



Download Latest Issue

PARK LABREA NEWS BEVERLY PRESS

Serving the Park Labrea, Miracle Mile, Hancock Park, Beverly Hills and West Hollywood communities since 1946.

NEWS

CRIME

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

LIFE, STYLE & ART

SCHOOLS

C



THE ORIGINAL AL FRESCO DINING EXPERIENCE



BY EDWIN FOLVEN / OCTOBER 30, 2014

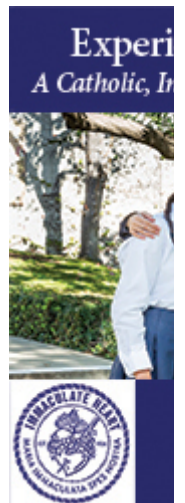
DEA raids medical pot dispensary in WeHo

Authorities are remaining tight-lipped about a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) raid on Oct. 23 at a medical marijuana dispensary in West Hollywood, refusing to confirm anything more than the raid occurred and there is an ongoing investigation.



Vijay Rathi, a public information officer for the DEA office in Los Angeles, said the operation occurred around noon at The Farmacy, located at 8208 Santa Monica Blvd. He said the raid was conducted in accordance with a federal search warrant.

Thom Mrozek, a public affairs officer for the United States Attorney's Office



Federal authorities are not disclosing information about a raid at The Farmacy medical marijuana dispensary on Oct. 23. (photo by Edwin Folven)

in Los Angeles, said the warrant is sealed and no information is available about an ongoing investigation

involving the dispensary.

The Farmacy remains open but is not “dispensing any cannabis,” according to an employee who identified herself only as Janie. The store offers health products, body sprays and glassware in addition to dispensing medical marijuana, she said.

The Farmacy has been open in West Hollywood since 2005, and is one of four medical marijuana dispensaries that is operating legally under city ordinance, said Jeff Aubel, code compliance manager for the city of West Hollywood. He identified the business license holder as Joanna Laforce, and added that the DEA raid caught officials in West Hollywood off guard.

“I was surprised,” Aubel said. “We haven’t had any trouble at that location. I haven’t heard of any problems. They are a good operating business as far as our ordinance goes.”

Aubel said The Farmacy was previously located at 7825 Santa Monica Blvd. before moving to its present location in July 2013. Calls attempting to reach the owner or manager for The Farmacy were not returned.

Federal law stipulates that marijuana is an illegal substance, and although the U.S. Department of Justice has largely deferred to state and local authorities in regulating medical marijuana, authorities enforce the federal law under the Controlled Substances Act. Federal authorities follow a set of criteria when targeting specific dispensaries, such as places that allegedly sell to minors, dispensaries that allegedly funnel revenue from medical marijuana to criminal enterprises and locations that offer the drug in states that ban medical marijuana. Other criteria include holding operations to prevent the use of firearms in the cultivation and distribution of medical marijuana, the prevention of medical marijuana cultivation on public land and preventing marijuana use or possession on federal property. Rathi specifically declined to comment on how the criteria applies to The Farmacy.

“The only thing I can tell you is it was the DEA that executed a warrant at The Farmacy on [Oct.] 23,” Rathi added. “Whether any arrests were made or anything



SEE
DINING

was seized, I cannot either confirm or deny.”

2,10

I



Previous Post

Construction imminent for Wilshire project

Next Post

Voters to decide key races next Tuesday

0 COMMENT

Leave a Reply

Comment

Name *

Email *

//