



**NURY MARTINEZ**  
COUNCILWOMAN 6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

September 21, 2015

Councilmember Paul Krekorian  
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Krekorian and Committee Members:

I want to express my thanks to you for scheduling CF #14-0366-S2, requesting the immediate cease of issuing Business Tax Registration Certificates (BTRCs) to non-Proposition D medical marijuana businesses. This has been an ongoing issue Citywide since Prop D was passed.

Local residents are forced to accept large concentrations of non-compliant medical marijuana dispensaries that often pop up overnight and this is unacceptable. Children should not have to pass dispensary after dispensary as they walk home from school or shop with their parents. These dispensaries are a blight and nuisance to our communities and in several instances have been the site of robberies and homicides.

Prop D outlines specific requirements for compliant businesses including distance between medical marijuana shops, their distance from schools, day care centers, and parks.

The public voted for access to medicine and not blight. But today that is not what our constituents see, instead they see empty marijuana containers left behind on their street, loitering, crime, and dispensaries that stay open past store hours.

Many medical marijuana business operators have displayed BTRCs as a means to operate legally confusing the public to believe that they are Prop D compliant. BTRCs should only be given to businesses that are compliant with the City's ordinance that the voters approved. And that is why Councilmember Huizar and I, with the help of Councilmember Krekorian, introduced a motion that calls for the Office of Finance to immediately cease issuing new BTRCs to marijuana dispensaries. We cannot continue to send the wrong message about our stance on non-complaint dispensaries while residents pay the cost for this.

Therefore, I ask that this committee amend the language and design of the medical marijuana business tax registration certificate to make more prominent that a BTRC is not a license to operate nor is it evidence of compliance with Prop D. Furthermore, I ask that this committee direct the Office of Finance to discontinue the issuing of new medical marijuana BTRCs and limit renewals to medical marijuana businesses which attest to threshold Prop D criteria.

I thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
NURY MARTINEZ  
Councilwoman, 6<sup>th</sup> District