

08-0923-S14

PLANNING & LAND USE DEVELOPMENT

MOTION

On March 14, 2010, the City's Medical Marijuana Ordinance took effect (Ordinance No. 181069). The intent of the Ordinance is the implement the *Compassionate Use Act of 1996* (Proposition 215), which was approved by the voters and legalized the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

The intent of Proposition 215 was to allow persons to grow or possess marijuana based on recommendations of licensed physician that a person's health would benefit from the use of marijuana for the treatment of cancer, anorexia, AIDS, chronic pain, spasticity, glaucoma, arthritis, migraine or other illnesses for which marijuana provides relief.

Unfortunately, the passage of local Medical Marijuana ordinances is often correlated with a spike in criminal activity, inasmuch as marijuana availability attracts those who have no medical needs and who simply use it for "recreational" purposes.

In fact, in June 2010, merely three months after the City enacted Ordinance No. 181069, there were three robberies at medical marijuana dispensaries in Northridge, Hollywood, and Echo Park. An employee at the Northridge facility was left in critical condition after being shot in the face, as documented in a July 1, 2010 Los Angeles Times article, "*LAPD investigates third shooting at a medical marijuana dispensary.*" Two people were fatally shot at the Hollywood and Echo Park facilities, and third man was wounded.

fatally (JCP)


While no statistical study has been produced that can prove that there is a causation between medical marijuana dispensaries and criminal activity, it is fair to say that at the very least, there is a statistical correlation. This is a fact that was already known prior to the enactment of the City's Medical Marijuana Ordinance, inasmuch as in a December 14, 2006 Fact Sheet contained in a July 27, 2005 report from the Los Angeles Police Commission to the Council's Public Safety Committee, it documented an increase in criminal activity in areas where medical marijuana dispensaries were located.

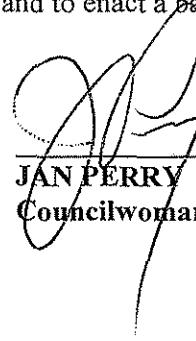
Local policy makers have begun to enact bans on medical marijuana dispensaries. Recently, Supervisors in Los Angeles and Orange Counties banned medical marijuana dispensaries in unincorporated areas. The bans affect an area with 1.5 million in Los Angeles County, and 120,000 in Orange County. The ban in Los Angeles County begins the first week of January 2011 with penalties that include fines of up to \$1,000 a day.

It is in the best interest of the City to similarly ban medical marijuana dispensaries, inasmuch recent criminal events that occurred in the City this past Summer, and statistical data prepared by the Los Angeles Police Commission show at the very least a correlation between medical marijuana dispensaries and an increase in criminal activity.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council request the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 181069, the City's Medical Marijuana Ordinance, and to enact a ban on medical dispensaries similar to the bans enacted by Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

PRESENTED BY:


BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilmember, 8th District


JAN PERRY
Councilwoman, 9th District

ORIGINAL

DEC 15 2010

SECONDED BY:



EG

FACT SHEET

MEDICAL MARIJUANA FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

December 14, 2006

Robberies

Van Nuys Area (14 dispensaries)	28.6% increase
Pacific Area (6 dispensaries)	66.67% decrease
North Hollywood Area (17 dispensaries)	62.5% increase
West Valley Area (10 dispensaries)	200.0% increase
Harbor Area (2 dispensaries)	30.8% decrease
Hollywood Area (16 dispensaries)	11.8% increase

Burglaries

Van Nuys Area (14 dispensaries)	3.9% decrease
Pacific Area (6 dispensaries)	52.2% increase
North Hollywood Area (17 dispensaries)	23.8% decrease
West Valley Area (10 dispensaries)	No Change
Harbor Area (2 dispensaries)	33.3% increase
Hollywood Area (16 dispensaries)	31.0% decrease

Aggravated Assaults

Van Nuys Area (14 dispensaries)	26.7% increase
Pacific Area (6 dispensaries)	33.3% increase
North Hollywood Area (17 dispensaries)	11.8% decrease
West Valley Area (10 dispensaries)	33.3% increase
Harbor Area (2 dispensaries)	57.1% increase
Hollywood Area (16 dispensaries)	No Change

Burglary from Auto

Van Nuys Area (14 dispensaries)	38.0% increase
Pacific Area (6 dispensaries)	17.9% decrease
North Hollywood Area (17 dispensaries)	31.1% decrease
West Valley Area (10 dispensaries)	130.8% increase
Harbor Area (2 dispensaries)	No Change
Hollywood Area (16 dispensaries)	2.5% decrease