



1       **WHEREAS**, making adult marijuana use and possession offenses the lowest law enforcement priority  
2 in the City of Little Rock would reduce expenditures on law enforcement, prosecution, and punishment of  
3 these offenses, allowing greater spending on other priorities affecting the health and safety of the residents  
4 of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas.

5       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY**  
6 **OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:**

7       **Section 1. Title.** This article shall be known as the Lowest Law Enforcement and Prosecutorial Priority  
8 Policy Ordinance of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, (“the City”).

9       **Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of this article is to:

10       (a) Make investigations, citations, arrests, property seizures, etc. for adult misdemeanor  
11 marijuana offenses, where the possession, or use of marijuana was intended only for  
12 adult, personal use, the lowest law enforcement and prosecutorial priority within the  
13 City; and,

14       (b) Transmit notification of the enactment of this ordinance to all State and Federal Elected  
15 Officials who are directly elected from all or a portion of the corporate limits of the  
16 City.

17       **Section 3. Definitions.** For the purpose of this article, the following words and phrases shall be  
18 defined as follows:

19       **Adult** means a person who is eighteen (18) years of age or older.

20       **Little Rock Law Enforcement Officer** means a Certified Law Enforcement Officer of the Little Rock  
21 Police Department, or any other entity, office, or department of the City that engages in law enforcement  
22 activity within the corporate limits of the City.

23       **Lowest Law Enforcement Priority** means a designation given to a particular type of crime that makes  
24 it the least important priority under all other duties and responsibilities of Little Rock Law Enforcement  
25 Officers and that requires all law enforcement resources and activities, e.g., investigation, arrests,  
26 prevention, searches, seizures, prosecution etc., related thereto be used, as needed, for the enforcement  
27 of all other crimes and duties not assigned this designation;

28       **Marijuana** means all parts of the cannabis plant including the stalks, seeds, roots, dried leaves,  
29 flowers, etc., and any preparations or derivatives, including, but not limited to, oils, vapors, waxes, resins,  
30 tinctures, and edibles, not including the weight of any ingredients other than marijuana that are combined  
31 with marijuana and prepared for consumption as food or drink;

32       **Section 4. Lowest Law Enforcement Priority Policy.**

33       (a) Little Rock Law Enforcement Officers shall make all law enforcement duties or  
34 activity relating to marijuana offenses, where the marijuana is intended for adult  
35 personal use, their lowest law enforcement priority. Law enforcement duties and

1 activities relating to marijuana offenses include, but are not limited to, investigation,  
2 citation, arrest, and the seizure of property.

- 3 (b) This Lowest Law Enforcement Priority Policy shall not apply to Statutes that deal  
4 with driving under the influence, the operation of machinery while impaired, violent  
5 or gun-related crimes, or those designed to prevent physical injury to others.

6 **Section 5. Notification of Federal and State Officials.**

- 7 (a) Beginning three (3) months after the enactment of this article, the Clerk of the City  
8 shall execute the mandatory and ministerial duty of sending letters on an annual basis  
9 to the members of the United States House of Representatives whose District  
10 includes the corporate limits of the City, both Arkansas United States Senators, any  
11 Representative or Senator in the Arkansas General Assembly whose district includes  
12 all or a portion of the corporate limits of the City, the Governor of the State of  
13 Arkansas, and the President of the United States.

- 14 (b) This letter shall state, "The City of Little Rock, Arkansas, has passed an ordinance  
15 to de-prioritize adult marijuana offenses, where the marijuana is intended for  
16 personal use, and requests that the governments of the United States of America and  
17 the State of Arkansas take immediate steps to enact similar laws."

- 18 (c) The duty to prepare and send such letters shall be carried out until State and Federal  
19 Laws are changed accordingly.

20 **Section 6. Mandatory Enforcement.** All sections of this article are mandatory. If any provision of  
21 this article is not carried out properly, any person who is registered to vote in the City may seek a writ of  
22 mandamus to ensure the law is fully implemented.

23 **Section 7. Severability.** In the event that any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase,  
24 or word of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or  
25 adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the resolution, which shall remain in full force and  
26 effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged were not originally part of the resolution.

27 **Section 8. Repealer.** All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, over which the City has  
28 authority, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of  
29 such inconsistency.

30 **PASSED: May 18, 2021**

31 **ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

32  
33 \_\_\_\_\_  
34 Susan Langley, City Clerk

32  
33 \_\_\_\_\_  
34 Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor

1 **APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:**

2

3

4 **Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney**

---

5 //

6 //

7 //

8 //

9 //

10 //

11 //

12 //

13 //

14 //

15 //

16 //

17 //

18 //

19 //

20 //

21 //

22 //

23 //

24 //

25 //

26 //

27 //

28 //

29 //

30 //

31 //

32 //

33 //

34 //

35 //