

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
HELD NOVEMBER 17, 2021**

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Long Beach was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

Present were Council President Bendo and Council Members Delury, Mandel and Treston. Council member McInnis was absent.

Corporation Counsel Richard Berrios and City Manager Donna Gayden were also present.

The Public Hearings were held

PUBLIC HEARING #1: Local Law Amending Subpart C of Related Acts Relating to the Charter of the City of Long Beach Re: A Local Law Opting Out of Licensing and Establishing On-Site Cannabis Consumption Establishments within the City of Long Beach Pursuant to Cannabis Law §131.

PUBLIC HEARING #2: Local Law Amending Subpart C of Related Acts Relating to the Charter of the City of Long Beach Re: A Local Law Opting Out of Licensing and Establishing Retail Cannabis Dispensaries within the City of Long Beach Pursuant to Cannabis Law §131.

Editor's Note: Both hearings were called at the same time

Three presentations were made:

1 – Rebecca Brown (Green Thumb Industries) (see attached presentation)

2- Nikki Kateman (Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW [Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union/United Food & Commercial Workers Union]) (see attached presentation)

3- Judi Vining (LB Aware) – asked the council to “opt out” and the importance of giving the citizens of Long Beach a voice.

Gordon Sandmeier (507 E State St) – shared his thoughts on opening cannabis dispensaries in Long Beach.

Roy Lester (72 Boyd St) – commented on the purpose of the hearing.

Council President Bendo noted that this hearing was so that the public could have a better understanding and all the information available.

Adam Ali (124 Roosevelt) – shared his experience/opinion on the legalization and sale of cannabis.

Council President Bendo noted that the city council received a letter from the Board of Education and the Public Safety Commission requesting the council to “opt out”.

Tina Posterli – asked about the parking challenges that would occur with more shops in town.

Carmine Fiore – spoke about the sale of cannabis restrictions in place when it comes to the security of children and noted several sections of the MRTA (Marijuana Regulation and Tax Act).

Crystal Lake – shared her concern about the need for more material and information regarding this item.

Denise Ford – expressed her opinion on the importance of the decision to be made on this item and noted that the residents should be fully aware of where and what is going to be sold in their community. She concluded by asking the Council to “opt out” at this time to allow the residents to help make the decision.

Helen Alessi – asked that the communication and materials be made available in other languages.

Christina Martin – expressed her concern that there was unnecessary fear being instilled and asked the city council to do more research on the item to get more comfortable before making their decision.

Michael Moore – shared his concern about the timeframe involved when “opting out” and formulating the petition requirements.

A discussion ensued regarding the process for a referendum.

Jaimie Lynch – asked the council to “opt out” until they have more information.

Melissa Gibson – shared her knowledge on cannabis and the MRTA requirements and regulations.

Mark Alessi – the local representative for GTI (Green Thumb Industries) answered some of the unanswered questions that were posed earlier on in the evening, including the potential revenue and percentage of adult usage.

Police Commissioner, Ron Walsh noted that he and his department would stay on top of whatever the outcome is and would ask for the necessary resources to help mitigate if any, the impact that this might or might not have within the city.

Jason Katz – spoke about the positive outcomes and how his hemp derived store in Long Beach had helped people within the community. He also mentioned that it wasn’t very easy to open a facility and there is a very strict process involved.

Pres. Bendo stated that both hearings will be left open and continue at the next City Council Meeting on December 7th.

There being no further business before the Council, Council Pres. Bendo made a motion to close the meeting. It was seconded by Ms. Treston and was duly closed, all four council members present voting in the affirmative.

Dated: November 18, 2021

David W. Fraser
City Clerk