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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Alders Dimitrijevic and Rainey introduce progressive marijuana legislation

Alderwoman Marina Dimitrijevic and Alderman Khalif J. Rainey have introduced legislation targeting recreational marijuana reform and legalization in Milwaukee under certain circumstances. This comes on the heels of Governor Tony Evers including a proposal to tax and regulate marijuana similar to alcohol sales statewide in his biennial budget.

“Governor Evers set forth a progressive plan on marijuana legalization in his proposed state budget, and as the largest city in the state, we can help lead the way on legalization of cannabis,” said Alderwoman Dimitrijevic. “Many cities and countries across the globe have already decriminalized and legalized marijuana with many seeing positive economic returns. As we deliberate the renaissance of our city with over \$400 million in federal funds, it’s time to think big and solve old problems in order to move forward together.”

The legislation seeks to remove all fines in Milwaukee associated with the possession of marijuana up to 1 ounce. A similar law was passed in [Madison](#) in November. The legislation also aims to remove racial disparities associated with marijuana convictions. A recent [report](#) from the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s Office stated that while marijuana usage is equal across racial groups, Black Wisconsinites are 4.3 times more likely to be convicted for possession.

-More-

Marijuana Legislation/ADD ONE

“Study after study demonstrates the clear racial disparities that exist regarding marijuana convictions. We must act now to reallocate our public safety resources elsewhere and invest in increased anti-violence and public health services. This is the first step in a long, overdue journey to repair and rebuild our city. Undoing historic injustice will release our economic potential to thrive,” said Alderman Rainey.

Additional details on the proposal will be forthcoming, and the file may be discussed at a future meeting of the Council’s Public Safety and Health Committee.

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