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Thank You! Thanks
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Represent Patients

FEB 7, CHANGES TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA BUSINESS ORDINANCE

PLEASE, THREE MORE CHANGES ARE NECESSARY

To: Ann Arbor City Council
From: Chuck Ream, Feb 6, 2011, 734-395-0811

So much progress has been made, let's finish it up right – please do what the voters would like you to do! The changes proposed by councilmember Briere are good, there are even a couple of her suggestions that I could let go, **BUT THREE CRITICAL AREAS MUST BE CHANGED.** Thank you very much!

1) 6:413 LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

Much of the wording in this section is highly negative, threatening, and pejorative. Only the legal department would produce this negative wording. Ann Arbor voters reject this negative emphasis. The voters of Ann Arbor would like Council to make it very clear (79% voted yes for medical marijuana at the state level) that they are fully on board with SUPPORTING and DEFENDING medical marijuana. This section must make mention of Chapter 16 of our city charter, which specifically protects qualified patients from harassment.

PLEASE ADOPT THIS ALTERNATIVE WORDING FOR THE "LEGISLATIVE INTENT" SECTION (see back page)

2) 6:416(2) LISTING LOTS OF NAMES IN PUBLIC VIEW

More than 15 men have been killed and hundreds of people have been robbed at gunpoint or burglarized because they are involved with providing medical marijuana. Danger is greatly increased when a person's name is put up in public on the wall of a dispensary.

Dispensaries ABSOLUTELY MUST put the name of their main contact person up on the wall (and distribute it to their immediate neighborhood). It would be savagely insensitive to demand that more than one person make themselves a target by putting their name on the wall. (The owner's names will probably be on documents available to the public – but should not be put right up on the wall for every wacko or junkie or robber to see!) This could cause great harm to innocent caregivers and families. There is no reason at all for putting a lot of families at grave risk – when what you need is a CONTACT PERSON who is responsible. Our mortal fear is real and justified, please do not do this! Will you take care of the families whose parent has been gunned down by a junkie because of your unnecessary sign on the wall?

Unprecedented

3) 6:419 DEMANDING A LIST OF ALL CAREGIVERS WHO FURNISH CANNABIS PRODUCTS TO A DISPENSARY, TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE CITY FOR REVIEW.

No

This is **completely unnecessary**, since anyone who brings cannabis products to a dispensary must be a licensed caregiver. The only reason to make such a list would be to have it available to give to the "feds" if they got a court order. (The feds are ALREADY demanding confidential patient information from the State of Michigan!) It puts every caregiver who contributes cannabis products to a dispensary in **great danger**: their family could be destroyed if the list was ever released. This requirement would be **ABSOLUTELY CHILLING** to most caregivers, who would never allow their name to be put on a list where they admit that they are violating federal law. This requirement would drive out the small time "mom and pop" caregivers and growers who have no resources to deal with an arrest. Only the "big boys" who are fully "lawyered up", would dare to provide cannabis products to dispensaries.

Why propound an unnecessary regulation that would drive out the "little guy" and put all cooperating caregivers in danger of being sentenced to a 5 or 10 year federal mandatory minimum sentence (and the loss of their homes, cars, bank accounts, children etc). **ANN ARBOR VOTERS DO NOT WANT CAREGIVERS TO BE PUT IN DANGER FOR NO REASON** (other than bureaucracy). THEY HAVE VOTED HUGELY IN FAVOR OF IMPLEMENTING LEGAL MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISTRIBUTION TO QUALIFIED PATIENTS!

PLEASE CONSIDER CHANGING THESE LAST THREE THINGS! IT IS WHAT ANN ARBOR VOTERS WANT – AND MICHIGAN DESPERATELY NEEDS A MODEL MEDICAL MARIJUANA BUSINESS ORDINANCE AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL. ANN ARBOR PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS THANK YOU SO VERY, VERY MUCH.

Please see next page for the revised text for "Legislative Intent"

6:413. Legislative Intent.

The City intends to license and regulate medical marijuana cultivation facilities and dispensaries to the extent they are permitted under the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act.

The city intends to facilitate the orderly implementation of the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act, in accordance with Chapter 16 of the Ann Arbor city charter. Section 16 of the Ann Arbor city charter protects medical patients who have a doctor's recommendation to use medical marijuana. The city understands that some specific uses of medical marijuana are allowed by the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act, and that marijuana continues to be inaccurately categorized as a Schedule 1 controlled substance under federal law. The City does not intend that licensing and regulation under this chapter be construed as a finding that such businesses are legal under state or federal law. Although some specific uses of medical marijuana are allowed by the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act, marijuana continues to be classified as a Schedule 1 controlled substance under federal law making it unlawful under federal law to use, manufacture, distribute, or dispense marijuana, or to possess it with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense.

-By requiring a license and compliance with requirements as provided in this chapter, the City intends to protect to the extent possible the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of and visitors to the City, including but not limited to medical marijuana patients, from harm that may result from the activities of persons who unilaterally or on the advice of their own attorney determine that they may legally operate a medical marijuana cultivation facility or dispensary

The people of the City of Ann Arbor specifically determine that the provisions herein contained concerning marijuana or cannabis are necessary to serve the local purposes of providing just and equitable legal treatment of the citizens of this community, and in particular of the qualifying medical marijuana patients of this community and the state of Michigan; and to provide for the public peace and safety by preserving the respect of such citizens for the law and law enforcement agencies of the City. *[(Amended by election of November 2, 2004)*
(Section 16.2 added by election of April 2, 1974)]

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