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Fw: Letter to the Planning Commission for April 17, 2014 Meeting re MMj Ordinance

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04/16/2014 05:32 PM

Cc: Heidi Eidson, Jeffrey Winklepleck, Michael Mais, Kendra Carney

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----- Forwarded by Amy Bodek/DV/CLB on 04/16/2014 05:32 PM -----

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Date: 04/16/2014 05:08 PM
Subject: Letter to the Planning Commission for April 17, 2014 Meeting re MMj Ordinance

City Employees--Please effectuate delivery of this letter prior to or at this meeting.

Dear Planning Commissioners

I just got wind of the (new) MMj ordinance and have done a preliminary review. I am extremely disappointed that those involved had not gotten more notice about this extremely critical edict. I will not be able to attend the Planning Meeting at 5 pm Thursday as I have prior obligations.

Since this proposed ordinance was put into the pipeline by the City Council around Dec 2013, I have been asking about the ordinance, but was always off-put. One excuse after another. I have also asked numerous times about the "creation of an advisory task force" which was mandated by the Council and received the same run-around. The spirit of this provision was such that several public speakers (including myself) had requested this--specifically asking for patients, advocates for disabilities, dispensary operators, etc to be included. After all, isn't this all supposed to be for the

benefit of people who use medical marijuana for health reasons?

Now, they have just dumped a 41-page legal document on us with little notice nor time for review. Rather interesting that its arrival was just a week after the primary election. Policiticizing people's disabilities, illnesses and suffering is a pretty sad state of affairs.

I am an advocate for people who have disabilities and was a Chair and member of the Long Beach Citizens Advisory Commission on Disabilities. I have some serious and legitimate concerns about this ordinance.

In light of the fact that the City Attorney's Office has not made any effort to comply with the most important "creation of an advisory task force" that would represent those most impacted by this ordinance, that the previous ordinance was an abysmal failure, and that rushing to make decisions on this critical piece of legislation could well end up in another slew of law suits against the City, I am requesting that any final deliberations include more input from the community and be vetted more thoroughly by those who are most involved.

Please remember that one day we will all grow old and may end up with a disease or disability that could be helped by medical cannabis. Maybe it will be a loved one--your spouse, parent or child. Your empathy and compassion in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to call me or write if you have any questions or would like to arrange a discussion of this issue.

Diana Lejins

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Working to make the World a better place,

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