

Highberger

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2006

Commissioners,

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

Taking marijuana use to a lower court is a smart move. Like it or not young people from all economic spectrums experiment with this foliage as have our past two presidents.

Non violent offenders who affect no one but themselves should neither go to prison nor congest court dockets where serious criminal cases are awaiting trial. Investigating officers need to free up memory cells for more serious matters in which they are called to testify.

Law enforcement staff probably spends more off duty time in court that anyone realizes. Perhaps their families would appreciate more of their time. This impact is likely far more significant when a department is short on staff. Think about the extra hours devoted to investigation. Some relief would not be out of line.

I do not see a need to mandate funds for drug counseling unless within the same case we are discussing hard narcotics such as meth, heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, pharmaceuticals or drunk drivers.

On a side note:

There is no doubt in my mind that clients who have experienced long term prescription treatment should probably be subject to counseling for it is not unreasonable considering pharmaceuticals can be difficult to leave behind.

The downtown beautification project is not only exciting but should be good for tourism and business in general. Eventually this project could make Lawrence talk of the state and Phoenixville, Pennsylvania as they follow suit.

Dickie Heckler