



2014 Annual Director’s Report on Medical Cannabis Dispensaries

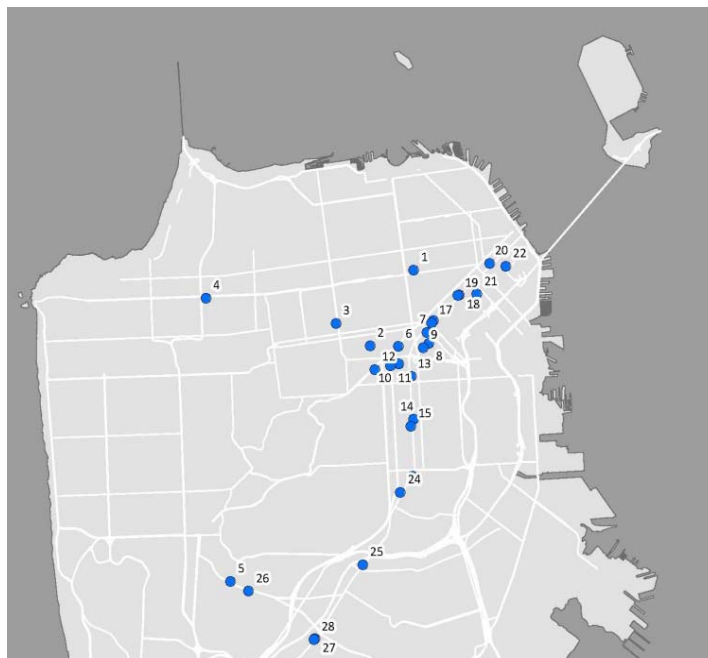
Introduction:

The Director of Public Health shall make a report to the Board of Supervisors per Article 33 section 3321 of the San Francisco Health and Safety Code¹. This Article also defines the rules and regulations by The Department of Public Health (DPH), and its relationships with other city departments in the permitting and operating procedures. This report will summarize how patients obtain medical cannabis, how the program regulates this operation and will also describe trends in Medical Cannabis that may require further regulations.

Program Overview:

As of December 31st, 2014, there were 28 Permitted Medical Cannabis Dispensaries (MCD) operating in the City and County of San Francisco (Figure 1). DPH issues a permit to operate an MCD once approvals are granted by the Department of Building Inspection, Planning Department, Fire Department and The Mayor’s Office of Disability. A permit does not overrule state and federal laws regarding cannabis enforcement.

Figure 1 – Permitted Medical Cannabis Dispensaries in San Francisco



1 . Grass Roots	1077 Post Street
2 . Good Fellows Cannabis Club	473 Haight Street
3 . BASA	1328 Grove Street
4 . Hemp Center (aka Patient Place)	4811 Geary Boulevard
5 . 1944 Ocean Collective	1944 Ocean Avenue
6 . Ketama Collective	14 Valencia Street
7 . San Francisco Med Cannabis Clinic	122 10th Street
8 . Green Cross	230 11th Street
9 . SF Foundation on Going Green	211 12th Street
10 . Valencia Street Caregivers	280 Valencia Street
11 . Love Shack	502 14th Street
12 . The Apothecarium	2095 Market Street
13 . Med Thrive Co-op	1933 Mission Street
14 . Shambala Healing Center	2441 Mission Street
15 . Purple Star MCD Collective	2522 Mission Street
16 . SPARC	1256 Mission Street
17 . Re-leaf Herbal	1284 Mission Street
18 . Barbary Coast Collective	952 Mission Street
19 . Bloom Room	471 Jessie Street
20 . 70 Second St	70 2nd Street
21 . Green Door, the	843 Howard Street
22 . Igzactly Health Center	527 Howard Street
23 . Mission Herbal Care	3139 Mission Street
24 . Bernal Heights Cooperative	33 29th Street
25 . The Green Cross	4218 Mission Street
26 . Waterfall Wellness	1545 Ocean Avenue
27 . Tree-Med, Inc	5234 Mission Street
28 . Mission Organics Center	5258 Mission Street

In order to obtain Medical Cannabis from a licensed MCD, a patient must first obtain a doctor’s recommendation for medical cannabis. The patient must then become a member of a dispensary organized as either a collective or cooperative. The patient must have a valid government issued ID to ensure they are a California resident and are over the age of 18, along with a verified doctor’s recommendation. A patient may be a member of more than one dispensary. Dispensaries’ membership (patients) numbers range widely from 1,000 to 20,000 members.

Locations of MCDs are not approved by DPH but through a referral from the Planning Department. The Planning Department recommended changes to the current planning code which address patients' access and neighborhood concerns, but these changes are not yet heard by the Board of Supervisors. Existing locations, though initially approved by The Planning Department, may now be in non-conforming legal use based on more recent Planning regulations.

Annual Performance by San Francisco Dispensaries:

The permit holder must follow Article 33 section 3308 as a condition of their permit. In 2014, there were 5 public complaints that were either abated onsite or during a follow-up inspection. The complaints included an unclean facility, product packaging found in a park, improper intake procedures, and odors. Violations found during routine inspections included: improperly labeled edible cannabis, current business licenses not posted and/or paid, intake procedure and record keeping inadequate, measurement devices inaccurate and general nuisances. All violations were abated voluntarily within the allotted time set forth in Article 33. There was also one citation to a director's hearing due to repeat improper intake procedures and an invalid seller's permit. The result of this hearing is pending.

Conclusion and Future Planning:

Currently, San Francisco has the most progressive and successful regulatory program in California based on its assurance of safe access for San Francisco residents to medical cannabis. Other jurisdictions recently created their own regulatory programs, with some rules based on the success of the San Francisco program. Because of this patchwork approach to regulation, several state legislative bills attempted, but failed, to further regulate medical cannabis. These bills would have regulated transportation, growing, quality testing, government revenue generation, physician recommendations, and edible product rules among other areas.

Legalization of cannabis for recreational use will likely be on the ballot in 2016. If approved by voters, local lawmakers may wish to build upon existing medical cannabis framework to encompass recreational use.

Notes:

¹ SEC. 3321. ANNUAL REPORT BY DIRECTOR.

(a) Once a year, commencing in January 2007, the Director shall make a report to the Board of Supervisors that:

- (1) Sets forth the number and location of medical cannabis dispensaries currently permitted and operating in the City;
- (2) Sets forth an estimate of the number of medical cannabis patients currently active in the City;
- (3) Provides an analysis of the adequacy of the currently permitted and operating medical cannabis dispensaries in the City in meeting the medical needs of patients;
- (4) Provides a summary of the past year's violations of this Article and penalties assessed.

(b) Upon receipt of this Report, the Board of Supervisors shall hold a hearing to consider whether any changes to City law, including but not limited to amendments to the Health Code or Planning Code, are warranted.

(Added by Ord. 275-05, File No. 051250, App. 11/30/2005)