

BRICK POLICE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL MEMORANDUM		
SUBJECT: Marijuana Legalization	NUMBER: SM 2022-44	
EFFECTIVE DATE: April 20, 2022	DISTRIBUTION TO: All Police Officers	ISSUED BY: Chief James Riccio
CANCELLATION DATE:		APPROVED BY: Chief James Riccio

As you know the State of New Jersey has legalized the sale of marijuana which is scheduled to begin on Thursday, April 21st. Additionally, the Acting Attorney General has issued a directive that allows for the use of marijuana and marijuana products by police officers while off duty. The directive was issued without any clear guidance or opinion on how this might affect police officers who are involved in incidents while on duty and have marijuana detected in their system. Since the Attorney General's directive was issued, organizations such as the State and County Chief's Associations have been voicing their opposition to marijuana use by police officers. As a result, there has been some talk from the Governor's office about possibly changing the law thus barring the use of marijuana and marijuana products by police officers while off duty. As of today, there has been no guidance or opinion provided by the Governor or County Prosecutor although I know that discussions about this issue are in progress. Until we receive further guidance and or a final ruling my recommendation is that our officers refrain from using marijuana and/or any marijuana products. Aside from the fact that it is my belief that police officers must be held to a higher standard, I am very concerned about the legal and civil ramifications that the presence of marijuana in an officers system will have not only on the individual officer but also on the department. The Brick Township Police department has always stood out amongst the rest and is a department that other departments try to emulate. We should all strive to continue in that tradition and not do anything that would otherwise tarnish our reputation. I will continue to keep you updated on any changes to the law or directives.