

At Last, an Honest Politician.



**“You bet I did.
And I enjoyed it.”**

It was refreshing during the recent mayoral campaign to hear Mayor Bloomberg's answer to the inevitable question about smoking pot.

We applaud his candor. But no one should be surprised. From Bill Clinton to George Pataki to Clarence Thomas, many public officials have admitted something pretty normal – they've smoked pot.

One in three adult Americans say they've smoked pot; 19 million in the last year. So why are we arresting people for doing something normal?

We don't arrest responsible drinkers. And it's well known that alcohol is much more harmful than marijuana. Yet 50,000 people a year are being arrested in New York City simply for smoking pot. Nearly 1,000 people a week. Many spend time in jail. Some get criminal records and lose college scholarships or jobs.

A recent poll* shows most New Yorkers are against such arrests. It's a waste of taxpayer money. And with heightened concern over terrorism, it's a foolish use of scarce law enforcement resources.

There is an alternative. Private adult use of marijuana should be just that: a private matter. Those who light up in public can be issued a citation, as is currently done for public drinking, instead of being arrested and jailed.

Is that a common sense policy? You bet it is.

* Zogby Poll, March 2002

It's **NORML** to Smoke Pot.

NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws Foundation
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