



Venice Neighborhood Council

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Contemporaneous Notes of Comments Made at Venice Neighborhood Council Town Hall on Medical Marijuana 11/05/2009

Topic: Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in Venice, California

Mike Newhouse, VNC President:

Discussing tonight a proposed ordinance on Medical Marijuana dispensaries
Your input will be forwarded to the City Council

This issue will be discussed by the Venice Neighborhood Council on November 15, 2009; your input will be welcomed

Arturo Piña, Councilman Bill Rosendahl's office:

Tax the dispensaries, regulate them, plan

Jane Usher, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office:

Los Angeles has 800-1000 medical marijuana dispensaries in operation; San Francisco has 22 (one additional pending approval)

[Questions asked of Town Hall Attendees:]

- Limit the number of medical marijuana dispensaries?
- What process should be used to locate a dispensary? Conditional Use Permit, registration, etc?
- What operating conditions: limited hours, bookkeeping, distance from schools?

15,000 liquor stores in Los Angeles regulated by CUP

For-profit sale of marijuana: state model authorizes a cooperative effort

Straw Poll conducted by Newhouse: Legalize Marijuana in California? – the overwhelming majority is in favor of legalization

Recommend rejection of the current 4th draft, and review 2008 recommendation, cited cases people vs. Urziceanu, and people vs. Mensch

What pharmaceutical company does not make a profit? Dispensaries should remain mom&pop operations, technology for testing, decriminalize marijuana, regulation and control is necessary, respect marijuana farmers.

Regulation should have occurred already; support for Councilman Rosendahl's suggestions.

Safe access to medication in California, TRO against City Attorney and District Attorney being filed next week, lack of communication from City Attorney's Office.

What should the ordinance look like? How many medical marijuana dispensaries in Venice? How far should they be apart? How far should dispensaries from schools, etc?

Let market forces determine distance.

Ordinance 1270, which regulates porn shops: must be 500 feet away from religious facilities, schools and parks, and from other similar businesses

Deregulation of laws against marijuana.

Recovery of costs to produce marijuana

Market forces will determine long-term existence of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Blue laws imposed by the City of Los Angeles when Venice was annexed; exclude Venice from any ordinance. Patients are the primary market for medical marijuana and should be the focus of any decision being made.

An agricultural product is being sold that should fall under jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. Smaller producers should not be regulated.

End black market. Certify farmers.

Cooperative/collective is unrealistic. West Hollywood standard: 1000 foot distance, no signage, let market forces prevail.

Performance specifications should prevail.

Marijuana is not life-threatening, and should not be compared with substances that are.

Venice's reputation for tolerance should be upheld.

What effect do Medical Marijuana Dispensaries have on the community?

A system of checks and balances has been requested by the dispensaries themselves.

No limit on the number of dispensaries. Let business owners decide appropriate distance.

Grading system on product?

Prescribing physicians should determine dosage.

Should a physician be present at a dispensary?

No limit on numbers; market forces should prevail. Dispensaries should be located at a distance from schools. Product should be graded.

GLACA (Greater Los Angeles Caregivers) have standards/guidelines in place.

Observance of the law is a necessity. Marijuana should be legalized; 1000 foot perimeter should be observed. An existing Land Use/Planning mechanism should be used to facilitate discussion of changes.

Ban on use of edibles/concentrates should be relaxed. Alternative dosage forms should be allowed. Dietary Health and Education Act.

No limit on distance from schools.

Legalize marijuana. Market forces should determine location. Porn shop distance can be used as a model.

A more appropriate use of City resources is to prosecute violent crime. Tax revenue generation is a desired goal for California.

Legalize marijuana. Careful consideration is needed. Tax revenue generation is a desired goal.

Basic 1000 foot rule, allow market forces to prevail.

Grading products is a good thing. Appropriate education of children regarding marijuana use should be a goal.

Weedtracker.com, grading system already exists. ID system is inappropriate. Taxing sick people is inappropriate.

Is the requirement that medical marijuana is cultivated on-site to be upheld by the City Attorney's office?

One dispensary provides detailed information to its clients. City officials should tour legal dispensaries.

Growing and holding marijuana stock on premises is dangerous and unsafe.

Current state law defines circumstances under which the City Attorney and Planning operate. It will be necessary to change the laws.

Violation of laws regarding marijuana use has resulted in three-strike imprisonment.

Medical Cannabis Safety Council is a resource that should be consulted; any regulation should be patient-based and community-based.

Spectrography can provide grading solution;

On-site cultivation of marijuana is unrealistic. Regulation of growers should be done. On-site consumption should be allowed.

Limit of dispensary hours was questioned. Limit on amount of product allowed on-site was questioned.

LAPD recommendations were driving force behind restrictions proposed.

What will happen to existing dispensaries if distance limitations are imposed?

Crime should be the focus of grass-roots political action, not businesses that are operating legally.

Regulation and taxation of dispensaries are okay.

Farmers market model will work well.

Grading of product is possible. Medical marijuana is banned from hospitals.

Self regulation should be done during the moratorium period.

Regulation of dispensaries will not allow free market forces to prevail. Allow a dollar transaction tax to be imposed.

Tax dollars are better spent on crime.

Americans for Safe Access, Law Enforcement Officers website should be consulted. Dosage limits are determined by physiological factors. Secret shopper mechanism should be put into place as well as City-certified kitchens.

1000 feet is unrealistic limit; 250 is better.

Successful, effective cultivation of marijuana is difficult; it should be done professionally.