

Final

**Thanks to everyone** who has worked so hard to create this great **grass roots** event!

**The Ann Arbor Hash Bash is an authentic folk festival.** It's a great celebration of cannabis, our holy medicine, and our plant with thousands of uses. This is the plant we love, which offers a deep spirituality that lets us feel **happy to be alive** and **close to Mother Earth**.

Hash Bash is a celebration of our fierce desire to have our great plant made legal - so that **all people on this earth** can enjoy its peace, joy, and utility.

Fighting for cannabis freedom is **true patriotism**, - the best way to fight **racism**, restore our **American Bill of Rights**, and provide a foundation for **real religion**.

**Welcome to my 50th anniversary, I'm so glad you came.** 50 years ago I discovered the life-changing joy of cannabis... it saved my life in 1968.

**Was it anti-motivational? No**, it makes me do what's right. I graduated from college magna cum laude and got two more university degrees, I taught kindergarten for 33 years, was elected to local government five times and then founded the Safer Michigan Coalition, which has had a hand in **24 out of the 25** local cannabis law reform victories across Michigan since 2004. And I can still swim a mile in an hour.

**We have now learned what happens when marijuana is legalized –** **teen use** goes down, **jobs and business activity** go up, there are **less crimes** of violence, especially murder, and **less death** on the roads. **Significant revenue** goes to government, (and governments are already addicted). **Opiate overdoses** drop 25%.

**Welcome to the great city of Ann Arbor**, the **first** city in the world to legalize cannabis – with the five dollar fine in 1972. In 2004 I left my kindergarten to organize medical marijuana in Ann Arbor and win with **more than 74% in favor**.

And welcome to 2017, the year that we firmly set cannabis legalization in motion for November of 2018.

This is the time of maximum suspense. Within about 10 days the Mlegalize campaign and the Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol campaign are either going to **come together** and give us a united proposal for 2018, or **split apart** and we will have two proposals and much bitterness and acrimony.

**I put together Mlegalize at the beginning** and worked my guts out and sacrificed my time and health and so much money. **I quit Mlegalize** because I thought that they were more interested in preserving their own project and leadership than in winning legalization. **I hope I am wrong.**

Now I am totally on board with the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol (CRMLA) because I am sure that they can win legalization, and they are good people.

~~**Please remember that any law is not the last word** on cannabis policy. Cannabis policy will continue to evolve as voters see that there is nothing to fear and much to be gained. After legalization we will keep on pushing until we get "free, legal, backyard marijuana".~~

We have **worked** and **waited** and **suffered** for too long to screw this up. We have seen our people **arrested**, and **fined**, and **jailed**, their **property** confiscated, their **children** taken away, **student loans** prevented, **housing** denied, **drivers licenses** is taken away, and **promising lives** wrecked.

**We will have legalization in 2018, and I am not Pollyanna.** The only question is whether we are **united** or **divided**. We could fairly easily sail to victory in 2018 under the umbrella of the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, and leave a few questions for the future, **OR we can have a bitter battle**, harsh and bruising, with brother against brother and friend against friend. It is my greatest hope that our two legalization groups can unite. Personal ego can prevent that unity now - **and unity or no unity I**

will do whatever is necessary to win. Our absolute duty is to win.  
We will bring our healing miracle plant to this desperate planet.

Power to the great ganja plant and to her children and disciples!

thank you!      Chuck Ream

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