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Inbox: Fwd: VICTORY! (42 of 46132)

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Date: Wed, 9 Nov 2011 17:07:18 -0500 [11/09/2011 05:07:18 PM EST]

From: Karen O'Keefe <kokeefe@mpp.org>   

To: Charles Ream <moksha@umich.edu> 

Subject: Fwd: VICTORY!

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Hi Chuck,

I'm sorry we didn't realize your enormous role in this victory. Amazing job!!

Thanks for giving me something more to be proud about in my home state.

Warm regards,
Karen

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rob Kampia <rkampia@mpp.org>

Date: November 9, 2011 4:09:49 PM EST

To: moksha@umich.edu

Cc: Karen O'Keefe <kokeefe@mpp.org>, Dan Riffle <driffle@mpp.org>

Subject: Re: VICTORY!

Hi Chuck,

Congratulations on the victory. I must say it doesn't surprise me that you were integral to the effort, since you've been focused on marijuana policy reform in Michigan for so long.

In every campaign, it seems that some major backers of the campaign don't get proper credit. Indeed, I just met with a major funder in L.A. who has already given MPP \$15,000. and he asked me if MPP was *really* responsible

for passing the statewide ballot initiative in Arizona in November of last year. I was stunned that he even asked, so I'm sending him a link to the campaign finance reports that show that MPP paid for 95% of the Arizona campaign.

Cheers ...

Sincerely,
Rob Kampa, Executive Director
Marijuana Policy Project
P.O. Box 77492
Washington, D.C. 20013
202-462-5747 ext. *2019
202-232-0442 (fax)
RKampa@mpp.org
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From: Charles Ream <moksha@umich.edu>

Date: November 9, 2011 12:02:15 PM EST

To: Marijuana Policy Project <state@mpp.org>

Subject: Re: VICTORY!

Hi Dan, and thanks...let's make the most of this amazing victory. I'm sure you know it was me who put it all together - from paying to get the petition done, paying for the sigs, doing the PR, the financial statements, the event on the 24th, buying and placing the signs etc.

Thank you and MPP for your great work.

It would sure be great to get a tiny note from Rob about this one.

I made a campaign succeed that was started by a certified crazy indigent guy whom nobody can work with.

I am happy today, Chuck

Quoting Marijuana Policy Project <state@mpp.org>:

VICTORY!

Dear Charles:

Yesterday, Kalamazoo voters sent a powerful message to western Michigan legislators by overwhelmingly approving an amendment to their city charter (<http://control.mpp.org/site/R?i=DRO2gYv7jA2m8iAsFWimng>) making enforcement of marijuana possession laws the city's "lowest law enforcement priority." Congratulations to Louis Stocking, Chris Chiles, the Kalamazoo Coalition for Pragmatic Cannabis Laws, and all the activists who gathered the signatures and helped make this victory possible.

Despite an underfunded campaign in an off-year election, the measure passed with a nearly 2:1 margin, gathering 65.8% of the vote. Opponents like Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette are already hard at work deflecting the significance of yesterday's vote. Schuette and Kalamazoo City Attorney Clyde Robinson told a local NPR affiliate (<http://control.mpp.org/site/R?i=RiwbwKiwcXZdivOhucqOmA>) that the measure is essentially meaningless since it doesn't actually change penalties for possession, and Kalamazoo police typically arrest under state, not local, law.

We know better. We know that yesterday's vote was not about some legal technicality, but about the overarching sentiment expressed by the voters: marijuana prohibition has failed. Police should stop wasting time arresting people for using a substance safer than alcohol and instead spend that time protecting our community from violent criminals and other real threats to public safety. Let's hope Kalamazoo-area elected officials were listening.

Congrats again!

Dan Riffle

Legislative Analyst

Marijuana Policy Project