



District of Columbia Patients' Cooperative, Inc.
1858 Mintwood Place, #4, NW
Washington, DC, 20009, USA
www.DCPatients.org

March 29, 2011

Dear Honorable Mayor Vincent Gray,

I am writing today to follow up on a previous letter (attached) that was mailed to you January 6th, 2011. DCPC has not received a reply to our letter nor has DCPC received any information as to the anticipated timeline of the District's medical marijuana program implementation. To put this succinctly, we are very disappointed you have chosen to delay this program while thousands of District residents continue to suffer.

Since we wrote you last we hosted a well attended town hall meeting on the District's medical cannabis program and have earnestly sought implementation with DC government officials. However, our educational efforts have been stymied by the fact that you have not signed the draft regulations to implement the program. DCDOH, OAG and ABRA were not permitted to answer questions from the public at the town hall meeting, forcing our organization to be the 'experts.' on the program. Furthermore, you were invited, but did not attend. As a result of our leadership role board members of DCPC have been featured in *The Washington Post*, on television stations *FOX 5* and *ABC 7*, and on-line at *DCist* and the *Washington City Paper*.

Today there is absolutely no public information concerning the program, except the documents that were put on-line by ABRA last year. This is unacceptable to sick patients who the DC government still treats like criminals against the will of DC voters and the new law. This has always been a civil rights issue for patients and you appear to be on the wrong side at this time. DCPC believes you can do better and that is why we are asking you to act immediately to implement the proposed rules.

Had the District Council chosen to follow the best practices of all other states with implemented medical cannabis programs, District residents would already have their medicine, not from a dispensary that we were anticipating to open, but from their own garden. It has been over a year now since Congress passively approved Initiative 59, which explicitly authorized home cultivation, and over 8 months since the first draft of the regulations was promulgated. In your capacity as the Chairman of the District Council, you had numerous opportunities to reject the proposed regulations, but you didn't. And now these proposed regulations are collecting dust in the John A. Wilson Building as thousands of District residents continue to suffer from conditions not treatable by other medicines.

You might not realize this, but our organization has more legal and practical experience with medical cannabis than any other District-based organization. We have asked politely to be a resource for you and your administration, but instead of beginning a dialog with us, we have been ignored or misled at best. This is a far cry from your "One City" mantra. We are deeply saddened by the fact that your administration has wasted our time and money. Judging by the public transition team documents, which fail to mention the program, it's clear that implementing this program is not a priority.

As a result of the obvious inaction by your administration leases that we negotiated over many months are off the table, jobs are not being created and we have spent more than \$40,000 on a process that went nowhere. We realize that this program will create more good paying jobs than a new Walmart, do you?

We do not want to declare the medical marijuana program defunct and be forced to bring a new ballot initiative in 2012 in order to clarify the will of the people on this important civil rights issue.

Home cultivation was always the main point of medical cannabis rights from the beginning. Perhaps you were unaware, but in 1975 here in Washington, DC the first federally recognized medical marijuana patient Robert C. Randall was arrested for growing 9 plants to treat his degenerative glaucoma. Robert won in court later and set the precedent of this very program and fostered Initiative 59.

However, if the government wishes to take those aforementioned rights away, they have a sacred obligation to patients to ensure medicine is available. Without implementation there is no legal medicine and patients will suffer not only physically but psychologically as they are criminals facing time in jail if caught with their medicine.

It is time you take the medical marijuana program seriously and get this back on track. I urge your staff you reach out to our secretary Nikolas Schiller to map out a strategy for implementation so we can have restored faith in this program.

Sincerely,

Adam Eiding
President, District of Columbia Patients' Cooperative, Inc.
<http://www.DCpatients.org>

CC: Councilmember David Catania
Councilmember Phil Mendelson
Councilmember Michael A. Brown
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Councilmember Jim Graham
Councilmember Jack Evans
Councilmember Mary Cheh
Councilmember Muriel Bowser
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Councilmember Marion Barry
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