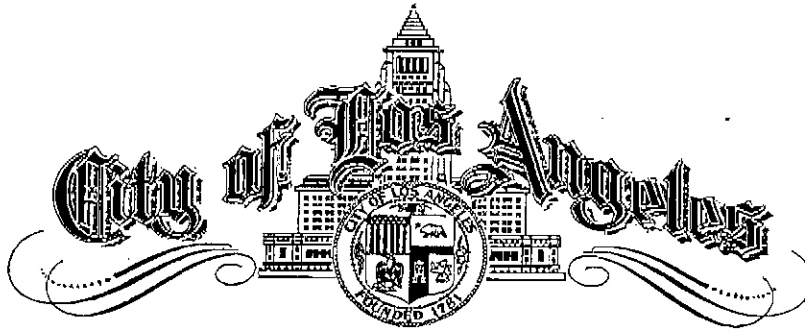


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Councilman
Dennis P. Zine
Third District

July 25, 2007

Administrator Karen Tandy
Drug Enforcement Administration
2401 Jefferson Davis Highway
Alexandria, VA 22301

Dear Administrator Tandy:

Property owners who lease to medical cannabis (marijuana) dispensaries in the City of Los Angeles have recently received notices from your agency threatening the owners with arrest and property asset forfeiture. The notices were mailed just as my colleagues and I were anticipating a vote on an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) prohibiting the establishment of new medical cannabis facilities in Los Angeles and requiring existing facilities to register with the State of California and the Los Angeles City Clerk. I am writing to ask that you abandon this tactic and allow this City Council to continue the important work of regulating these facilities without Federal interference.

I understand there is a difference between Federal law and California law in regards to medical cannabis. Despite the difference, cities and counties must continue to uphold the will of our voters and adopt sensible guidelines to regulate the provision of medical cannabis in our communities. Voters in California and in Los Angeles support the medical use of cannabis and want safe, well-regulated access. Medical cannabis facilities are a community based response to the need for safe access and represent the State of California's effort to fully implement California's medical cannabis law, which was approved by California voters in 1996.

Los Angeles city staff has been carefully researching appropriate regulatory strategies for medical cannabis facilities since I first introduced a motion to explore this issue in 2005. Today, we adopted the ICO, and a working group made up of city staff, law enforcement, and citizen representatives has already started to consider permanent regulations for the City of Los Angeles medical marijuana dispensaries.

Local regulations are the key to preventing abuse of California's voter-approved medical cannabis law and to protect legally qualified patients, their providers, and neighborhoods from harm. We urge you to abandon your tactic of targeting property owners so that we can move forward with our important work. This will serve the interests of our constituents while the U.S. Congress works to harmonize federal law with the will of the people and the laws of the twelve states that currently allow medical cannabis.

Sincerely,

DENNIS P. ZINE
Councilman, Third District

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