

MOTION RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Illegal cannabis activity continues to be an issue in the City of Los Angeles, negatively affecting residents of the City, as well as those businesses that are licensed by the City to operate cannabis-related businesses. In an effort to address this problem, the Police Department (LAPD) recently conducted a series of raids that resulted in misdemeanor charges being brought by the City Attorney against over 500 people engaged in illegal cannabis activities. However, a significant number of those charged are employees of illegal businesses, not the owners or operators of illegal businesses themselves.


Property and business owners should bear the majority of responsibility for illegal cannabis operations, not those that work for them. While the City Attorney and the Police Department should retain the ability to charge individuals working for businesses that are engaged in illegal cannabis activity with a misdemeanor, other enforcement options should be explored, such as utilizing the City's Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) program. In order to discourage repeated offenses, the citation amount should escalate based on the number of times an individual has been cited, while retaining the ability of police office officers to charge serial offenders with a misdemeanor.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Police Department, be requested to draft an ordinance that would make working in an illegal cannabis business citable under the City's Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) Program. The ACE fine amount should be based on the number of citations and increase for every citation, with individuals who are repeatedly caught working in an illegal cannabis-related business subject to misdemeanor charges.

PRESENTED BY


MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY



ORIGINAL

OCT 12 2013

jwd

