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Public Comment Regarding Cannabis Regulation

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To: RICHARD.WILLIAMS@lacity.org

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Dear Council member,

I would like to submit a comment for discussion regarding the Los Angeles Commercial Cannabis Activity Regulations. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the public hearing but I understand that there is a 60 day period in which the public can submit comments. I have some concerns about Nury Martinez's agenda because it seems contradictory.

She is responsible for numerous raids and terminations of illegal cannabis operations. But why are they illegal in the first place?

The taxpayers voted in favor of Prop 215, the MCRSA, the AUMA, the Compassionate Use Act, and Prop 64. These shops remain illegal because the city has made it impossible to obtain a license at this point. Even though these shops are still considered illegal, patients still deem them necessary and continue to buy medicine from them even though they too know the risks they face with law enforcement.

She continues to demonize cannabis in her campaign calling the industry a "blithe" to the community, even though many of her supporters, particularly the LGBTQ community, are patients that need medicine and will buy it anywhere they can. The first illegal dispensaries were introduced by AIDS patients for god sake!

She continues to shut down businesses that are attempting to become licensed and are willing and able to follow the regulations that Martinez is drafting.

It seems odd that she wouldn't put efforts into legalizing these shops instead of hastily shutting them down. Her campaign focuses on social justice, social services, groups that are ostracized by society, and rights for undocumented (illegal) immigrants.

It makes one ask, "Why not fight for the rights of illegal dispensaries that are willing to follow YOUR regulations, as well as, the patients that your campaign supposedly supports?"