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### WeHo pot shop's rose has lost its bloom

09/15/2011  
 by WeHo News staff, West Hollywood, California

The Sunset Shoppe, an allegedly "rogue" medical marijuana distributor operating on the city's famed Sunset Strip at 8921 Sunset Boulevard, lost a legal battle last week that it had hoped would stave off an effort by the City of West Hollywood to shutter it.

The shop has been under fire since a city approved medical marijuana dispensary owner named Andrew Kramer sent a letter in 2009 informing the city that he had "closed the business," where the Lannings claimed that he sold it to them.

The alleged new owners, property landlords George and Nancee Lanning, continue to operate a dispensary on their property without authorization from the city to do so.

West Hollywood officials have been trying to shut it down since, using different code compliance and legislative remedies, but were compelled to take a civil action in state court to finally shut it down.

That action, however, got stalled earlier this year when the Lannings declared bankruptcy, a move that would have halted the city's attempt to shutter them.

In a bankruptcy court hearing last week, the city attempted to stop the Lannings from declaring bankruptcy and won the day, removing the obstacle to the suit's progress.

Said William Litvak, the city's civil attorney handling the suit, "we can now proceed with the state suit [to close the business down]."

In the meantime, the shop continues to operate, upsetting the legally operating medical marijuana dispensaries in town.

Those four dispensaries, [Alternative Herbal Healing Services](#), [The Pharmacy](#), [Los Angeles Patients & Caregivers Group \(LAPCG\)](#) and [Zen](#) have discussed but declined to pursue a lawsuit against the city if the process of shutting down the illegally operating shop continues on.\*

(\*A previous version of this article suggested that the four clubs had agreed to file a suit against the city but had not yet filed. The clubs did not agree to file a suit. They are relying on the city's legal remedy. We apologize for the misrepresentation. the editor)

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."



Sunset Shoppe's rose has lost its bloom in a bankruptcy hearing. Photo by WeHo News

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Said Bill Leahy, who manages all three Pharmacy locations around the Westside, "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."



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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."

The Lanning's bankruptcy attorney did not respond to our inquiry.

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