



CREATING RESPONSIBLE,
INCLUSIVE CANNABIS POLICIES

August 15, 2018

The Honorable Members of the Rules Committee
The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Councilman Harris-Dawson's Motion re: Padlocking of Unlicensed Cannabis Retailers
CF 14-0366-S31

Dear Honorable Members of the Rules Committee and Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

The Southern California Coalition stands in strong support of Councilman Harris-Dawson's motion to padlock unlicensed cannabis retailers¹ and urges both the Rules Committee and the Council to expedite passage of this motion.

Our organization suggested this alternative in our white paper "Permanent Closure"² and we are pleased that this suggestion has been brought forward by Councilman Harris-Dawson. We urge that this motion be passed as quickly as possible for the following reasons:

The Council has previously passed a motion mandating that power be shut off at illegal sites³. Unfortunately, unlicensed operators simply purchased generators and resumed operations⁴. Padlocking properties which are operating illegally now appears to be the only alternative if the City wishes to permanently close these sites.

There is increasing evidence that illegal operators are selling contaminated products to patients and consumers⁵. This is a statewide problem. Most recently, contaminated products sold illegally sent seven people to the hospital⁶.

The City Attorney has been actively prosecuting one entity which engaged in this practice.⁷ We are deeply hopeful that the City will begin routinely testing products sold by illicit operators and prioritize the closure of those poisoning the public.

By padlocking unlicensed cannabis retailers, the City instantly stops all sales making it impossible for contaminated products to flow into the marketplace from the padlocked location.

Padlocking a property provides a powerful incentive for the property owner to cooperate with the City Attorney and expedite the eviction process.

For the reasons stated above, we urge both the Rules Committee and the Council to pass this motion as quickly as possible.



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Founded four years ago, the Southern California Coalition is the Southland's largest trade association for cannabis stakeholders. It is unique in that it has meaningful partnerships with organizations like Americans for Safe Access and organized labor. Our board includes participation by veterans, social equity candidates and women. The Southern California Coalition was an early, strong supporter of the Los Angeles Social Equity Program. The organization works closely with legislators at the local, state and federal level to ensure cannabis policies are inclusive and fair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Spiker".

Adam Spiker
Executive Director
The Southern California Coalition

¹ The motion is available for viewing at: http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2014/14-0366-s31_mot_08-14-2019.pdf

² The white paper "Permanent Closure" is attached. The request to move to barricading of illegal properties is at the top of page 6, under the heading "Barricading Businesses in Addition to Turning Off the Power"

³ See: Section 104.15 of Article 4, Chapter X of the Los Angeles Municipal Code which authorizes the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to disconnect utilities at unlawful commercial cannabis establishments.

⁴ See: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/14/illegal-weed-dispensary-raided-by-los-angeles-police.html> "At The 15 Spot, police found a generator hooked up to run power. City officials previously had turned off the electricity. No one from management or the owner was at the business during the raid."

⁵ <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Marijuana-Poison-Pot-Investigation-506356011.html> "In its new investigation, the I-Team found that all contaminated pot samples it purchased came from stores and delivery services that turned out to be operating illegally at the time of sale; they didn't have the required licenses, according to the LAPD and the BCC.

⁶ <https://www.leafly.com/news/health/tainted-vape-carts-sicken-7-california-safety-report-leafly> "In the past 30 days, six people in their 20s and one 60-year-old have been hospitalized for severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (SARDS) at Hanford's intensive care unit. Two patients had to be put on mechanical ventilation to save their lives."

⁷ See: The People of the State of California vs. High Spirits Enterprises LLC et al Case No. 19STCV10603 Link to the initial pleading at: <https://mjbizdaily.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Feurer-lawsuit-Kush-Club.pdf>