

PUBLIC SAFETY
PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

MOTION

Recent news shows an increase of illegal cannabis grow houses in residential neighborhoods. California law allows individuals to grow up to six marijuana plants in their home for personal use. However, recent busts have shown a rise in the proliferation of larger grow operations shirking testing, licensing, and other compliance measures while also damaging housing stock usage for residential occupancy.

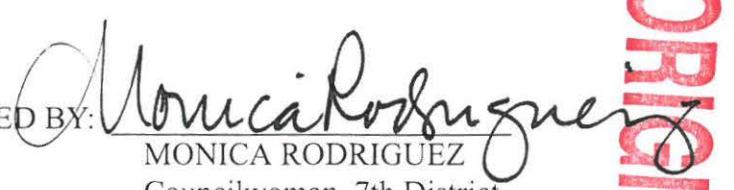
The grow houses are dangerous for several reasons. They can draw out power that can strain the local power supply. They also utilize a significant amount of water- approximately 6 gallons per plant per day, overburdening an already scarce resource. They are a public safety threat and play an outsized role in the underground economy of the unlicensed cannabis industry. These illegal cannabis grow operations also present a larger threat to neighborhoods with the presence of unregistered firearms.

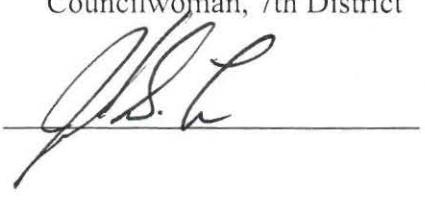
The LA County Supervisors recently passed legislation asking county attorneys and state officials to devise a plan to civilly prosecute water thieves and increase local government controls over illegal cannabis and unregulated hemp, and with growing concerns in our residential neighborhoods we must assess and prepare a comprehensive strategy to protect our neighborhoods to ensure compliance in the City of LA.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department be directed to report on the volume of service calls regarding illegal grow houses and best enforcement practices when responding to these calls.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Cannabis Regulation and the Office of Finance be directed to report on the estimated valuation of revenue loss associated with the production and sale of the unlicensed cannabis.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Building and Safety and the City Attorney be directed to report on how to accelerate and recover revenue and seek restitution from illegal operators as well as the use of nuisance abatement proceedings related to these illegal cannabis grow houses.

PRESENTED BY: 
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY: 

SEP 29 2021

ORIGINAL