

diana lejins

to:

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Medical cannabis is a medicine, just like any other prescription, and should be treated as such.

Some Long Beach residents and Council Members have the tragic disease of "Reefer Madness." It is characterized by unfounded fears, closed minds and a propensity to unnecessarily control the lives of others. Unfortunately, this condition only serves to punish those who are innocent and vulnerable—the legitimate medical marijuana patient.

Let me offer you a possible scenario:

Suppose four or five cancer or AIDs or multiple sclerosis patients get together and decide to collectively grow medicine. Since these people may be quite ill, we'll include a few caregivers to make seven or eight. Only one or two may have a yard available to grow their crop. The infirmed might be on social security or otherwise limited income. Where in the far reaches of your minds do you think they will be able to come up with the fees and requirements you have proposed?

Creating exorbitant fees for small collectives, say 4-20 people, only serves to punish those who really need this medicine and are unable to grow for themselves. These patients will be forced to either line the pockets of the large collectives who can well afford the "fees" or be forced to obtain their medicine on the streets. This, in turn, only enables the gangs to proliferate.

A few on the Council have spoken of the concern for "drug cartels." Who do they think will be able to afford these excessive permit fees? For them, it is just a "business" expense to be passed on to the consumer.

This Council seems to keep forgetting why Prop 215—the Compassionate Use Act—was created in the first place. The compassion part seems to have gotten lost in this City.

I would like to suggest, for the sake of our legitimate patients and disabled citizens, that the fees be waived for collectives and cooperatives with ten or less people.

Your sincere consideration is appreciated,

Diana Lejins

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Working to make the World a better place,

diana x