

Communication from Public

Name: Adriana Gomez
Date Submitted: 03/25/2025 03:06 PM
Council File No: 21-1087

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable Councilmembers, I am writing as a concerned resident of the City of Los Angeles to express my deep frustration with the City's continued lack of action on illegal cannabis grow operations—despite the clear directives laid out in Council File 21-1087, introduced in 2021.

1. Lost Revenue Due to Lack of Enforcement Every day that illegal cannabis operations are allowed to continue, the City forfeits critical tax revenue that could fund public services, infrastructure, and community development. These unlicensed operations undermine legitimate businesses and erode public trust in the City's ability to manage its own regulated industries.
2. No Clear Enforcement Plan Since 2021 It is alarming that, nearly four years after Council File 21-1087 was introduced, there remains no clear, citywide enforcement plan. This reflects a deeper issue—a lack of organization, communication, and accountability among department heads. The continued disjointed response allows illegal actors to thrive while lawful operators and residents bear the cost.
3. Lack of Leadership in the Department of Cannabis Regulation Since the creation of the Department of Cannabis Regulation, there has been a notable lack of clear leadership and strategic focus—especially in terms of maximizing the potential revenue from legal cannabis businesses. Without business-minded leaders who understand how to support compliance and create a competitive legal market, the City is failing to fully capitalize on a major economic opportunity. This shortfall in leadership is not isolated to one department—it is a citywide issue that must be addressed.
4. The Need for a Dedicated Task Force The City has already proven the success of specialized units through efforts like the Retail Theft Task Force and Auto Theft Task Force. It is time to apply that same model to illegal cannabis enforcement. A multi-agency task force, empowered to target and shut down unlicensed grow houses, is urgently needed. The infrastructure and precedent are there—the political will must follow. In closing, the lack of enforcement, leadership, and coordination has not only enabled illegal activity—it has also cost the City of Los Angeles millions in lost revenue and missed opportunities. I strongly urge the Council to act now, form a dedicated task force, and bring effective leadership to this issue. Thank you for your time and service.