

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sarah Armstrong  
**Date Submitted:** 02/11/2025 11:30 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1125-S1  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see attached support letter

To: The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council  
From: Sarah Armstrong, JD - California Legislative Coordinator - Americans for Safe Access (ASA)  
Re: **SUPPORT** - Wednesday, February 12, 2025, Agenda Item No. 3 CF No. 20-1125-S1 – Relating to a Report Back That Would Allow the City’s Oldest Cannabis Dispensaries to Continue Operation.  
Date: February 9, 2025

Americans for Safe Access (ASA) respectfully submits the comments below, and hopes that the Honorable Members of the Council, will take into consideration the needs of medical cannabis patients as it considers Agenda Item No. 3 on its February 12, 2025, Agenda.

The motion proposed is whether to direct the appropriate departments to report back on the feasibility of allowing the City’s oldest cannabis dispensaries to continue operations, permanently exempt from certain requirements, due to the fact those requirements were established long after the businesses had been operational for a considerable period of time.

Nearly two decades ago, in 2007, the City of Los Angeles (the City) began allowing the operation of medical cannabis dispensaries under the concept of Limited Immunity. These pioneering businesses were subject to rules and regulations, including sensitive use ratios and the payment of taxes.

They were proud to be the first cannabis business operators to legally operate in the City and took their responsibilities very seriously. They have proven over nearly two decades of operation that they ran clean, quiet, compliant establishments.

These pioneering establishments served medical cannabis patients exclusively until a voter initiative legalized cannabis for adult use in 2016, which means all of these shops have nearly a decade of experience exclusively serving the sick and dying who sought medicinal cannabis for therapeutic relief. Moreover, they have retained their medical use State and local licenses to this day.

Shutting these historic locations down because the City changed its laws long after these businesses had been established and already had a long history of compliant operation would be a huge blow to medical cannabis patients who often cannot travel out of their neighborhoods to acquire their medicine and depend on the commitment to their patients that these shops have long exhibited.

Given the long history of honorable, trouble free operation and the fact that the City has numerous ways to shut down any licensed cannabis operations as well as keep them closed if they misbehave, there is little risk in permanently allowing these facilities to operate.



For the reasons stated above, Americans for Safe Access (ASA) hopes that the honorable members of the Council will pass the motion allowing a report back on this issue when the matter comes before them.

Founded in 2002, Americans for Safe Access (ASA) advocates for a national regulatory framework that invests in the development of standardized cannabis-based products, ensures a safe and consistent supply, fosters the integration of cannabis into patient treatment plans as a frontline medication, and encourages insurance coverage, as well as an end to employment, housing, parental and healthcare discrimination. You can read more about our organization at:

<http://www.safeaccessnow.org>. Should there be any questions or concerns, I can be reached at: [canwonk@gmail.com](mailto:canwonk@gmail.com) or (805) 279-8229.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah", written over a horizontal line.

Sarah Armstrong JD  
California Legislative Coordinator  
Americans for Safe Access (ASA)

Cc: Michelle Garakian  
Jason Killen