



San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

NEWS RELEASE

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Two Marijuana Dispensaries Ordered Closed

City Attorney's Office takes enforcement action against El Cajon Boulevard shops

San Diego, CA: The City Attorney's Office today obtained court orders to close two more marijuana dispensaries operating in violation of San Diego zoning regulations. The unpermitted dispensaries are four miles apart on El Cajon Boulevard, one in North Park and the other in the College Area.

Superior Court Judge Ronald S. Prager gave the operators 24 hours to shut down the dispensaries.

In the past four years, more than 200 unpermitted marijuana dispensaries have been shut down through enforcement action by the City Attorney's Office.

The majority of those closures have occurred since September 2011, when the City Attorney's Office began aggressively filing civil lawsuits against property owners and dispensary operators who violate City zoning regulations.

Once it obtains court orders to close the dispensaries, the City Attorney's Office frequently returns to court to seek civil penalties against the operators and property owners.

The two dispensaries ordered closed today were:

- **Green Urban Association**, 3140 El Cajon Boulevard in North Park. Defendants were the property owner, El Cajon Estates, LLC; Mark Peregman and Seymour L. Weksler, officers and principals of El Cajon Estates LLC; Green Urban Association; Chi Huynh, the chief executive officer of Green Urban Association; and Donna B. Duong, who is identified in the property lease as the tenant.
- **The Bakery Collective**, 6559 El Cajon Boulevard in College Area. Defendant was the operator, Long Truong, also known as Calvin Truong. Last week, the City settled with the property owners, Stephanie K. Leiter, Fabio Pasquesi and the 2202-2204 Bristol Street Corp. They are permanently enjoined from maintaining any unpermitted use, including a dispensary anywhere in the City, and paid \$600 in investigative costs and \$3,000 in civil penalties with an additional \$22,000 in penalties suspended.

Both dispensaries are in zones where medical marijuana cooperatives are not permitted by City ordinance.

Green Urban Association is operating directly across the street from Father Joe's Villages Boulevard Apartments, a 24-unit family-housing facility with nine units set aside for people with permanent disabilities, including chronic substance abuse. It is a short walk from the Children's Creative and Performing Arts School.

The property owners of 3140 El Cajon Blvd., where Green Urban Association is operating, are already under a permanent injunction not to maintain a dispensary at this location or anywhere in the City pursuant to a civil complaint filed by the City in 2011. Operating a marijuana dispensary within 600 feet of a school is a separate violation of the California Health and Safety Code.

The Bakery Collective is near Montezuma Park on Catocin Drive.

“As these cases demonstrate, our aggressive enforcement of City zoning regulations is necessary to protect neighborhood standards and safety,” City Attorney Jan Goldsmith said. **“Marijuana dispensaries, like any other business, must obtain proper permits and conform to zoning regulations. There is now a process for legally zoned dispensaries and that process should be followed.”**

The City's complaint alleges that Green Urban Association and Chi Huynh have done business at the North Park location at least since August 2013, operating both collectively and independently as MD Operators. The dispensary is located behind SD Smoke Shop and has no exterior signage.

“We believe there are other dispensaries operating illegally in San Diego beyond those that have been referred to us for prosecution,” Goldsmith said. **“When cases on those other dispensaries are investigated and brought to us by the San Diego Police Department or Code Enforcement Division, we will close them down and obtain monetary sanctions.”**

Complaints regarding marijuana dispensaries may be referred to the Code Enforcement Division of the City at (619) 236-5500.

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