

Bios for Speakers at October 11 Los Angeles Medical Marijuana Rally

Steph Sherer (MC) – Executive Director of Americans for Safe Access (ASA)

Steph Sherer is a medical marijuana patient living in Washington, DC. Ms. Sherer is the founder and Executive Director of Americans for Safe Access, which in five years has become the nation's largest advocacy organization working exclusively on medical marijuana. ASA educates patients, physicians, lawyers and elected officials, and is committed to changing federal policy in order to better protect patients' rights.

Don Duncan – Medical marijuana dispensary operator recently raided by the DEA

Don Duncan is a long-standing dispensary operator in Los Angeles who was raided by the DEA in July. The federal government then seized Mr. Duncan's bank accounts, including funds that were dedicated to paying sales tax, a requirement by the State Board of Equalization. Mr. Duncan is also an advocate responsible for establishing "best practice" standards for dispensaries across the state.

Michael Martin – Medical marijuana edible producer recently raided by the DEA

Michael Martin is a medical marijuana patient and edible producer from Oakland, CA. The organization Tainted, Inc. produced edibles that were sold in dispensaries to thousands of patients in California. Tainted was raided and Mr. Martin was arrested recently by the DEA as part of the government's latest attempt to undermine state law and safe access to medical marijuana. Mr. Martin is facing 20 years in federal prison for conduct that is legal under state law.

Lenny Fisher – Los Angeles-area medical marijuana Cancer patient

Lenny Fisher is a 54-year old Cancer patient who uses edible cannabis products (like those made by Tainted, Inc., which was raided by the DEA last month) to combat the painful symptoms of his condition. A dwindling supply of edible cannabis is what allows Mr. Fisher to sleep at night.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Dennis Zine – Written statement

Councilmember Zine is a Republican and former LAPD officer who is a staunch supporter of the state's medical marijuana law and protecting patients' rights. In July, Councilmember Zine wrote a letter to DEA Administrator Karen Tandy and stated that, "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."

Orange County Supervisor Chris Norby – Written statement

With the leadership of Republican Supervisor Chris Norby, the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted to become the 33rd county in California to establish a state medical marijuana ID card program, bringing greater protection to patients. In a July KCRW Los Angeles radio interview, Supervisor Norby stated that, "Federal law may make [medical marijuana] illegal, but people need it. Under state law, they have the right to use it medically." Supervisor Norby also called the July DEA raids in Los Angeles "cruel" and "unconscionable."

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