

# ALLIANCE NEWS



Alliance for Better Communities

SPECIAL EDITION, NOVEMBER 2019

## CURRENT STATUS OF MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IN NEW YORK

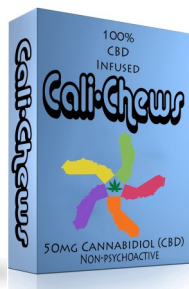
By: Martin J. Rothschild, J.D.

About one year ago, it seemed that an expansive bill legalizing recreational marijuana growing, distribution, selling and possession was destined for State congressional passage. The law would have created a substantial marijuana industry with incentives for minority businesses, and pardons for those previously convicted of cannabis related crimes. North Country farmers looked forward to a new and highly profitable cash crop, and those seeking to sell pot and open marijuana cafes saw a great opportunity to cash in.



*Vision: To have a community that is fully committed to the health and safety of its residents.*

*Mission: To reduce underage drinking and substance abuse and expeditiously address any emerging threats.*



11 States have legalized recreational marijuana, and last year it seemed that New York would become the 12th. Gov. Cuomo supported the bill and attempted to have it included in the 2019-2020 budget. However

passage was hindered by disagreements over several matters, including how retail sales should be handled, whether to allow counties to opt out of retail sales, and whether to allow home grown plants, along with other issues.<sup>1</sup>

New York, unlike many of the states that have legalized marijuana, doesn't have a mandate from the public. Most States



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which have legalized recreational marijuana have done so by public referendum, rather than by legislation. Nonetheless, polls have shown that a majority of New Yorkers favor legalization.<sup>2</sup> It is certain there will be another attempt to pass a bill. Bills will be introduced in both the state Assembly and Senate. Both houses are controlled by Democrats.



The current “three tier” model used by the alcohol industry, which separates manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing in most cases has been proposed for New York.<sup>3</sup> Last year’s proposal would also have allowed adults to possess up to 6 plants for personal use, but not for sale without a license.<sup>4</sup> Nonetheless as it turns out, marijuana growing is not easy and requires an energy intensive process.

New York decriminalized, as opposed to legalized, recreational marijuana this year. This means that the penalties for possession are dramatically lowered, and records on past low level convictions are cleared. 800,000 criminal possession cases in New York -- involving up to 500,000 people -- would have their records “sealed”, as opposed to literally expunged. However, using recreational marijuana is still illegal, and growing and selling it can result in major penalties.<sup>5</sup>



CBD, a cannabinoid which does not include the psychotropic ingredient THC., is legal in N.Y. Everywhere from supermarkets to coffee shops, CBD pills, tinctures, candies, coffees and other consumable items are available for purchase. However there are no scientifically controlled double blind studies confirming proper dosages for THC, and the purity and quality of

products currently on the market is not regulated by the FDA. New York’s Agriculture and Markets Department recently sent an advisory letter stating that it is not legal in the state to add CBD to food or drink.<sup>6</sup>The ruling, however, has not been consistently or evenly enforced. Nonetheless, legalization of marijuana and THC products for recreational use in New York is finally expected to occur in 2020.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMUNITY ARTS AND TALK EVENT HELD AT SALMON RUN MALL



Gabriella Duah wins first place in student artwork contest



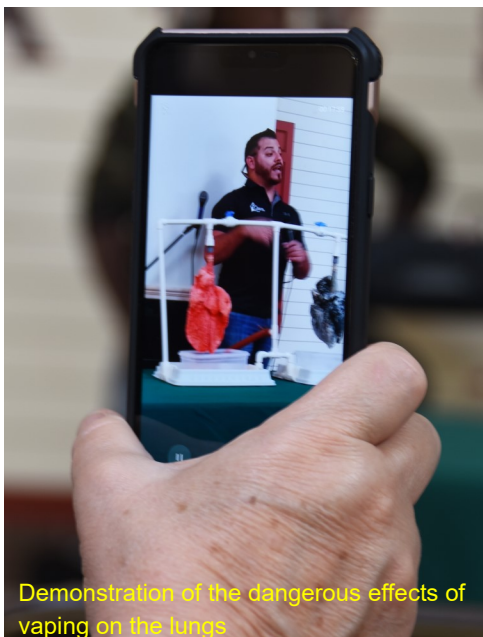
Ann-Marie leads the event



Young attendees have fun with face painting



Law enforcement expert on marijuana gives cautionary talk



Demonstration of the dangerous effects of vaping on the lungs



Area students attend the event



## REFERENCES:

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## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information

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## OCTOBER ALLIANCE MEETING

### NEW CHARTER APPROVED

