



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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August 24, 2010

The Honorable Todd Gloria
Chair, Land Use & Housing Committee
San Diego City Council
202 C Street, 10th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Councilmember Gloria,

The University of San Diego wholeheartedly supports the recommendation made by the Linda Vista Planning Group to include colleges and universities in the 1000 foot exclusion area for the zoning of medical marijuana dispensaries within the city of San Diego. These enterprises, like liquor stores, bars, night clubs and adult-only businesses are not conducive to the educational mission of higher education and represent an incompatible use in proximity to the other commercial support services generally sought by students.

Throughout the year, thousands of families visit the USD campus and enjoy sporting events, theatre, religious services, distinguished speakers, arts and culture. Prospective students, including current high school-aged students, visit and tour our campus on a daily basis. In addition, USD hosts scores of camps during the summer for teenage athletes, musicians, cheerleaders, international groups, debate teams, and other youth programs.

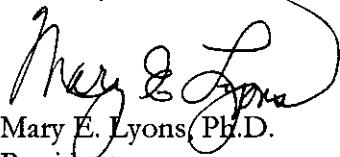
Marijuana will remain a prohibited drug on the USD campus in accordance with university policy to provide a safe, healthy and productive educational and work environment for its students and employees. This policy is enacted in compliance with the federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and the federal Drug-Free Workplace Act. All university employees and students are required to adhere to this policy.

The issue of zoning these regulated dispensaries does not engage the debate over “medical marijuana.” However, this business is incompatible with the university and neighboring services such as restaurants, laundry, food markets, and public transportation that are commonly patronized by students.

Finally, there have been several robberies at local medical marijuana dispensaries and authorities have also linked two murders to dispensaries in Los Angeles. These recent incidents should raise new concerns as to where the medical marijuana dispensaries are located.

Thank you for considering the concerns and position of the University of San Diego.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary E. Lyons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Mary E. Lyons, Ph.D.
President

cc: Members of the City Council
Mayor Jerry Sanders