

## **The Hydro Med Cooperative Proposal Overview**

The following is an alternative strategy to Chapter 71 created by City Staff. It is the opinion of the Hydro Med Cooperative that the language being used to discuss Medical Marijuana (Hydro Med) is at best fuzzy and misleading. Furthermore it our consensus that the concept of dispensaries is flawed, not allowed under the State guidelines and is the source of most of the controversy surrounding public perception. The fact is that in three years since the passing of the MMMA only one incident has occurred in Ann Arbor, and the Police responded to the armed robbery at the Liberty Clinic with Valor and professionalism. So what is the problem? The following...

### **What is the difference between a compassion club, co-op and a dispensary?**

*(These are all separate entities that provide Medical Marijuana Services, however Chapter 71 muddles them together in two entities; grow facilities and dispensaries, this needs to be clarified before any zoning, licensing etc... is codified.)?*

**How can the City encourage the breaking of the Federal sentencing threshold of 99 plants?** (15 facilities would far exceed the threshold at each location by at least 10 times to service 500 patients or around 1000 plants. probably 1500 to do it right.)

**How can you limit the plant count to less than the state guidelines and how can the City assume how a caregiver will grow their crop?** (72 plant sites is a very carefully chosen number mathematically designed to fit grow cycles and maintain Caregivers maximum plant count to 20% under the Federal 99 plant threshold. It should be noted 72 plants could be grown on a 3' x 3' table or in a three thousand square foot basement)

**How can the caregiver and patient community trust the City when it is clear that the City Staff apparently views Medical Marijuana as a nuisance, even criminal?**

*(The city attorney office and the planning staff are willing to subjugate a group of Ann Arbor residences who have already registered and complied with the MMMA and force them to have their private homes and businesses inspected, listed and monitored by City Staff with impromptu no warrant inspections. Who is going to pay for the Enforcement?)*

**Bottom Line:** If the City places Draconian Regulations on top of the state guidelines, the City will face multiple lawsuits and tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees for the City Taxpayers. In addition, the illegal flow of marijuana will actually increase as patients and caregivers will buy and sell illegal pot if it is cheaper, easier to get and hassle free of regulation. Furthermore it is clear that City Staffers are either; misinformed, mistaken or lacking the impartiality to determine a course of action for the City of Ann Arbor. **We recommend a commission, non partisan and non activist, to create a simple compact and a glossary of terms and definitions for Medical Marijuana Caregivers and Patients in Ann Arbor.** Once complete the City can use the commission guidelines and definitions to develop an evolving set of regulations and city code. As a community we can work together have some direction that is fair to the Patients Rights under the MMMA.

**“Just and equitable legal treatment of the citizens of this community, and in particular the youth of this community present as university students”**

**(Part of section 16.2 Ann Arbor City Code)**

**Please see other side.**

## The Hydro Med Alternative to Chapter 71

- 1) In 90 days all Medical Marijuana dispensaries are closed in their current form of operation. They are not legal in concept under the MMMA.
- 2) These dispensaries may become compassion clubs or co-ops, and run a "Caregiver Center" servicing 155 registered MMMA Caregivers and Patients.
- 3) These "Caregiver Centers" must be run by either a Co-op or Compassion Club that is registered with the City as an entity like a private club.
- 4) Caregiver Centers would not dispense Marijuana, They would provide an environment for Doctor/health services, Patient and Caregiver service exchanges, a medication lounge, member lockbox storage and an enclosed 72 plant maximum educational grow facility.
- 5) In the place of dispensaries, the city could explore the concept of surplus management shops that purchase the surplus Hydro Med (pot) from caregivers, co-ops and compassion clubs in Ann Arbor that have registered their facilities with the City and purchased cultivation tags.
- 6) Surplus Shops are in effect controlled Dispensaries however they just sell Hydro Med(pot) and would have nothing to do with any other aspect of the medical marijuana business.
- 7) Surplus Shops could provide Hydro Med (pot) and its derivatives, to any legal MMMA Cardholder. The patient would then pay for a certification label based on the amount of Hydro Med purchased once they were certified for purchase.
- 8) These Surplus Shops would be run by MMMA caregivers and patients with oversight from an impartial commission. Operators must be willing to forfeit their right to cultivate (as a caregiver) in order to get licensing for the operation of a Surplus Shop.
- 9) A Surplus Shop could buy and sell only Hydro Med (pot) produced in Ann Arbor by registered Caregivers, Co-ops and Compassion Clubs who have purchased Cultivation Labels from the City.
- 10) The City will have to establish an impartial commission to create a detailed strategy and set of parameters for many, many more terms of definition than cited in chapter 71.
- 11) This Commission would oversee the integrity and operations of the Hydro Med Surplus Shops and generate revenue through the issuance of cultivation labels for caregivers who want to sell their surplus and the patients who pay a service fee for a purchase certification label. (almost like hunting tags)
- 12) No MMMA Care Giver or patient should be forced to give up their civil liberties to the municipality when no such act is required by the state. The Hydro Med alternative incentivizes Caregivers, Co-ops and Compassion Clubs to be forthcoming in order to benefit from labeling services provided for them by the City.

Please see other side.