

**LONG BEACH BRANCH NAACP**

P. O. Box 1594  
Long Beach, California 90801

November 10, 2009

Mayor Bob Foster,  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, California 90801

Attention: City Manager, Pat West  
All City Council Members  
City Prosecutor, Thomas Reeves  
City Attorney, Robert Shannon

Subject: MEDICAL MARIJUANA CLINICS

There is a major debate throughout the country about the moral and medical efficacy of the use of marijuana for medical purposes. There are numerous studies on the subject and it does appear that people who suffer from certain diseases do benefit from smoking marijuana to relieve the some of their symptoms. However, the legalization of marijuana, even for medical purposes is something which must be closely studied before any action is taken.

Some of the issues which must be addressed are:

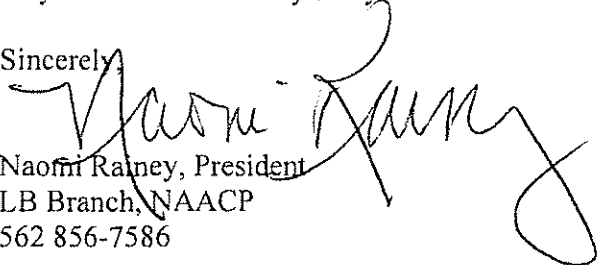
1. Would allowing the medical use of marijuana send the wrong message to our children and our society?
2. Should more studies on marijuana be done to determine its medical efficacy?
3. Is the US Food and Drug Administration [FDA] approval process subverted by passing bills and state initiatives that legalize medical marijuana?
4. Have medical marijuana laws contributed to greater general marijuana use by adults?
5. Were the voters who passed state medical marijuana initiatives misled?

Finally, we should look to the experience of other nearby cities who have allowed the establishment of these clinics. Are they truly for medical purposes or just a subterfuge to allow anyone who wants to buy the drug to do so? A friend told me that they went to Venice a couple of weeks ago to walk along the boardwalk and people watch. During their half hour walk, they were approached four times and offered an appointment to see some new age doctor to get a prescription for marijuana, all you had to say was that you had a headache. Is this the type of

thing we want to happen in our community? We have spent years cleaning up the ugly parts of the city, will allowing marijuana clinics advance that effort or put us back into the dark ages?

The Long Beach Branch as always studies both sides of the issue. We are urging the Mayor and City Council to carefully study this issue before making a hasty decision.

Sincerely,

  
Naomi Rainey, President  
LB Branch, NAACP  
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