed. Only inside of secured facility growing and or processing will be allowed within the Corporate City of Vernon.

WHEREAS, Any State Licensed business from Department of Agriculture desiring to grow and or process must meet with the City Council to ensure all employees, being considered for employment including Management and Ownership being in the building will be required to adhere to random drug screening Quartly to be employed. This will be at the cost to the employer.

WHEREAS, a dispensary or grower would require to purchase a business license of \$300.00 for each, and pay sales tax to the City of Vernon, thus increasing revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VERNON, ALABAMA, that it authorizes the operation of dispensing sites within the corporate limits of the City of Vernon subject to any applicable zoning restriction the City of Vernon may adopt pursuant to *20-2a-51(C)(3).

Adopted this the 215+ day of November, 2022.

GLENN CRAWFORD, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DON DOLLAR, CITY CLERK