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COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Completed by:	Date

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 25 pages. The complete document is in the file.

438 .

[Ensuring Safe, Affordable, and Quality Patient Care]

Resolution urging all relevant City agencies to uphold and strengthen current medical cannabis laws, and regulatory procedures that ensures quality care of patients, protects residents, and provides a true benefit to the community, and discourages business practices that threaten local permitted medical cannabis dispensary operators.

WHEREAS, San Francisco and the Bay Area are the birthplace of compassionate use and have fought hard to develop a system that cares for patients, protects residents and provides a true benefit to the community; and,

WHEREAS, In 2005, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted Article 33 of the SF Health Code which established regulatory procedures for patient collectives and cooperatives to obtain operating permits from the Health Department; and,

WHEREAS, The process for becoming a new dispensing collective operator in San Francisco involves review and oversight by the City's Planning, Building Inspection, Public Works, and Health, Fire and Police Departments along with the Public Utilities Commission, Board of Appeals and the Mayor's Office on Disability; and,

WHEREAS, Every licensed dispensing collective operator in San Francisco has been vetted by various City agencies to ensure that they will comply with all the requirements of the Health and Planning Codes, and operators submit themselves to hearings before the Planning Commission and Health Department to allow the City and residents to judge whether each operator will maintain the level of excellence and patient service expected in San Francisco; and,

Supervisor Daly BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

cities turned a blind eye to the issue, leading to a proliferation of problems in places like Los Angeles; and,

WHEREAS, Cities like Los Angeles that have become overrun with unregulated dispensaries are now rushing to close them in an effort led by LA District Attorney Steve Cooley (also a candidate for Attorney General) who, according to a Nov. 18, 2009 article in the Los Angeles Times, believes that "dispensaries are breaking the law by accepting money in exchange for marijuana and promised to step up felony prosecutions"; and,

WHEREAS, DA Cooley's war on dispensaries in Los Angeles is creating a rush by that City's dispensary owners who are looking North to purchase buildings occupied by San Francisco collective or cooperative operators and force them out; and,

WHEREAS, On April 6, 2009, San Francisco's Zoning Administrator issued a letter of determination for 1933 Mission Street declaring that a "change in ownership' [of a medical cannabis dispensary] will not trigger further review from the Planning Department or public hearings before the Planning Commission," though change in ownership applications must still be reviewed by the Health Department; and,

WHEREAS, In 2007, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 623-07 (File #07-1505), urging medical cannabis dispensaries to implement compassionate care programs to serve low and no-income patients, cementing the City's reputation as a leader for providing care programs to relieve the suffering of qualified, income-challenged patients and; and,

WHEREAS, The Medical Cannabis Act of 2005 was intended to protect patients and neighboring residents by allowing the City to evaluate dispensary operator applicants to ensure that they share the City's vision of compassionate care; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby urges all relevant City departments, including the Public Health, City Planning, Public Works, Fire and Police Departments along

with the Public Utilities Commission, Board of Appeals and the Mayor's Office on Disability, uphold and strengthen current medical cannabis laws and regulatory procedures that ensures quality care of patients, protects residents and provides a true benefit to the community and discourages business practices that threaten local permitted medical cannabis dispensary operators.

Supervisor Daly BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

INTRODUCTION FORM

By a member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor



2010 SEP 21 PM 1: 02

BY Meeting Date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction:
1. For reference to Committee: An ordinance, resolution, motion, or charter amendment. 2. Request for next printed agenda without reference to Committee 3. Request for Committee hearing on a subject matter. 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor inquires". 5. City Attorney request. 6. Call file from Committee. 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion). 8. Substitute Legislation File Nos. 9. Request for Closed Session 10. Board to Sit as A Committee of the Whole
Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:
☐ Small Business Commission ☐ Ethics Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commission
Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a different form.]
Sponsor(s): Supervisor Chris Daly
SUBJECT: Ensuring safe, affordable and quality patient care
Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: For Clerk's Use Only:

Revised 9/21/10