

From: GPS [GPS@vermont.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Pepper, James
CC: London, Sarah; Springer, Darren; Coriell, Scott
Subject: Re: Marijuana Pardons update

Sounds like a good plan. How about finding some sympathetic stories and doing a presser?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 5, 2016, at 10:20 AM, Pepper, James <James.Pepper@vermont.gov> wrote:

Gov – I've been talking to Darren, Scott, DPS, and DOC regarding pardoning marijuana convictions. The number of convictions for possession of 1 oz or less dating back to the 1970s is 17,000. Processing all of these pardons at VCIC would take a huge amount of time/manpower. Based on this constraint, I think the best course of action is to put out a public call for pardons, similar to a driver restoration day. It could look like this:

- Immediate press release / follow-up event indicating we will be pardoning past marijuana convictions for possession of up to 1 oz (what is now decriminalized) for all non-violent offenders
- People who meet this criteria may apply for a pardon on a DPS website that will collect their DOB/SSN (website will be open only for a defined period, likely 2 weeks)
- DPS will verify that applicant qualifies and process as many qualifying applications as we can before Jan 5th
- We need to be clear that pardons are not guaranteed, that by applying, a candidate will be considered

I am meeting with Flynn and Menard at 1:30pm today to put a plan into motion. Let me know if you like this or want something different.

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