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## **Proposed Issues for Discussion**

1. Historically what have been the legal challenges to similar efforts and what should the group avoid to lessen the chance of yet further litigation.

Review of Litigation History in California Regarding Medical Marijuana. It is important for the group to understand the history of legal challenges in California and more to the point, in Long Beach. The <u>Pack v. Long Beach</u> case should be reviewed. The League of California Cities prepared an "Overview of Recent Developments Affecting Medical Marijuana" in 2012. While the document is somewhat lengthy, it provides a good legal foundation. However, it might need to be updated by the City Attorney's office.

- a. In 2008 the Attorney General wrote that marijuana dispensaries are illegal, only cooperatives are immune from prosecution. Is that still accurate?
- b. Why did the Planning Commission suggest an approach that was disapproved by the Court of Appeal in *Pack* as being preempted by Federal Law. If Long Beach is going to revisit the issue, shouldn't the proposal mimic the immunity approach found in the State provisions which only provide an immunity from prosecution, they do not authorize the sale of marijuana?
- c. Is the City of Long Beach willing to participate in money-laundering to facilitate medical marijuana? Assuming that it will never get prosecuted for this federal offense, does the City care that it is involved in money-laundering by engaging in transactions with an enterprise that is operating in violation of Federal law?
- d. What is the nature and status of the current litigation being handled by the City Attorney's office concerning marijuana sales in Long Beach? Is more litigation likely if the ban is lifted?

e. Should any provision include a delayed implementation to allow for litigation filings and possible injunctive relief before investments are made in dispensaries and the City is forced to tolerate a partial regulation while the litigation is resolved?

## 2. From a policy perspective, why is the City Council reconsidering its ban on dispensaries?

- a. What is the motivation?
- b. Can we discover the amount of money given to each member of Council by the marijuana industry?
- c. What did the *Pack* litigation cost the City?
- d. Is it possible to limit dispensaries to only those districts where the respective City Council member voted in favor of bringing back marijuana dispensaries?
- 3. Availability of Medical Marijuana to residents of Long Beach today.
  - a. Currently there are a variety of home-delivery services providing medical marijuana to residents of Long Beach. Why isn't this sufficient? The screen shot below show the companies on the website weedmap.com that will deliver marijuana to your home in Long Beach today. (See: https://weedmaps.com/dispensaries/in/california/long-beach)



b. What is the location of the nearest medical marijuana dispensary to Long Beach today? Why isn't that sufficient?

## 3. Witnesses we would like to hear from?

- a. Sheriff & Former Long Beach Police Chief, Jim McDonnell.
- b. Chief Robert Luna.
- c. Someone to speak to the cost to the City, including the recommendation that has been made by staff that "even if additional resources were found, there would need to be a minimum of a one-year preparation period as staff would need to be hired through Civil Service."
- d. Someone to speak to medical need and respective quantities that are reasonable for the respective ailments proven to be ameliorated by smokable marijuana v. the THC pills that are available for the pharmacy?
  - i. Should it be limited to people with ailments certified by a doctor other than the doctor at the marijuana dispensary? See:

http://thoughtcatalog.com/dennis-chen/2014/04/i-knew-it-was-easy-to-get-a-medical-marijuana-card-in-la-but-i-didnt-know-it-was-this-easy/