The Honorable Bernard Parks
The Honorable Jose Huizar
The Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Your Motions to Ban Medical Cannabis Collectives - Council Files 11-1737 & 11-1737-S1

Gentlemen:

Please abandon your motions to ban medical cannabis collectives and cooperatives.

Despite recent court decisions such as the Pack Case, it is still possible to write meaningful legislation. As a voting citizen of the City of Los Angeles, I would ask you to enact reasonable regulations, rather than institute a ban. If your in-house attorneys maintain that this can't be done, please seek outside counsel in this matter.

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The collective system is a clean and safe method for patients to acquire their medicine. The older collectives have been around for over half a decade. They are quiet, law abiding entities, who work collectively to provide safe access to medicinal cannabis for their membership.

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Steven Smith

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ERIK NILES

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December 16, 2011

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Don't Ban Medical Cannabis in LA

Thank you.

I am writing to urge you to reject a ban on medical cannabis patients' cooperatives and collectives in the City of Los Angeles. Most of the medical cannabis patients in this city rely on these associations, which are legal under state law, for safe and reliable access to the doctor-recommended medicine they need to treat the symptoms of cancer, HIV/AIDS, Multiple Sclerosis, chronic pain and other serious conditions. Closing the facilities will cause unnecessary harm to responsible, law abiding patients, and may place them at risk in the unregulated illicit market.

Some medical cannabis opponents suggest that storefront patients' associations are magnets for criminal activity or other behavior that is a problem for the community, but the experience of those cities with regulations says otherwise. Crime statistics and the accounts of local officials surveyed by Americans for Safe Access(ASA) indicate that crime is actually reduced by the presence of a collective; and complaints from citizens and surrounding businesses are either negligible or are significantly reduced with the implementation of local regulations. Anecdotal reports or crime or nuisance activity do not justify an outright ban on patients' cooperatives and collectives. Incidents of in appropriate conduct should be investigated, but never used as a justification for ignore the voters' mandate in Proposition 215 "to implement a plan to provide for the safe and affordable distribution of marijuana to all patients in medical need of marijuana."

You may have also been told that a recent court decision, Pack v. Long Beach, prohibits cities from regulating medical cannabis activity. That is false. If upheld by the California Supreme Court, the Pack decision limits your ability to authorize conduct related to medical cannabis, but it does not prohibit you from regulating that activity. It is like that most or all of the city's existing medical cannabis ordinance is already in compliance with the decision.

We can achieve better outcomes for legal patients, community members, and other stakeholders by cooperating to create policies that prevent crime and nuisance activity. The city and its citizens have already invested years of effort to that end. Do not allow opponents of safe access to exploit fear of crime and misunderstanding of the law to derail this process at this late date.

Reject a motion to ban medical cannabis cooperatives and collectives and finish the work of implementing Proposition 215 here in Los Angeles.

Britany Seviel	(First+Last Name)
Britand	(Signature)
1-15-12	(Date)

TO: 18054972870

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Sorravie Rebennack (Lorraine Rebennack)
Theas. A New Path Los Angeles
D.P.A.
Moms United

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Swan M. Hounton - Zetino Board Member San Diego Chapter - A New PATH (Pavents for Addiction Treatment and Healing)

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