



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. _____

RESOLUTION

R63 - 2018

Introduced by City Council on May 2, 2018

Recommends the State House and Senate provide for the expungement of criminal records tied to low-level marijuana convictions.

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, repairing the harm done by the war on drugs; 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.

WHEREAS it is critical that we give individuals with low level misdemeanor marijuana possession convictions a clean slate and a chance to take care of their families free from any barriers in the market and burdening individuals seeking housing, credit, education or a job.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Allentown hereby encourages the State House and Senate to provide for the expungement of criminal records tied to low-level marijuana convictions.

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.