

CITY OF SUNNYVALE
City Council Joint Study Session with Planning Commission
Summary
Medical Marijuana Dispensaries (Study Issue)
September 14, 2010

The City Council met in study session at City Hall in the West Conference Room, Sunnyvale, California on September 14 at 2010, with Mayor Melinda Hamilton presiding.

City Council members Present:

Mayor Melinda Hamilton
Vice Mayor Christopher Moylan
Councilmember Ron Swegles
Councilmember Anthony (Tony) Spitaleri
Councilmember David Whittum
Councilmember Jim Griffith

City Council members Absent:

Councilmember Otto Lee

Planning Commission members Present:

Chair Nick Travis
Vice Chair Glenn Hendricks
Commissioner Chuck Hungerford
Commissioner Brandon Sulser
Commissioner Bo Chang
Commissioner Maria Dohadwala
Commissioner Gustav Larsson

Planning Commission members Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

City Manager Gary Luebbers
Assistant City Manager Robert Walker
City Attorney David Kahn
Assistant City Attorney Kathryn Berry
Assistant City Attorney Rebecca Moon
Chief of Public Safety Don Johnson
Lieutenant Carl Rushmeyer
Planning Officer Trudi Ryan
Principal Planner Andrew Miner
Senior Management Analyst Patricia Lord

Visitors/Guests Present: Approximately 30 members of the public were present.

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m. Joint Study Session with City Council and Planning Commission called to order by Mayor Hamilton.

Study Session Summary:

Andrew Miner, Principal Planner with the Department of Community Development (CDD), provided an update on the Medical Marijuana study and a general overview of the issue, including: preliminary feedback from the public during outreach meetings and an on-line survey; possible options the Planning Commission and City Council may pursue to address the issue, legal framework and background. Lieutenant Carl Rushmeyer, Department of Public Safety (DPS), presented public safety concerns with potential medical marijuana facilities in the city.

Discussion and questions from Councilmembers and Planning Commissioners followed. Questions arose regarding the legal framework, such as, how Federal and State laws affect the issue of medical marijuana distribution facilities in local municipalities, the status of medical marijuana dispensaries in surrounding cities, and process for obtaining prescriptions for medical marijuana. Further discussion ensued regarding the scope of a possible recommendation, including: land use zoning, limitations on the number of sites, building permits, and impact fees.

The Planning Commission hearing is set for November 22, 2010, and the Council hearing for December 7, 2010.

Adjournment: 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Lord, Senior Management Analyst
Department of Community Development