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### West Hollywood pot raid chills scene

05/23/2013  
By WeHo News staff, West Hollywood, California



In the aftermath of the dramatic raid of two of West Hollywood's medical marijuana dispensaries and the arrest on attempted murder charges of one of those clubs' operators, the DEA has made an open threat to not only raid the facility at which they made no arrest but also to charge the entire staff with corruption if they do not close.

Four dispensaries in all were **raided in a multi-agency effort on April 16**, the La Brea Compassionate Caregivers in Los Angeles and Marina Caregivers in Marina del Rey and Zen Healing at 8464 Santa Monica Blvd. and Alternative Herbal Health Services (AHHS), at 7828 Santa Monica Blvd.

In that raid, the DEA and Beverly Hills police arrested Los Angeles residents Andrew Kramer, Rene Johnson and Jonathan Livingston and charged them with 46 counts.

Mr. Kramer, owner of West Hollywood's Zen Healing Collective (and once owner of the now-defunct Sunset Shop on the Sunset Strip), stands at the center of the multiagency investigation into a drug ring accused of attempting to edge out competition using arson and attempted homicide.

At the time of the raid, Beverly Hills PD and the DEA operated on the understanding that AHHS and Zen Healing were operating as one business in two locations, so law enforcement sought evidence relating to Mr. Kramer and his alleged co-conspirators in that dispensary.

WeHo council member John Duran, wearing his criminal defense attorney's hat and representing AHHS, called the DEA to inform them that no overlapping ownership issues stood between the two clubs.



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Being disabused of that idea, however, has not stopped the DEA from making threats against that dispensary in particular and all dispensaries in West Hollywood.



The club's operator, Jason Beck, who does operate another pot club in Oakland, told WeHo News that Patrick Kelly, Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge with the Narcotics Task Force, has stopped by his shop to deliver a pointed message. "Close your doors or I will bring back my friends, and this time we'll arrest everyone and charge them with conspiracy."

Mr. Beck said that Mr. Kelly also informed him that he sought the closure of all of the medical marijuana shops in West Hollywood.

The connection between AHHS and Zen most likely developed because Mr. Kramer was distributing marijuana to AHHS as a supplier (as well as to a number of other dispensaries).

One week after the WeHo raid, narcotics enforcement officers raided a downtown San Diego medical marijuana dispensary and nine indoor cannabis cultivation sites in the North County, seizing plants and documenting alleged violations, according to authorities.

It remains unclear whether Mr. Kramer was involved with San Diego dispensaries or growers.

As far as AHHS is concerned, Mr. Beck is taking the threat from Mr. Patrick seriously. He has shut his shop, laying off several employees and leaving a note affixed to the door that says, "call us for a referral to a good shop for your medicine."

West Hollywood city ordinances controlling medical marijuana shops, however, state that a dispensary that is shut for 30 consecutive days must give up their license to do business, so Mr. Beck says that he will find a way to keep his dispensary alive "to serve the community in dire need of this medicine," he said..



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