



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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Kelly A. Martinez, Sheriff

SAN DIEGO SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RESPONSE TO 2023-2024 GRAND JURY REPORT TITLED
CANNABIS IN SAN DIEGO - HOW IS IT GOING?

September 20, 2024

Jarnes Tuck, Foreperson
San Diego County Grand Jury
550 West C St. #860
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report – Cannabis in San Diego – How is it Going?

Dear Foreperson Tuck,

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933(c), the San Diego Sheriff's Office provides the following responses to the applicable findings and recommendations included in the above referenced Grand Jury Report.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS:

Finding F2: Current Law Enforcement efforts against unlicensed delivery services and “enhanced CBD” are not effective.

Response: The Sheriff's Office disagrees with this finding.

Regarding unlicensed delivery:

The Sheriff's Office has a dedicated Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET) comprised of four detectives, one analyst, and one supervisor. MET continues to be a leader in illegal marijuana enforcement within San Diego County. Every year MET makes dozens of arrests originating from hundreds of criminal investigations. MET seizes large quantities of illegal marijuana plants, volumes of U.S. currency, and physical assets used in the illegal cultivation of marijuana. Targeting local illegal cultivators has a tremendous impact on the illegal delivery market, eliminating source of supply for bad actors.

Though there is always potential for increased enforcement and varying enforcement tactics, current efforts are successful.

Regarding "enhanced CBD":

California law has been struggling to keep pace with the rapidly evolving cannabis market. Vagueness in state and federal law, only recently provided some clarity by Governor Newsom on September 6, has led to a disguised economy laden with mislabeled products deceptively sold to the public. MET has been addressing these challenges locally as they are discovered and has multiple successfully prosecuted cases centered upon mislabeled, illegal marijuana aka "enhanced CBD". MET is optimistic the pending changes implemented by the Governor's emergency regulation will provide clarity and a level of relief to the local licensed, legal marijuana economy.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation R1: Collaborate to develop and implement strategies to target unlicensed delivery services and smoke shops selling enhanced CBD products.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Office and the San Diego Police Department already collaborates with each other and uses similar enforcement techniques. This is especially beneficial to both agencies when investigating cases of mutual interest when an illegal operator has numerous businesses which operate in both county and city jurisdictions.

The Sheriff Office's Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET) also collaborates with California National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force, California DOJ's Eradication and Prevention of Illicit Cannabis (EPIC) Task Force, County Planning and Development Services (PDS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Cannabis Unit (CDFW), California Water Board, California Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA), San Diego Gas and Electric (SDGE) and other local, vested entities. This cooperation yields a collaborative, multi-faceted enforcement approach.

Signature: Andy A. Martinez

Date: 9-20-24

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