

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Shenicka Hohenkirk, ICMA Management Fellow

Subject: Cannabis Arrests and Compliance Tickets

Date: November 20, 2019

At the request of Alderman Rue-Simmons, staff completed a cannabis arrest data report that breaks down possession of cannabis arrests of both felonies and misdemeanor cases.

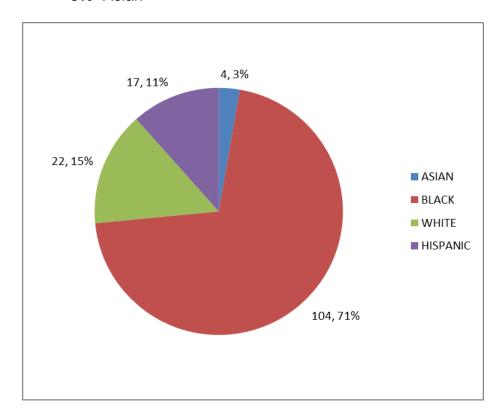
As of August 2017, officers were instructed to write a Compliance Ticket (C-Ticket) to a person possessing 10 grams or less of cannabis. The C-Ticket is an ordinance violation as opposed to a custodial arrest involving State charges. In a custodial arrest situation, a person would be arrested and charged under the state statute for possession of more than 10 grams of cannabis and would have to appear before a Judge in Cook County. A person with possession of cannabis under 10 grams will be issued a C-Ticket, there will be no custodial arrest, they would be released on the scene and receive an administrative hearing date.

The statute clearly defines the difference between a misdemeanor and a felony charge in possession cases. 10 to 30 grams of cannabis is a misdemeanor charge, and anything over 30 grams of cannabis is a felony charge.

Arrests:

Over the last 36 months of cannabis arrests and compliance tickets in Evanston, of which the majority of these cases are misdemeanor charges. Arrest for cannabis possession:

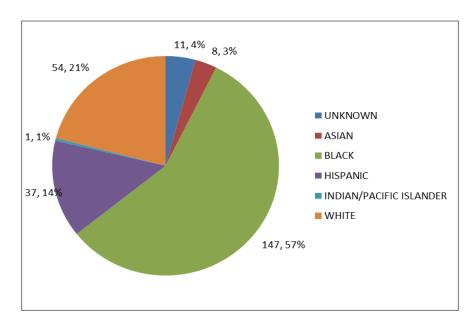
- 71%- Black
- 15%- White
- 11%- Hispanic
- 3%- Asian



Compliance Tickets:

Those who received a C-Ticket for possession of cannabis under 10 grams:

- 57% Black
- 21%- White
- 14%- Hispanic
- 4% -Unknown
- 3%- Asian
- 1%- Indian/Pacific Islander.



The Police Department's statistical data associated with cannabis arrests and ordinance violation issuance shows a disproportionate number of arrests and C-Ticket issuance to members of the Black community.

The Evanston Police Department has changed policies and altered deployment strategies to address the issues reflected in this disproportionate statistical analysis. The Evanston Police Department ended Stop and Frisk in 2018, this policy was adopted and utilized in their deployment strategies. Further, the Evanston Police Department no longer utilizes a process of DDACT(Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety) saturation in designated areas, that were determined during weekly deployment meetings.