

July 23,2012

Re: Item No.5
CF # 11-1737, 11-1737-S1

Dear Councilmember:

I am writing to you as the Los Angeles City Council considers on July 24th what to do about the over-proliferation of medical marijuana businesses in the City of Los Angeles.

I am asking that you support the (Huizar-Englander, Parks-Perry) “repeal and ban” proposal to repeal the City’s current medical marijuana ordinance and ban medical marijuana while the City awaits a decision from the California Supreme Court. In the interim, this “Gentle Ban” ordinance protects legitimate patients and/or their caregivers’ rights to grow their own medical marijuana or to form a collective of three or fewer people to do so. More importantly, for the majority of Los Angeles’ communities adversely affected by the over-proliferation of dispensaries, the repeal and ban proposal gives our law enforcement agencies the enforcement tools they have severely lacked for more than five years.

I ask that you please put the rights of the communities and the constituents you represent over any special interests groups that might be asking you to do different. Since 2007, the City of Los Angeles has tried to do right by true, legitimate medical marijuana patients, and in turn, has been sued and our laws ignored. We as a City continue to helplessly watch as hundreds upon hundreds of illegal dispensaries open up throughout the 15 Council Districts. Shutting them down needs to be the City Council’s No. 1 priority. We need to put the interests of neighborhoods and the majority of Los Angeles’ 3.8 million residents who are not medical marijuana users first and foremost.

The Los Angeles Police Department is already on record in favor of the Huizar-Englander, Parks-Perry repeal and ban proposal, and I encourage you to do the same.

The State’s Compassionate Use Act’s intent is to allow access to medical marijuana for truly ill individuals, what the \$1.3 billion medical marijuana industry has become in cities and neighborhoods throughout the state is a means for unscrupulous operators and recreational users to game the system for profit and illicit use of a federally banned substance. State Attorney General has said the California medical marijuana industry has been exploited by “gangs, criminal enterprises, and others.” And the federal government has targeted California’s for-profit medical marijuana dispensaries, with sales being illegal under federal and state law.

With all due respect, the other proposal before you (Koretz-Wesson) would create a tangled web of legal proceedings and prove absolutely time consuming and impossible to enforce.

The repeal and ban ordinance gives us our only viable enforcement tool we have to protect us from a flawed state law until we get clarity from the State Supreme Court.

Sincerely,
Maria Fisk
Granada Hills, Ca