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PRESS RELEASE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY PARTNERS WITH PUBLIC DEFENDER TO EXPEDITE PROPOSITION 64 MARIJUANA REDUCTIONS AND DISMISSALS

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today that her office successfully partnered with the Public Defender to expedite relief to those with Napa County marijuana convictions affected by Proposition 64.

Proposition 64, passed by California voters, legalized the possession and use of recreational marijuana by adults. The new law also decreased penalties for possession with intent to sell, sales, transportation and cultivation of marijuana. Proposition 64 was retroactive allowing for reductions and dismissals for previously imposed punishments. Eligible persons can petition the court based upon a variety of criteria, including the charge, age at the time of violation, and type and quantity of marijuana.

The District Attorney utilized their case management system to identify 295 eligible cases since 2011 when the system was put in place. With the assistance of volunteer law clerks, police reports and criminal history of those eligible were analyzed. The identified cases were forwarded to the Public Defender who reviewed the cases and prepared petitions. The District Attorney signed the petitions and forwarded them to the court clerk for stipulation by a Napa Superior Court judge.

After review of the 295 cases, 93 cases were reduced from felony to misdemeanor, 10 cases were reduced to infraction and 57 cases were dismissed outright. Dismissed cases were sealed and destroyed pursuant to the new law.

District Attorney Allison Haley stated that "based upon the passage of Proposition 64 and the will of the voters, our office has been proactive in identifying cases eligible for reductions and dismissals. In collaboration with the Public Defender and Napa Superior Court, we have brought prompt relief to those impacted by prior marijuana convictions."

Any questions regarding this case may be directed to Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero.