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Fee Imposed On Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

BY PEGGY PICO
January 25, 2011

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SAN DIEGO — The [County Board of Supervisors](#) voted unanimously Tuesday to amend an existing ordinance that strictly regulates [medical marijuana](#) dispensaries.

Emotional testimony from nearly two dozen people on each side of the medical marijuana issue ended in a contrite but unanimous board decision to impose a hefty fee on medical marijuana dispensaries throughout the county.

The \$11,017 annual dispensary fee is about the same amount of money other cities like San Francisco impose on their dispensaries.

County supervisor Ron Roberts said his decision upholds state law. But he called the debate misplaced.

“The fundamental problem is we’ve moved what should be a medical issue into a law enforcement issue and I think that is unfortunate,” Roberts said.

The county sheriff’s department says the fee will be used for law enforcement and to do background checks on dispensary owners.

The board also approved a zoning change to a county ordinance. The requirement for dispensaries to be at least 1,000 feet away from schools, parks, and churches will now extend beyond city borders into adjacent cities and unincorporated areas in the county.

Supervisor Diane Jacobs said which ever decision she made, people would be unhappy about it. But she added medical marijuana issues should start with the FDA.

“I suppose if the FDA would approve marijuana as a prescription drug, we wouldn’t be having to make this decision today,” Jacobs said.

Medical marijuana use is not legal under federal law, but California law allows its use for medical reasons.

PEGGY PICO, Science & Technology Reporter
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pot101 | January 26, 2011 at 8:41 a.m. — 5 days, 23 hours ago

Oh yes, the FDA. the ones that approve deadly drugs but won't consider cannabis because of "reefer madness". The FDA is a mess and noone seems to get it. Big pharma is a monster and having it control something that grows from the ground "easily", they can't wrap their heads around it. Jacobs is out of touch. What is the FDA going to do? Try to take a 2000+ year medication and restrict it to their

poisonous brand so they can fill AMA offices with their approved prescriptions? Get a clue Jacobs. The FDA is too dumb to listen to their own positive research on Cannabis which happens to be a great medication to help the taxpayers deal with bureaucratic B.S. Smart Americans will find comfort in the medication helping them cope with absurd and inane government processes. It's time for judges, lawyers and police to lighten up on Cannabis and find American terrorists ready to strike like they did recently in AZ. That is a "real" problem.

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rude | January 26, 2011 at 9:17 a.m. — 5 days, 23 hours ago

the county is simply showing its true vile nature of prejudice and old boy politics. "Corruption through the process"

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malcolmkyle | January 27, 2011 at 6:34 a.m. — 5 days, 1 hour ago

Prohibition is a sickening horror and the ocean of hypocrisy, incompetence, corruption and human wreckage it has left in its wake is almost endless. Prohibition has decimated generations and criminalized millions for a behavior which is entwined in human existence, and for what other purpose than to uphold the defunct and corrupt thinking of a minority of misguided, self-righteous Neo-Puritans and degenerate demagogues who wish nothing but unadulterated destruction on the rest of us. Based on the unalterable proviso that drug use, among all echelons of society, is essentially an unstoppable and ongoing human behavior which has been with us since the dawn of time, any serious reading on the subject of past attempts at any form of drug prohibition would point most normal thinking people in the direction of sensible regulation. By its very nature, prohibition cannot fail but create a vast increase in criminal activity, and rather than preventing society from descending into anarchy, it actually fosters an anarchic business model - the international Drug Trade. Any decisions concerning quality, quantity, distribution and availability are then left in the hands of unregulated, anonymous and ruthless drug dealers, who are interested only in the huge profits involved. Thus the allure of this reliable and lucrative industry, with its enormous income potential that consistently outweighs the risks associated with the illegal operations that such a trade entails, will remain with us until we are collectively forced to admit the obvious. There is therefore an irrefutable connection between drug prohibition and the crime, corruption, disease and death it causes. Anybody 'halfway bright', and who's not psychologically challenged, should be capable of understanding that it is not simply the demand for drugs that creates the mayhem, it is our refusal to allow legal businesses to meet that demand. If you are not capable of understanding this connection then maybe you're using something far stronger than the rest of us. So put away your pipe, lock yourself away in a small room with some tinned soup and water, and try to crawl back into reality A.S.A.P. Because Drug cartels will always have an endless supply of ready cash for wages, bribery and equipment, no amount of tax money, police powers, weaponry, wishful thinking or pseudo-science will make our streets safe again. Only an end to prohibition can do that! How much longer are you willing to foolishly risk your own survival by continuing to ignore the obvious, historically confirmed solution? If you support the Kool-Aid mass suicide cult of prohibition, and erroneously believe that you can win a war without logic and practical solutions, then prepare yourself for even more death, tortured corpses, corruption, terrorism, sickness, imprisonment, economic tribulation, unemployment and the complete loss of the rule of law.

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Missionaccomplished | January 27, 2011 at 10:54 a.m. — 4 days, 21 hours ago

Mr. Kyle, I agree, but you also make generalizations. Many "liberals" fall into this camp as well starting with our own Governor, Knewsomegotsome (who also opposed Prop K while San Fran mayor), Kamala Harris, Senators Boxer and Di Fi, all of whom were staunch opponents of Prop 19. There is much hypocrisy on OUR side that needs to be weeded out.

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