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### Illegal Sunset Super Shop pot store shuts down

12/20/2012  
 By WeHo News staff, West Hollywood, California



It took a bank foreclosure to accomplish what the City of West Hollywood and the courts could not – close the rogue pot dealer on Sunset Boulevard named [Sunset Super Shop](#).

The brick and mortar business closed on November 16, according to the lawyer handling the city's law suit against the illegally operated shop.

Problem is they are apparently still selling and delivering pot to customers in defiance of city law.

The [Sunset Super Shop](#), at 8921 [Sunset Boulevard](#), also known as the [Sunset Shoppe](#) and the [Compassionate Healing Center of West Hollywood](#), has been operating illegally and outside the city's auspices and control since former-owner Andrew Kramer closed the medical marijuana dispensary at the address in 2009.

The building's owners, George and Nansee Lanning, rather than lease the space to another shop, simply began selling marijuana from the storefront with their son, Justin, as manager.

Since then, the [Sunset Super Shop](#) (AKA: [Compassionate Healing Center of West Hollywood LLC](#)) operated by Nansee Lanning, the Lanning Family Trust, George Lanning and Justin Lanning have been sued by the city demanding that it cease operations; as a result of the suit and the foreclosure of the property by the lender, the city recently received a \$48,000 judgment.

Andrew Kramer, now head of Zen, a medical marijuana outlet at 8464 Santa Monica Boulevard, leased the space from the Lannings and started a legally licensed dispensary in 2005.

Mr. Kramer wrote to the city "closing his store" in 2009 and asked West Hollywood to revoke the dispensary's permit when he ran into a legal dispute with the Lannings.



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ALANA DZUREK

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This is the front of the store once occupied by a marijuana sales shop called Sunset Super Shop. Photo by WeHo News.

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The California Secretary of State shows Mr. Kramer as the business owner still.

**Business Entity Detail**

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Entity Name:</b>                  | WEST HOLLYWOOD CENTER FOR COMPASSIONATE HEALING, LLC. |
| <b>Entity Number:</b>                | 200823510024  |
| <b>Date Filed:</b>                   | 08/22/2008  |
| <b>Status:</b>                       | ACTIVE  |
| <b>Jurisdiction:</b>                 | CALIFORNIA  |
| <b>Entity Address:</b>               | 8921 W SUNSET BLVD                                    |
| <b>Entity City, State, Zip:</b>      | WEST HOLLYWOOD CA 90069                               |
| <b>Agent for Service of Process:</b> | ANDREW KRAMER   |
| <b>Agent Address:</b>                | 8921 W SUNSET BLVD                                    |
| <b>Agent City, State, Zip:</b>       | WEST HOLLYWOOD CA 90069                               |



A printed sign taped to the window is all that announces the store's closing - their web site is still active and they are apparently still peddling pot on a delivery only basis.

William Litvak, an attorney for the city of West Hollywood, told WeHo News, "The simple fact in the present case is that the defendants do not and did not have the proper authorization from the city to operate a facility where medical marijuana is dispensed," he said.

The city filed suit in May, 2010, to stop the Lannings from selling pot from an unlicensed business.

The suit asked for injunctive relief, charging the Lannings with unfair business practices (four other medical marijuana dispensaries operate within the city limits legally) and municipal code violations, asking for penalties in the amount of \$2,500 per day per violation.

Shortly after the suit was brought, the city passed an "urgency ordinance" criminalizing the opening of new marijuana dispensaries, a move catalyzed by the attempt of a Van Nuys pot shop named C.A.R.E Collective in Van Nuys, (forced to shut its doors due to LA's clampdown on illegal dispensaries), attempted to open a shop on the 7700 block of Santa Monica Boulevard (at Stanley) in WeHo.

Within weeks, the Lannings filed a countersuit alleging that the city was wrongfully harassing them and claiming that the permit to dispense medical marijuana "ran with the land" as does a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) issued by the city.

That same month, August, 2010, an arsonist threw a

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Photo by WeHo News.

firebomb at the Sunset Shop's front door.

Seven months later, another arsonist doused the property

with gasoline and started a fire.



That incident led to the discovery of an illegal grow room for marijuana in the upstairs of the building – something expressly prohibited by law.

The shop was closed by West Hollywood Building Inspector Steve Bailey when he uncovered unpermitted electrical work that he said posed "a significant safety hazard."

All along, the other medical marijuana dispensary operators in West Hollywood groused.

Said one operator who spoke on condition of anonymity, "We all have to follow the rules; why don't they?"

"They are not a not-profit dispensary as we all are, they are stealing our business, operating an illegal grow room and leave public safety hazards like fire bombings in their wake."

The Pharmacy manager said he sees the allegedly illegal operation as a "real major concern."



A interior view of the Sunset Super Shop when it still operated. Photo courtesy Sunset Super Shop.



A interior view of the Sunset Super Shop when it still operated. Photo courtesy Sunset Super Shop.

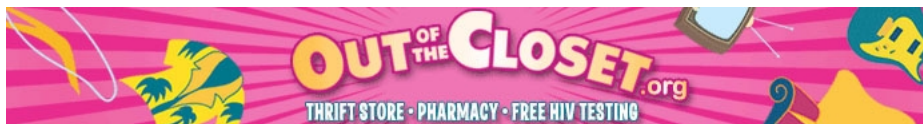
Said The Farm manager Bill Leahy in 2011, "we are very supportive of the city's efforts to close down the Sunset Shoppe; the city made it clear there are only four shops allowed in the city."

He also mentioned the fire bombings, saying the business "attracts an element that brings disservice to the cause of making medical marijuana available to those in need."

Despite all the controversy swirling around the building, the pot dealers allegedly operating out of it and the criminal activity it attracted, the city has been unable to shut down the store through the courts – only prevent the Lannings from shirking their financial obligations by filing bankruptcy.

In early 2011, the Lannings attempted to file bankruptcy to get out from under their obligations, but the city thwarted them,

winning a court victory in September, 2011, that would prevent them from doing so.



Now, in late 2012, the Lannings apparently having stopped making their mortgage payments, lost the property to a foreclosure action and were evicted by the bank as tenants.

They also, by all appearances, stopped paying their vendors.

One of those vendors sent a final demand letter for the \$7,326 the Lannings owe him late last month for medical marijuana delivered to the Lannings for sale in May and August of 2012.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE LETTER](#)

The letter, obtained by WeHo News, explains that the supplier from Tulare has "called numerous times" (emphasis his) and that he spoke to Nansee and Justin [Lanning] and numerous employees and have been promised payment."

He also stated in the letter that he had "traveled numerous (emphasis his) times to the shop (met with George, Nansee and Justin [Lanning]) and have been promised

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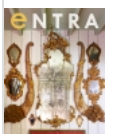
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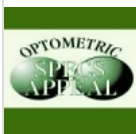
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payment each time.”

The storefront closed down on November 16,  
but according to sources, the Lannings still  
deliver marijuana to customers all over the LA  
area, including inside West Hollywood.

While the delivery of medical marijuana is not  
expressly against Los Angeles laws, it is  
against the law to do so in the City of West  
Hollywood.



A interior view of the Sunset Super Shop when it still  
operated. Photo courtesy Sunset Super Shop.

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Selling and preparing marijuana for delivery without a dispensary permit is against City, State and Federal law.



A interior view of the Sunset Super Shop when it still  
operated. Photo courtesy Sunset Super Shop.

According to Mr. Kramer at Zen on Santa  
Monica Blvd., one of the Sunset Super Shop's  
delivery customers came into his dispensary  
after purchased marijuana from the Lannings,  
claiming that she received the wrong product  
and that they charged her credit card more than  
once.

Her calls to the store have gone unanswered.

WeHo News called the number listed on their  
website, only to find the answering machine  
full.

Trying again the next day, a man answered the  
phone, identified himself (after a pause) as “J”  
and said that none of the Lannings were  
available to talk.

He offered to take a message, but when WeHo  
News asked on what date the store closed, he  
hung up.

Checking with people familiar with his voice –  
the one on the store's answering machine –

WeHo News discovered that “J” turns out to be Justin Lanning.

WeHo News' offices received a call from a different phone line identified as Nansee Lanning's later that morning, but when  
we identified ourselves as WeHo News, that person, too, hung up without saying a word.

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Calling the Lanning residence in Beverly Hills at 139 Le Doux Road (just above Wilshire), Nansee Lanning picked up.

After our reporter identified himself as being from WeHo News she said, “I don't know you.

She then asked, “How did you get my number?”

When the reporter explained that he had a few questions to ask her about the Sunset Super Shop, she abruptly hung up.

William Litvak told WeHo News that the law suit against the Lannings is still an ongoing concern, despite the \$48,000  
received because of the foreclosure on the property.

When asked if a criminal investigation was in process regarding the delivery of marijuana by the Lannings, the otherwise  
voluble lawyer said only, “I cannot comment on that.”

He did, however, say, “It is my responsibility  
and that of the City of West Hollywood to see



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that all of our laws are enforced and that all the people or businesses not in compliance with the law are brought into compliance or punished.”

So, too, did Sheriff officials decline to comment on any criminal investigation into the Lanning family.



A interior view of the Sunset Super Shop when it still operated. Photo courtesy Sunset Super Shop.

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