



Advancing Legal Medical Marijuana Therapeutics and Research

August 9, 2017

The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Confirmation of Ms. Cat Packer as the Director of the Los Angeles Department of Cannabis Regulation

Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

The confirmation of Ms. Cat Packer as the Director of the Los Angeles Department of Cannabis Regulation will shortly come before you. Americans for Safe Access urges you to confirm Ms. Packer and fully supports her appointment for the following reasons:

Ms Packer, in her position at the Drug Policy Alliance, has demonstrated a thoughtful, thorough and rational approach to policy. She is neither a zealot nor a martinet, but rather someone who thinks deeply about issues and supports her conclusions with facts, not emotion. Thus, the very foundations of the department she will head will be based on carefully reasoned decisions that will ensure that the department is run efficiently. Our organization is confident that her stewardship will be in the best interests of the City, as well as those who will depend on the department for guidance and licensure.

The trajectory of Ms. Packer's education, which includes a law degree, have given her a skill set that will allow her to work through the difficult and complex work of setting up a new City Department, one that will require both the ability to work through difficult technical issues, like the establishment of IT programs and the staffing of a brand new agency.

Additionally, she is politically astute. Ms. Packer was not only a great advocate for the legalization of cannabis, but has also played a meaningful role in getting state legislation passed, often legislation that had nothing to do with cannabis, but addressed other, urgent matters. Thus, her appointment ensures that the head of a department that will deal with conflicting local, state and federal issues has a demonstrated history of success in dealing with myriad, complex legislation successfully.

For the reasons stated above, we urge the Council to confirm Ms. Packer's appointment when it comes before the honorable body. We endorse Ms. Packer's appointment without reservation and are confident that her appointment is in the best interests of the City of Los Angeles.

Founded in 2002, Americans for Safe Access (ASA) is the largest national member-based organization of patients, medical professionals, scientists, and concerned citizens promoting safe and legal access to marijuana for therapeutic use and research. ASA works in partnership with state, local and national legislators to overcome barriers and create policies that improve access to marijuana for patients and researchers. ASA has more than 100,000 active members with chapters and affiliates in all 50 states. Our website is: www.safeaccessnow.org

If there are any questions regarding the above, our Director of Industry Affairs, Sarah Armstrong, can be reached at (805) 279-8229 or industry@safeaccessnow.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sarah Armstrong JD
Director of Industry Affairs
Americans for Safe Access

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General Information

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