RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem has joined a growing number of cities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who have passed laws pertaining to small amounts of marijuana possession and possession of marijuana paraphernalia within their municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem encourages the State Legislature to enact a statewide law that offers an option to process the personal use of a small amount of marijuana and the possession of marijuana paraphernalia as a summary offense, rather than a misdemeanor offense; and

WHEREAS, statewide legislation would prevent arrests that would hinder individuals from gaining employment, college admission, securing college loans and apartment rental, and saddling them with lifetime criminal records; and

WHEREAS, passage of statewide legislation would spare a criminal record for many individuals who are productive citizens who work, pay taxes, and contribute to the community; save municipalities from the costs of prosecuting these minor offenses; and reduce the population in the state and federal correctional facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM THAT:

 The City of Bethlehem City Council encourage the State Legislature to adopt statewide legislation that would provide all municipal police departments with the option/discretion to process personal possession of a small amount of marijuana and the possession of marijuana paraphernalia as a summary offense, rather than a misdemeanor offense.

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Bryan G. Callahan Michael G. Colón

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Shawn M. Martell Olga Negrón

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J. William Reynolds Paige Van Wirt

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Adam R. Waldron