



Tarzana Property Owners Association, Inc.

November 11, 2009

To: Joint Session of the PLUM and Public Safety Committees

Re: **Medical Marijuana Collectives Ordinance**

The Tarzana Property Owners strongly urges your joint committees to immediately pass the proposed Medical Marijuana Collectives Ordinance. The Board of Directors of our organization voted unanimously to urge passage of the proposed ordinance. Our City is being overrun by illegal store front dispensaries.

Of the reported 1000+ dispensaries currently operating in our City, only approximately 180 were permitted before the moratorium banning additional dispensaries was passed in late 2007. No additional dispensaries have been permitted since that time.

The vast majority of the existing dispensaries are operating in violation of State of California and Federal laws. They have become a blight to our neighborhoods and a source of illegal drugs to our citizens. Many of the dispensaries make a mockery of the process approved by the citizens of California and the State legislation, selling for profit and recommending sympathetic doctors to provide recommendations to anyone who pays their fee. Observation in Tarzana and other communities indicates that the drug is being distributed to juveniles, and that in many cases juveniles are reselling the drug to others without even going through the sham process of getting a doctor's recommendation. There is considerable evidence that much of the marijuana is distributed by the Mexican drug mafias, rather than grown in collectives as required by California law. Finally, the current dispensaries have become a prime target for robberies; that lawlessness then spills over into our neighboring communities.

The proposed ordinance, prepared by the City Attorney's office and modified by PLUM Committee recommendations, provides the means to provide medical marijuana to those who truly qualify, to control the distribution to only those individuals, and to limit the permissible locations of the dispensaries. The current (5th) revised draft alleviates our concern as to the exact procedure for listing members of each cooperative so as to ensure medical information privacy and other concerns we and other organizations have expressed.

We urge you to pass the ordinance now in your joint committee and send it on to the full City Council for immediate action.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.R. Garfinkle".

David R. Garfinkle
President, Tarzana Property Owners Association
Board Member, Tarzana Neighborhood Council
Board Member, Tarzana Community and Cultural Center