

**Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd**  
**Homeowner's Association**  
*Incorporated November 8, 1971*  
**P. O. Box 64213**  
Los Angeles, CA 90064-0213

September 22, 2009

LA City Council  
PLUM Committee  
Chairman Ed Reyes

Councilmembers Jose Huizar and Dennis Zine

Via Email: [Barbara.greaves@lacity.org](mailto:Barbara.greaves@lacity.org), [Patrice.lattimore@lacity.org](mailto:Patrice.lattimore@lacity.org)

RE: City regulation of marijuana dispensaries  
Item # 3 on PLUM 9/22/09 agenda, CF 08-0923

Gentlemen:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the stakeholders of Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd. Homeowners Association as a reflection of our serious concern over the proliferation of medical marijuana dispensaries in our community and elsewhere in the City. We are grateful to the Council for having enacted a moratorium on the locating of said dispensaries but sadly, as all are aware, the barn door of the stable has been left open far too long and the horses have all run free. In our community, we have at least 8 dispensaries within walking distance of our homes – two directly behind single family homes and one within 1000 feet of a preschool. Two of the dispensaries have been involved in robberies, the most recent this past week where two individuals were shot. (See attached summaries of those crimes.) While one dispensary is located in a manufacturing zone (in a corner location three blocks from residences), our homeowners association receives complaints from neighboring businesses (who lack a business association) who are concerned about regular and ongoing loitering, streams of people coming and going until 11 pm at night, etc.

Many of our members support the provision of marijuana for the treatment of bona fide medical conditions and respect the will of the voters who passed the Compassionate Use Act. However, because that Act was not carefully crafted, it left local municipalities to adopt legislation to protect communities and to assure that its true intent be followed. Voters did not envision the establishment of profit-making enterprises as common as Starbucks operating to skirt existing federal law by providing easy sources of recreational marijuana. They could not have imagined the numbers of clinics now open or how one clinic in our area celebrated its grand opening recently by advertising the FREE distribution of marijuana that resulted in a long line down the block. At least one other neighborhood nearby also experienced a similar phenomenon.

We have reviewed the “White Paper on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries” and support many of its conclusions and recommendations. We have also reviewed the ordinance introduced by Councilmember Reyes and would like to offer some questions and concerns:

--How would the City be able to prove the source of cultivation which is a key attribute of operating a cooperative?

--How can the City enforce the 2 oz/day recommended limit per patient without the establishment of a mandatory identification card that is linked to computerized record-keeping (similar to recently enacted prescription drug tracking)? Without this, there is no way to control multiple purchases at various dispensaries to the same individual(s) who intend(s) to sell product on the street.

--Why is there only a four year limit prohibiting involvement of those found guilty of previously noted felony offenses? Why should past felons with histories related to illegal possession, fraud, etc. be permitted to operate or be involved in the operation of LA dispensaries?

-- If dispensaries are permitted in LA, how can on-site consumption be prohibited?

--How can local communities have the ability to adopt as part of their local community plan or specific plan, prohibitions of dispensaries (as unpermitted uses) in defined geographic (or storefront) locations? Can we successfully place dispensaries off of storefront locations?

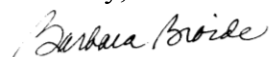
--What provisions will exist so that a neighborhood will have been deemed to have sufficient (or excess!) numbers of dispensaries such that additional dispensaries cannot be located there? What kind of community process will be adopted so that neighbors and communities can present findings that could successfully challenge the locating of new dispensaries?

We will not go into the many issues raised in the white paper presented to the City. We hope that the Council will reach out to homeowner and business associations and neighborhood councils to seek their input on many of the issues raised before a final ordinance is adopted. Many have been away during the late summer and have not had the opportunity to read the materials and become involved in this discussion which is of great interest and concern to citizens across the City. The Westside Neighborhood Council of which we are a member submitted a letter of concern to the City not long ago.

If the City does decide to allow MM dispensaries to operate within its borders, then we sincerely hope that adequate application, licensing and permit fees be established such that all regulation and policing costs are covered by the clinics and paid or reimbursed to the City. And, incidentally, the possibility of levying permit fees on these clinics (by allowing the large number currently in operation to stay in business) should not be viewed as a source of income for a cash-strapped City's coffers. The fees levied should cover all the City's costs of administration, monitoring and enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue and for action taken to schedule hearings of hardship cases so that illegally located dispensaries that opened during the moratorium can be shut down.

Sincerely,



Barbara Broide  
President

cc: Councilmember Koretz, CD 5  
City Attorney Trutanich

**ROBBERY:****( 1 ) STREET & ( 2 ) BUSINESS****ATTEMPTED ROBBERY/ATTEMPTED MURDER:**

Victim: **Medical Marijuana Prescription Office**

Victim: Female (Att 187)

Victim: Male

11300 W. Pico Bl (RD 884)

9/18/09, at 1630 hours

Suspect #1 entered the business and produced a handgun and stated, "Give me the money." Victim Germar attempted to grab the suspect's hand. But the suspect was able to pull free and shot the victim in the shoulder. Victim 1 came to assist V2 and was also shot by suspect #1 in the stomach and head. Suspect #2 had been standing by the front entrance during the crime. Suspects fled without taking any property. Suspect #1 touched several items which were held for DNA processing. Suspect #1 also left behind several articles of clothing which will also be tested. There were no security cameras at the location. The business is a location where medical marijuana prescriptions are obtained, but there is no marijuana at this location. The medical marijuana business is a short distance away. Due to the serious injuries to the victims, WLA Homicide is handling.

Suspect #1: Male Black Blk Bro 5-0 120 20's, dark sweatshirt, green traffic vest;  
a multi-color knit cap, and dark jeans.

Suspect #2: Male Black Blk Bro 5-5 130 20's, wearing a gray jacket.

Weapon: Medium size black revolver, Property Taken: None (Attempted 211)

**Armed Suspects Rob Marijuana Clinic**

Updated: Friday, 19 Jun 2009, 8:26 AM PDT, Published : Friday, 19 Jun 2009, 8:26 AM PDT,  
Posted by: Dennis Lovelace

Los Angeles (myFOXla.com) - Ski-masked gun-toting bandits held up and robbed a medical marijuana facility during business hours late Thursday evening. Sgt. Abbot of West LAPD and officers at the scene confirmed three bandits wearing ski masks entered the GGR Medical Marijuana store on the 2000 block of Cotner Avenue during business hours around 11p.m. At least six customers and two employees were in the store at the time, according to a visual count at the scene. The bandits brandished guns and ordered the employees to hand over cash and marijuana or risk harm. Police said a moderate amount of cash and marijuana valued in the thousands of dollars was taken by threat and force. Customers remained with police at the store until 1:30 a.m. answering questions while criminologists and fingerprint specialists gathered evidence. At least one of the suspects was careless and left a fingerprint at the scene. Police from West L.A are talking with investigators in Reseda about a similar holdup at a medical marijuana facility that happened the Wednesday evening on the 7100 block of Reseda Blvd. Police are studying the actions and descriptions of the suspects involved with both robberies to determine if a band of serial robbers is targeting the controversial dispensary facilities on a near-daily basis.

--NewsReel