Hayward Votes Tonight on Citywide Marijuana Dispensary Kibosh

By Ashley Harrell, Tuesday, Feb. 16 2010 @ 4:30PM

Although California's Attorney General and judges have recently been loosening the legal reins on medical Marijuana users, the debate over whether dispensaries have a place in our cities remains a hot-button issue around the state.

This is particularly true in Los Angeles, but also in Hayward -- our neighbor across the Bay. At 7 p.m. the Hayward City Council will vote on a moratorium that would prohibit dispensaries from opening or operating in the city for approximately six to nine months.

In theory, the moratorium would allow the city to study and develop potential regulations, which could eventually make Hayward a more dispensary-friendly place. But would-be dispensary owners and advocates say that in a place like Hayward, where dispensaries have a checkered history and a hostile mayor, a moratorium doesn't bode well.

Tom Lemos is the proprietor of a dispensary shut down by the city in 2007 who had hoped to reopen this year. He said he feels city officials aren't sincere when they say they want to "study" dispensaries.

"That's complete crap," Lemos told SF Weekly, citing a belief that the mayor and certain city council members have a vision for a revitalized downtown that doesn't include dispensaries.

"I'm not saying there were not problems," he said, noting two robberies at his old dispensary. But it was simply a matter of increasing security, he claimed. According to Lemos, these kinds of obstacles are worth working around in order for the sick and needy people of Hayward get access to their medication.

Tags: Hayward, medical marijuana dispensaries, moratorium
Comments (3)

Mikey says:
It’s time to stop criminalizing sick people. Nobody in the history of the world has ever died from marijuana. Peoples’ quality of life has been demonstrably improved. 215 been on the books for years now.
Robberies only happen because running a “legitimized” business actually carries more risk than does committing a robbery. Why is that? Because the cops bust legitimate businesses.
You can’t “study” something that is shut down, either.
I support Tom’s efforts.

Posted On: Tuesday, Feb. 16 2010 @ 8:59PM

Dan Berkes says:
At tonight’s meeting, the city decided (1) Not to make MMJ a priority for the city’s staff to study and (2) the motion to vote on a one-year moratorium failed to gather a second, so no vote was taken. In other words, nothing changes.
The good spin on this is that

Posted On: Wednesday, Feb. 17 2010 @ 12:44AM

Dan Berkes says:
Er, as I was saying this means the anti-MMJ crowd didn’t get what they wanted and while we didn’t quite get what we wanted, at least the city didn’t make it a more hostile operating environment.
One amusing evening diversion was watching the Police Officer’s Association anti-compassion rant go down in flames because he couldn’t get the PowerPoint presentation on his laptop to work.

Posted On: Wednesday, Feb. 17 2010 @ 12:47AM

Write Comment

Name:

Email:

URL:

Remember personal info?

Comments (you may use HTML tags for style):

Comments may not show up immediately after submission. Please wait a minute after posting a comment for it to appear.

All reader comments are subject to our Terms of Use. By clicking "Post," you acknowledge that you have reviewed and agree to these Terms.

Post
## Newspapers: Daily

- Alameda Times-Star
- Argus (Fremont)
- Contra Costa Times
- Daily Review (Hayward)
- East Bay Daily News
- East County Times
- Los Angeles Times
- Oakland Tribune
- San Francisco Chronicle
- San Francisco Daily Journal
- San Francisco Examiner
- San Jose Mercury News
- San Mateo Daily Journal
- San Ramon Valley Times
- The Daily Californian
- The New York Times
- The Sacramento Bee
- The Wall Street Journal
- The Washington Post
- Tri-Valley Herald
- Valley Times
- West County Times

## Newspapers: Other

- Alameda Journal
- Chloe Veltman
- Asian Week
- Bay Area Reporter
- Berkeley Daily Planet
- Berkeley Voice
- Concord Transcript
- Contra Costa Sun
- Danville Times
- Danville Weekly
- East Bay Business Times
- El Bohemio
- El Latino