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Man gets 6 months, keeps home after drug conviction

By RUSS ZIMMER
Advocate Reporter

NEWARK — A Jacksontown man will get to keep his home, but it will be six months before he can sleep there again.

James L. Miller, 53, was sentenced this morning for three felony drug charges stemming from the discovery of a large growing operation at his home.

The Central Ohio Drug Enforcement Task Force seized 2,870 grams, or 6.3 pounds, of marijuana during a July raid at his 66 Liberty Ave. house.

In a grow room and hidden in crawl spaces, detectives found 105 plants and two large black trash bags full of smaller bags of marijuana.

Miller pleaded guilty this morning to two counts of possession of marijuana, one a third-degree felony and the other a fifth-degree felony, and one count of possession of criminal tools, a fifth-degree felony.

Included in the indictment was a forfeiture specification whereby the prosecution was attempting to take Miller's home, which hosted the growing operation.

As part of the plea agreement, Licking County Assistant Prosecutor Dan Huston said the specification would be amended to allow Miller to remove the \$15,000 in equity he had in his home and turn that over to CODE-TF.

Common Pleas Judge Jon Spahr said this was a "troubling case" because Miller, despite his infraction, appeared to be committed to an honest career as well as

his illegitimate enterprise.

"You're a hard-working, honest individual, but also someone who is violating the law and not in a small way and not for a short period of time," the judge said.

He ordered Miller to serve 180 days at the Licking County Justice Center with work release privileges. Spahr also sentenced the defendant to five years of community control with multiple conditions pertaining to drug counseling and rehabilitation.

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STORYCHAT 

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"don't throw you can't compare sex offenders with pot growing at me.. That's not direction I'm going. "

That was my first thought. A sex offender is a threat to your family.

A guy growing pot in his basement...not so much.

Posted: Tue Jan 08, 2008 9:50 pm

I do understand what you are saying.

You have stated an opinion without inflammatory statements or personal attacks. It is your type of written opinion that truly allows for appropriate communication and opens the door for communication.

I truly understand that opinions are valuable. And yes, there needs to be payment for violating the law. That is not in dispute. What is in dispute is that some folks chose to attack, not comment.

By the by, not all family members should be held responsible for the actions of one or several. That is extremely unfair.

Our country must punish those who break the law. Let's just be careful not to judge by relationship without the facts.

Thank you for a well written opinion. I do however, REALLY expect that others will rise to the level of communication that allows for an opinion, not an ill mannered, sarcastic attack using generalization of the facts as they feel them.

There was a time that was simply the norm.

Posted: Tue Jan 08, 2008 8:01 pm

Okay... I'm 100% certain I'm going to get negative feedback on this, but I just can't stand it...I just can't. Someone months back said something regarding families reading the posts. It's a forum for opinion...chances are, It's not going to be nice.

What do you REALLY expect? Really? What kind of comments do you think are going to be on here!? So much more the the story? He wasn't charged with having a joint. He was charged with , and I quote , having "a large growing operation" . The article said "You're a hard-working, honest individual, but also someone who is violating the law and not in a small way and not for a short period of time," Regardless of moral fiber and or character, HE BROKE THE LAW and he did it for a long time.. What do you want people to say!?

I just got 2 new sex offender notice's today telling me that 2 more have moved to where I live.. but I bet they are nice guys!!! Does anyone else see the irony??? And don't throw you can't compare sex offenders with pot growing at me.. That's not direction I'm going. Regardless of the charges, it's about breaking the law.

And something else.. consider the family? Really? It's about the article and the content that the comments are made. It's others that scream about "how the family feels", "if you were in their shoes", yada yada. There is a solution.

STOP BREAKING THE LAW!!!

Posted: Tue Jan 08, 2008 7:31 pm

I agree with the Miller family. I am sure this has been a very difficult time for all family members involved. It is so easy to be judgemental and quick to add more pain. I do not think that is helpful or in any way an act of a person who has an ounce of empathy in their body.

If the best comment one can post is sarcastic, judgemental, or caustic; it may be time to take a good look at your core values. Try adding your opinions in a more professional and less hurtful manner!

I am not a liberal, but I am sick to death of comments posted that show such a lack of proper, basic, and seemingly dead, manners. Let's not bother to consider how it would feel if it were our situation, but rather make some off the cuff, ill formed and poorly thought out scathing comment.

Miller family, remember, "Don't give explanations. Your friends don't need them and your enemies won't believe them" Good luck as you move forward. One day at a Time!!

Posted: Tue Jan 08, 2008 6:46 pm

"What amendment banned pot? "

That would be NONE.

" just an FYI he is a hardworking "honest" individual who would give the shirt off of his back to anyone with a forgiving and supportive family"

I'm sure he is. I am sorry he got caught up in our government's attempt to regulate every aspect of our private lives 😞

Posted: Tue Jan 08, 2008 6:38 pm

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