



WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

P.O. Box 64370 Los Angeles, CA 90064

www.wncla.org (310) 474-2326



OFFICERS

Terri Tippit, Chair
Letty Bugarin, Vice-Chair
Mary Kusnic and
Melisa Kenady, Recording
Secretary
Steve Spector, Corresponding
Secretary
Stacy Antler and
Lisa Morocco, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Jerry Asher
Barbara Broide
Douglas Butler
Gerry Del Sol
Bob Guerin
Dick Harmetz
Charles Horwitz
Renato Romano
Ron Stone
David (Ty) Vahedi

June 2, 2009

Councilmember Reyes
Chair, PLUM
200 No. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 08-0923
Agenda Item 09-0964

Date: 6-2-09
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 09-0964
Item No.: 1
Deputy: B. Greenly

Dear Councilmember Reyes:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Westside Neighborhood Council, representing approximately 80,000 stakeholders in the Century City, Cheviot Hills and Rancho Park area.

At our May 14, 2009 meeting we passed the following motions:

- Westside Neighborhood Council requests Building and Safety check each Medical Marijuana Dispensary or Collective currently in operation and all new Dispensary or Collective to confirm their exterior signage is limited to site address only, as well as confirming that they meet all regulations (Sec. 45.19.6.3. Regulations numbered (1) through (18).
- Westside Neighborhood Council supports the proposed ordinance that a Medical Marijuana Dispensary or Collective that is not in compliance with the ordinance be given maximum of 2 warnings for violations before a license is revoked indefinitely.
- Westside Neighborhood Council supports the proposed ordinance that no Medical Marijuana Dispensary or Collective be located less than 1,000 foot radius of schools, playgrounds, parks, libraries, places of religious worship, licensed child care facilities, licensed youth facilities including youth hostels, youth camps and youth centers.

We support legalized distribution of marijuana for medical purposes only. However we are very concerned with the illegal proliferation of locations under a moratorium. There have been 491 "hardship" applications in the last few weeks. We support an ordinance to amend the Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) No. 179027 to strike the hardship exemption provision from the ordinance.

We look forward to working with the city to address this issue.

Sincerely,

Terri Tippit, Chair

Cc Councilmember Huizar
Councilmember Zine
Councilmember LaBonge
Councilmember Weiss
City Attorney Delgadillo

**Statement on behalf of Councilman José Huizar
Before the PLUM Committee on June 2, 2009, 2 p.m.
Regarding Huizar Motion on Medical Marijuana dispensaries**

Mr. Chairman and Councilmember, my name is Ana E. Cubas and I am the Chief of Staff to Councilmember José Huizar. I will read into the record a statement from him.

"Dear Colleagues, I would like to state for the record that I have supported and continue to support Proposition 215 – which gives qualified medical patients the right to have reasonable access to medical marijuana.

But the proliferation of dispensaries is a huge problem in many communities across Los Angeles – including the communities of Eagle Rock, El Sereno, and downtown Los Angeles which I represent. My issue is with clinics which have opened in violation of the Interim Control Ordinance. The problem is that there are individuals who are opening up multiple dispensaries all over the City of Los Angeles with the clear goal of making a quick profit. They are using the "hardship exemption" of the City's Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) as a perverse tool to open up these dispensaries. I have been advised by our City Attorney that filing a hardship exemption DOES NOT permit a medical marijuana dispensary to open.

I have been in conversations with my constituents to brainstorm on how we can deal with this issue. We are respectfully requesting that the Committee take the following steps to deal with this problem which is out of control:

1. **Adopt My Motion** – On April 28th of this year, I introduced the motion that is before you today which calls for the striking of the hardship exemption provision immediately. This would solve our problems with those additional fly-by-night dispensaries that are opening up. The City would be able to issue orders to comply, and then prosecute those that fail to comply. My motion cuts this loophole and adds teeth to the Interim Control Ordinance. I ask that it make its way to City Council with all haste, and include an urgency clause.

2. **Deal with Hardship Exemptions:** The fastest way to enforce against dispensaries is to hold hearings in this Committee to deal with the hardship exemptions. There are 478 City-wide hardship cases that have been filed. We need to determine once and for all whether these dispensaries serve a legitimate purpose or are part of the perverse exploitation of the hardship exemption.

3. **Write and Enact A Permanent Ordinance:** We need to write and adopt a permanent ordinance that provides clear parameters and regulations for legitimate dispensaries, such as: 1) ensuring that they are not located next to schools, parks, youth facilities and places of worship; and 2) preventing the over-concentration of these facilities. We need to adopt the ordinance as soon as possible because the current ICO has created a situation that is difficult to manage. I am willing to roll up my sleeves and work diligently with you and my constituents to craft such an ordinance.

Thank you."

Date: 6-2-09
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 09-0964
Item No.: 1
Deputy: B. G. LEWIS