ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STERILE SYRINGE ACCESS PROGRAM(S) IN THE CITY OF TRENTON

WHEREAS, the City of Trenton needs a comprehensive plan to stem the spread of injection-related HIV and Hepatitis C; and

WHEREAS, the sharing of contaminated syringes is the leading cause of HIV/AIDS in Trenton with 33 percent of HIV/AIDS infections to date caused by the sharing of contaminated syringes; and

WHEREAS, communities of color have been particularly affected, with 72 percent of individuals with HIV/AIDS infections in Trenton being African American; and

WHEREAS, six reputable government studies and numerous clinical studies have proven sterile syringe access programs to be effective in reducing the spread of HIV, Hepatitis C, and other blood-borne diseases, without increasing drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, every scientific, medical, and professional body to study the issue has concluded that sterile syringe access programs are effective in reducing the transmission of HIV/AIDS, including the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Institutes of Health Consensus Panel, the American Pediatric Association, and the United States Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, studies of sterile syringe access programs have proven that these programs serve as a bridge to drug treatment and other social services for injection drug users, and save taxpayers money by reducing medical costs; and

WHEREAS, two reports from the New Jersey State Department of Health have found New Jersey’s Syringe Access Programs to be successful and beneficial; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the people of the City of Trenton to reduce the spread of HIV, Hepatitis C, and other blood-borne diseases; and
ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the Trenton Department of Health and Human Services will oversee the syringe program so that it is coordinated with the City's other anti-drug initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the City will incur no costs for the implementation and monitoring of the syringe program,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Trenton that:

1. The City of Trenton authorizes Hyacinth AIDS Foundation to establish a sterile syringe access program in Trenton to be operated in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the New Jersey Department of Health.

2. The program will be monitored by the Director of the Trenton Department of Health and Human Services.

3. The Director of the Trenton Department of Health and Human Services will have the ability to authorize additional syringe access programs in Trenton in the form and manner consistent with state law. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to create the aforementioned sterile syringe access program.

4. The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish this Ordinance as required by applicable law.

5. This Ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with applicable law.

Adopted on first reading at a meeting of the City Council of the City of Trenton, NJ on SEP 15 2016

Adopted on second reading after the public hearing on OCT 6 2016

Mayor

President of Council

City Clerk