WHEREAS: Alcohol and marijuana are the two most popular recreational substances among the college student population. Every objective study on marijuana has concluded that marijuana is safer than alcohol both for the user and for society. Marijuana is far less toxic, far less addictive, and causes far less harm to the body than alcohol, and – unlike alcohol – it has not been found to contribute to violent, aggressive, or reckless behavior, AND;

WHEREAS: Substantial research has concluded that the use of alcohol directly contributes to incidences of: fatal overdose, injury, fighting, physical abuse, sexual assault, and date rape, as well as destructive behavior, vandalism and property damage. There has never been a substantiated marijuana overdose death in recorded history, and the substance is widely accepted as virtually non-toxic, AND;

WHEREAS: The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) estimates that each year, there are approximately 1,700 alcohol-related student deaths, 600,000 alcohol-related student injuries, 700,000 alcohol-related assaults involving students, and 100,000 reported cases of sexual assault involving alcohol. No such statistics are associated with student marijuana use, AND;

WHEREAS: If students are caught with cannabis, there is currently a two strike system in place. The first violation includes termination of Housing Contract (yet students are still financially responsible), being placed on Student Conduct Probation for one year, mandatory completion of evaluation and treatment from the Counseling Center, Parental Notification, mandatory completion of 25 hours of community/University service and Completion of an educational program and a fine to pay the administrative costs for providing this program. The second violation includes the completion of 50 hours of Community/University service, Deferred Suspension for one academic year, completion of an educational program and a fine to pay the administrative costs for providing this program. AND;
WHEREAS: Students caught illegally consuming alcohol currently have a much more lenient system in place. The first violation includes the completion of an Educational program and a Fine to pay the administrative costs for providing this program, five to fifteen hours of community service, and the parents of the student may or may not be notified. The second violation includes the completion of evaluation and recommended treatment from Counseling Center, Deferred Termination of University Housing Contract/Assignment for a period of one year, Parental Notification, Student Conduct Probation for at least 1 semester, Completion of 15 - 30 hours of Community/University Service, and Completion of an educational program and a Fine to pay the administrative costs for providing this program. The third violation includes the termination of Housing Contract/Assignment, parental Notification, Student Conduct Probation for 1 year, Completion of up to 50 hours of Community/University Service and Completion of an Educational program and a Fine to pay the administrative, AND;

WHEREAS: The penalties currently in place for students caught in possession of cannabis are improperly severe and much harsher than those in place in respect to illegal alcohol use. The three strike system associated with alcohol violations cannot result in suspension or expulsion from the University, while students can be expelled for marijuana use, AND;

WHEREAS: Students caught in possession of marijuana can be kicked out of housing on their first strike, while those illegally drinking alcohol are only at risk of incurring the same penalty on their third violation, AND;

WHEREAS: Students are penalized much more harshly for marijuana, a drug so benign that no one has died from its use, yet, under aged drinking, a far more dangerous activity, has much more lenient punishments. These policies are unjust because they do not accurately reflect the crimes committed, NOW;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: It is the opinion of the Boca Raton House Of Representatives that the sanctions imposed by Florida Atlantic University for the use and possession of marijuana should be NO greater than the sanctions imposed for the use and possession of alcohol, and that students should not face suspension or removal from student housing for the private use and possession of up to one ounce of marijuana.