To: Local Cannabis Supporters interested in contributing to the policing discussion.

On pages 2 and 3 of this document is a Resolution to take to your city councils, county commissioners, and political party platform conventions. If you prefer to write an email there is an email draft that begins on the fourth page.

Process

• Review the short “Effective Advocacy” video on the NC NORML website
• Obtain the names, phone numbers, and emails of elected officials from your town or county websites.
• Call one of the elected officials that you think would be receptive. If you get a positive response, send the elected official the resolution and ask the official to present it and find out when it will be presented.
  • Call and email the rest of the council, commission, etc..
• Plan to attend the meeting and, if you want to speak, read the Resolution if there is an opportunity.
• Even if the Resolution isn’t adopted you contributed by taking an opportunity to educate others about cannabis.
• Let us know how it goes!
• Always contact us if we can assist you.
A RESOLUTION TO END ENFORCEMENT OF CANNABIS PROHIBITION

Whereas, although consumption of marijuana by White Americans and Black Americans is similar, Black Americans are nearly 4 times more likely to be charged for possession of cannabis. The consequences of interacting with law enforcement can be deadly. Marijuana laws are used as justification to target certain populations, neighborhoods, and socioeconomic groups,

Whereas, jail and prison populations and workers have higher vulnerability to COVID-19 deaths, marijuana possession should not result in imprisonment,

Whereas, almost 50,000 North Carolinians were arrested for possession (not sales) of marijuana between 2014 and 2016 and those families faced major upheaval and financial hardship, cannabis should be decriminalized, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program,

Whereas, evidence shows that in states that have legalized medical marijuana or adult use, have a reduction in opioid use,
www.forbes.com/sites/debraborchardt/2017/04/21/medicaid-could-have-saved-1-billion-if-medical-marijuana-was-legalized/#767af6867c57

Whereas, between 1999-2016 12,000 North Carolinians died from opioid overdose,
https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/1898878

Whereas, 33 states and the District of Columbia now have legal medical marijuana programs, now covering most US citizens, but patients living in NC are vulnerable to arrest and criminal prosecution,

Whereas, a 2017 Elon University poll found that 80% of North Carolina voters support legislation that would legalize the medical use of marijuana and 45% approve of legalizing adult use, https://www.elon.edu/u/elon-poll/archive/2017-05-02/

Whereas, clinical trials have demonstrated many benefits of plant-based cannabis with both THC and CBD components at a variety of ratios and strengths, physicians should be free to recommend whole plant cannabis to their patients without being criminalized,
https://mct.aacrjournals.org/content/13/12/2955
Whereas, in 2018, 69% of Democrats support legal marijuana, as do 75% of independents. Republicans favor legalizing marijuana by 45% up from 39% in just three years, www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/10/08/americans-support-marijuana-legalization/

Whereas, contrary to the myth that cannabis is a gateway drug, the RAND Corporation found in a national study that the use of cocaine dropped 50 percent as cannabis use increased 30 percent, https://tinyurl.com/RandCannabisReport

Whereas, the Mayo Clinic determined addiction rates to major drugs: Nicotine (32%), Heroin (23%), cocaine (17%), alcohol (15%) and marijuana (9%). Heroin is an opioid that is not available by prescription in the US - the risk of addiction to prescription opioids may be as high as 11.5%, https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21545561/

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this body recommends ending law enforcement activity such as,
• Patrolling at entertainment locations and social gatherings without receiving a specific complaint.
• Frivolous traffic stops such as “not signaling turns,” “broken tail lights,” loitering, jaywalking and other excuses to harass residents.
• Use of military weapons and other provocative tools.

Submitted to: ____________________________

Name: ____________________________

Date: ____________________________
Dear

Please consider the following information and stop arrests and charges for cannabis possession:

Although consumption of marijuana by White Americans and Black Americans is similar, Black Americans are nearly 4 times more likely to be charged for possession of cannabis. The consequences of interacting with law enforcement can be deadly. Marijuana laws are used as justification to target certain populations, neighborhoods, and socioeconomic groups.  


Jail and prison populations and workers have higher vulnerability to COVID-19 deaths, marijuana possession should not result in imprisonment.  


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Potential savings of 12,000. Between 1999-2016 12,000 North Carolinians died from opioid overdose.

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North Carolina residents are vulnerable to arrest and criminal prosecution that residents in 33 states and the District of Columbia aren’t.  


A WebMD poll finds that a majority of physicians support legal cannabis.  

https://www.safeaccessnow.org/survey_majority_of_us_doctors_support_medical_marijuana_legalization
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