ART CHANG
FOR NYC MAYOR

NYC Mayoral Candidate Art Chang Announces Plan for Restorative Justice Program Aimed at Individuals Previously Arrested for Marijuana-Based Crimes

[BROOKLYN, NY, 4/5/2021] — Mayoral Candidate Art Chang will implement a plan to bring restorative justice to individuals and communities devastated by marijuana-related non-violent arrests.

Says Chang, "I am thrilled and supportive of the recent passage of legalization of marijuana in New York. The next Mayor must pursue a plan with restorative justice at its core, that provides reparations to individuals, families and communities devastated by past criminalization. The Mayor should work with the startup community to launch a Marijuana Incubator to support new marijuana startups."

Chang's plan to institute a restorative justice program, which will help people formerly incarcerated for non-violent marijuana-based crimes to be the first to start new marijuana businesses, will include:
- Free education through college, including GED programs
- Real UBI of $2,000 per month while in the program
- Priority for cannabis permits and licenses
- Workforce development and technical assistance from the city and local experts
- Legal assistance
- Shared use manufacturing facility
- Startup grant funding

Chang will be releasing a more detailed plan on the logistics of executing this over the coming weeks.

People of color comprise 94% of marijuana arrests, despite nearly equal use amongst white residents. Drug convictions bar people from access to income assistance, prevent them from being able to access welfare support and affordable places to live, support for educational and career advancement, and limits their job prospects. Because of this devastating impact, it is essential that the City government takes a restorative justice approach to the licensing of marijuana-based businesses.

For more information, please visit https://www.chang.nyc/marijuana.

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