



Monroe County Legislature

Black and Asian Democratic Caucus

CALVIN LEE, JR.
Legislator – District 25

SABRINA LAMAR
Assistant Leader – District 27

FRANK KEOPHETLASY
Legislator – District 28

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Leader – District 29

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Wednesday, March 31, 2021

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Black and Asian Democratic Caucus Statement on the Legalization of Recreational Marijuana in New York State

Today, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to legalize recreational marijuana for adults in New York State. This important legislation will allow us to push for relief to those who have previously been impacted by the laws that have disproportionately harmed poorer communities in Monroe County. A portion of the bill expunges the criminal records of those who have been convicted of possessing marijuana. This is one of the most impactful advancements in serving justice to those who have been victims of discriminatory policing. Previous laws and regulations have contributed to the mass incarceration of black and brown individuals further inhibiting them from accessing housing, employment opportunities, and other vital services.

This momentous legislation would expand and promote economic progress for black and brown communities that had been impacted by previous regulations. The tax revenues from the sale of recreational marijuana can be used to devise and implement comprehensive programs aimed to promote equity and justice.

We thank Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature for passing this impactful legislation. We look forward to upholding it.

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