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ALANA DZUREK

Pot club owner faces attempted murder charges

04/18/2013
 By WeHo News staff, West Hollywood, California



After Tuesday's multi-agency raid on two West Hollywood pot dispensaries was said and done, one of those dispensaries' owners faces attempted murder charges.

Four dispensaries were raided, 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, at 7828 Santa Monica Blvd.

Los Angeles residents Andrew Kramer, Rene Johnson and Jonathan Livingston. 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.

The Beverly Hills Police Department sent out the press release that stated that beginning at 4:00 am, they led the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Santa Monica Police Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Secret Service.

Eleven search warrants and three arrest warrants were carried out throughout the Los Angeles area, resulting in three suspects being taken into custody, charged with 46 felony counts.

The statement called the move a "culmination of four-year investigation into an organized criminal organization involving large scale marijuana distribution, not only throughout the Los Angeles area, but throughout the United States.

"This criminal enterprise hired known gang members as enforcers," said the release. "This organization was involved in the operation of multiple retail marijuana dispensaries generating massive profits, repeatedly showing their willingness to use violence and intimidation to expand their operations and dissuade competition."

The list of crimes alleged to have been committed included attempted murder, home invasion robbery, conspiracy, arson, extortion, residential burglary, assault with a deadly weapon and use of a



Two pot clubs in WeHo and two in LA were raided Tuesday in connection with a larger criminal investigation into organized criminal activity.

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Detectives said they seized millions in cash and valuables during the raid. Mr. Kramer, 38, Ms. Johnson, 50, and Mr. Livingston, 43, were arrested on a total 46 felony counts Tuesday.



Mr. Kramer has been at the [center of firestorms surrounding medical marijuana](#) and market share since coming into town. WeHo News has covered every twist and turn regarding his relationship with the [Lanning family and the Sunset Shop](#), which he allegedly closed but the Lannings kept open after his departure while the city of West Hollywood tried to shut it down.

During the years of controversy, Mr. Kramer allegedly broke into his old shop. Additionally, several arson fires broke out, both at the dispensary and a Lanning house undergoing remodeling.

Lieutenant Lincoln Hoshino of the Beverly Hills Police Department did not elaborate on what role the WeHo dispensaries played in the alleged drug ring. However, on Wednesday afternoon he told WeHo Patch that Beverly Hills residents, landlords and dispensary owners were the victims of alleged "intimidation, arson and death threats," adding that Mr. Kramer "had enough influence to be one of the primary suspects."

Lt. Hoshino said were arsons to both a motor vehicle and a residence stood at the root of the most violent crimes, intended to intimidate and even kill, saying the trio "tried to burn someone up."

Zen Healing, a marijuana dispensary in West Hollywood, announced on its website that "we will be closed until further notice."

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