

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS and PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES REPORT relative to improving enforcement mechanisms of unauthorized cannabis shops.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Lee – Hutt):

1. REQUEST the City Attorney to:
 - a. Assess and report on recommendations to improve the enforcement mechanisms of unauthorized cannabis shops with the goal of preventing them from resuming operations after having been closed down.
 - b. Report on how the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program was previously utilized to enforce illegal cannabis businesses, if at all, and recommendations on how the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program can work on illegal cannabis business enforcement in the future.
2. REQUEST the City Attorney, with assistance from the Bureau of Street Services and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), to report with the steps necessary to, and funding required for, a formal delegation of enforcement authority under applicable cannabis regulatory codes and an amendment to the Los Angeles Municipal Code expanding enforcement jurisdiction for Street Services Investigators to enforce illegal cannabis operations.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:
Empowerment Congress West
Studio City Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On May 20, 2025, the Government Operations (GO) Committee considered a Motion (Lee – Hutt) relative to improving enforcement mechanisms of unauthorized cannabis shops. According to the Motion, as of early 2024, the City's regulatory framework requires cannabis businesses to obtain permits and a Department of Cannabis Enforcement (DCR) license before engaging in cannabis sales. The current enforcement of commercial cannabis stores is ineffective, as illegally operating cannabis shops that are dosed by local law enforcement often resurface elsewhere in the City, making it difficult for authorities to track and regulate these illegal operations effectively. Cannabis enforcement in the City is a reactive operation, as the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the DCR can only address unlicensed cannabis business if they receive a complaint directly. The LAPD does not have the staffing or funding capacity to be

proactive in the effort to enforce regulatory compliance for individual cannabis businesses. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion, as amended.

Subsequently, on June 4, 2025, the Public Safety Committee also considered the Motion. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to concur with the GO Committee's action. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Government Operations Committee

COUNCILMEMBER VOTE

PADILLA: YES
LEE: YES
JURADO: YES

Public Safety Committee

COUNCILMEMBER VOTE

LEE: YES
PRICE: YES
McOSKER: YES
SOTO-MARTINEZ: ABSENT
PARK: YES

ARL
5/20/25

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