



October 18, 2018

The Honorable Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
Chair, Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: CF 14-0366 Enforcement of Cannabis Business Regulations

Dear Council President Wesson,

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) commends your leadership ensuring that the City of Los Angeles moves forward with effective enforcement mechanisms to shut down illegally operated cannabis establishments. Illegally operated establishments threaten public safety and the success of good actors within the industry who are complying with local and state law.

VICA has concerns about a direction to allow the Department of Building and Safety take responsibility for the regulating licensed cannabis businesses. The licensing of these businesses should remain with the Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR), who has the expertise to license this growing industry.

VICA also would like to voice strong support for the DCR recommendation to end Existing Medical Marijuana Dispensaries (EMMDs) ability to relocate during their temporary approval period as of January 1, 2019. This prohibition would allow sufficient time for EMMDs to submit any necessary changes of address while protecting all Phase 3 applicants.

VICA respectfully urges the LA City Council move forward with an effective enforcement strategy to quickly shutter illegal establishments and discourage property owners from leasing to illegal operations, and supports any efforts to have the City enforce State law to that end.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gritzner
VICA Chair

Stuart Waldman
VICA President