

ORDINANCE NO. 3653

**AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF DISPENSING SITES
WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER**

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2021, the Governor for the State of Alabama signed the Darren Wesley 'Ato' Hall Compassion Act (the "Act") into law; and

WHEREAS, the Act provides for the medical use of marijuana for patients with a qualifying medical condition and a valid medical cannabis card and regulates the cultivation, processing, transporting, testing, and dispensing of medical cannabis products; 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 Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission to regulate all aspects of medical cannabis under the Act, excluding cultivation, which is authorized and required to be regulated by the Department of Agriculture and Industries, thus addressing any health, safety or welfare concerns for the City of Bessemer; and

WHEREAS, the location of a dispensary within the corporate limits of the City of Bessemer will bring the potential of new employment opportunities for the citizens of the City of Bessemer; and

WHEREAS, a dispensary would be required to purchase a business license and pay sales tax to the City of Bessemer, thus increasing revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA, that the operation of dispensing sites within the corporate limits of the City of Bessemer, subject to any applicable zoning restrictions the City of Bessemer may adopt pursuant to §20-2A-51(c)(3) of the Act, be, and it hereby is, authorized.

ADOPTED this the 22nd day of November 2022.



RON MARSHALL
President, City Council


ATTEST



WANDA D. TAYLOR
City Clerk



APPROVED this the 22nd day of November 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth E. Gulley', written over a horizontal line.

KENNETH E. GULLEY
Mayor, City of Bessemer

