Budget deal approved in Senate

Crime | The mayor said convictions have been an unfair barrier – one that disproportionately affects African Americans – to housing, credit, jobs and education.

Seattle to vacate hundreds of misdemeanor pot convictions

CRIME | The mayor said convictions have been an unfair barrier – one that disproportionately affects African Americans – to housing, credit, jobs and education.

Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes, left, looks at Mayor Jenny Durkan announces plans for the city to vacate misdemeanor marijuana posession convictions Thursday in Seattle. City Council Member Bruce Harrell is at right.

By DANIEL BEERMAN
AND CONNIE CLAYMOR

When your crime is no longer considered a crime, should it end up against you? Not when the crime is a small-time marijuana conviction, Seattle attorney Pete Holmes said Thursday.

Since Washington legalized marijuana in 2012, some people have been snared with criminal records for misdemeanor pot convictions while others have made a living off the business of selling legal weed.

In Seattle, there will now go back and vacate hundreds of misdemeanor marijuana convictions.