



**James Johnson**  
**City of Long Beach**  
**Councilmember, Seventh District**

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**Date:** February 14, 2012  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**From:** Councilmember James Johnson, Seventh District  
**Subject:** Medical Marijuana Reclassification

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California and Long Beach residents have made it clear that they support the use of marijuana for those who are ill and have a medical need for it. The people of California voted to allow medical marijuana, as have voters in many other states. However, under current federal law, marijuana is classified as a "Schedule I" drug, meaning that virtually all use is prohibited, including medicinal use.

Marijuana should be prescribed by physicians and distributed at pharmacies, like all other medicines. This is the common sense solution that so many residents have been urging. However, the federal government, due to marijuana's status as a Schedule I drug, currently prohibits this.

Schedule I drugs are required to be those that have "no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States." Current medical research clearly shows that marijuana does have medicinal value, such as pain relief for those suffering from HIV or cancer. Marijuana's classification directly contrast with the classification of other drugs with more potential for abuse, such as cocaine, opium, and morphine, which all may be prescribed as Schedule II medicines. Therefore, we should amend our federal legislative agenda to formally request that the federal government properly classify marijuana to allow it to be prescribed in the same manner as all other medicines.