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BY EDWIN FOLVEN / FEBRUARY 3, 2016

Former WeHo dispensary owner sentenced to 16 years in prison

A defendant who once operated medical marijuana dispensaries in West Hollywood and the surrounding area was sentenced on Jan. 29 to 16 years in federal prison for conspiracy to distribute marijuana and money laundering.

According to a sentencing affidavit, Andrew Harrison Kramer, 41, conspired to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana. He also financed drug trafficking operations and laundered cash proceeds.

The defendant formerly operated the Zen Healing and Alternative Herbal Health Service dispensaries on Santa Monica Boulevard, the West Hollywood Center for

Compassionate Healing on Sunset Boulevard (also known as the Sunset Super Shop) and Compassionate Caregivers on La Brea Avenue.

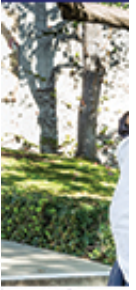
Kramer pleaded guilty last fall to federal charges of distributing marijuana. Authorities alleged he shipped marijuana to other states including South Carolina and North Carolina. Kramer allegedly laundered the proceeds from drug sales through ATM machines located in his dispensaries.

The crimes occurred from 2009 to 2013, according to a federal criminal complaint. Federal authorities allegedly found hundreds of thousands of dollars in proceeds from drug sales during searches in 2013 at Kramer's dispensaries.

Kramer was previously sentenced to 25 years in prison on state charges that he conspired to harm a rival dispensary owner and former landlord. He was charged with multiple felony counts of conspiracy to commit a home invasion robbery, stalking, attempt to burn, arson and arson of an inhabited structure. The charges stemmed from a dispute Kramer had with George and Nancee Lanning, who owned the building where the dispensary on Sunset Boulevard was located. The dispute originated when the Lannings evicted Kramer in 2009.

Kramer allegedly started a fire at the dispensary on Sunset Boulevard, damaging the structure but causing no injuries. He was also accused of attempting to start a fire at properties his former landlords owned on San Vicente Boulevard and Le Doux Road in Beverly Hills, and assaulting the Lannings and their son. Multiple accomplices of Kramer's were also convicted of the state charges and are serving prison sentences.

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