

CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

315 Fourth Avenue, MS P-200 Chula Vista, California 91910-3801

POLICE MEDIA ADVISORY

05/11/2020 Date:

To: San Diego Media

From: Chula Vista Police Department

Contact: Lieutenant Dan Peak

Phone: (619) 585-5610 Fax: (619) 691-5229

Subject: The City of Chula Vista Cracks Down on Illegal Marijuana Dispensaries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Message:

Starting on 4/21/20 through 5/07/20, the Chula Vista Police Department, in conjunction with the Chula Vista City Attorney's Office, City Public Works, City Code Enforcement and the San Diego County District Attorney's Office served 12 Criminal Search Warrants on illegal marijuana dispensaries in the City of Chula Vista. These illegal marijuana dispensaries were responsible for numerous complaints from members in the community. Several of these illegal dispensaries were also located in close proximity to several elementary schools.

The following illegal marijuana dispensaries were served with criminal search warrants and ordered to shut down:

- 1. 4/21/2020 2675 Faivre Street
- 2. 4/21/2020 1214 Broadway
- 3. 4/23/2020 259 Broadway
- 4. 4/27/2020 123 Broadway
- 5. 4/28/2020 2830 Main Street
- 4/29/2020 1750 East Palomar Street
- 7. 4/30/2020 330 Trousdale Drive
- 8. 5/01/2020 611 Arizona Street
- 9. 5/02/2020 2675 Faivre Street
- 10. 5/05/2020 1149 Third Avenue
- 11. 5/05/2020 286 Emerson Street
- 12. 5/07/2020 703 Third Avenue

Illegal marijuana dispensaries are being criminally charged and prosecuted for operating these establishments without permits and illegally selling marijuana. The Chula Vista Police Department with the assistance of the City Attorney's Office and the San Diego County District Attorney's Office will continue to focus criminal enforcement efforts on other documented locations that have been identified as selling marijuana illegally in the city.

Currently there are no legal and permitted marijuana dispensaries in the City of Chula Vista.

Illegal and unpermitted marijuana dispensaries pose a significant health and safety hazard to the public. In addition to traffic congestion and crime and disorder problems, unpermitted dispensaries usually have significant building and code violations which could be deadly in the event of a fire or other emergency that may require a quick evacuation. Upon entering these dispensaries, officers found barricading potential exit points and found the primary front door to the businesses secured with magnetic locking systems.

With all marijuana dispensaries, preventing access to cannabis products by underaged youth is always a top concern and priority for public safety agencies. Officers found multiple racks of cannabis infused products that mimicked youth-oriented products and appeared to be designed for the youth market such as, cannabis infused gummy worms, cookies, and candies.

Pursuant to the Criminal Search Warrants, the following resulted from these operations:

- \$10-15 million in marijuana products seized (Retail Value)
- 6 felony arrests
- 10 misdemeanor arrests
- 52 District Attorney Advisory Warnings (formal warning to stop selling illegal marijuana)
- \$100,000 thousand in cash seized
- 5 firearms recovered

Please see the attached pictures below regarding what was discovered inside several of these illegal marijuana dispensaries.

Media is invited to view images of the enforcement operations from the following link at CVPD Cracks
Down on Illegal Dispensaries.

For any questions, media are asked to direct all future inquiries to PIO Lieutenant Dan Peak @ 619-585-5610.

Prepared By: Approved By: Lt. Peak Capt. Collum

Copies Sent To: San Diego Media Date/Time:

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