

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 us 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 real 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... and 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 .

We have now learned what happens when marijuana is legalized – teen use goes down, there are more jobs and business activity, less crimes of violence, especially murder, and less death on the roads. Significant revenue goes to government, (and governments are already addicted). The most striking thing is the huge drop in opiate overdoses.

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% of the votes.

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

This is the time of maximum suspense. Within about 10 days the Mlegalize campaign and the Regulate Cannabis Like Alcohol campaign are either going to come together and give us a united proposal for 2018, or they will 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 gave so much money. I quit I 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 completely on board with the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol (CRMLA) because I a 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 so 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. Only personal ego can prevent that unity now - and if there is unity or no unity I will do whatever is necessary to win. Our absolute duty is to win.

Power to the great ganja plant and to all her children and disciples! We will bring our healing miracle plant to this desperate planet.

I will be at the "Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol" booth on Monroe Street between 3 and 5.

thank you!

Chuck Ream