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CONTACT:

Jessica Tarman
Communications Director
213-473-7003/213-276-2093
jessica.tarman@lacity.org

MAYOR SIGNS ZINE INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE PLACING MORATORIUM ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES

(Los Angeles) – The Interim Control Ordinance sponsored by Councilman Dennis P. Zine which will place a moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries was signed by Mayor Villaraigosa and will go into effect on September 14, 2007. The ordinance will prohibit the opening of any new medical marijuana dispensaries until a permanent ordinance is created and will require all existing dispensaries to comply with specific regulations within 60 days of the effective date.

Despite recent intervention by the Federal Government concerning medical marijuana dispensaries, the City of Los Angeles is moving forward with legislation that will regulate existing collectives and will ban any new medical marijuana facilities from opening their doors. During this moratorium and regulatory phase, an inter-departmental task force led by the Planning Department will craft a permanent ordinance so that these facilities can operate within appropriate guidelines.

“I am elated that the Mayor is on board with our goal to bring safe access through regulation to those medical marijuana patients who truly need it, and to rid the current facilities of abuse,” said Councilman Zine, Member of the Committee on Public Safety. “This ordinance places control over these dispensaries within the City allowing my colleagues and me to create, implement, and enforce viable and appropriate regulations.”

The Interim Control Ordinance will be effective on September 14, 2007.

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