

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE: April 16, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT: **Dallas Police Department Cannabis Enforcement Update**

The Dallas Police Department would like to provide an update on the changes made to the procedures regarding enforcement of cannabis possession. These procedural changes are being made to lessen the impact of arresting individuals for low level amounts of marijuana. Unless certain circumstances are present, the Department will not charge an individual with possession of marijuana indicative of personal use which is considered two ounces or less.

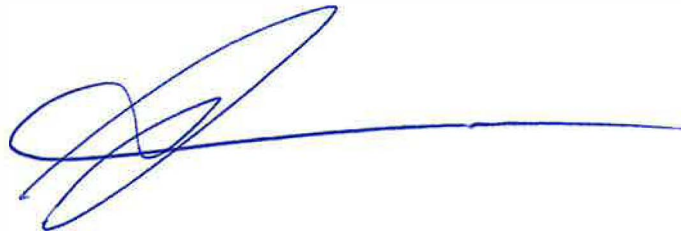
Under the new procedures, officer will charge the individual with possession when:

- More than 2 ounces of marijuana
- Any amount of marijuana where there are indications of drug distribution such as:
 - Multiple smaller baggies of marijuana packaged for resale.
 - Presence of digital scales or packs of empty baggies
 - Officers personally observe a drug transaction take place
 - Individual is involved in a drug-related call for police service, or part of a Narcotics Division investigation
- Any amount of marijuana and the suspect has:
 - A firearm in his possession
 - A companion charge for a crime against person offense

Cite and release procedures will be followed when officers discover an individual has more than two ounces but less than four ounces and no other charges requiring a custodial arrest are present. In all circumstances, marijuana will be seized from the individual. Officers will document all seizures with the appropriate reports and place the property into drug evidence lock boxes per Department policy.

These procedures will become effective April 19, 2021. Officers will receive the updated General Orders, a Roll Call Training Bulletin, and a training video to ensure understanding and achieve compliance. The Dallas Police Department will continue to review its procedures to ensure they are in line with best practices and national standards.

Eddie Garcia
Chief of Police
Dallas Police Department



c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors