

NB-19 Correspondence - Diana Lejins

Poonam Davis

From: diana lejins <dianalejins@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 4:01 PM
To: Larry Herrera
Cc: Diana Lejins; Poonam Davis
Subject: City Council Meeting Feb 10, 2015 Please give copies to the Councilmembers & Mayor

City Council Meeting **Feb 10, 2015** Legistar video 4:39 hr
Medical Marijuana Study Session

Quotes from Mayor Robert Garcia: “I think there is value in having a community task force, I think it’s been mentioned by a few folks, to come together.

We could spend hours and hours discussing about who should be on the task force and the makeup but that’s not agendized tonight.

We’d have to vote on that at some time in the future, I imagine.

If the Council goes in that direction, my suggestion is—to move this forward—every member of the Council, there’s nine—each member appoints one member to a task force or two if you want to make that larger—and just ensure, through working with the manager’s office, that it’s representative of all the groups that were said before.”

(patient advocates, neighborhood associations, collective operators)

“So, I think that everyone on this dais is responsible enough and thoughtful enough that the members that we select are from a diverse constituency that is brought to the table.”

Dear Mayor & Councilmembers

The Council was very clear in its deliberations that this MMj ad hoc committee was to represent ALL facets of the medical marijuana issue within the City's constituency. They need to be stakeholders/residents within the City. It is not supposed to be a group of people solely selected by councilmembers to represent the individual councilmembers' personal points of view. This is no time to facilitate cronyism. The whole purpose of this ad hoc committee was to facilitate the democratic process--the very foundation of our country.

It should have represented views from a patient advocate group such as the LB Medical Marijuana Task Force (whom the ordinance is supposed to be serving), neighborhood associations, collective operators, and the medical profession. Public safety, the city attorney and community development should be present in an advisory capacity but not as part of the committee. Committee members should be citizens from Long Beach who have a vested interest in the outcome and who have a thorough knowledge of the subject and ordinance at hand. Our Task Force has been very involved, working diligently on this issue, and needs to be at the table.

This should not become a political football game when the health and lives of residents are at stake.

Diana Lejins, Chair
LB MMj Task Force
Advocates for Disability Rights

Working to make the World a better place,
diana 😊