



**JOEL ANDERSON
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

For Immediate Release: *August 12, 2021*

Contact: *Scott Barnett (619) 531-5931*
scott.barnett@sdcountry.ca.gov

Paige Bounds (858) 264-9257
paige.bounds@sdcountry.ca.gov

**SUPERVISOR ANDERSON ANNOUNCES PLANS TO
INCREASE ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES AGAINST
ILLEGAL POT SHOPS**

***Recommendations Include County Ordinance Update & \$1.2 Million Additional
Funding for Prosecutions***

(SAN DIEGO) – On August 12, 2021, Supervisor Joel Anderson was joined by San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan and others to talk about his board letter that will be introduced next week at the County Board of Supervisors Board Meeting. This ordinance would expedite the receivership process for County Counsel to take control of properties that have repeatedly violated the law by selling cannabis in the unincorporated communities. The board letter would also allocate an additional \$1.2 million in funding for the District Attorney to help them prosecute criminals running the illegal cannabis operations.

Supervision Anderson stated, “These illegal pot shops are too often popping back up after being shut down, like a game of whack-a-mole. With this ordinance update, the receivership tool can be better utilized to keep these pot shops from opening back up.”

Anderson continued, “We want the DA’s office to be equipped with the tools, resources, and staff power needed to put these criminals away so they can’t reopen another illegal operation.”

San Diego Sheriff’s Department Captain of Narcotics & Gangs Division Matthew Glisson, who spoke at the press conference, shared, “The additional funding for the DA’s Office proposed by

Supervisor Anderson to support prosecution of those involved with unlicensed commercial cannabis will enhance our effectiveness against this public safety hazard. Without aggressive prosecution and the real threat of significant penalties, there is little deterrence for these criminal organizations. This funding will go a long way toward helping the District Attorney in her effort to assist law enforcement with keeping our communities safe.”

Former La Mesa Councilmember, Kristine Alessio, co-hosted the press conference with Supervisor Joel Anderson. She shared her experience with an illegal pot shop that operated across the street from her father’s business on Quarry Road in Spring Valley, where the press conference was held.

“The illegal dispensaries operate without any oversight, the dispensary adjacent to our business had multiple negative effects. Trash was littered onto our property, the customers of the facility parked in our lot or illegally on the street so that our customers had difficulty getting into our business, there was a constant threat of a possible fire as the dispensary did not have power, just extension cords and a generator, our manager was nearly assaulted by a patron of the dispensary when he tried to get him to move a car that was blocking access to our business,” she shared.

Alessio went on to say, “The illegal dispensaries have no code compliance, no oversight of any sort and unlike legal ones, minimal security. They often target communities of concern, like Spring Valley and when they are finally shut down, the blight is left behind, rundown buildings, trash, etc.”

###



Supervisor Joel Anderson
District 2 Supervisor
Joel.anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Anderson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.