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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

***DATA FROM NYPD REPORT REAFFIRMS NEED FOR
ALBANY TO ENACT THE MARIJUANA REGULATION
AND TAXATION ACT (MRTA) IMMEDIATELY NEXT
SESSION***

(NEW YORK, NY) – Anthony Posada, Supervising Attorney of the Community Justice Unit at The Legal Aid Society, issued the following statement today in response to [reporting](#) released by the New York City Police Department (NYPD) on low-level marijuana arrests which shows that officers are still disproportionately targeting New Yorkers of color:

“While this data demonstrates that these arrests are down significantly compared to years ago, Black and Latinx New Yorkers are still disproportionately targeted by the police for low-level marijuana possession, which can trigger months and years of ICE detention and deportation, sever access to essential public benefits, and result in the loss of one's children to foster care. Immediately next session, Albany must enact the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) to legalize marijuana, expunge past convictions, and to invest in the communities that have shouldered the brunt of prohibition. Decriminalization was a step in the right direction, but to fully right the wrongs of the war on drugs, Albany lawmakers cannot let another session pass without taking action. The human cost is too high.”

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