

RESOLUTION NO. 06-3430

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DECLARING THAT THE CITY DOES NOT TARGET MARIJUANA OFFENSES AND DIRECTING THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION TO REVIEW NARCOTICS-RELATED LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS ANNUALLY

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood has been a long time supporter of privacy rights and the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes pursuant to Proposition 215; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood officially supported the medicinal use of marijuana by adopting a resolution in support of Proposition 215, which was overwhelmingly approved by California voters in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood has shown consistent support for progressive causes and the compassionate use of marijuana, and has worked with the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, the law enforcement agency of the City of West Hollywood, to ensure that the Department understands the City's vision and works collaboratively consistent with the City's values; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff Department has complied with existing laws, including regulations adopted after the passage of Proposition 215 and has demonstrated sensitivity and common sense in the prosecution of crimes, including minor drug-related offenses and other petty crimes; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff Department does not target adult marijuana users who consume this drug in private and who pose no danger to the community, and statistics have shown that arrests related to possession of small amounts of marijuana have been rare; and

WHEREAS, given the limited resources and the high cost of Sheriff services, the City Council finds that law enforcement efforts should focus on more serious issues and crimes, like the abatement of burglaries and robberies, identity theft, child and elderly abuse, and other serious crimes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also finds that law enforcement should not target personal use of marijuana and the possession of small amounts of this drug in light of the limitations on law enforcement resources and in light of the more serious impacts that result from abuse of more serious narcotics such as crystal methamphetamine; and

WHEREAS, City policy makers would benefit from an annual review of crime statistics pertaining to controlled substances in order to monitor whether the City's social service and law enforcement efforts are consistent with City policy or whether they need to be modified:


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of West Hollywood hereby declares that it is not the policy of the City or of its law enforcement agency to target possession of small amounts of marijuana and the consumption of marijuana in private by adults; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood does not condone the possession of large amounts of marijuana by private individuals for purposes of sale, nor the sale to or use of marijuana by minors, nor public consumption of marijuana, especially while operating a motor vehicle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Safety Commission is hereby directed annually to conduct a noticed a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the previous year's crime statistics pertaining to controlled substances; that the Sheriff Department is directed to cooperate in that review; and that following its review, the Commission is directed to provide to the City Council a report containing its observations about narcotics enforcement during the previous year, and recommendations pertaining to City policy and practice in the area of narcotics policy and enforcement; and the City Council shall take such action and give such direction as is consistent with the policy expressed herein.


PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 19th day of June, 2006 by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmember:	Duran, Land, Mayor Pro Tempore Guarriello, Mayor Heilman.
NOES:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSENT:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember:	Prang.



JOHN HEILMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



THOMAS R. WEST, CITY CLERK