A national nonprofit focused at the intersection of criminal justice and cannabis reform.

Work includes nonpartisan policy technical assistance, as well as legal and reentry services.

Committed to redressing the past and continuing harms of the inhumane and ineffective policies of cannabis prohibition.
Municipal Pardon Power

- The power of the Mayor to grant pardons for convictions arising from violations of city ordinances.
- Limited scholarship and research around states that allow for this practice and which localities have implemented a municipal pardon.
New Orleans just pardoned thousands of people who were cited for marijuana possession

City Council decision comes amid broader liberalization of public attitudes around marijuana
I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a person who has been granted a pardon shall be exempt from payment of the processing fees otherwise authorized by this Article. However, no person granted a first offender pardon pursuant to Article IV, Section 5(E)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana shall be exempt from payment of the processing fees otherwise authorized by this Article.
Municipal Mayoral Marijuana Pardon

Dear Mayor Lucas:

Pursuant to section 209(b) of the City Charter and section 44-8 of the Kansas City Code of Ordinances, I request you pardon my conviction(s), for the Kansas City municipal violation of marijuana possession and/or marijuana drug paraphernalia identified below.

*Case Number (if unavailable, state why):

*Approximate Date of Conviction:

*Description of charge (ex: possession of marijuana/paraphernalia)

500 Character limit
A Mayor Dispenses Pardons as Alabama Holds Fast to Marijuana Laws

“This has an impact on not only young people, but anybody who needs and deserves a second chance,” Mayor Randall Woodfin of Birmingham said in announcing a new round of pardons for possession.
Mayor Bowser Launches the Application Process for the District of Columbia Clemency Board

Friday, March 18, 2022

(Washington, DC) Today, Mayor Muriel Bowser launched the application process for letters of recommendation to the District of Columbia Clemency Board (the "Clemency Board").

“In so many critical areas, the District of Columbia functions as a state, but one key element of statehood is that we lack the ability to grant pardons or commute sentences – a power that every state’s governor has,” said Mayor Bowser. “Today’s launch of the application process for letters of recommendation is yet another step towards statehood. I look forward to the day when I can issue a pardon or commute a sentence without having to ask the President.”

The mission of the Clemency Board is to consider applications from people convicted of D.C. Code offenses, and if in agreement that clemency is warranted, to help the applicant receive a pardon or commutation the Clemency Board will recommend applicants to the President of the United States for consideration.
Omaha, NE's Mayoral Pardons

The Mayor is only able to pardon convictions involving violations of Omaha City Ordnance contained in Chapter 20. These violations are low grade misdemeanors like theft, prostitution, trespassing and many others. If you are uncertain whether your violation(s) meet this criterion, complete a Pardon Request Form and the assigned investigator will make this determination.

The Mayor is unable to pardon anyone convicted of any violation of State Statute. Such violations include all felony convictions and many misdemeanor convictions. Violations of State Statute must be pardoned by the State Pardon Board in Lincoln, NE. For more information phone 402-479-5726 or visit their website at http://www.pardons.state.ne.us/

To request a mayoral pardon, complete a Pardon Request Form that can be obtained from the Mayor’s Receptionist (Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, 3rd floor) or from the City Prosecutor on the 2nd floor of the Hall of Justice, 402-444-4516. You must then submit the completed form, via mail or in person, to the Omaha City Prosecutor (Hall of Justice, 1819 Farnam Street, 2nd floor, Omaha NE, 68183). You may also scan the Pardon Request Form along with any accompanying documents and email them to the Omaha City Prosecutor at prosecutor@cityofomaha.org. Please label all packets submitted to the Prosecutor with, “Pardon Request”.

The City Prosecutor’s Office will review your application and make a recommendation to the Mayor. The review will include an examination of your criminal history.
THANK YOU!

Questions?

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