

News, Announcements and Information from

**WILLAMETTE VALLEY NORML**



your local chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

# NORML Remembers 'The Hemperor' Jack Herer



**Washington, DC, USA:** Jack Herer, the noted author and activist who was known to marijuana law reformers world wide as 'The Hemperor,' died last Thursday as a result of complications stemming from a September heart attack. He was 70 years old.

Herer had spent the better part of the past four decades advocating for the legalization of cannabis, particularly the non-psychoactive variety of the plant.

He received worldwide recognition in the late 1980s

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## Oregon: Supreme Court Okays Firing State-Authorized Medi-Pot Users For Off-The-Job Marijuana Use

**Portland, OR, USA:** An employer may terminate an employee for his or her off-the-job marijuana use, even if the employee is authorized under state law to use cannabis medicinally, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled last week.

In a 5 to 2 decision, the Court determined that an employee who uses marijuana in accordance with state law is nonetheless "engaged in the illegal use of drugs" and may be fired for his or her off-the-job conduct. Because marijuana remains classified as an illicit Schedule I drug under federal law and may not be legally prescribed by a physician, the Court opined that employers

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## New York City: Pot Arrests For 2009 Second Highest Total Ever

**New York, NY, USA:** City police made over 46,000 arrests in 2009 for marijuana possession in public, according to statistics from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, and analyzed by Queens College sociologist Harry Levine. The annual arrest total is the second highest in the city's history, and is up over 4,600 percent from 1990, when police reported fewer than 1,000 pot arrests.

New York city police made 46,400 lowest level marijuana possession arrests [NY State Penal Law 221.10] involving cases where marijuana was either used or possessed in public. Of those arrested, 54 percent were African American, 33 percent were Hispanic, and only ten percent were Caucasian. <continued on page 3 >



## The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

----- Making contact -----

*You can Snail Mail:*

The W-V-NORML Newsletter team by writing to -

**P.O. Box 10957  
Eugene, OR 97440**

*E-mailing:*

newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org

or phoning: **541-517-0957**

Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

**WillametteValleyNORML.org**

## A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

**The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.**

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: [www.norml.org](http://www.norml.org)**

Willamette Valley NORML is your local network in the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from **HEMPEROR JACK**, page 1 > and early 1990s for the publication of his seminal work, *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, which sold over 600,000 copies — making it the most widely read marijuana law reform title ever published. The book's tagline, "How hemp can still save the world," introduced hundreds of thousands of readers to the environmental and industrial uses of cannabis, which in turn re-launched the modern day hemp movement and global hemp industry. While researching his book, Herer unearthed a copy of the long-lost United States Department of Agriculture film, "Hemp for Victory," which documented the federal government's previous support for domestic hemp cultivation.

Herer's dedication to cannabis activism was the subject of the 1999 film documentary, "The Emperor of Hemp." Shortly following the release of the film, Jack suffered a stroke, which temporarily limited his speech and mobility. However, by mid-2000 he appeared to have made almost a full recovery from his illness, a feat he credited to the power of hemp's therapeutic properties.

Herer had just finished speaking at a marijuana-law reform event, The Portland Hempstalk, in September when he suffered his heart attack.

W-V-NORML expresses its sincere condolences to the friends and family of Jack Herer. *Information on memorial services for Jack Herer is available online:* [http://www.jackherermedicalandmemorialfund.org/Site/Welcome\\_To.html](http://www.jackherermedicalandmemorialfund.org/Site/Welcome_To.html)

<continued from **SUPREMES RULE**, page 1 > should not be mandated to accommodate workers who engage in its use.

Commenting on the Court's decision, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "This ruling isn't about workplace safety; it's about the Court upholding discrimination – plain and simple. It is absurd for the majority of the Court to argue that medical marijuana patients are allowed certain protections under state law while simultaneously arguing that these same patients lack the legal right to earn a living."

Despite the Court's ruling, the majority stated that the federal Controlled Substances Act does not preempt provisions of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act that exempt patients' possession, manufacture, or distribution of medical marijuana from state criminal liability.

Writing for the dissent, Justice Martha L. Walters opined: "I do not understand why, in our system of

dual sovereigns, Oregon must fly only in federal formation and not, as Oregon's motto provides, 'with her own wings.' Therefore, I cannot join in a decision by which we, as state court judges, enjoin the policies of our own state and preclude our legislature from making its own independent decisions about what conduct to criminalize."

The Court's decision overturned a previous decision from the Bureau of Labor and Industries ordering the employer to pay damages, and a Court of Appeals decision affirming that judgment. In 2006, the Oregon Supreme Court similarly ruled (*Washburn v. Columbia Forest Products, Inc.*) that employers may fire workers for failing a company mandated drug test for marijuana, even if their use is authorized by state law.

In 2008, the California Supreme Court issued a similar decision (*Ross v. Ragingwire Telecom*), finding: "California's voters merely exempted medical users and their primary caregivers from criminal liability under two specifically designated state statutes. Nothing in the text or history of the Compassionate Use Act suggests the voters intended the measure to address the respective rights and obligations of employers and employees." *Full text of the decision (Emerald Steel Fabricators Inc. v. Bureau of Labor and Industries) is available online at:* <http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/S056265.htm>

<continued from **POT ARRESTS**, page 1 > African-Americans and Hispanics together comprise approximately half of the city's population. Commenting on the racial disparity in arrests rates, Levine said, "Police arrested blacks for pot possession at seven times the rate of whites, and Latinos at four times the rate of whites."

Levine further noted 90 percent of those arrested were male, and most offenders were under 26-years-old. In all of the arrests, marijuana possession was the most serious reported charge or the only one.

Although simple marijuana possession is a violation and not a crime in New York State, if the marijuana is "open to public view" it can be charged as a misdemeanor. According to a 2008 study by Harry Levine and Deborah Small and released by the New York Civil Liberties Union, police have made some 400,000 misdemeanor marijuana possession arrests over the past decade. Said Levine: "Every year since 1997 police in New York City have been intimidating and tricking tens of thousands of young

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<continued from previous page> people to take out their marijuana and to hand it over. When the young people do so they are handcuffed, arrested and usually spend 24 hours in the city's jails."

The NYCLU study estimated that marijuana arrests in New York City cost taxpayers between \$50 million and \$90 million annually. *For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500, or contact NewYorkNORML@aol.com.*

## Urine Testing Unlikely To Identify Drugged Employees Or Reduce Workplace Accidents, Study Says

**Victoria, Canada:** Workplace urine testing programs are a poor method for identifying employees who are under the influence, and do not significantly reduce job accident rates, according to a study published in the scientific journal *Addiction*. Investigators at the University of Victoria in British Columbia reviewed 20 years of published literature pertaining to the efficacy of workplace drug testing, with a special emphasis on marijuana – the most commonly detected drug.

Researchers found: "[I]t is not clear that heavy cannabis users represent a meaningful job safety risk unless using before work or on the job; urine tests have poor validity and low sensitivity to detect employees who represent a safety risk; drug testing is related to reductions in the prevalence of cannabis positive tests among employees, but this might not translate into fewer cannabis users; and urinalysis has not been shown to have a meaningful impact on job injury/accident rates."

Authors concluded, "Urinalysis testing is not recommended as a diagnostic tool to identify employees who represent a job safety risk from cannabis use."

Urinalysis detects the presence of inert, fat soluble byproducts of marijuana, the most common of which remains present in urine for days, weeks, or even months after past use – long after any psychoactive effects of the drug have worn off. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Testing for cannabis in the workplace: a review of the evidence" appears in the February issue of Addiction.*

**Florida: Lawmakers Unanimously Pass Law Restricting 'Paraphernalia' Sales**  
**Tallahassee, FL, USA:** Members of the Florida

Senate and House of Representatives have unanimously passed legislation, Senate Bill 366, prohibiting the sale of so-called 'marijuana paraphernalia' – including "water pipes," "chillums," "bongs," or "glass or ceramic smoking pipes" – in stores that receive fewer than 75% of their annual revenue from the sale of tobacco products.

The measure now goes to Republican Gov. Charlie Crist for final approval. Once signed, the new law will take effect on July 1. Violators of the law will be guilty of a misdemeanor and could face up to one year in jail. Democrat Rep. Darryl Rouson, who sponsored the measure, said, "[T]he pipe industry ... is ... a part of the drug trade and the criminal enterprise that we know exists and destroys neighborhoods, families and order in our society."

Commenting on the bill's passage, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said: "It is notable, though regrettable, that Florida's lawmakers are further criminalizing marijuana and marijuana-related activities at a time when most other state lawmakers are considering measures to legalize and regulate cannabis and responsible cannabis consumers." *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

## CBS Polls Finds Majority Of Western Voters, Californians, Back Legalization

**New York, NY, USA:** A majority of west coast voters, and Californians specifically, believe that the adult use of marijuana should be legal, according to the results of a pair of polls conducted for CBS News.

Fifty-six percent of Californians believe that "the state of California (should) legalize the use of marijuana," according to a SurveyUSA poll of 500 adults conducted for CBS. The survey results come less than a month after state election officials certified the Regulate, Control, and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010 for the 2010 November ballot. The measure would allow adults 21 years or older to possess, share or transport up to one ounce of cannabis for personal consumption, and/or cultivate the plant in an area of not more than twenty-five square feet per private residence.

Among respondents, support for the proposal was strongest among males (65 percent), liberals (77 percent), and those between the ages of 18 and 34 (74 percent). In a separate national CBS News poll of 858 adults, 55 percent of respondents residing in the west coast said that they back legalization, and

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In December, a national poll of 1,004 likely voters by Angus Reid reported for the first time that just over half of all Americans endorse marijuana legalization.

A separate poll published this week by the *Associated Press* and CNBC reported that 55 percent of Americans opposed the "complete legalization of the use of marijuana for any purpose." However, 56 percent of respondents also stated that they believed that "the regulations on marijuana (should) be the same ... or less strict ... (than) those for alcohol." *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

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## **Washington DC: City Council Unanimously Backs Medical Marijuana Dispensary Plan**

**Washington, DC, USA:** Members of the DC City Council voted unanimously this week in favor of legislation that seeks to establish medical marijuana dispensaries in the District of Columbia.

Under the proposal (B 18-622), which is expected to receive final approval from the Council next month, city Health Department officials would regulate up to five facilities to dispense medical cannabis to authorized patients. Medical dispensaries would be limited to growing no more than 95 plants on site at any one time.

Patients would be able to obtain up to two ounces of dispensary-provided marijuana per month, but would not be permitted to privately cultivate their own supply. Low-income patients will be allowed to purchase medical marijuana at a greatly reduced cost under the plan.

The legislation seeks to implement components of Initiative 59 – a 1998 DC ballot measure that garnered 69 percent of the vote. However, until this year DC city lawmakers have been barred from instituting the measure because of a Congressional ban on the issue. Congress lifted its ban late last year.

Once approved, Congress has 30 days to either approve or reject the measure. At a DC City Council hearing in February, NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre testified in favor of the measure, but criticized lawmakers' decision to remove patients'

access to home cultivation. "NORML believes that efforts by lawmakers to place undue restrictions on doctors' abilities to recommend medical cannabis, and patients abilities to legally possess amounts that are in accordance with their specific medical needs – regardless of however well-intentioned these efforts by the Council may be – contradict the spirit of 1-59 and should be rejected by this Committee," St. Pierre said.

DC officials contend that the restrictions are necessary to avoid having Congressional lawmakers overturn the measure.

Last week, lawmakers in Maine approved legislation to allow for the creation of state-sanctioned medical marijuana dispensaries. Similar legislation has also been approved in New Jersey, New Mexico, and Rhode Island. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.*

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## **Maine: Lawmakers Approve Medical Marijuana Dispensary Rules**

**Augusta, ME, USA:** State lawmakers last week approved legislation establishing guidelines for the establishment of state-authorized medical marijuana distribution facilities.

As approved by the legislature, LD 1811 authorizes the creation of up to eight nonprofit medical cannabis dispensaries – one for each of the state's public health districts. Under the measure, dispensaries may legally "acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, deliver, transfer, transport, sell, supply or dispenses marijuana or related supplies and educational materials" to state-authorized medical marijuana patients.

The measure does not require dispensaries to be recognized as a tax-exempt organizations under Section 26 of the United States Code.

Patients and/or their caregivers will still be allowed to cultivate their own medical cannabis under state law. However, patients will now be required to join a confidential state registry in order to be able to legally possess and grow marijuana for medicinal purposes.

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services will oversee the new medical marijuana programs. Last November, voters approved Question 5, the Maine Marijuana Medical Act, which amends existing state law by: establishing a confidential patient registry; expanding the list of

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<continued from previous page> squalifying conditions for which a physician may recommend medicinal cannabis; and by allowing for the creation of state-licensed nonprofit dispensaries.

In 1999, 61 percent of state voters approved the physician-supervised use of medical marijuana. However, the law did not establish a state identification registry for qualified patients, nor did it address regulating the distribution of medical marijuana. If signed by Democrat Gov. John Baldacci, the law will apply retroactively to December 23, 2009, the effective date of the initiated bill.

Separate legislation approved by lawmakers seeks to impose a retail sales tax on any medical marijuana that is sold by state-licensed dispensaries. Medicinal cannabis will be taxed at the same percentage as are over-the-counter medications. Legislation authorizing the state-licensed distribution of medical cannabis has also been approved in New Jersey, New Mexico, and Rhode Island.

Full text of LD 1811 is available online from Maine Legislature website at: [http://www.legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/bills\\_124th/billtexts/SP071901.asp](http://www.legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/bills_124th/billtexts/SP071901.asp). For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org).

## Sixth International Clinical Conference On Cannabis Therapeutics Takes Place

**Providence, RI, USA:** Patients Out of Time (POT) and the Rhode Island Patient Advocacy Coalition (RIPAC) held the Sixth National Clinical Conference on Cannabis Therapeutics on April 15-17, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, Rhode Island.

Topics at the conference included: 'Safety of Medical Cannabis Use;' 'Endocannabinoid System and Neuropathic Pain;' 'Oral Preparations;' 'The Endogenous Cannabinoid System and Reproductive Pain;' 'Growing Cannabis for Medicine;' 'Cannabinoid/Opioid Interactions,' and 'Medical Cannabis and the Struggle to Break the NIDA Monopoly.'

Representatives from California's Harborside Health Center medical marijuana dispensary also have announced plans to unveil a new type of non-psychoactive medicinal cannabis strain at this year's conference. Hebrew University's (Israel)

Raphael Mechoulam delivered the conference's keynote address. Physician and best-selling author Dr. Andrew Weil spoke (via video) at the conference's Friday night benefit dinner.

This year's conference is co-sponsored by the School of Medicine, University of California at San Francisco, and the Rhode Island State Nurses Association. *Conference agenda appears online at: <http://medicalcannabis.com/Clinical-Conferences/2010-upcoming-conference>.*

## NORML Foundation To Launch Second NYC Times Square Billboard Campaign; New Ad Debuts On April 20 On The CBS Super Screen

**Washington, DC, USA:** The NORML Foundation, the educational arm of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), will debut its second-ever digital ad this Tuesday, April 20, on the CBS Super Screen in New York City's Times Square.

You can view a "sneak preview" of the video here: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwbW18\\_cwQE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwbW18_cwQE)

The animated billboard advertisement will highlight the dramatic increase in New York City's rate of marijuana possession arrests, which increased from fewer than 1,000 annually in 1992 to more than 46,000 in 2009.

According to a 2008 study released by the New York Civil Liberties Union, City police have made an estimated 400,000 marijuana possession arrests over the past decade. The majority of citizens arrested for marijuana possession offenses are either African American or Hispanic.

The ad concludes: "Legalize marijuana. Stop arrests."

NORML Foundation Executive Director Allen St. Pierre called the City's marijuana-centric arrest practices 'shameful' and 'fiscally irresponsible.' He said: "Under state law, minor marijuana possession offenses are categorized as a violation, not a criminal offense. Yet New York City police officers are effectively circumventing state law by charging tens of thousands of young adults each year with unnecessary criminal misdemeanors by claiming that the marijuana was possessed 'in plain view.' This is a shameful and fiscally irresponsible policy that disproportionately targets minorities and does nothing to improve public safety. It is time for City law enforcement to stop wasting taxpayers' dollars

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<continued from previous page> and to abide by the state's longstanding decriminalization law."

The NORML Foundation's new ad will appear eighteen times per day on the CBS's digital billboard, located on 42nd Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues. Approximately 1.5 million people walk by the billboard each day.

In March, NORML launched a 15-second digital ad trumpeting the cost savings and tax revenue that could be generated by regulating and taxing adult marijuana use. That ad, available online at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeH5HrG7IfM>, will continue to air until Monday, April 19. NORML's forthcoming advertisement will air through May 2010.

Founded in 1970, NORML is the nation's oldest and largest grassroots organization advocating on behalf of marijuana law reform. The NORML Foundation was founded in 1997 to support public education, research, stake holder organizing and impact litigation. In 2009, NORML Foundation launched the first-ever nationwide television ad campaign calling for the regulation of marijuana by adults. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, Executive Director of The NORML Foundation, at (202) 483-5500.*

### **Colorado: City Passes State's First-Ever Medical Marijuana Sales Tax**

**Fruita, CO, USA:** Municipal voters on Tuesday passed a proposal imposing a five percent sales tax on medical marijuana and related paraphernalia. Nearly 60 percent of Fruita (population: 7,500) city voters approved the measure – marking the first time that any Colorado city has imposed a tax on cannabis sales.

Colorado voters legalized the physician-authorized use of marijuana in 2000. The measure will go into effect on May 1. City officials anticipate that the local tax will raise approximately \$100,000 annually.

In July, over 80 percent of voters in Oakland, California approved Measure F, which imposes a separate retail business excise tax on local medical marijuana dispensaries. Other California cities, including San Jose, are considering similar measures.

Also on Tuesday, 54 percent of city voters in Nederland, Colorado approved a municipal ballot measure removing all criminal and civil penalties on the personal possession of marijuana by adults. Denver and Breckenridge voters have approved

similar local ordinances in recent years. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

### **Washington: Governor Signs Medical Marijuana Expansion Measure Into Law**

**Olympia, WA, USA:** Democrat Gov. Christine Gregoire signed legislation into law last week that expands the state's nearly twelve-year-old medical marijuana law. Senate Bill 5798 allows additional health care professionals including naturopaths, physician's assistants, osteopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians assistants, and advanced registered nurse practitioners to legally recommend marijuana therapy to their patients. Presently, only licensed physicians may legally recommend medicinal cannabis. Washington is the first state to codify these recommendation rights into law.

"This measure further legitimizes cannabis as a therapeutic tool for health professionals," NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said. "Many rural patients are more likely to have access to a nurse practitioner or physician assistant than a physician. By giving nurse practitioners and physician assistants the ability to provide the proper documentation for the medical use of marijuana, this provides them greater access to the care patients need."

Senate Bill 5798 takes effect on June 10, 2010. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org)*

### **California: San Jose Voters Likely To Decide On Marijuana Tax**

**San Jose, CA, USA:** City council leaders voted this week in favor of a motion to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries and to impose an excise tax on the facilities' owners. The Council is expected to decide on the proposed ordinance in June, and is considering putting the tax question before municipal voters in November, the *San Jose Mercury News* reported.

A coalition of more than a dozen local dispensaries is lobbying the City Council for the oversight regulations, which are reportedly backed by San Jose City Mayor Chuck Reed. San Jose is the tenth largest city in the nation.

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## News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

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For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org).

### Philadelphia: No More Criminal Records For Minor Pot Offenders, D.A. Says

**Philadelphia, PA, USA:** Minor marijuana possession offenses will no longer be prosecuted as criminal misdemeanors, according to a policy change announced by new District Attorney Seth Williams and reported by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on Monday.

Philadelphia NORML had been lobbying for the policy change after publishing a report which found that African American males comprised an estimated 83 percent of all persons in Philadelphia arrested for minor marijuana possession offenses.

Under the new policy, which is anticipated to take effect later this month, prosecutors will charge minor marijuana possession (defined as 30 grams or less) as 'summary offenses' rather than criminal misdemeanors. Defendants will be required to pay a fine, but will not face incarceration or receive a criminal record.

Under the previous District Attorney, the city criminally prosecuted some 3,000 minor marijuana possession cases per year.

The policy change will free up prosecutors and judges to focus their time and resources on more serious violations, *The Inquirer* reported.

Chris Goldstein, who coordinates efforts for both Philadelphia NORML and NORML New Jersey, said: "This is a pragmatic procedure shift, but it cannot be described as 'decriminalization' because

**\* NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting \* Happens every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at h'ERb'S Toasted Subs, 1210 Willamette St, Eugene call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>**



*It's One Hell of A Joint!*

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Pennsylvania state law still classifies marijuana possession as the lowest level of criminal offense.

... District Attorney Williams, with the backing of the state Supreme Court, are proposing to have offenders simply pay a fine and go to a diversionary court to streamline the process.

This will immediately take the marijuana arrest burden off of the criminal courts. The proposed change would also result in a tangibly less traumatic experience for Philadelphia cannabis consumers who run afoul of prohibition laws." Under Pennsylvania law, the possession of up to 30 grams of marijuana is a criminal misdemeanor punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Earlier this year, newly elected Seattle city attorney Peter Holmes publicly announced that his office would no longer prosecute minor marijuana possession offenses.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or visit Philadelphia NORML at: <http://www.phillynorml.org>.

**\* THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY ( W-V ) NORML NEWS REPORT > \* P.O. Box 10957, EUGENE, OREGON, 97440 \* PH: (541) 517-0957 \* EMAIL: [newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org](mailto:newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org) \* OR VISIT: [www.WillametteValleyNORML.org](http://www.WillametteValleyNORML.org)**