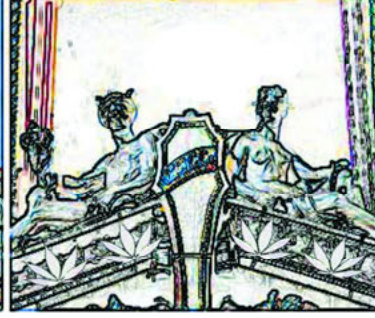




# OAKSTERDAM NEWS

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## Future Looks Bright for Oaksterdam

By Richard Lee

Oaksterdam is the popular name of the once-blighted area of Oakland between downtown and Lake Merritt that was revitalized by Cannabis businesses in the late 90s. With nightclubs and sidewalk cafes opening, developers herald it as an arts and entertainment district, and hope to profit from a swing in public opinion.

With Measure Z's passage, cannabis prohibition's days seem to be numbered, and investors are seeing a different kind of green.

Local retailers, tired of dirty sidewalks, panhandlers and empty store  
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## Where to eat in O'dam

By Tristin Coffman

Many visitors find themselves in Oaksterdam to run an errand or shop during their lunch hour or on the way home after work. But that doesn't mean you need to miss a meal.

Dozens of small restaurants dot the streets and neighborhoods, offering a broad assortment of foods when lunch crowds come out to eat.

One lunchtime favorite, Lana's Chinese food, 435 19th St., has an unassuming exterior but quality fare within. The Bay Fung Tong Tea House, 1916 Franklin St, is another option with reasonable prices.

For people on the go, there's nothing like a trip to the Hot Dog Stand at  
*Continued on page 5*



Measure Z backers celebrate at the Bulldog Coffeeshop on election night.

## US Supreme Court hears medical marijuana case

By Chris Conrad

With Chief Justice Rehnquist unable to attend due to cancer, eight US Supreme Court Justices heard oral arguments Nov. 29 in *Ashcroft v. Raich*. The ruling will affect thousands of patients but it will not change state laws protecting medical marijuana. It will give the current Court's thinking as to whether the Constitution enables the DEA to use federal authority over interstate commerce to arrest and prosecute sick and dying patients who use cannabis in states where medical use is legal.

Because federal law is a separate jurisdiction, a state medical defense has not been allowed in federal  
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## Voter Landslide Creates Cannabis Regulation Ordinance

City Measure Z rejects Drug War, changes marijuana policy, mandates law enforcement tolerance, and calls for legal, taxed and regulated sales to adults

By Chris Conrad

Oakland voters made an historic turn of the page against Bush's Drug War Nov. 6, when more than 65% cast votes to tolerate private adult sales, cultivation and possession of cannabis and allow regulated sales with on-site consumption as soon as possible.

Measure Z, the Oakland Cannabis Regulation and Revenue Ordinance, officially sets a new city policy to seek to authorize local businesses to engage in and collect taxes on marijuana sales to adults as soon as possible. Since that cannot be done without changes in state law, the policy also put the city on record as support-

ing such a change. A provision calling on the city's paid lobbyist to work for such a change may not be enforceable, however, other sections have already taken effect.

Primary among these is making the investigation and enforcement of all private adult marijuana offenses — including sales and cultivation — the City's lowest law enforcement priority. Proponents predict that this policy will save tax money, redirect law enforcement toward solving serious crimes, and deter street sales by providing cannabis consumers with safe and regulated outlets.

Opponents had argued that while they also support changing state law, the full potential of the ordinance to reduce street sales and generate revenue cannot be realized without changes in state and federal laws that they consider to be unlikely, at best.

People familiar with a similar situation in Europe know this is not quite true. Holland, for example, has the same international constraints as the US and its national government has never legalized marijuana sales. Instead, local communities have taken responsibility for regulating age limits and collecting taxes.

Adults who enter a "coffeeshop" and inquire receive a menu of marijuana products; youth who enter are

shown the door. Cannabis coffeeshops do not list cannabis among their wares when accounting taxable revenue, but they dutifully log retail sales and pay required taxes. City inspectors visit regularly to ensure that the outlets are clean, do not serve minors, and do not harbor "hard" drugs like cocaine, meth or heroin.

The Dutch approach, since copied in Germany, Switzerland, England and other nations, not only works to prevent police from wasting time going after cannabis consumers, it allows the local government to get the full benefit of the tax revenue.

The Oakland ordinance takes a similar tact by requiring that sales must be private (indoors with controlled access) and involve adults only. Hence, street dealing and sales to minors remain subject to arrest.

During the campaign, opponents argued that this leaves the bulk of urban sellers unprotected, but that is one of the campaign goals, to create incentives to get marijuana off the streets in return for sellers creating a safe and private network of locations where adults can obtain the herb.

The Yes on Z campaign was sponsored by the Oakland Civil Liberties Alliance with major funding from the Marijuana Policy Project based in  
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Small shops, tall trees and red canopies line 17th street by Coffeeshop SR-71.

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## Dist. 2 campaign debate gives boost to O'dam and state reform efforts

### All 9 candidates support tax and regulate options

By Justin Baker

All nine candidates for Oakland City Council came out in favor of taxing and regulating sales of marijuana to adults during a Mar. 4 debate cablecast from City Hall. With the abrupt resignation of councilman Danny Wan, a mail-in election is ending May 17 for the vacant Dist. 2 seat.

On the question of implementing Measure Z, Oakland's voter mandate to advance this process, candidates Pamela Drake, Justin Horner, Todd Plate, Aimee Allison, Shirley Gee, Peggy Moore and Paul Garrison all voiced their support for the local implementation plan as well as seeing it carried to a statewide level.

Two candidates appeared more interested in making excuses than in making progress. Patricia Kernighan and David Kakishiba both claimed to support the "tax and regulate sales" concept but said any local change must first wait for the state to act.

Moore cited Oaksterdam to show how local business people who worked hard to turn around a blighted neighborhood were punished by the Council. She said that, if elected, she would see to it that O'dam and other areas get the support they deserve.

Drake said it's time to implement Measure Z to generate tax revenue so the City should pursue having it authorized at the state level. If elect-

ed, she would make sure the lobbying is done. To a direct question about implementing Z, Drake said it's just common sense to tax and regulate cannabis since "it's already a big industry," and called it wrong for the Council to have closed down so many of the hard working retailers who had created jobs and opportunities in O'dam. "These folks were among the best to keep that neighborhood safe and clean," she said.

Allison agreed that Oakland needs its cannabis-friendly district, adding "it should not stop there." Statewide reforms should be made to allow all communities develop this tax opportunity who wish to do so. Oakland should seize its moment now to revitalize neighborhoods and become a unique "tourist destination spot."

Horner said that he voted for Z, "as most people did," because marijuana arrests are just a waste of police time. He voiced his "commitment not only to retailers" but also to seeing to it that cannabis consumers are treated with respect by Oakland police.

Garrison and Moore both commented that the way that the City had shut down so many medical marijuana dispensaries showed a failure of leadership by Wan. While Garrison acknowledged that the zoning issues had been complicated by the location of a youth center in the area, "the City should have been more proactive to find creative solutions. This is a challenging new ground for us."


"The voters got it right," said Gee,

voicing her support for Z. She said she would not do it in a way that would have large commercial operations run things, and would rather see the creation of smaller, neighborhood-style dispensaries.

Outgoing councilmember Danny Wan signed the official "no" argument and had actively campaigned against measure Z. His chief of staff, candidate Kernighan echoed a similar sentiment. "I totally support it on a statewide basis," she said, and she would advocate it at the state level, "but we can't do it here alone."

Similarly, candidate Kakishiba

said he, too, wants reform but had signed the "no" argument against Z because he sees the situation as futile. "It won't turn the drug war around," he said. Marijuana reform has to happen "at the state level, not locally." He also said the ordinance does not address the question of how users are treated or of adolescent use.

"We're talking about adult use, not kids," Drake reminded him during the debate. "It's time for Oakland City Council to go to the state and say, 'tax and regulate.'" 

# Thank you, Oakland voters, for giving Measure Z your 65.2% mandate!



## OCLA

The Oakland Civil Liberties Alliance

Proud sponsors of  
Oakland Measure Z

### *The Oakland Cannabis Regulation and Revenue Ordinance*

Making it official city policy to tolerate private sales, cultivation and use of marijuana among adults.

Calling on the state of California to allow Oakland and other communities to legalize, tax and regulate sales of marijuana to adults.

Creating an oversight committee to implement Z and support the Oakland cannabis community to safely generate new revenue for local services.

<http://www.taxandregulate.org/>

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<http://www.OaksterdamNews.com>



By Dale Gieringer

Few Oaklanders are aware that their city has been on the cutting edge of cannabis culture since long before the days of Oaksterdam. In fact, a hundred years ago, the city's most famous native son, Jack London, became the first West Coast writer to describe his adventures with hashish.

In that bygone era, "marijuana" was still unknown. Pharmacies did however carry preparations of cannabis indica, occasionally including the concentrate form known as "hasheesh," an exotic substance rarely touched by Americans.

London was a wildly popular author, having achieved worldwide celebrity through such novels as *Call Of The Wild*, *The Sea-Wolf*, and *White Fang*. He was also an enthusiastic booster for social reforms, including both socialism and prohibition, as well as an adventurer much given to rousting and drinking.

London first described his adventures with hashish in John Barleycorn, his "alcoholic memoirs," devoted to his struggles with drink. "Take Hasheesh Land," he wrote, "the land of enormous extensions of time and space. In past years I have made two memorable journeys into that far land. My adventures there are seared in sharpest detail on my brain. Yet I have tried vainly, with endless words, to describe any tiny particular phase to persons who have not traveled there."

"I use all the hyperbole of metaphor, and tell what centuries of time and profounds [sic] of unthinkable

## Jack London, Oakland's Cannabis Pioneer

agony and horror can obtain in each interval of all the intervals between the notes of a quick jig played quickly on the piano. I talk for an hour, elaborating that one phase of Hasheesh Land, and at the end I have told them nothing. And when I cannot tell them this one thing of all the vastness of terrible and wonderful things, I know I have failed to give them the slightest concept of Hasheesh Land."

London was introduced to hashish by another Oaklander, the poet George Sterling. Now largely forgotten, Sterling is perhaps best remembered for his lines about San Francisco, "The City by the Sea," the "Cool, Grey City of Love." He achieved minor fame as a kind of unofficial bohemian poet laureate presiding over an artists' colony in Carmel. There he and his friends indulged freely in alcohol and occasionally other drugs, including hashish. Sterling left no account of his own hashish travels, though he is said to have written his masterwork, "The Wine of Wizardry," under the influence of opium.

London's boyhood friend, Frank Atherton, recalled London's account of his first hashish trip with Sterling. "To one who has never entered the land of hashish," he said, "an explanation would mean nothing. But to me, last night was like a thousand years. I was obsessed with indescribable sensations, alternative visions of excessive happiness and oppressive moods of extreme sorrow. I wandered for aeons through countless worlds, mingling with all types of humanity, from the most saintly persons down to the lowest type of abysmal brute."

"But why in the devil did you want to take the damned stuff?" I asked him. "It's a wonder you and George didn't go crazy."

"Jack smiled evasively. 'Say, Frank, you've read some of Marie Corelli's books, haven't you? No

doubt you've read Wormwood.'

"Yes, I have, but what has that to do with hashish?"



Photo of the hasheesh party courtesy of <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/>

"Everything.' Jack replied. 'Marie Corelli couldn't have written Wormwood if she hadn't drunk enough Absinthe to experience all those strange dreams and fancies described in Wormwood. And I've read that she even became an inmate of brothels to get the material for other books. So you see in order to write intelligently, one must have certain experiences that coincide with the subject.'"

London's hashish adventures ended abruptly during his famous yacht voyage on the Snark on the island of Guadalcanal. There someone declared a hashish party. On taking the drug, Jack reacted so wildly that he scared his wife, Charmian. Nobody else in the party dared to touch it afterwards.

Cannabis was still legal when London and Sterling tried it. However, just as John Barleycorn was being published in the spring of 1913, the State legislature outlawed cannabis at the request of the Board of Pharmacy.

The Board, which was nationally recognized as a leading pioneer in the war on drugs, expressed concern about the use of cannabis by East Indian "Hindoo" immigrants. Ironically, only after cannabis was prohibited did it come into wide-

spread popularity in California, but that would be years in the future.

Of far more immediate concern to most Californians was alcohol. London himself supported prohibition, viewing it as the only way to free himself from drink.

"The way to stop drinking is to stop it," he wrote in *John Barleycorn*, a book which was dedicated to the Prohibitionist campaign. "The way China stopped the general use of opium was by stopping the cultivation and importation of opium," he argued, "Treat John Barleycorn the same way."

London was not successful as a social prophet, either with respect to socialism or prohibition, neither of which he lived to see. He died in 1916 from a morphine overdose while suffering acute kidney disease. Whether the overdose was deliberate or accidental is unclear. One can only speculate whether Jack might have lived longer had he used more cannabis and less alcohol and morphine.

Visitors to Oaksterdam can pay homage to London's memory by walking down Webster Street to Jack London Square. There, at 50 Webster St., they will find Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon, fondly remembered by Jack in *John Barleycorn*. The saloon is preserved just as it was in Jack's day, except that beers are no longer a nickel nor whisky a dime.



Heinolds' Saloon still stands.



## Business Card Directory: Support businesses that support Oaksterdam!

### Americans for Safe Access

1322 Webster St Suite 208  
Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: 510-251-1856

Toll free 1-888-929-4367

Fax: 510-251-2036

[www.safeaccessnow.org](http://www.safeaccessnow.org)

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# Resource Directory

## California Medical Marijuana Patients' Cooperatives and Support Groups

Oaksterdam News makes no representation as to the service, quality, reliability, or compassion of any of the following coops, services and patients' groups. Thanks to CA Norml. More information available at [www.canorml.org](http://www.canorml.org). For a discussion of the legalities of cannabis clubs, see California NORML's Tips for Would-be Cannabis Providers.

### Oakland

• Official city patient ID cards & info at the Co-op Store. 1733 Broadway: 510-832-5346 [www.rxcbc.org](http://www.rxcbc.org).

### City Licensed Clubs

- Oakland Compassionate Healing Center. 578 West Grand Ave 510-839-9002. Open 7 days.
- SR-71, 377 - 17th St. Open M-F 9-8; Sa-Su 10-8.
- CARE. 1900 Telegraph Ave
- Undisclosed location. Broadway

### Berkeley / East Bay

- Berkeley Cannabis Coop. Shattuck Ave, Berkeley: 510-486-1025
- Berkeley Patients' Group. 2747 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley: 510-540-6013 [www.BerkeleyPatientsGroup.com](http://www.BerkeleyPatientsGroup.com)
- Berkeley Patients' Care Collective. 2590 Telegraph Ave: 510-540-7878 [medicalmarijuanainfo.com](http://medicalmarijuanainfo.com) Contra Costa.
- ME Delivery 510-758-3269

### Livermore Hayward, San Leandro Area

- Hayward Patients Resource Center 22550 Foothill Blvd. 510-581-8640. Open 11-9 daily, also deliveries & MD clinics (888) 389-6360.
- Local Patients' Cooperative (22630 Foothill Blvd 2nd Floor) 510-537-2405. Open 10-10 daily; (wheelchair access to 9:30, call in advance).
- Main Street Roasting Co. 22540 Main St, Hayward. Open 9-9 daily.
- The Health Center, 15998 E. 14th St, San Leandro 510-278-4251. Open 11-7 Daily
- Alameda Co. Resource Center 16250 B E. 14th St San Leandro 510-317-2150. Open M-SA 11-8 (specializing in high grade organic).
- A Natural Source, 16360 Foothill Blvd, San Leandro 510-276-7224. M-F 11-7. Sa-Su 12-6.
- Compassionate Collective of Alameda County, 21222 Mission Blvd, Hayward. Open M-F 9-7, Sa-Su 11-7.
- Compassionate Caregivers, 16045 E. 14th St, San Leandro. 510-481-5757. Open 8-8 every day.
- We Are Hemp (San Lorenzo) 913 East Lewelling Blvd 510-276-2628 M-Sa 11-8 San Francisco

(Patient ID Cards available from SF Dept of Health, 101 Grove St. #105: 415-554-2890)

- Compassion Care Center #1, 122 Tenth St (at Mission) 415-255-8720
- CannaMed Care Center, 1211 Sutter St (lower) 415-885-8007 [www.cannamed-care.com](http://www.cannamed-care.com)
- Alternative Herbal Health, 442 Haight St. 415-864-1300. (MD consultations available by appointment)
- The Vapor Room, 609A Haight St. (MD consultations available). Open M-Sa 11-9; Su 12-8
- The Hemp Center (4811 Geary Blvd) 415-221-HEMP
- Love Shack (502 14th St. at Guerrero)

415-552-5121 [www.issf.com](http://www.issf.com)

- Compassion and Care Center #2, 194 Church St. (open 11-7 M-Sat)
- Medicinal Cannabis Center, 722 Columbus St. 415-296-7614. 11-6 daily
- Mendocino Healing Alternatives, 96 Lafayette St. (at Howard between 11th and 12th) 415-864-4600. 11-7 daily
- Green Door, 843 Howard St. 415-541-9590 [www.GreenDoorInfo.com](http://www.GreenDoorInfo.com) Open 11-8 daily
- Alternative Patient Caregivers, 953 Mission St. #40 415-618-0680 (12-6 M-F, 11-5 Sat). Clones available.
- Mission St. Caregivers (1760 Mission at Duboce) 415-553-7780 (open 365 days)
- Alternative Relief Co-Op 1944 Ocean Ave. 415-239-4766 natural herbs & tea (noon-7, M-Sat). Deliveries to in-patients in SF hospitals.
- SF City Patients Caregiver Collective (1095 Market St. #515 @ 7th St) 415-724-3476. Open Fri & Sat 11-6.

**HS11362.5:** *"seriously ill Californians have the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes where that medical use is deemed appropriate and has been recommended by a physician..."*

- San Francisco ACT-UP (1884 Market St): 415-864-6686 [www.actupsf.com](http://www.actupsf.com)
- Sweetleaf Collective 415-273-4663, For low-income AIDS, cancer patients
- Herbal Relief Center, 1545 Ocean Ave. 415-587-2599.
- San Francisco Patients' Cooperative (350 Divisadero St): 415-552-8653 [www.sfprc.org](http://www.sfprc.org)
- Kind Sanctuary (Golden Triangle, 1334 Haight St) 415-431-6764 Open M-Sat 10:30-9; Sun. 12-8.
- The Hopenet Coop, 223 Ninth St. 415-863-4399 Open M-F 12-7, Sa 12-5.
- Sunset Medicinal Resource Ctr, 445 Judah St. 415-731-1833 M-Sa 11-8.
- The Green Cross, 3420 - 22nd St at Guerrero 415-648-4420 open 10-8 daily [thegreencross.org](http://thegreencross.org)
- Mason St. Dispensary (124 Mason St. downstairs) 415-433-4420, 7-9 daily [www.masondispensary.com](http://www.masondispensary.com)

### Marin, North Bay

- Marin Alliance for Medical Mj: 415-256-9328 [www.cbcmarin.com](http://www.cbcmarin.com)
- Napa Natural Wellness Group, 727 Lincoln Ave #F 707-637-3200 Mon. & Fri. by appointment only
- Here2Help-707, Solano Co. deliveries homebound patients only 707-208-9023. M-Th 9-7 [here2help\\_707@hotmail.com](mailto:here2help_707@hotmail.com)

### South Bay

- Cal Medical Mj Patients Association (Belmont; deliveries to San Mateo, SF and East Bay) 650-492-1487 (24 hrs) / 650-595-0113, 4-6 - [cammjpa@yahoo.com](mailto:cammjpa@yahoo.com) - [cammjpa.50megs.com](mailto:cammjpa.50megs.com)
- Mobile Herbal Therapy (San Mateo, San Jose deliveries) 866-240-9121
- Area 420 Santa Clara Co patients' group (info only), 408-966-6532 [area420.com](http://area420.com)
- Agrosshare caregiver services (Santa Clara Co. patients only) 831-334-0830
- San Jose area deliveries: Growth Unlimited 1-888-MED-CANN North Coast
- Humboldt Patients Co-Op, 601 I St. B, Arcata 707-822-9330
- Mendo Healing (Ft Bragg)

707-964-3677

- Mendo Remedies. 44975 Hwy 101, Laytonville: 707-984-7101; low-income patients welcome.
- Caregiver Compassion Center. 4349 Mongtomery #D, Santa Rosa: 707-537-7303 M-F 1-6; Su 3-6.
- Resource Green Caregivers & Patients Group, Santa Rosa 532-D Sonoma Ave 866-420-5020 11-9 daily (deliveries too)
- North Bay Collective. 2050 W. Steele #D-3, Santa Rosa: 707-569-1420 Tu-F 12-7; Sa-Su 12-4.
- Sonoma Alliance for Med Mj. 707-522-0292, patients' support group
- Sonoma (Guerneville): Marvin's Gardens 707-869-1291
- Sonoma Co. Compassionate Services Delivery 707-972-7818
- Lake Co Alternative Caregiver Clinic, Clearlake Oaks 707-998-0358 [lacc@mchsi.com](mailto:lacc@mchsi.com)
- Lake Co., Alternative Lifestyle Services, 14442 Lakeshore, Clearlake 707-995-0191
- Lake Co., Eddy Lepp's Medicinal Gardens, Upper Lake 707-275-8879 [www.eddysmedicinalgardens.com](http://www.eddysmedicinalgardens.com)
- Ukiah CBC: 707-462-0691
- United Medical Caregivers Clinic, 812 N. State St., Ukiah 707-462-0373
- Ukiah Compassionate Caregivers, 892

N. State St. 707-462-6599

- Willits deliveries: NorthernStarMMD 707-456-1211.

### Central Valley to Redding

- Amador Co: Sierra Foothills CC (delivery service) 209-274-6727.
- Butte Alliance for Medical Mj (Chico) [sushierose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sushierose@sbcglobal.net) 530-966-3854 / [indicanna@sbcglobal.net](mailto:indicanna@sbcglobal.net) 530-828-1925 (co-op)
- Butte Compassionate Care, Chico area delivery service, 530-680-0857; 12-8; low-income patients welcome.
- Paradise Alternative Care 530-864-2193 [paradisealtcare@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paradisealtcare@sbcglobal.net) (by appointment. Paradise, Magalia, Upper Ridge area)
- Calaveras CC (delivery service) 866-401-2228. Open 7 days, 8-8; low-income patients welcome.
- Merced Patients' Group (209) 726-4532 [dgreenhouse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgreenhouse@sbcglobal.net) (patient support)
- Merced Co., W. Coast Caregivers (209) 634-3050.
- MMJ Caregivers Association of El Dorado Co. (Placerville) 530-642-8258
- Golden State Patient Care Collective, 233 Hwy 174, Colfax 530-346-2514. M-Sat 10-6.
- Nevada Co., The Healing Center 530-268-4690. Open 11-7, closed Tu & Th.
- Plumas Co., Feather River Coop: 530-283-4517 (info)
- Redding, Shasta Caregivers 530-945-3571
- Redding, Shasta Co Safe Access (delivery service) 530-356-1645
- Roseville area deliveries, Jim's Deliveries 916-519-5328 Hours 10-6.
- Sacramento, Capitol City Patient's Center 916-649-0114
- Sacramento, Alternative Specialties, 9205 Folsom Blvd 916-202-2002. Open M-Sa 10-7 Su 12-5.
- Sacramento, Capitol Alternatives 2020 - 16th St. 916-497-0277 / 916-728-1967 Open 9-7 M-Fri; 9-5 Sa.
- Sacramento, Doctor's Orders, 4011 Winters St. #A 916-564-2112 Open 9-6 M-F, 9-4 Sa, 9-1 Sun.

- Sacramento, MedSac916: 916-806-2314 [www.medsac916.com](http://www.medsac916.com)
- Sacramento/Solano/Central Valley/San Jose deliveries: Growth Unlimited 1-888-MED-CANN
- Sacramento area deliveries, St. Jude Herbal Delivery 916-410-1077
- Sacramento area deliveries, Today's Holistic Caregivers 661-946-6600 [caregivers420@yahoo.com](mailto:caregivers420@yahoo.com)
- Rancho Cordova/Sacto/Citrus Heights area deliveries, Healing Hands of Nature 916-256-5277
- Shasta Patient Alliance [shapatall@hotmail.com](mailto:shapatall@hotmail.com) (information only)
- Siskiyou County Medical Cannabis Co-op Research & Registration Center: Weed CA 530-938-1768 [littleloulou@snowcrest.net](mailto:littleloulou@snowcrest.net)
- Primary Caregivers & Consultants: [CACaregivers@aol.com](mailto:CACaregivers@aol.com)
- Valley Patients' Alliance, Stockton CA (209) 933-6282, (patients' information & aid)
- Yuba County CBC 530-749-7497

### Santa Cruz

- Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Mj: 831-425-0580 [www.wamm.org](http://www.wamm.org)
- MariMed Rx 831-688-9990 (MD consultations available) (M-F 10-5, SA 11-4) [Marimedrx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Marimedrx@sbcglobal.net)
- Med Ex Delivery Service: 831-425-3444
- Hemporium, LLC Delivery Service 831-295-3511

### Kern Co., Bakersfield

- Kern Co., Amer. Kenpo Kungfu School of Public Health 661-399-9099 [www.RevJoeFort.com](http://www.RevJoeFort.com)
- Nature's Medicinal, 323 Roberts Ln, Bakersfield 661-392-9353 open 11-9 daily.
- Compassionate Caregivers 2816 K St. Bakersfield 661-322-2555 Tu-Sat noon-8 Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside
- 420 Primary Caregivers (Anaheim) delivery service 714-758-3500 [www.420primarycaregivers.com](http://www.420primarycaregivers.com)
- MariMed Rx, 550 E. Chapman Ave. #C(Orange) 800-29-LEGAL (M-F 9-5, SA 11-4) [Marimedrx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Marimedrx@sbcglobal.net)
- Northern Lights Church (statewide support group) Laguna Beach 949-222-4209 [northernlightschurch.org](http://northernlightschurch.org) / [www.the-healingexchange.org](http://www.the-healingexchange.org)

### Southern State

- Compassionate Caregivers, 1209 N. La Brea, West Hollywood 323-850-9121, 11-9 daily.
- Inglewood Wellness Center 310-674-4444 [www.InglewoodWC.org](http://www.InglewoodWC.org)
- United Medical Caregivers Clinic, 4520 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, 310-358-0212, Open 11-8, M-Sa, 11 -5 Su.
- LA Patients and Caregivers Group, 7213 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood (at Formosa) 323-882-6033 [www.LAMedicalMarijuana.com](http://www.LAMedicalMarijuana.com)
- AHHS (Alternative Herbal Health Services) 7828 Santa Monica (@ Fairfax) West Hollywood 323-654-8792 call for hours.
- Medical Marijuana Farmacy 7825 Santa Monica Blvd 323-848-7981 (LA area deliveries) 10-9.
- West Hollywood Caregivers 7901 Santa Monica Blvd #206 323-656-2033 open 10-7 daily.
- California Cannabis Pharmaceuticals, 8464 Santa Monica Blvd, W. Hollywood 323-656-1600
- West Hollywood Center for Compassionate Healing, 8921 Sunset Blvd. 310-626-3333.
- Los Angeles Crescent Alliance for Sickle-Cell Self-Help Group (Sister Somayah)
- Long Beach CCLB (not affiliated with any other Compassionate Caregivers), 515 N. Redondo Ave #C-1 562-621-9777



Hot Dog Stand proprietor Adam Lerch looks forward to his next customers.

## When the munchies strike in O'dam

*Continued from page 1*

1637 Telegraph Ave. to bring back fond memories and take care of those munchies at the same time. Be sure to say hello to its amiable proprietor Adam Lerch. Another place to go for the beef is the Burger Gourmet, 351 19th St. Traditional and haute American fare can be found at the Off Broadway Cafe, 416 15th St., and there's also Togo's at 344 20th St.

Feel like south of the border food? Head over to La Salsa Burritos, 501 14th St., or else try Juanita's, 1734 Webster. Both have good food and reasonable prices.

Sabina Indian, 1628 Webster St.,

might curry your favor, or try something Ethiopian at Asmara, 1537 Telegraph Ave., for exotic food with many vegetarian dishes.

When you have a yen for Japanese food, Ichi Japon, 382 17th St., has a good reputation, or walk over to 420 15th St. for some sushi — then cross the street to the Oaksterdam Gift Shop, 405 15th St., to buy a few souvenirs to take home.

As evening descends, the options are reduced, but there are glimmers of good food for the discerning diner.

More on that in our next issue.



## Future looks bright for Oaksterdam

*Continued from page 1*

fronts, have welcomed the cannabis businesses.

"I've seen a dramatic increase in sales and an improvement in the

neighborhood since a cannabis cafe opened next door," says Gertha Hays from Diva's Closet, a women's apparel shop on 17th Street.

Developers who spoke anonymously because they receive federal subsidies on unrelated projects, privately confide that they see a bright future for tourism.

"With Cannabis Prohibition being repealed in California before other states, Oakland will benefit in the same way Las Vegas did by legalizing gambling before every state had a lottery," a local developer predicted.

"Dilapidated hotels that are currently used for subsidized housing will again become part of a vibrant area at night and on weekends."

Astute politicians, recognizing the shift in voter attitudes and facing budget shortfalls, are beginning to see that taxing and regulating cannabis can help revitalize blighted areas and reduce budget deficits.

US Congresswoman Barbara Lee, CA State Senator Pro-Tem Don Perata, Alameda County Supervisors Nate Miley and Keith Carson, and Oakland City Council members Nancy Nadel and Desley Brooks all endorsed Measure Z, the cannabis revenue ordinance.

Long-term plans for the area are to make it more pedestrian friendly by widening sidewalks and closing 15th street between Harrison and Broadway in the afternoon and evenings.

Whether it's called the A&E district or Oaksterdam, the future looks bright for the area.



## Make O'dam more pedestrian friendly

- Observe 25 mph speed limit
- Yield to peds when turning, check adjacent crosswalk before turning
- Watch out for peds crossing against lights and for jaywalkers
- Check sidewalks when entering and exiting garages and parking lots
- Check your mirror before opening your car door when parked on street
- Pedestrians, watch for turning cars and keep out of drivers' blind spots.



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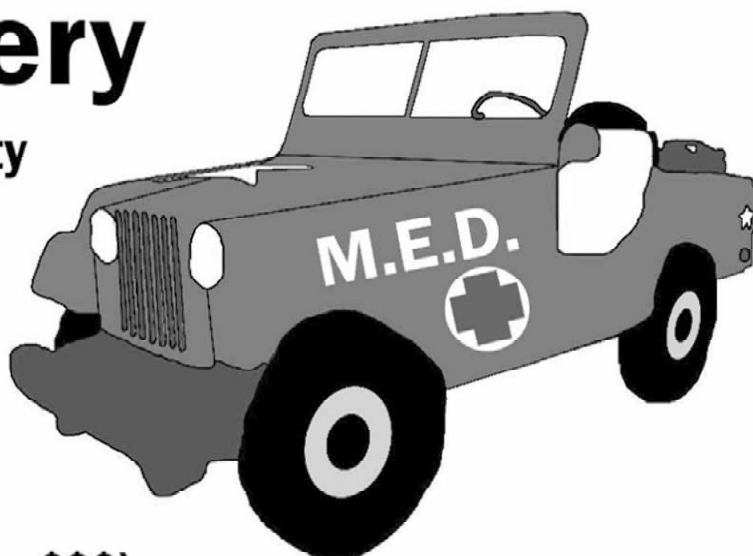
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# Welcome to Oaksterdam

Oaksterdam News wants to introduce shoppers, tourists, working people, visitors, and cannabis consumers across the state to this emerging arts and entertainment district of Oakland.

Between Downtown and scenic Lake Merritt lies a cannabis friendly district where a variety of businesses are revitalizing the area. It is home to the cluster of city-licensed cannabis dispensaries, the OCBC patient ID card center, and a fresh breath of tolerance marked by last year's passage of Measure Z.

Since the adoption of the Oakland Cannabis Regulation and Revenue Ordinance, a new era has begun and fresh opportunities are again opening up in Oaksterdam (O'dam).

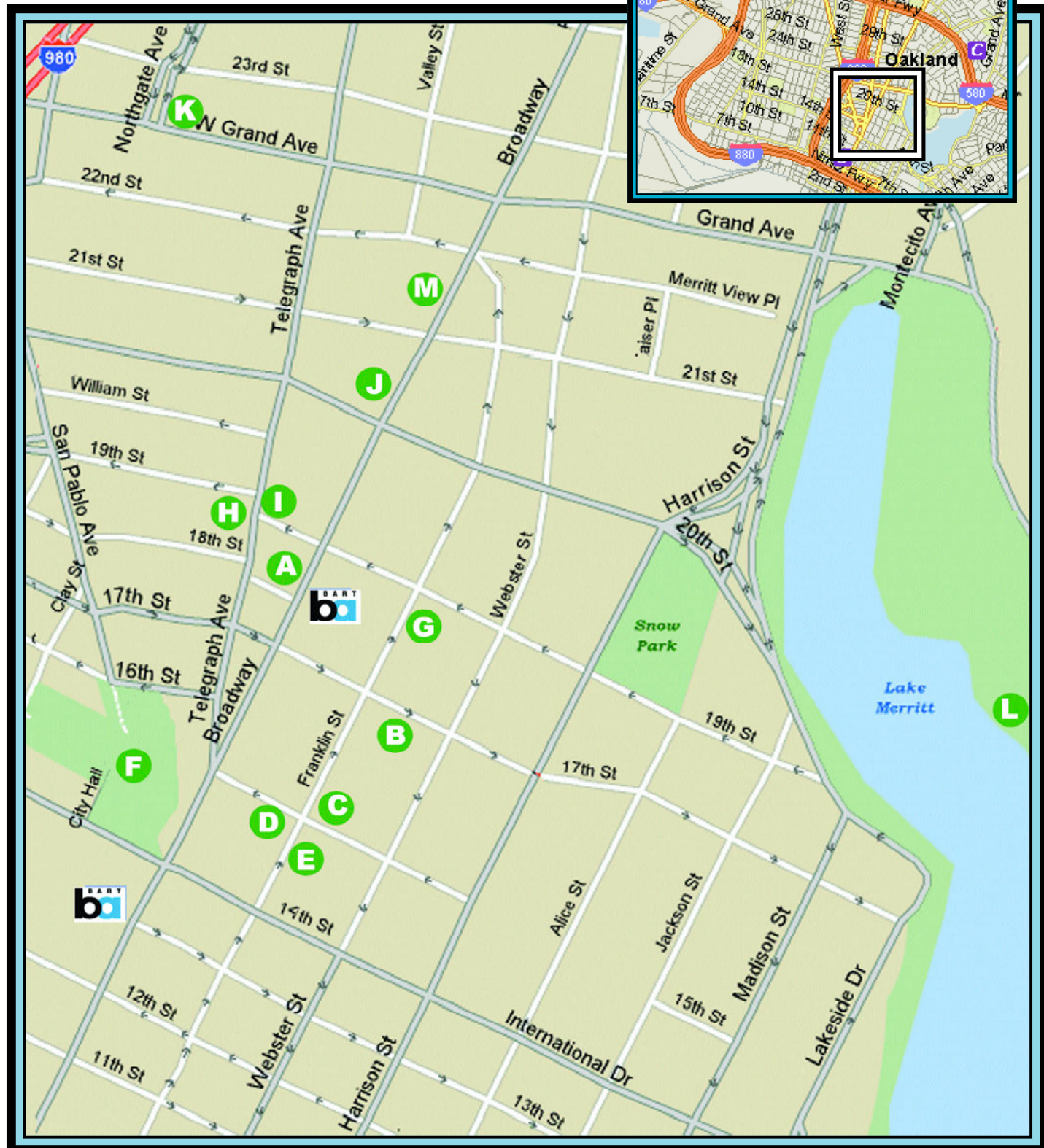
## Quiet growth and good neighbors

The Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative, OCBC, opened in 1996 when it became apparent that the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club was not adequate to meet the demand. Even before Prop 215 legalized medical marijuana in California, the City Council authorized Jeff Jones to open a dispensary in Oakland. After the state initiative passed, the City deputized Jones and other service providers to shield them from federal prosecution. A federal Appeals Court ordered Jones to close shop, and the US Supreme Court made the injunction permanent in 2001.

State law giving qualified patients a right to obtain medical marijuana was not affected, however, and the net effect of the federal ruling was to generate a vacuum that was soon filled by a variety of new outlets. Among the first was the Bulldog Coffeeshop, joined over time by the Lemondrop Coffeeshop, Compassionate Caregivers, Green Door, 420 Cafe and other dispensaries that sprang up. As this cottage industry developed, each shop had its own approach, appearance and niche but most clustered along Broadway and Telegraph Avenue.

Since a physician's approval and a membership card were required, access to medical marijuana dispen-

- Oaksterdam (O'dam) Key:**
- A = Bulldog Coffeeshop, 1739 Bdwy  
Four Seasons Hydro, 1735 Bdwy  
The Co-op Stop, 1733 Bdwy
  - B = SR-71, 377 - 17th St.
  - C = Norcal MMJ Recommendations, 1504 Franklin
  - D = Oaksterdam Gifts, 405 - 15th St.
  - E = Post office, 1446 Franklin St
  - F = Frank Ogawa Plaza
  - G = Medicann, 1814 Franklin # 901
  - H = Fox Theater, 1850 Telegraph
  - I = CARE, 1900 Telegraph Ave
  - J = Paramount Theater, 2025 Bdwy
  - K = Oakland Compassionate Healing Center, 578 W. Grand Ave.
  - L = Lake Merritt Park boat rentals
  - M = Green Medicine Group



saries was controlled and generally outside of the illicit market. Most of the so called "buyers' clubs" allowed on-site consumption, and a sense of community prevailed. That aspect of the area, combined with the decorative architectural facades and its proximity to Lake Merritt, though not a canal, earned the area its moniker, Oaksterdam, in honor of the famous

cannabis coffee shops of Amsterdam.

Dispensaries brought security to the area and were good neighbors. By early 2004, O'dam was home to about a dozen medical marijuana dispensaries that had sprouted up within easy walking distance of convenient BART stations. As more dispensaries took root, the area became safer and cleaner. The personality of the neighborhood began to flourish. Its reputation drew a new vigor and pride to the community.

## City does about face on access

The dispensaries were largely self-regulated under the principles of being good neighbors, but questionable practices at a few clubs drew undue attention to isolated problems.

Unseen forces were at work, unbeknownst to the cannabis community. The director of a center for gay, lesbian, transgender and questioning youth had an eye on a new location and a simmering feud with one of the dispensaries over the smells it was venting through a shared air duct. At the same time Councilman Ignacio De la Fuente was looking for an excuse to shut down the dispensaries now that the area had been improved.

The youth center got frustrated by City foot dragging, so to force the Council's hand it went public about its quarrel with the dispensary. This led to a media frenzy and front page *Oakland Tribune* stories on O'dam. Then a Channel 5 TV producer found his car broken into while parked downtown. The result was a televised report alleging illicit marijuana sales among the dispensaries. This was exactly the pretext De la Fuente needed to use an iron fist on a non-problem. He initially sought to close all the dispensaries except for the one under federal injunction that cannot dispense medicine.

Council member Nancy Nadel fought to defend the patients and all dispensaries, but in the end negotiated to license only four locations and scatter them around a wider area. More than 50 people spoke at the hearing to protest the plan.

Even the youth center director stepped up to say he did not want Oaksterdam shut down, he wanted the center relocated. He got just the opposite — dispensaries were shut down while his center remained neglected.

In the end, only Council member

## Get Acquainted With Tainted.



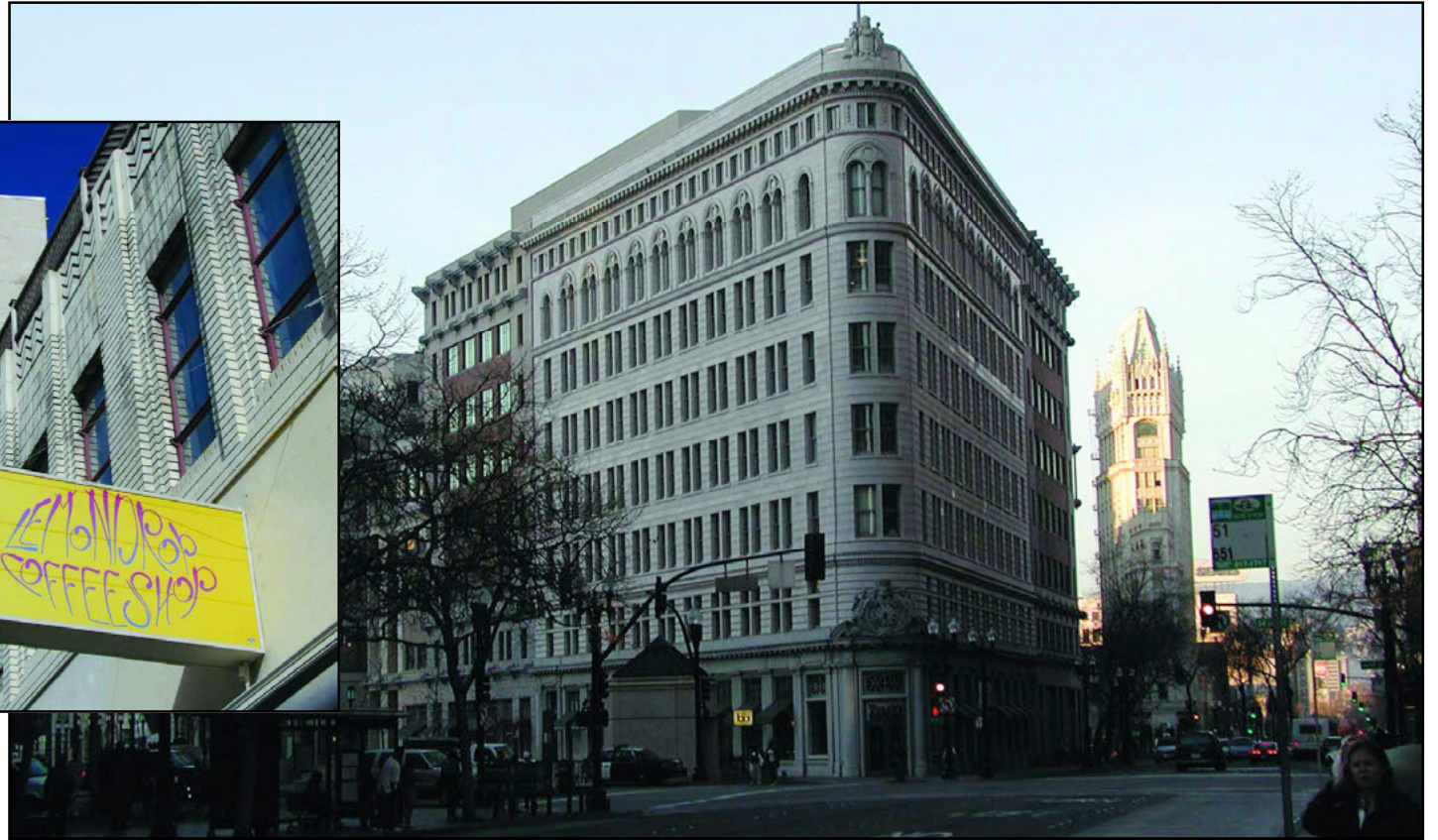
**Available at SR-71. WARNING: FOR MEDICAL USE.**



Above, right: The Green Door and Lemondrop are two former dispensaries whose signs remain in O'dam.



Far right: To the left of the First National Bank building is Frank Ogawa Plaza and City Hall. To the right is the Cathedral Building and Oaksterdam.



Desley Brooks voted against the ordinance for being punitive and ignoring the will of the community. Within months, “for lease” signs began to appear on once-bustling storefronts.

Yet the spirit of Oaksterdam thrives in its historic relics, in its current cannabis dispensaries, and in its potential to show the world how it should be done: adults enjoying cannabis with like-minded others in private environments. We hope that the Measure Z oversight committee will feel the same.



## An O'dam stroll

The map on the facing page shows highlights and historic sights of the area, so refer to it for landmarks.

Starting at City Hall, head East on 14th to Broadway and turn North. At the end of the block you see the towering Cathedral Building at the Telegraph and Broadway split.

Turn left onto Telegraph and you soon pass the Fat Cat Cafe on the right-hand side. Across the street is a small three story building where the 420 Cafe operated. If you peer into the window you'll see murals and a skunk doll perched on a room divider.

Next you will pass a BART entrance and a few doors later is a yellow sign: “Lemondrop Coffeeshop.” The Lemondrop once had a

candy store front and a dispensary in the basement. A few doors later another dispensary site wears paper signs announcing its closure and a new location for people to visit.

Continuing North you can't miss the massive, ornate Fox Theater on the left, in the middle of a costly restoration project. At the end of the block and across 19th Street is a beautiful Art Deco building with gold trim and sylvan murals painted in the windows. This is the licensed dispensary CARE. It's worth walking along the building's Telegraph facade before you continue east on 19th Street to Broadway.

Turn south on Broadway and on your right you will soon encounter 1755 Broadway. This is the original location of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative where Jeff Jones first opened his dispensary on the fifth floor on July 4, 1996.

Next door is the Bulldog Coffeeshop, which once housed a cannabis dispensary. It's a good place to stop for a cappuccino or soy chai before you go south past the Four Seasons garden center to the Co-op Stop that offers vaporizers, gear and ID cards for people with documentation that they are qualified patients.

Keep strolling south to 15th street, then turn East once again. On the South side of the street you will see the Oaksterdam Gift Shop, which also

houses the *Oaksterdam News*. Continue up 15th to Webster, and turn north past the YWCA to see the Green Cross dispensary sign in a tall-windowed building at 1521 Webster, covered with for lease signs.

Further north, turn left on 17th and walk west along the tree-lined street. Under a red canopy is SR-71, another licensed and operating dispensary.

Two other active dispensaries are further out, one on Broadway and the Oakland Compassionate Healing Center at 578 W. Grand Ave.

Turn back east on 17th one block

and turn left on Harrison, to the north. At 19th you will see beautiful Snow Park to the right and cut across diagonal to Lakeside Drive and on the other side is Merrit Lake.

There is a walking path that leads into the park surrounding the lake.

In the park you can find the boat house where sailboats, paddleboats canoes and kayaks can be rented for a few dollars. You can walk the trail around the lake and catch scenic vistas or rent a gondola for a romantic sunset cruise.



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Nine months after the city arbitrarily shut down most cannabis dispensaries, buildings that housed the Green Door (above), Lemondrop Coffeeshop and a neighboring former dispensary (right) remain vacant and begging for tenants.

## Council will reconsider ordinance that brought vacancies to O'dam

By Martin Williams

When Councilman Ignacio De la Fuente pressured City Council last summer to close most of the medical marijuana dispensaries and disperse the remaining four, opponents of the plan got a promise that the ordinance would be revisited in six months.

That time period has come and gone without the scheduled review, but the negative effects of a bad decision are there for everyone to see.

Thanks to De la Fuente's folly, more patients now rely on street dealers. The lack of on-site consumption forces dispensary patients to smoke on the streets, and almost a dozen

buildings sit vacant that only recently brought medicine to patients, rents to property developers, and tax revenue to city coffers.

Sidewalks are now empty, trash blows against shuttered doors and "For Lease" signs again hang in windows and on walls. Customers once ate and shopped here, security guards kept a watchful eye, and shopkeepers swept up and decorated storefronts to create an inviting environment. City voters signaled last fall that they want to bring that back.

People who want safe access and local prosperity restored to downtown should contact City Council members



to ask that the limits be repealed or the number of licensed dispensaries increased to 20 along with other modifications, such as allowing on-site smoking in ventilated areas.

### Show pride in Oaksterdam!

Please do not litter — always pick up your trash. A city ordinance requires that storefronts keep the sidewalk in front of their business clean, so do your part. Report any persistent garbage problems to keep Oaksterdam clean and attractive.

*Contact your City leaders*

**Oakland City Hall:**  
 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza,  
 between 14th and 15th at Clay St.  
**Jane Brunner, District 1, 510-238-7001**  
 jbrunner@oaklandnet.com

**Vacant, District 2, 510-238-7002**  
 dist2@oaklandnet.com

**Nancy Nadel, District 3, 510-238-7003**  
 nnadel@oaklandnet.com

**Jean Quan, District 4, 510-238-7004**  
 jquan@oaklandnet.com

**Ignacio De la Fuente, Dist 5, 238-7005**  
 idelafuente@oaklandnet.com

**Desley Brooks, Dist 6, 510-238-7006**  
 dbrooks@oaklandnet.com

**Larry Reid, District 7, 510-238-7007**  
 leid@oaklandnet.com

**Henry Chang, At-Large 510-238-7008**  
 cityochang@aol.com

**Jerry Brown, Mayor 510-238-3141**  
 officeofthemayor@oaklandnet.com

## Oakland voters back private cannabis sales

*Continued from page 1*

Washington DC, and Drug Policy Alliance Network's Oakland office. While cities including Berkeley, Seattle and San Francisco also make marijuana use low police priority, this is the first ordinance to include cultivation and sales, and groups around the country are planning to emulate it.

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# Leno introduces new hemp bill

## AB 1147 calls for low-THC hemp farming

By Chris Conrad

Assemblyman Mark Leno (SF) stood by a photo of Canadian hemp Feb. 23 to announce his new industrial hemp bill in the California legislature. Members of the Hemp Industries Association (HIA) and VoteHemp also spoke at the press conference at the state Capitol, along with a farmer and a representative of the organic products industry.

"Products manufactured with hemp are already a multimillion dollar industry in California, but our manufacturers buy hemp seed, oil and fiber from international farmers" said Assemblyman Leno. "It is time to put California farmers first and not leave them out of the economic benefits of this environmentally sound crop."

The bill attempts to circumvent the federal ban on hemp farming by

asserting the State's right to control agriculture within its borders while exporting only items that are legal within federal definitions.

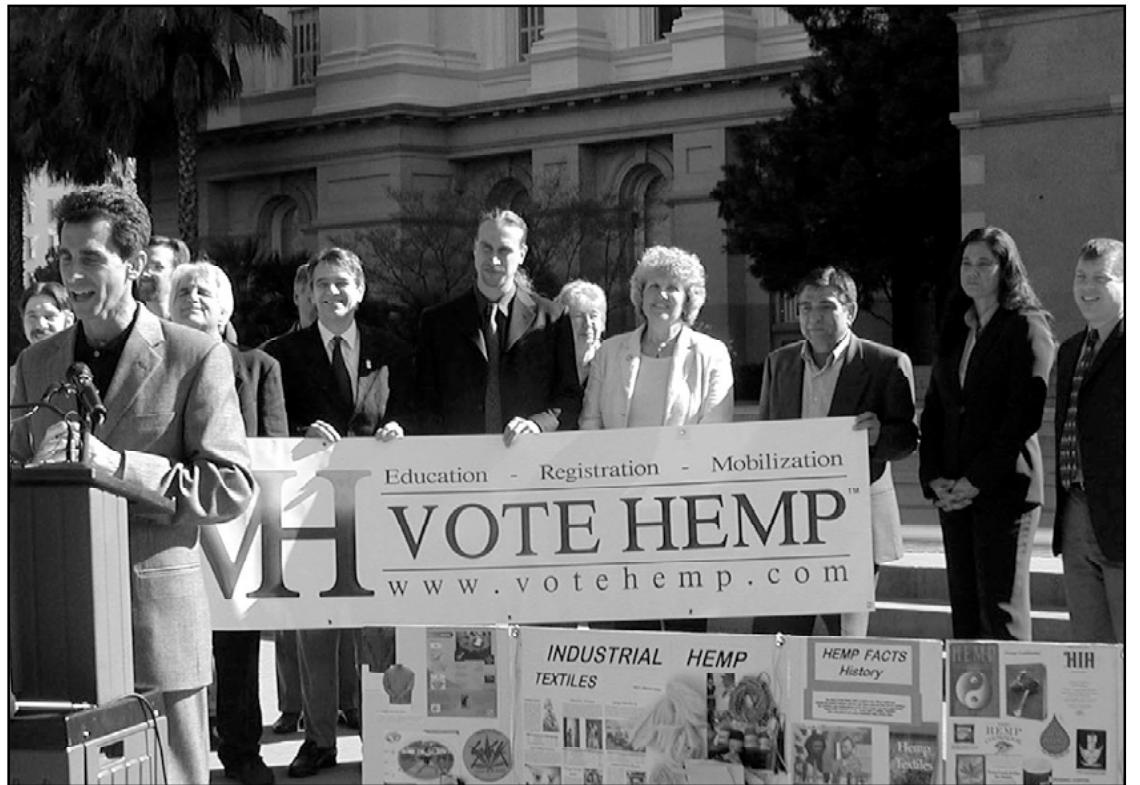
### Hemp not psychoactive

Hemp is a variety of cannabis that is grown in agriculture for its seed or stalk to be used for home and industrial manufacturing.

Assembly Bill 1147 would allow farmers to grow hemp as long as the potency of its mature bud would be 0.3% THC or lower.

Marijuana-grade cannabis typically has 3% to 10% THC in the flower.

This is the second time an industrial hemp bill has been introduced in



Assemblyman Mark Leno joined industry representatives at the Capitol to announce his bill.

the California legislature. In 2002, a hemp research bill (AB388) passed both the Assembly and Senate only to be vetoed by then Gov. Gray Davis.

VoteHemp predicts that four state legislatures are likely to pass bills this year to allow farms and researchers to grow hemp, North Dakota, Oregon, New Hampshire, and California, some 50 years after the crop was taken away from farmers who grew the versatile plant for centuries.

The HIA has been reinvigorated by its recent success with VoteHemp in defeating the DEA effort to ban hemp food products. The groups received notification from the US Department of Justice that it will not challenge a Ninth Court ruling that put a definitive end to the DEA effort to ban safe, legal hemp food and body care products. Hemp foods were a bright spot in product development and consumption until the federal agency attacked them. Hempseed oil has one of the highest proportions of omega 3 & 6 essential fatty acids (EFAs) to nourish the body and replenish the skin.

New data show that THC levels in hemp foods dropped significantly after the voluntary "Hemp Pledge" program was introduced.

### Surge in food and fiber markets

With that, a gray cloud of doubt hanging over the industry dissipated and it looks to a sunny future. Stock is returning to store shelves. Canadian farmers plan a big increase in hempseed cultivation, with a focus on organic products.

Tree-free hemp paper products are expanding into recycled and high-quality print papers, with eco-conscious performers using it for CD covers and posters. The latest wrinkle is that hemp diapers are a growth area since new studies have shown that hemp and flax fibers contain antibacterial and anti-microbial characteristics that reduce the risk of infection.

Utne Magazine's September issue had a special section on hemp titled "Hemp is Hip, Hot and Happening ... So Why Are American Farmers Being Left Out?" You can read it online at [www.VoteHemp.com](http://www.VoteHemp.com).

Next year's HIA convention will be in Canada, according to its website, [www.hempindustries.org](http://www.hempindustries.org).

# Diva's Closet



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## Celebrating 5 Years!

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### The Miracle Side Of Nowhere.



Attendees filled the YWCA theater.

## Activists come to Oakland to discuss the future of state cannabis politics

By Mikki Norris

“Tax us!” The declaration was nearly unanimous in the crowded hall.

Almost all 175 attendees at the Feb. 19 statewide activists conference, *Measure Z and Beyond: The Agenda for Marijuana Reform in California*, agreed that they were ready and willing to pay a fair tax if they could purchase and consume legal cannabis at licensed and regulated businesses. The two holdouts were of a more libertarian bent.

The process of how to move in that direction was on the minds of the activists from 23 counties who came to the heart of Oaksterdam to discuss the Oakland Cannabis Regulation and Revenue Ordinance. Many are clearly interested in bringing a similar initiative or ordinance to their areas and ultimately to the state level, and these topics took up the morning session.

The afternoon focused on legal and medical marijuana issues such as the pending *Raich* Supreme Court ruling, dispensaries and local guidelines, followed by breakout sessions focusing on specific topics.

Several elected officials arrived throughout the day to show support, including City Councilmember Desley Brooks, Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, School Board member and mayoral candidate Dan Siegel, and AC Transit board member Rebecca Kaplan. The audience roared when Susan Stephenson capped off her presentation on campaign tactics by playing a recording of the Bay

Area’s popular US Congresswoman Barbara Lee giving a telephone endorsement for Measure Z that went out to 30,000 Oakland voter households just days before the election.

The conference at the YWCA was co-sponsored by the Oakland Civil Liberties Alliance (OCLA), California NORML, Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), Marijuana Policy Project (MPP), and Americans for Safe Access (ASA).

“You’re making history here,” MPP director Rob Kampia stated. He pointed out that Measure Z is the first tax and regulate measure to pass in this country, and this is the first conference that is focussing on this tactic. Working in Washington, DC, Kampia doubts that Congress is ever going to pass a tax and regulate bill. “It’s going to have to come from the states that have initiative processes.” There are 17 such states in the country.

### *Measure Z – A Success Story*

Judy Appel, a former attorney with the Drug Policy Alliance and board member, moderated a panel of OCLA board members and staff.

Richard Lee, owner of the Bulldog Coffeeshop said he worked with Sup. Miley and his aide, Joe DeVries, two strong supporters of medical marijuana in Oakland. They ran a focus group in 2003 to see where voters stood and found that 8 of 10 women supported taxing and regulating cannabis to raise funds for the cash-strapped city. “The time was right. The support was there,” he said. He

formed OCLA-PAC with a stellar cast of organizers and activists, to develop and implement the initiative.

Board member Dale Gieringer gave a breakdown of the costs and benefits of ending marijuana prohibition as an incentive for reform. “The state is wasting 150 million dollars a year enforcing marijuana laws, when it could be generating at least \$1 billion a year in tax revenue,” said Gieringer, director of Cal NORML.

“It helped that we started off with some solid endorsements from respected local political leaders,” said board member Mikki Norris, director of the Cannabis Consumers Campaign. Having two city council members, two supervisors, a school board member, and AC Transit board member endorse the campaign early on, made it easier to generate more endorsements later. “After we got the support of the MGO Democratic Club, we were able to get all the Democratic clubs and Green parties behind us,” she said. She named a long list of supporters that included

state Sen. Don Perata, the California Nurses Association, Rev. Harold Mayberry, the superintendent of Alameda County Schools and others that can be found on the web site, [www.taxandregulate.org](http://www.taxandregulate.org).

Campaign manager Susan Stephenson of The Next Generation played the Rep. Lee recording to cap the list of endorsers. She explained how polling had been used to shape the targeted mailings to voters.

### *Nuts and bolts discussed*

Stacey Swimme, Field Coordinator for Americans for Safe Access, moderated the medical marijuana panel. Court-qualified cannabis expert Chris Conrad kicked off the session with a PowerPoint presentation on state demographics showing that work is needed in the Central Valley and eastern regions.

“A measure of success of Prop. 215 is safe access, more access and more choice. It seems to be working better here than in other areas,” said Don Duncan, who works with both northern and southern California dispensing cooperatives.

“The more we regulate ourselves the better,” added Jeff Jones, Director of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Coop, which has verified and issued ID cards to thousands of qualified medical marijuana patients who use them to gain access to dispensaries and as a safeguard against arrest.

Steph Sherer, Executive Director of Americans for Safe Access, gave a call to action. “We must be prepared and ready for when the Raich decision is handed down by the Supreme Court.” Americans for Safe Access is

*Continued on next page*



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**Marijuana.**



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and in reminding adults  
to consume it responsibly.

From previous page

asking supporters to gather outside of their US representative's local district office two days after the decision is announced, to honor a good decision or to mourn a bad one. "We need to show the nation we are watching"

#### Legal consultations

People got free legal advice from a group of attorneys including Rob Raich, whose wife, Angel, is a plaintiff in the Supreme Court case. "If we win, it will be a tremendous victory for patients all over the country. If we lose, the status quo will be preserved, but local and state laws are still protected," Raich assured attendees. "And we still need to change laws at the state and federal levels."

Oakland attorney, Bill Panzer discussed nuts and bolt issues about protecting yourself as a patient. Attorney Omar Figueroa told patients that if you grow cannabis, you might want to get multiple recommendations to protect yourself from police. "Post documents around your garden. Don't say anything. Let the paperwork speak for itself. Don't make statements to law enforcement," he warned. "Ask to speak to a lawyer."

Joe Elford, an attorney for ASA, discussed the motions for return of property when marijuana is seized from patients and ASA's lawsuit against the CHP for violating patients' rights under Prop. 215. ✎

# Oaksterdam's Retrograde Message

*Those enduring buildings in the historic center of O'dam were built in our grandparents' era, a time when medical marijuana could be ordered at any pharmacy. That is the history and the future encapsulated into one dream of safe access and social justice for cannabis users.*

By Fred Gardner

Scientists have learned in recent years that cannabis affects the body because THC and other plant components act just like some of the body's own neurotransmitters (dubbed *endocannabinoids*).

It turns out that endocannabinoids send messages to all other neurotransmitters (GABA, norepinephrine, serotonin, dopamine, etc.) They are like orchestra conductors, facing the instruments and signaling them to quiet down or get stronger, speed up or slow down.

*Retrograde messaging* is the scientists' term for how the cannabinoids operate. As retrograde messengers, cannabinoids modulate many systems within the body, which explains why their effects are so

wide-ranging.

Even before the biochemists reached their current level of understanding, Tod Mikuriya, MD, inferred from the effects cannabis has on people that its mode of action was unique and that it modulated multiple systems within the body.

Mikuriya proposed that cannabis be categorized as an "easement" and grandfathered into the US formulary on the basis that its safety and efficacy had been established prior to its prohibition in 1937. "Back to the future," is a slogan he often employs — a perfectly retrograde message.

#### A link between two eras

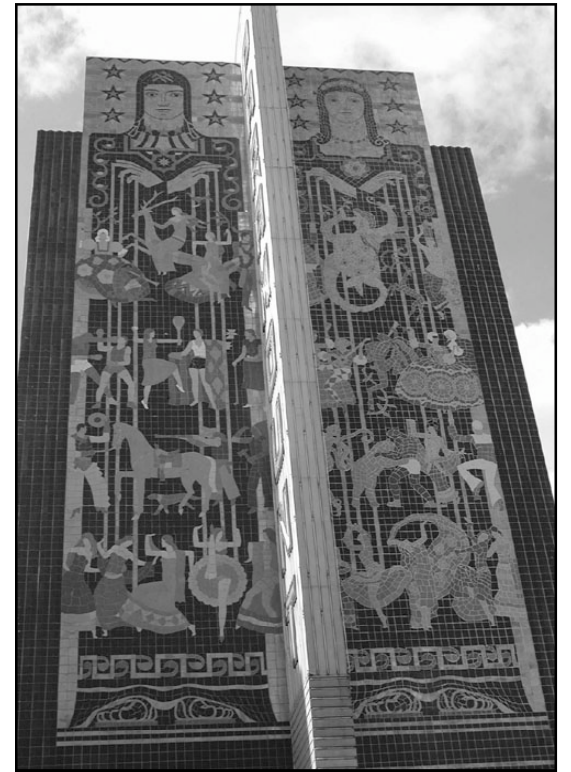
You may be wondering what this has to do with Oaksterdam.

Start at the Bulldog Coffeeshop and take a walk. Look at the buildings. Some have style and grace, high ceilings, windows that open, distinctive architectural features.

You can see that the builders were trying to achieve something beautiful and enduring; that they were craftsmen who took pride in their product.

Turn down 17th and look at the Floral Depot building on the corner, "flashing a silver and cobalt blue exterior," as Ishmael Reed describes it in *Blues City*. Built in 1931, the building stands because the Oakland Heritage Alliance fought to keep it from being torn down for a mall. Today its spacious main room is the setting for one of Oakland's four permitted medical-cannabis clubs (so, it's still a flower mart!)

Among the buildings within walking distance that architects consider



The art deco mosaic on the front of the Paramount Theatre looms high over Broadway near 20th Street.

classics are City Hall (1914); the Fox Theatre and Office Building (1923); I. Magnin (1931), a beautiful green terra cotta building at the corner of 20th and Broadway; the Paramount Theater, a masterwork designed by Timothy Pflueger; the First Church of Christ Scientist (1902) 17th and Franklin, a small stone building in Romanesque revival style; and the YWCA on Webster St. (1915) designed by Julia Morgan. There are many, many more.

Plunked among old Oakland's architectural gems are stark cubes made out of steel and glass in which the air is recirculated.

Which buildings are more pleasing to the eye? Which draw you in and look like inviting settings to work or shop or eat or watch a show? Which pique the interest? It becomes obvious that *progress* is not synonymous with *improvement* and can sometimes mean the exact opposite.

Freeways cut and slash through Oakland neighborhoods now, half the land is devoted to cars, but prior to World War II Oakland (and every other major American city) had electric light rail lines connecting it to the suburbs efficiently and without pollution. General Motors and Standard Oil conspired in 1937 to secretly subsidize Greyhound Bus Lines to offer lower prices than electric rails and drive the lines out of business. The tracks were torn up in the 1940s, under the eyes of our parents and grandparents, and the choking of our cities by cars commenced in earnest.

#### Bring past and future together

To think "retro" is to question *progress* itself as it has occurred in every field (medicine, architecture, public transportation, the school system, the environment) and to figure out how to restore sanity, balance and fairness to our society.

✎

## Cannabis safety tips

Be careful with edibles, they have a delayed effect. Don't smoke in a vehicle. Keep your cannabis away from where children can get into it. No public nuisance consumption, please — and no street sales.

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## Black legislators seek Drug War reforms

By Martin Williams

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators passed a resolution at its annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA, condemning the Drug War while supporting repeal of mandatory minimum sentences and treatment for nonviolent drug offenders.

The resolution calls for "a drug policy agenda that prioritizes a public health — not a criminal justice approach — to drug policy.

"The War on Drugs has failed, and while states have continually increased their expenditures to wage the War on Drugs, policies which rely

heavily on arrest and incarceration, have proven costly and ineffective at addressing these issues."

Texas state legislator Harold Dutton told the December meeting that he had already filed a bill (HB 254) to decriminalize small amounts of cannabis and reduce sentences for larger amounts. "Lets never make the cure worse than the disease," he said.

Statistics show that people of color have always borne the brunt of Drug War arrests and prosecutions, a fact of concern to Caucus members.



## Supreme Court due to rule on federal raids

Continued from page 1

court, but that is being challenged.

If prosecutors win, that disconnect between the laws will stand and may get worse. If patients Angel Raich and Diane Monson win, the federal government will have to make a medical marijuana exception for some cases. Since the court has recently ruled that the feds overstepped their authority by banning child pornography and automatic weapons within state borders, it should be an easy win for medical marijuana.

However, attendees at the Court hearing were discouraged by the easy questions tossed to prosecutors and the general lack of compassion the

tribunal showed toward patients.

Several judges gave the distinct impression that their vested interest in maintaining the Drug War trumps Constitutional protections of personal liberty, much as the 1857 Dred Scot decision once held that maintaining slavery trumped the civil rights of African Americans. The judges already made their decision in Raich at a conference held shortly after the hearing, but the final ruling has not been announced as of press time.

Americans for Safe Access is asking supporters of medical rights to organize or attend a protest outside of your US representative's local district office precisely two days after the decision is announced, to show support for safe access.



## Patients take cops to court over abuses, seizures

More than three dozen California patients turned the tables on law enforcement and local governments by suing them to get back nearly a million dollars worth of their medicine. A number have been successful so far, resulting in the return of dozens of plants and multiple pounds of dried medical marijuana. Others

are awaiting hearing dates to have their chance at regaining what is rightfully theirs.

Before filing the cases, Americans for Safe Access did a study that found violations of patients' rights to be routine across the state, including by the Highway Patrol .



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