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Stephen Downing
Deputy Chief, LAPD (ret.)
Los Angeles, CA

City of Los Angeles City Hall
Attn: Honorable Herb Wesson, Honorable Jose Huizar, and Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
City Council Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee
John Ferraro Council Chamber Room 340, Third Floor
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

June 17, 2016
Via email to Council Committee Members

Re: Allow Legal Medical Marijuana Delivery in Los Angeles

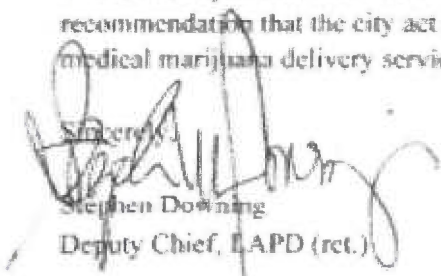
Honorable Councilmembers,

Having served the Los Angeles community for 20 years – with the majority of those years in 77th and Southwest Divisions as a police officer, sergeant, lieutenant and captain, followed by my assumption of command of the narcotic enforcement program as both a commander and deputy chief after President Nixon's declaration of the war on drugs - I have concluded that drug prohibition has not - and can never be - worth the human and fiscal costs it has inflicted upon our communities.

As the Los Angeles City Council Rules Committee considers how to bring L.A into compliance with new and potential state medical and adult use laws, I ask that the city add a provision for patients to safely access delivery services operated by dispensaries. Both law enforcement and the community need a bright line to differentiate between the good and bad actors in this vital industry. Patients need access to their medication discreetly, safely and professionally with effective city oversight.

The existing prolific, high traffic volume illegal delivery services jeopardize our communities, but they stay in business because many patients who are too infirm to travel to dispensaries. Almost nowhere can access to delivery be more critical. Community safety depends upon bringing this unregulated industry into the light, allowing law enforcement officers, neighbors, and patients to know where clean, legitimate medicine can be obtained. We must stop access to illegal medical marijuana and the violent black market that thrives because of it.

Legal delivery services will bring with it transparency, taxes to support regulation and a clearly defined enforcement protocol that will contribute toward eliminating illegal and dangerous operators. It is my strong recommendation that the city act now to allow voters to reform Proposition D and sanction legal, transparent medical marijuana delivery services to operate in Los Angeles.


Stephen Downing
Deputy Chief, LAPD (ret.)

Cc: Richard Williams (richard.williams@lacity.org)

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