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**MAYOR DE BLASIO RELEASES STATEMENT ON THE PASSAGE OF THE  
MARIJUANA REGULATION AND TAXATION ACT**

**NEW YORK**—Mayor Bill de Blasio today released the following statement applauding the New York State Legislature for the passage of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act:

“At long last, New York has legalized marijuana and created a fair program that will uplift communities of color previously harmed by criminalization. I am thrilled this legislation has achieved much of what we pushed for with that effort by prioritizing licenses for those negatively impacted by criminalization, expunging convictions for past marijuana charges, and new social equity initiatives that will help communities most harmed by past marijuana laws. I thank Assembly Speaker Heastie, Senate Majority Leader Stewart Cousins, Assembly Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes and Senator Krueger for fighting for justice through this important legislation.”

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