



**City of Dallas**

# Update Regarding DPD's Cannabis Enforcement

Public Safety Committee  
March 2, 2021



Deputy Chief Reuben Ramirez  
Dallas Police Department  
City of Dallas

# Presentation Overview



- Current Marijuana Laws
- February 2021 Marijuana Data
- Purpose of Proposed Changes
- Proposed Marijuana Enforcement Procedures
- Testing Update
- Next Steps



# Current Marijuana Laws



- Any usable amount of Marijuana is illegal
- Possession of Under 4 oz is eligible for a Cite & Release Citation
- Between 2 oz and 4 oz is a Class A Misdemeanor
- As of June 10, 2019, Hemp is legal to possess in Texas (House Bill 1325)
  - Hemp is Cannabis with a THC concentration of less than 0.3%



# February 2021 Marijuana Data



February 1, 2021 to February 24, 2021

- Total # of all arrests: 1,996
  - Drug Related Arrests: 402 (20% of all arrests)
- Marijuana Related Arrests: 183 (9% of all arrests)
  - Less than 2 oz: 140 (7% of all arrests 80% of all marijuana arrests)
  - Cite and Release: 9



# Purpose of Proposed Changes



- Avoid the impact of arresting individuals for low level amounts of marijuana.
- Eliminate charges for individuals who are in possession of marijuana for personal consumption only
  - 70% of charges filed are indicative of possession not with intent to distribute.
- Lessen burden and time on DPD resources
  - Processing evidence, booking and report writing.



# Proposed Marijuana Enforcement Procedure



- Officers **will not charge** offenders for marijuana possession of less than 2 ounces except for the following circumstances:
  - The possession of <2 ounces of marijuana is indicative of distribution
    - Multiple smaller individually baggies packaged for sale
    - Presence of digital scales, packs of empty baggies
    - Observed in hand-to-hand drug transactions
    - Offender was involved in a drug related call for police service or Narcotics Division investigation.
    - Any additional circumstances that would lead officers to believe that the marijuana the offender possessed was for resale and not personal consumption



# Proposed Marijuana Enforcement Procedure Continued



- The offender possessed under 2 ounces of marijuana in conjunction with a firearm
- The offender has a criminal history with multiple convictions for violent offenses
- The offender has a companion charge for a Crimes Against Person in conjunction with the marijuana possession.



# Proposed Marijuana Enforcement Procedure Continued



- Officers **will not** charge the offender if:
  - The offender has a companion drug charge of a felony penalty grade.
  - The companion case is an active hold or arrest warrant
  - Circumstances of the possession indicate possession for personal consumption





# Testing Procedures



- Changes already implemented at DPD
- Marijuana is no longer automatically sent to SWIFs for testing.
- Only Marijuana charges accepted by the DA's office is being sent to SWIFs for analysis.



# Next Steps



- Reporting procedures and documentation
  - Required reports
- Deposit locations for drug evidence
  - Maximize officer efficiency
  - Designated drug lock box locations
- Procedures for General Orders Implementation





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