



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. _____

RESOLUTION

R63 - 2018

Introduced by City Council on May 2, 2018

Recommends the State House and Senate to make the possession or personal use of a small amount of marijuana a summary offense, rather than a misdemeanor.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Allentown does not promote or condone the possession or use of marijuana or marijuana paraphernalia; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Allentown, PA would like to provide criminal relief from the personal use of a small amount of marijuana and the possession of marijuana paraphernalia so that individuals are charged as a summary offense rather than a misdemeanor offense; and

WHEREAS, the current state law hinders individuals from gaining employment, getting into college, getting apartments, college loans and saddles them with a lifetime criminal record. Many of these individuals are productive residents who pay taxes, are gainfully employed and contributing members of society and should be spared a criminal record, and

WHEREAS, several cities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have initiated and approved Ordinances that decriminalize the possession and use of a small amount of marijuana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Allentown hereby encourages the State House and Senate to make the possession or personal use of a small amount of marijuana a summary offense, rather than a misdemeanor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the law will provide for the following:

- Individuals found guilty would be issued a summary non-traffic citation by the law enforcement officer
- Penalties for violations would be created with a fine to be set at a minimum of \$100 per offense to a maximum of \$300 with a special provision of those individuals under the age of eighteen (18).
- That the smoking of marijuana in public space remains a misdemeanor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Resolution be sent to elected state officials in the Lehigh Valley asking for support of such measures.