

I am President of LB CPAC and its members. We are not here to stop medical marijuana and wanted to share some concerns that we have with the draft ordinance as it now stands.

It is important to note that we do not come unprepared, and we do have solutions to our concerns and stand ready to share them with the city in working together on the ordinance.

It is clear from the ordinance that much more input needs to come from the neighborhoods (including the industrial areas) that will be impacted by these “stores” and this should start at the Planning Commission level. It is also clear from the trial court’s decision of Nov. 2012 in *Pennbrooke vs. City of Long Beach*, that community input is vital to these decisions.

1. We know that this is a land use and zoning issue. The placement of these “stores” in the past have created nuisances in the underserved neighborhoods of the Westside and North Long Beach.
2. Light industrial zones have been proposed to allow these “businesses”; and the only areas that they can be placed are on the Westside and in North Long Beach.
3. These areas have had tens of millions of Redevelopment dollars poured into them, with all of these redevelopment areas being left “unfinished” and to fend for themselves and then this. These communities work hard to keep themselves safe. We don’t have the public safety numbers to protect us from crime and keep us safe.
4. Why can the institutional zones not accommodate these uses, (i.e. close to hospitals, medical clinics and pharmacies)?
5. The selection of the operators of these businesses is also crucial to the public’s safety and nuisance abatement.

These are only a few of the issues we have, and would like to be part of the solution. We are an intelligent and creative group and are willing to help the City. Please allow us to be part of the solution and make this ordinance the best it can be.