

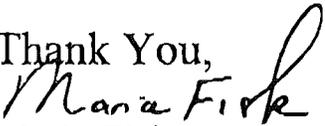
Date: December 7, 2009
To: Office of City Clerk
FAX #: 213-978-1079

From: Maria Fisk
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Phone#: 818-363-7820

RE:

**Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce
Position Medical Marijuana Dispensaries**

**Los Angeles City Council Meeting
December 8, 2009
CF# 08-0923
Item #10**

Thank You,

Maria Fisk

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"The Valley's Most Neighborly Town"
17723 Chatsworth St. ~ Granada Hills, CA 91344
818-368-3235 Fax 818-366-7425 Tax ID # 95-1876180

December 6, 2009

Council District 12
Councilman Greig Smith
18917 Nordhoff St Ste 18
Northridge, CA 91324

Dear Councilman Smith:

The Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce unanimously approved the following motion at their monthly Board meeting on June 9, 2009

The City of Los Angeles prohibit the continuing operation of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries that are operating in violation of the law.

Discussion

The Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce is extremely concerned about the negative impact that Medical Marijuana Dispensaries (MMDs) are having on the entire community and is requesting the city to ban these illegal establishments. More than 100 cities/counties (Cities-Pasadena, Simi Valley, Anaheim, Torrance) have laws banning dispensaries. In San Francisco there are less than ½ dozen legal marijuana collectives that are strictly controlled.

However, in the City of Los Angeles more than 500 dispensaries have been allowed to proliferate despite a citywide moratorium. Many of them have requested hardship exemptions and the city is not acting expeditiously to process the validity of these applications. In addition there is a question as to what city department is to enforce the Interim Control Ordinance.

According to the LAPD, there is a 200% increase in robberies, 130% increase in burglaries from autos, 57% increase in aggravated assaults in areas near and adjacent to the dispensaries. In Granada Hills, within a 1½ mile radius, there is the same number of MMDs that there are legitimate pharmacies. There have been serious crimes and assaults associated with the MMDs. Last year Golden State Collective (located at Balboa & Devonshire in Granada Hills) was held up and gun shots fired by 5 Gang members. The GHDF, an MMD located at White Oak and Chatsworth Street in Granada Hills, was held up twice in the past year, and last month a business owner was brutally assaulted in the adjacent parking lot. These establishments are nothing but crime magnets that have been allowed to operate freely with no oversight or scrutiny.

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries violate Federal, State Laws, and the Granada Hills Specific Plan. According to Proposition 215: (d) Section 11357, relating to the possession of marijuana & Section 11358, relating to the cultivation of marijuana, does not apply to a patient, or to a patient's primary caregiver, who possesses or cultivates marijuana for personal medical purposes. Section (e) defines the "primary caregiver" as the individual designated by the person exempted under this section who consistently assumed responsibility for the housing, health, or safety of that person

Due to a recent California Supreme Court decision (People v Mentch, November 24, 2008), medical marijuana dispensaries are not considered primary caregivers nor do they operate as a designated collective for personal medical purposes of a patient. These are store front retailers that sell marijuana (often to minors) and generate enormous profits (and that is also illegal).

The following are Medical Marijuana Dispensaries that are currently operating in Granada Hills:

1. Golden State Collective *— now closed*
10369 Balboa Blvd.
(Next to Pizza Cookery) APN# 2695020024
2. Caregivers Earth Ordinance (CEO) *— now closed*
17050 Chatsworth St. Suite 243
(2nd floor office space next to 99cent store) APN# 2695001012
3. Granada Hills Patients Collective (GHPC)
17458A Chatsworth St.
(Chatsworth & Encino) APN# 2733019012
4. Granada Hills Discount Pharmacy (GHDF) *— now closed*
17656 Chatsworth St.
(Chatsworth & White Oak - Domino's Pizza center) APN# 2733009001

I would appreciate any questions or comments you have concerning this issues and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Irv Selman, President
Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce
818-590-6910 - cell