

**City of Minneapolis**  
**Request for Committee Action**

**To:** Health, Environment & Community Engagement  
**Date:** 2/22/2016  
**Referral:** Health, Environment & Community Engagement  
**From:** City Attorney's Office  
**Prepared by:** Peter Ginder  
**Presented by:** Council Member Frey  
**File type:** Ordinance  
**Subcategory:** Code Amendment

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**Subject:**

Marijuana decriminalization ordinance

**Description:**

Amending Title 11, Chapter 223 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Health and Sanitation: Drugs, removing marijuana from the list of prohibited drugs.

**Previous Actions:**

Notice of ordinance given on January 15, 2016

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**Ward/Address:**

All Wards

**Background/Analysis:**

Under Minnesota state law possession of a small amount of marijuana possession is charged as a petty misdemeanor, which is not a crime. The City of Minneapolis ordinances classify it as a misdemeanor. This ordinance change will eliminate the current discrepancy with result that the penalty for possession of small amount of marijuana possession will only be the petty misdemeanor treatment provided in state statute.

The city attorney believes the change in ordinance will be of minimal or no impact because Minneapolis police use the state statute when dealing with small amount of marijuana possession cases.

**Financial Review:**

**No financial impact.**

**Attachments:**

1. Ordinance Chapter 223 text

