

09-0002-S151

JUL 17 2009

**RESOLUTION RULES & GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, California Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 14, introduced in June by State Senator Mark Leno, comes at a time when the Obama administration has signaled a willingness to change federal policy as it pertains to dealing with California's medical marijuana law; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder pledged in March of this year to end the practice during the Bush administration of conducting raids of distributors of medical marijuana, but there have been several Drug Enforcement Administration raids since this announcement; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of medical marijuana dispensaries should be left to State and local government officials and based on facilities' compliance with their compliance with medical marijuana laws, not federal drug laws, which provide no option for medicinal use; and

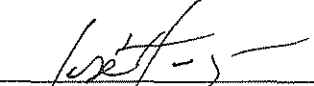
WHEREAS, SJR 14 urges the federal government to end medical marijuana raids in California and calls on Congress to create a comprehensive federal policy addressing the issue of medical marijuana that ensures safe and legal access for any deserving patient that could benefit; and

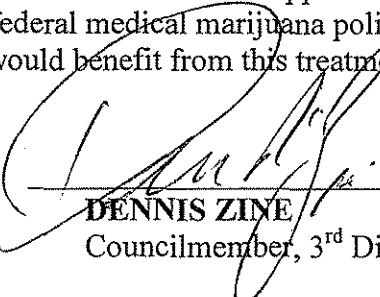
WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles already has an ordinance regulating medical marijuana dispensaries in place and the City is nearing completion of its own permanent ordinance, which will ensure that there is a baseline of expectations for the running of these facilities; and

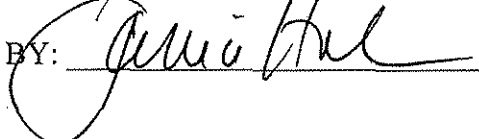

WHEREAS, SJR 14 also calls on the federal government to end their Puritanical and illogical ban on testing of the possible medical benefits of marijuana and instead encourage advanced clinical research trials into the feasibility of the therapeutic use of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, there are now 13 states that have authorized the use of medical marijuana and it is time to bring federal drug use policy in line with the will of the people, which is to carve out an exemption for marijuana use when it is recommended by a physician for sick patients.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2009-2010 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SJR 14 (Leno), which calls on the federal government to end raids on medical marijuana raids in states such as California where voters have approved its use and urges the U.S. Congress to develop a comprehensive federal medical marijuana policy that ensures safe and legal access for any eligible patient that would benefit from this treatment.

PRESENTED BY:   
**JOSE HUIZAR**  
Councilmember, 14<sup>th</sup> District

  
**DENNIS ZINE**  
Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

SECONDED BY:   


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**ORIGINAL**