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BY EDWIN FOLVEN / APRIL 25, 2013

Dispensary owner faces charges

A medical marijuana dispensary owner has been arrested and charged with numerous felonies for crimes that allegedly resulted from a dispute with his former landlords.



The suspect, Andrew Kramer, 38, operates the Zen Healing dispensary at 8464 Santa Monica Blvd., Alternative Herbal Health Services at 7828 Santa Monica Blvd., La Brea Compassionate Caregivers at 735 N. La Brea Ave., and Marina Caregivers in Marina Del Rey.



La Brea Compassionate Caregivers is owned and operated by Andrew Kramer. Authorities raided the business in a search for evidence related to attempted murder charges last week. (photo by Edwin Folven)

Authorities allege Kramer had a dispute with George and Nancee Lanning, owners of a property where Kramer formerly operated the now-

defunct Sunset Super Shop on Sunset Boulevard. According to a criminal complaint filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, Kramer and four alleged accomplices stalked, assaulted and attempted to murder the property owners and their son during separate incidents over the past four years. The victims live in Beverly Hills, and the Beverly Hills Police Department led the investigation in conjunction with the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the federal Drug Enforcement Agency and other authorities. Kramer was arrested on April 16 at an undisclosed location in Los Angeles. Authorities raided the four medical marijuana dispensaries last week in a search for evidence.

Lt. Lincoln Hoshino, with the Beverly Hills Police Department, described the case as being very complex, and said very little information is being released because of the pending court proceedings. Kramer and four individuals whom he hired as enforcers allegedly targeted the victims. The motive appears to be retaliation against the victims for evicting Kramer from the building on Sunset Boulevard in 2009. According to reports, the Lannings continued to operate the Sunset Super Shop as a dispensary for at least a year after evicting Kramer. The city of West Hollywood eventually forced the dispensary to close in 2010 after authorities determined the dispensary was illegal under city ordinances.

In addition to Kramer, the other suspects facing charges are Ronald Samuel, 40; Rene Johnson, 20; Jonathan Livingston, 43; and Grace Cox, 49, all of Los Angeles.



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burglary. Johnson is facing six counts of attempted murder, arson and use of a destructive device; Cox faces two counts of arson and use of an explosive device;

and Livingston is charged with one count of arson.

The incidents began on Aug. 9, 2010, when Kramer, Johnson and Cox allegedly threw a firebomb at the building at 8919 Sunset Blvd. that formerly housed the Sunset Super Shop. A second arson occurred at a nearby building also owned by the Lannings on Sept. 24, 2010, allegedly involving Kramer and Johnson. The fires damaged the structures but no injuries were reported. Livingston allegedly ignited a fire at a property owned by the Lannings at 370 N. San Vicente Blvd. on Jan. 22, 2011.

On Feb. 5, 2011, Kramer allegedly set fire to a residence owned by the Lannings on Le Deux Road in Beverly Hills. One of the arson counts and two counts of attempted murder stem from that incident, according to the criminal complaint. Kramer and Samuel also allegedly confronted the Lannings and their son at an undisclosed location on Jan. 30, 2012, and struck them with a crowbar, resulting in two additional counts of attempted murder and two counts of assault, as well as the burglary charge.

Kramer and the other defendants pleaded not guilty, and are scheduled to return to court on May 2. Kramer is reportedly being held on \$7 million bail. Hoshino said the medial marijuana dispensaries were raided as part of the investigation into Kramer and the other defendants, not because they were operating illegally. The dispensaries in West Hollywood are permitted under city ordinances and remained open on Monday.

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