

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 11, 2007
To: Chief Scott C. Kirkland
From: Cmdr. M. Regan
Subject: Quarterly Report for March / June 2007

While we as a group have discussed the general disbelief that some in the public hold regarding the potential harm of Marijuana, the listed studies clearly indicate that the potency of available marijuana continues to rise. These studies also identify possible links between Marijuana use and dependency as well as mental illness.

Youth Marijuana Users Face More Problems than Drinkers

April 29th, 2007

A 10-year study finds that youths who were heavy marijuana users in their teens were more likely than drinkers to have a host of problems later in life, including mental illness, relationship problems, and trouble getting a job. The Independent reported April 22 that researchers followed 1,900 youths from age 15 to 25 and found that heavy marijuana users were three to six times more likely to use other drugs than those who drank alcohol, and three times more likely to be unemployed or drop out of school. "Cannabis really does look like the drug of choice for life's future losers," said lead researcher George Patton of the Melbourne University Center for Adolescent Health. The study was published in the April 2007 issue of the journal *Addiction*.

Reference: Patton, G.C., et al. (2007) Trajectories of adolescent alcohol and cannabis use into young adulthood. *Addiction*, 102(4): 607-615; doi: 10.1111/j.1360-0443.2006.01728.x

Source: <http://thedrugguy.com/?p=54>

Doctors: Marijuana Triggers Psychosis

Study Used Brain Scans For First Time To Show Link Between Pot And Paranoia

(AP) New findings on marijuana's damaging effect on the brain show the drug triggers temporary psychotic symptoms in some people, including hallucinations and paranoid delusions, doctors say. British doctors took brain scans of 15 healthy volunteers given small doses of two of the active ingredients of cannabis, as well as a placebo. One compound, cannabidiol, or CBD, made people more relaxed. But even small doses of another component, tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, produced temporary psychotic symptoms in people, including hallucinations and paranoid delusions, doctors said.

The results, to be presented at an international mental health conference in London on Tuesday and Wednesday, provides physical evidence of the drug's damaging influence on the human brain. "We've long suspected that cannabis is linked to psychoses, but we have never before had scans to show how the mechanism works," said Dr. Philip McGuire, a professor of psychiatry at King's College, London.

In analyzing MRI scans of the study's subjects, McGuire and his colleagues found that THC interfered with activity in the inferior frontal cortex, a region of the brain associated with paranoia. "THC is switching off that regulator," McGuire said, effectively unleashing the paranoia usually kept under control by the frontal cortex. In another study being presented at the conference, a two-day gathering of mental health experts discussing the connections between cannabis and mental health, scientists found that marijuana worsens psychotic symptoms of schizophrenics. Doctors at Yale University in the U.S. tested the impact of THC on 150 healthy volunteers and 13 people with stable schizophrenia. Nearly half of the healthy subjects experienced psychotic symptoms when given the drug. While the doctors expected to see marijuana improve the conditions of their schizophrenic subjects — since their patients reported that the drug calmed them — they found that the reverse was true. "I was surprised by the results," said Dr. Deepak Cyril D'Souza, an associate professor of psychiatry at Yale University's School of Medicine. "In practice, we found that cannabis is very bad for people with schizophrenia," he said.

While D'Souza had intended to study marijuana's impact on schizophrenics in more patients, the study was stopped prematurely because the impact was so pronounced that it would have been unethical to test it on more people with schizophrenia. "One of the great puzzles is why people with schizophrenia keep taking the stuff when it makes the paranoia worse," said Dr. Robin Murray, a professor of psychiatry at King's College. Experts theorized that schizophrenics may mistakenly judge the drug's pleasurable effects to outweigh any negatives. Understanding how marijuana affects the brain may ultimately lead experts to a better understanding of mental health in general. "We don't know the basis of paranoia or anxiety," said McGuire. "It is possible that we could use cannabis in controlled studies to understand psychoses better," he said. McGuire theorized that could one day lead to specific drugs targeting the responsible regions of the brain.

Source:

http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/05/01/health/main2746434.shtml?source=RSSattr=HOME_2746434

**Study Finds Highest Levels of THC in U.S. Marijuana To Date
20 Year Analysis of Marijuana Seizures Reveals a Doubling in Pot Potency Since
Mid-80's; New Strains of Marijuana May Be Behind Increase in Teen Marijuana
Treatment Admissions and Rise in Emergency Room Episodes Related to
Marijuana**

White House Drug Czar Warns: "This isn't your father's marijuana."
(Washington, D.C.)—Today, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) released the latest analysis from the University of Mississippi's Potency Monitoring Project which revealed that levels of THC—the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana—have reached the highest-ever levels since scientific analysis of the drug began in the late 1970's. According to the latest data on marijuana samples analyzed to date, the average amount of THC in seized samples has reached 8.5 percent. This compares to an average of just under 4 percent reported in 1983 and represents more than a doubling in the potency of the drug since that time. As of March 15, 2007, the University of Mississippi has analyzed and compiled data on 59,369 cannabis samples, 1,225 hashish samples, and 443 hash oil samples confiscated by law enforcement agencies since 1975. In its most recent quarterly Report, the highest concentration of THC found in a marijuana sample during this period was 32.3 percent. Two-thirds of the cannabis samples seized in 2006 were from law enforcement seizures and purchases, and the remaining were from domestic eradications. The law enforcement seizures were obtained from 45 different states. The Potency Monitoring Project is funded through by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and has conducted an ongoing analysis of seized marijuana samples since 1976.

John Walters, Director of National Drug Control Policy and President Bush's "Drug Czar" expressed serious concerns regarding this trend, "This new report serves as a wake-up call for parents who may still hold outdated notions about the harms of marijuana. Evidence now tells us that the higher-than-ever potency of today's marijuana translates into serious health consequences for teens. Among teens who are receiving treatment for drug abuse or dependence, more than 60% report marijuana as their primary drug of abuse. Additionally, we are now seeing more mentions of marijuana during visits to emergency rooms than ever before. A growing body of research now tells us that marijuana poses a serious threat to the health and futures of young people. Parents need to start having critical conversations with their children about this drug." Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of NIDA stated, "Although the overall number of young people using marijuana has declined in recent years, there is still reason for great concern, particularly since roughly 60 percent of first-time marijuana users are under 18 years old. During adolescence and into young adulthood, the brain continues to develop and may be vulnerable to marijuana's deleterious effects. Science has shown that marijuana can produce adverse physical, mental, emotional, and behavioral changes, and—contrary to popular belief—it can be addictive."

Higher potency marijuana may be contributing to a substantial increase in the number of American teenagers seeking treatment for marijuana dependence. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), of the 15.1 million current (past-month) users, 4.1 million Americans (1.7 percent) report dependency or abuse of marijuana. Additionally, the latest information from the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS, 2005), reports that 20.1% of drug treatment admissions were for marijuana as the primary drug of abuse. This compares to 6% in 1992.

The increasing strength of marijuana may also be linked to increasing mentions of marijuana in hospital emergency rooms. The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), a national surveillance system that monitors trends in drug-related emergency department visits and deaths, and is operated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), has found that DAWN emergency room mentions of marijuana have increased nationally from 45,000 in 1995 to 119,000 in 2002 (Data since 2002 cannot be compared with earlier years).

Source: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/news/press07/042507_2.html

This Is Your Brain on Drugs: The Marijuana-Psychosis Connection Revisited

In this German population-based study, cannabis use clearly increased the risk for any psychotic symptom. Some studies have suggested cannabis use as a risk factor for psychosis, but these studies failed to control for predisposition to psychosis and other confounders. In a German population-based study, researchers used personal interviews at baseline and 4 years later to examine the effects of marijuana use in 2437 young subjects (age range, 14-24). Prevalence of lifetime cannabis use (at least 5 times) was 13% at baseline and 15% at follow-up. Lifetime incidence of one psychotic symptom (based on the Composite International Diagnostic Interview) at follow-up was 17% and incidence of at least two symptoms was 7%. Researchers adjusted results for self-reported psychoticism and paranoia scores at baseline ("psychotic predisposition"), demographics, head-trauma history, and use of other drugs and alcohol.

In a logistic-regression analysis, cannabis use significantly increased risk for any psychotic symptom, with a clear dose-response effect. Psychotic predisposition significantly increased this risk, which was greater in subjects with at least two psychosis symptoms than in those with one symptom. The population-attributable risk (proportion of cases that could be avoided by eliminating the risk factor) was 6% overall and 14% for participants with psychotic predisposition.

Comment: Cannabis use clearly increased the risk for any psychotic symptom; having more symptoms, psychotic predisposition, or more frequent cannabis use strengthened this association. These findings are consistent with cannabis effects on increasing dopamine release in the frontal lobe, with the increase in cannabinoid receptors in schizophrenic brains, and with increased levels of endogenous cannabinoids in the spinal fluid of schizophrenic individuals. Given the minimal level of psychotic symptoms examined in this study, its findings may pertain more to schizophrenic-spectrum and atypical-psychotic conditions than to more narrowly defined schizophrenia.

Source: Henquet C et al. Prospective cohort study of cannabis use, predisposition for psychosis, and psychotic symptoms in young people. *BMJ* 2005 Jan 1; 330:11.

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7481/11>

[Original article](#)[Medline abstract](#)

In a report recently published by the Department of Justice, the assertion is made that “Indoor cannabis cultivation by Asian Criminal groups appears to be increasing in some areas of the United States”. The report identifies five states that have experienced this increase. Three of the five states (California, Oregon and Washington) have medical marijuana systems and the other two (Connecticut and New Hampshire) border states with medical marijuana systems. While certainly not the sole market for the higher potency marijuana, one cannot dismiss the demand created by hundreds of the known dispensaries for this high grade marijuana. As there is no control or even a means documenting where the dispensaries obtain their marijuana, it is impossible to confirm that the increase in organized crime activity associated with marijuana is related to dispensaries, however I believe it may not be discounted either.

USDOJ National Drug Intelligence Center 4th Quarter 06 Report published May 07

“Indoor cannabis cultivation by Asian Criminal groups appears to be increasing in some areas of the United States.”

Highly organized Asian criminal groups, the most significant growers of high-potency cannabis at indoor grow sites are greatly increasing their presence in the United States; they are generally are relocating their operations from Canada and running complex criminal enterprises in at least five states (California, Oregon, Washington, Connecticut and New Hampshire).

The report states that this relocation is occurring due to at least in part;

- The High potency marijuana can be produced closer to the U.S. Retail markets, thus increasing profit margins through decreased transportation expenses.
- The marijuana does not have to be smuggled across the U.S. / Canada border, lessening the risk of seizure.
- Command and Control elements of the Asian criminal organizations can remain in Canada, preserving their distance from U.S. law enforcement while expanding their market.

Indoor Grows Continue:

While this type of research does not clarify whether indoor grows are increasing in volume or if Law Enforcement is just becoming more aware of their presence, the undeniable fact is this phenomenon presents a substantial problem. If we follow the Canadian model, the indoor grow issue will only continue to worsen. The attached newspaper article excerpts describe several significant seizures.

4 arrested after raids on SoCal homes used as marijuana farms

The Associated Press

Article Launched: 04/20/2007 10:11:21 AM PDT

DIAMOND BAR, Calif.- Four men were arrested after raids at Diamond Bar and Phelan homes being used as marijuana farms.....Detectives said the 1,533 pot plants were worth up to \$6,000 each.....They were dismantling the growing operation inside a Diamond Bar home when they were arrested Wednesday night, said Lt. James Whitten of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. "We caught them just in the nick of time," the lieutenant said.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_5713997?nclick_check=1

Marijuana plants seized in Rio Dell

5/4/2007

Law enforcement officials said search warrants served Thursday at two Rio Dell residences reportedly owned by the same person yielded 1,186 marijuana plants, 37 pounds of dried marijuana, six rifles, three shotguns, one pistol and \$2,000 in cash. According to a news release issued by the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office....The residence had been converted into a commercial indoor marijuana growing operation," the release stated. At that address, task force agents said they seized 840 marijuana plants ranging in height from 4 inches to 3 feet. The second search warrant was served....where officers said they seized 346 marijuana plants ranging from 1 inch to 4 feet. Dried marijuana, firearms and cash were found at this residence, according to the release.

Source: <http://www.eurekareporter.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?ArticleID=23665>

Marijuana farms find home in suburbs

Growers invest in expensive houses to conceal their operations

By Tony Barboza and David Pierson / LOS ANGELES TIMES

Article Launched: 04/04/2007 03:06:58 AM PDT

DIAMOND BAR -- Mayor Steve Tye never noticed anything unusual about the upscale three-bedroom suburban home a block from his house. That is, until March 28, when Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies burst in and found the entire house had been converted into a massive indoor marijuana farm, complete with flood-table irrigation system and overhead lights on timers that were hooked up illegally to bypass meter readings. It's the second time in just more than a week a suburban house turned pot farm has been discovered in Diamond Bar....Two more marijuana-cultivating homes were found in a neighboring suburb this month. Detectives are investigating whether the houses might be tied to a similar suburban pot ring busted last year in Northern California and allegedly run by a Chinese gang. In Diamond Bar alone, authorities have hauled away what authorities estimate to be more than \$22 million in marijuana....Authorities in neighboring upscale Chino Hills have found about \$6 million in marijuana plants in recent weeks, including one house discovered March 28....

Two weeks ago, police seized 1,300 plants from a six-bedroom house in Chino Hills, said Jodi Miller, spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Officials are not sure whether the cases are connected, but there some striking similarities....."Every room had marijuana growing in it except the bathroom and kitchen," he said. Last year, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and local police discovered similar elaborate marijuana farmers hidden inside nearly 40 suburbs homes across Northern California. As in the Southern California cases, the suspects allegedly purchased the homes for \$500,000 or more and meticulously converted them into cultivation centers. They knocked down walls, created irrigation systems and even hired gardeners to cut the lawns and take out the trash to avoid raising suspicion, authorities said. DEA officials say the Northern California marijuana ring was operated by a Chinese-American crime operation based in San Francisco's Chinatown.
Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/search/ci_5590528

Seven suspects arrested for huge marijuana growing operation

RIVERSIDE (CNS) - Seven people were arrested for growing some 14,000 marijuana plants in several Inland Empire houses that were converted into pot hothouses, officials announced today.....Authorities seized the plants, with an estimated street value between \$60 to \$80 million, yesterday morning in several homes throughout San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, said Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy Juan Zamora.....*The suspects stole an estimated \$30,000 worth of electricity at each house over several months*, and installed in every structure was an elaborate drip irrigation and water recycling system, Zamora said.

Source: <http://www.kesq.com/Global/story.asp?S=6540908&nav=9qrx>

Marijuana raid ring expanding

Details kept secret to avoid possible tip-off

By Will Bigham, Staff Writer / Article Launched: 05/21/2007 11:25:16 PM PDT
Riverside County sheriff's officials continued Monday to withhold key information about Friday's region wide bust of at least 10 indoor marijuana farms, citing the California Public Records Act. The names of seven people now in custody, as well as the location of many of the busts, have not been released by the department, which cites harm that would be done to its ongoing investigation by such a disclosure. Tom Freeman, chief of the department's Media Information Division, said the safety of officers and confidential informants would be compromised by the disclosure of the information. In Friday's busts, officers seized more than 14,000 plants with an estimated value of \$60 million to \$80 million.....Freeman said that Friday's busts were a component of an investigation into what he indicated was a far larger marijuana-growing crime ring....Since March, police officials throughout Southern California have conducted a series of indoor pot-farm busts, many of which were established in homes in upscale suburban neighborhoods.... *Investigators say marijuana farmers are moving their operations indoors to avoid police detection, and to create a controlled environment more conducive to growing potent strains of the plant more difficult to cultivate outdoors.*

A growing trend

March 7: A large rental truck is found abandoned on the on-ramp of the 10 Freeway at Milliken Avenue with more than 3 tons of marijuana inside. Authorities say the pot had a street value of about \$20 million.

March 14: Meth, pot and drug equipment are found in a Chino Hills house.

March 21: More than 2,000 marijuana plants are recovered in a Diamond Bar house.

March 28: Almost 1,900 marijuana plants, valued at \$12 million, are found in Chino Hills and Diamond Bar houses.

March 31: About 150 pounds of pot are seized from a house in the 1600 block of El Camino Street in Pomona.

April 4: 1,800 plants are recovered from two Rowland Heights houses. The plants seized are worth about \$10.8 million.

April 11: More than 1,500 plants are found in another Rowland Heights house. The plants are worth more than \$9 million.

April 16: Los Angeles County sheriff's narcotics investigators raid a Diamond Bar home and find more than 900 plants valued at nearly \$6 million.

April 18: San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies raid two homes in Phelan and seize 400 marijuana plants. The same day, two men are arrested as they dismantle a marijuana farm inside an upscale Diamond Bar home. A great deal of equipment is recovered, as well as more than 1,500 cut stalks from marijuana plants.

May 4: In Norco, authorities find 1,447 marijuana plants at a home in the 400 block of Mount Shasta Drive. The pot's value is estimated at more than \$8.5 million.

May 5: A house fire in Chino led to the discovery of a million-dollar marijuana grow house in the 4500 block of Carmen Street. Hundreds of plants were found inside.

May 7: A marijuana bust in Norco of about 1,700 pounds of packaged marijuana worth \$850,000 was seized from a home in the 3000 block of Corona Avenue.

May 15: In Rancho Cucamonga, a marijuana bust resulted in more than 630 pot plants worth about \$2.2 million being taken from a residence at the 13000 block of Claret Court.

May 18: An Eastvale marijuana bust resulted in hundreds of plants seized worth more than \$1 million in the 14100 block of Sugarcreek Circle, one of 10 houses raided in Southern California.

Source: http://www.dailybulletin.com/news/ci_5953080

Marijuana McMansions

Cops say organized crime is sending families into the suburbs to grow marijuana

By JIM AVILA and the ABC NEWS LAW & JUSTICE UNIT

June 14, 2007

That new family that just moved in down the street? With the kids' bikes in the driveway and the basketball hoop? Police say with what they've seen lately, that "family" could be raising pot plants instead of children. Law enforcement agencies around the country tell ABC News' Law & Justice Unit that they've uncovered the latest scam in the American war on drugs -- high priced McMansions in leafy, high-end suburbs housing multimillion dollar hydroponics marijuana-growing operations. Cops call them grow houses.

A Spike in Marijuana Addiction?

Potent, bright green buds of hydroponics marijuana have become more lucrative per pound than cocaine in some areas, law enforcement officials say, and homegrown operations are popping up all over the nation -- in California, Florida, Connecticut and New Hampshire, even Cleveland, Ohio. It's a crime trend that's troubling the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which released a report last month saying that marijuana potency has nearly doubled since 1983 -- leading to what the ONDCP calls a spike in marijuana addiction....Earlier this month, Lieutenant Greg Garland and members of the three-year old San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's marijuana task force raided a home in Rancho Cucamonga, California. Garland said the bust was one of their biggest and provides a telling window into the remarkable sophistication and planning that can go into an investment in a marijuana McMansion. Experts say that tighter security along our southern borders is forcing a shift in a marijuana smuggling. Unlike coca leaves, which require the equatorial climates of South American to grow well, marijuana can be harvested in the basements of upper-middle class America. At the Rancho Cucamonga home, authorities said they found 634 plants in various stages of growth growing inside the house. Since each plant normally yields about a pound of pot, which at this level of potency has a wholesale value of \$3,500 and a street value double that, according to government figures, there was enough weed in the home to reap more than \$4 million. The home sold for \$695,000, with a \$556,000 mortgage. Operational costs were estimated at approximately \$50,000, Lt. Garland told ABC News. The house was using enough electricity to power the whole block, Garland said. In a tactic that even law enforcement officials said showed impressive criminality, local power lines were carefully rerouted and rigged so that if someone from the power company tested the home's electricity meter, it would instantly shut down power usage to that of a normal home.

The Organized Crime Connection

Lt. Garland said that his task force has raided about 50 marijuana McMansions this year so far, and have traced the owners back to criminal gangs from a variety of different ethnic groups. "With the price of marijuana increasing we're seeing larger and larger grows in very nice homes -- several hundred thousand dollar homes where they take over entire homes and use it just to grow marijuana," Garland said. "It grows the plant in a very controlled environment, where if it's planted outdoors, it's subject to the elements in [a house], they can control the temperature, the fertilizer, the watering times, and grow a plant much faster with more potency." "A lot of it is, within [a criminal] organization, if we arrest one [person], finding out who their friends are or other relatives and who they associate with," Garland said...."We've seen, in San Bernardino County recently, an influx of Asian indoor grows," he said. "However we've seen [the operations run by] all different nationalities just recently, we've seen several Asian ones on the rise, we've had Hispanics, blacks and whites, all very similar houses to this one. I think we're progressing at the same rate they are three or four years ago, we were successful in finding maybe 15 of these similar type houses in a year. As they get more sophisticated we'll see a group of five or six houses and they'll start them all within the same month. So, we're finding five or six a month as well."

Danger to Kids

To Walters of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, homes like these pose as potent a danger to the community at large and the "front" families living in the grow houses as meth labs and crack cocaine labs. "Violent criminal gangs send people into middle class residential neighborhoods where they think they would not be visible," Walters told ABC News. "Rent a house, buy a house, appears nobody is there the windows [are] shut up and they tap into electricity unsafely many times to run high wattage grow lights. They bring in chemicals to produce hydroponics grows that increase the potency." He said that growers "sometimes use carbon dioxide gas to increase the carbon dioxide level in the house. "I have been in grow houses that have been seized in Vancouver where you are frightened to see little children's toys, brightly colored three-wheel bikes on the ground and they obviously have gas tanks there, where they have increased the carbon dioxide level in the house. That, coupled with the electrical wiring, which is not done in a professional manner has frequently caused fires in a lot of places and the open chemicals for hydroponics grows, as well as fertilizers in the context where you have children is of course, very dangerous." Walters said growers do it indoors these days because they have more control over the process and can produce maximum potency. He said more than 100,000 plants have been eradicated by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies so far this year . Growing operations like these are an outgrowth of the wild popularity of marijuana strains developed in the 1990s in the Pacific Northwest and Canada, Walters said. With street brand names like "BC Bud" for British Columbia and "Northern Lights," pot has become as slickly packaged and marketed any popular American product.....

Source: <http://www.abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/WNT/Story?id=3242760&page=4>

Fire erupts inside house used to grow marijuana

Wednesday, May 16, 2007 4:03 PM PDT

A house fire turned into a large-scale drug confiscation when Turlock firefighters discovered the house was full of marijuana plants. The three-bedroom residence at 961 Persian lane was being used as a marijuana growing house that was outfitted with an elaborate system of lights and hydroponics for the nearly 600 plants found in various stages of growth, according to Stanislaus Drug Enforcement Agency Sgt. Craig Wend. "This house was solely utilized to grow marijuana," Wend said. Wend said the value of the plants was about \$100,000. Turlock City Fire Department Battalion Chief Tim Lohman said the fire originated in the attic and was triggered by an overloaded electrical system. "Someone had bypassed the meter outside to steal power from TID and avoid attracting attention to the amount of electricity they were using," Lohman said. "The wiring went into the attic, which is where the fire started." A crew entered the house to do a standard search and rescue and immediately discovered the marijuana growing operation. ***Firefighters backed out of the residence because of possible "booby traps," Lohman said. "We don't want firefighters put in a situation where they could be hurt by someone who was trying to protect their growing operation,"*** he said. The fire did not spread beyond the attic and the woodshake roof, though the house did receive considerable damage from water, smoke, and a portion of the ceiling collapsing. Lohman estimated the damage to the house at \$300,000.....

Three engines and 23 firefighters, all from Turlock City Fire, responded to the blaze. Lohman said the fire was under control in 30 minutes, but firefighters were on scene for three hours for the ensuing investigation and clean-up.

While the number of dispensary raids noted in this quarter seems to be lower than in previous quarters, a few jurisdictions conducted operations as noted by the attached article excerpts.

BUSTED: Medical marijuana site closed by police

[By Alison Hewitt Staff Writer](#)

WEST COVINA - Police busted an unlicensed medical marijuana dispensary last week, confiscating "Reefer's" peanut butter cups, pot brownies and marijuana-tinged barbecue sauce. West Covina police estimated that they confiscated more than 150 pounds of marijuana and more than \$10,000 when they closed the dispensary on Friday.....Although medical marijuana dispensaries are allowed in some cities...."This legislation was meant for a person dying of cancer," Wills said. "But to have a dozen 18-19 year olds when we went in there, all in perfect health, complaining of migraines - any reasonable person should have foreseen what this legislation would do." Workers in an office near the dispensary complained that they had been overpowered by the smell of marijuana and that aggressive marijuana patients wandered through their offices. They declined to give their names because of safety concerns....A hand-written sign on the door of the dispensary Monday read "Closed for Good." A 20-year-old who said he had a prescription for arthritis stood at the door after reading the sign. He had followed the collective from Hacienda Heights. "Are you sure they're closed?" he asked. "Do you know where I can find another one?"

Source: http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci_5842819

Riverside police raid pot dispensary

10:26 AM PDT on Wednesday, May 23, 2007

By SONJA BJELLAND / The Press-Enterprise

Riverside police raided a medical-marijuana dispensary Tuesday that was filled with prepackaged pot stored in a 6-foot-high safe with humidity control. The business also sold tea cakes, truffles and cookies with "proprietary spices." Some had "double strength" stickers. All said "medical cannabis." Riverside police officials said it was the first medical marijuana dispensary found within the city limits.....Police watched the Riverside business and discovered it served 20 to 30 customers in an hour, said Lt. John Carpenter. The store, at 7201 Arlington Ave., had a business license for unclassified retail registered under ET Investment Corp. of Riverside. It operated as California Caregivers Association -- Riverside or C.C.A.R. Paperwork indicates the business tried to have customers designate the store as a caregiver that then would be legally allowed to provide medical marijuana.

Clerks asked customers for written recommendations from doctors or identification cards, said Steven Frasher, police spokesman. If a patron did not have that, the store had a list of doctors prospective customers could see. A board inside the storefront operation listed the type of marijuana for sale, including Trainwreck and Maui Wowie.

Source:

[Http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_rpot23.4016af6.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_rpot23.4016af6.html)

KRUSE CONFESSES ULTERIOR MOTIVE, FEAR

After months of riling up city hall, Darrell Kruse, owner and operator of the Claremont-based medical marijuana dispensary, has admitted that he had an ulterior motive in opening his business in Claremont. Mr. Kruse now claims that his outrageous behavior and confrontational style with the city was all just an act in order to get Claremont to pass a moratorium on marijuana dispensaries and therefore block competition from other businesses.

Threat of Competition

According to Mr. Kruse, he and his business partner, David Touhey, had been co-owners of another marijuana dispensary in Pomona, Farm Assist Caregivers, located at 268 San Lorenzo St., from the beginning of 2006. *Mr. Kruse claims that he was pressured by his partner and instructed “to do whatever it takes” to stop the rival business from entering the market.* The decision to take action came after discovering that long-time medical marijuana activist David Kasakove, who grew up in Claremont, had applied for a business license from the city of Claremont to open his own medical marijuana dispensary. City records show that Mr. Kasakove applied on July 6, 2007 to open a dispensary, called California Harm Reduction Collective. After filing his application, Mr. Kasakove said that he visited the Pomona dispensary and talked with Mr. Touhey about his business plans. “I told him there was help in Claremont and if he had any problems in Pomona, I was willing to offer support,” said Mr. Kasakove. “Apparently, instead of him seeing me as a friend, he viewed me as competition to get off his playing field.” Claremont City Treasurer, Matthew Hawkesworth, said that the city did not grant Mr. Kasakove a business license due to the nature of his business. The application was turned over to the city attorney’s office to consider, as Claremont did not have any regulations in place to allow for medical marijuana dispensaries. Records show that Mr. Kruse officially applied for his business license on September 14, 2006, and he opened his medical marijuana shop the following day without an approved license.

The Plan Works

On September 26, 2006, the city council unanimously voted to enforce a moratorium on marijuana dispensaries in Claremont for a one-year period. The reason, city officials say, was to allow the city enough time to consider whether to allow that type of business within the city limits and, if so, make the necessary zoning and municipal code changes....

Partners Dissent

The trigger for Mr. Kruse's decision to come clean was sparked after the relationship between he and his former partner began to fall apart around December 2006. Mr. Kruse said that he began to confront Mr. Touhey about finances and obtaining medicine to sell at his shop in Claremont. Disagreements between the two continued to mushroom, leading Mr. Kruse to consult with his lawyer, Allison Margolin, about obtaining a restraining order against his former partner. Mr. Touhey refused to return phone calls regarding the allegations of pressuring Mr. Kruse into opening a medical marijuana dispensary, however Mr. Kruse's story has also been corroborated by a previous employee of the Pomona dispensary, Matt Seaburn, and one of Mr. Touhey's neighbors, Cheryl Emmerling. "I've known him for a long time," said Ms. Emmerling. "He's motivated by his own greed. He doesn't care about the patients or the cause of medical marijuana activities. He just wants to line his pockets." Feeling victimized and rather remorseful about the whole ordeal, Mr. Kruse approached the city council on April 10 to offer an apology to council members and city officials for his actions. "It was ill-conceived. It was bad-spirited, but every moment I was here was to antagonize you. I was asked to do it, to block another character who was trying to do it..... Since the Claremont moratorium, Mr. Kasakove has been forced to search elsewhere to open his business. He is currently in Eureka, California trying to establish a non-profit marijuana dispensary in Northern California. ***"It has turned unfortunately from when people were truly doing this compassionately to people who are just out to make millions of dollars," said Mr. Kasakove.*** "He should have gone in and had meetings with city staff and council members and worked out any of their fears and concerns. Unfortunately, it appears that Darrell and his partner were just motivated by finances also.".....