

December 16, 2011

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.

Simply instituting a ban would result in an avalanche of litigation. Law abiding citizens who are ill would be forced to seek their medicine on the streets. The City of Los Angeles might lose control of its legislation if a voter referendum and initiative re-writes the medical marijuana ordinance.

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.

If you enact sensible regulations, these older facilities can continue to work with their membership to see that patients have the access that state law asks you to provide. If you ban all medical cannabis collectives you are simply creating a situation that feeds an already huge black market, and punishes the sick and dying rather than helping them.

Please abandon any plans to ban medical cannabis facilities, and instead enact reasonable regulations.

Sincerely,



JOHN C. RINGWOOD