



## CITY OF COMPTON

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CITY OF COMPTON RESPONDS TO COMPTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT DISPENSARY LAWSUIT**

*---City of Compton Outlines Efforts to Combat Illegal Activity---*

Compton, CA – Compton Unified School District (CUSD) is now taking legal action against the City of Compton citing that the City has failed to enforce its marijuana laws. California state law prohibits dispensaries from operating within six-hundred (600) feet of educational institutions, but Compton’s municipal ordinance takes that a step further and since 2007 has banned all marijuana shops. In a lawsuit filed Wednesday, CUSD alleges that a dozen marijuana dispensaries are now operating in the City limits, three (3) in the restricted zones of an elementary school, two middle schools and a high school.

“The lawsuit is without merit and unproductive,” said City Attorney Craig Cornwell. The City of Compton has been working with law enforcement for years to combat illegal dispensaries and other businesses that create a nuisance for the community and operate without proper business licenses or permits. Because of the complexity of abating such illegal operations on private property, Compton’s Mayor Aja Brown assembled a task force to find alternative measures to close illegal operations including hourly motels and marijuana dispensaries. As a result, a number of dispensaries have been shut down, and the City is also looking into altering the municipal code to impose stricter fines to property owners that allow illegal businesses to operate in their premises.

In response to the CUSD lawsuit, Mayor Aja Brown issued the following statement:

“Since 2013, we have been adamantly working to restrict the illegal operation of marijuana dispensaries through the deployment of a task force led by our City Attorney and law enforcement. Seven (7) dispensaries have been shut down to date. Additionally, I have recommended a policy change to our municipal ordinance that will impose higher fines on property owners that allow any business to operate without a valid business license.”

As a result of reinforcing the responsibility property owners hold for activities on their properties, Mayor Brown believes they will be more motivated to assist the city in ensuring that unlawful businesses do not operate on their premises.

Mayor Brown also emphasized the need for the City and the District to work together in seeking solutions. “It is critical that public agencies, funded through tax dollars, work collaboratively to address public issues,” said Mayor Brown. “Litigation should be a last resort, not a first response. The only people who lose when a government entity sues another are tax payers, and in this case, our children.”

**About the City of Compton** - The City of Compton, California covers approximately 10.2 square miles in Los Angeles County, California situated south of downtown Los Angeles. With a current population of almost 100,000 citizens, Compton is known as the “Hub City” because of its unique position in almost the exact geographical center of Los Angeles County, Compton is strategically located along the Alameda Corridor, a passageway of 25 percent of all U.S. waterborne international trade. Compton is rapidly emerging as a large industrial center in Los Angeles County for transit and distribution, business services, high technology, home and lifestyle products, metals, financial services, and textile manufacturing.

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