



# San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 9, 2016**

Contact: [Gerry Braun](mailto:gbraun@sandiego.gov), Director of Communications: [gbraun@sandiego.gov](mailto:gbraun@sandiego.gov) (619) 533-4782

### **Police Raid Second Defiant Dispensary**

*Property owner and operators ignored court order, face criminal charges*

For the second time in a month, the San Diego Police Department's Narcotics Unit raided an illegal marijuana dispensary that had been ordered to close, seeking evidence for the criminal prosecution of its operators and landlords.

Weapons, cash and marijuana products valued at approximately \$150,000 were seized from The Center of Holistic, located at 7558 Trade Street, north of the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Included were more than \$30,000 worth of high-grade marijuana concentrates.

The Center of Holistic had operated for more than 10 months in open defiance of a July 2015 court order that it cease operations. Superior Court Judge Gregory W. Pollack had found it in violation of local zoning laws that restrict the number and location of dispensaries.

The dispensary property is owned by a corporation, Trade Series of Saloma Management of San Diego, whose principals are Shimshon Hasson and Ashne R. Hasson. The Hassons are also the managers of Saloma Management, which operates the dispensary.

The Hassons, and individuals Gabriel Nowaskey and Benjamin Miller, were named as defendants when Judge Pollack ordered The Center of Holistic closed last summer. It remained open until San Diego Police executed the search warrant there Tuesday.

In May, police executed a search warrant on a Pacific Beach dispensary with a similar history of defying court orders. Criminal charges will be sought against its landlord and operators, and criminal charges are already under way against two other illegal dispensaries.

**“Property owners are just as culpable as the people who empty the cash registers; both are thumbing their noses at the courts and at their neighbors by sustaining these illegal, unsafe operations,”** City Attorney Jan Goldsmith said, adding that criminal complaints will continue to be issued as appropriate.

Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman said she has a message for those who continue to operate dispensaries illegally and in defiance of court orders: **“You can expect that enforcement action will be taken until every illegal drug house has been removed from our neighborhoods.”**

Illegal dispensaries compete with the 14 legal dispensaries that are permitted to operate in San Diego, including one located less than a mile from The Center of Holistic.

The raid on Tuesday resulted in the arrest of two employees who had quickly exited the dispensary when police arrived, but were detained by officers. One customer was present at the time, and she was quickly released from the scene.

The two employees were a security guard, Olayinka Oladipo, and a budtender, Brandon Kitson. Both were issued criminal citations for using and maintaining an unlawful marijuana dispensary in violation of San Diego Municipal Code section 121.0302(a).

They are both required to return to Department 1 of the San Diego Superior Court on August 19, 2016, for an arraignment on any potential criminal charges.

Inside the dispensary, officers seized more than 12 pounds of marijuana in many different forms, including edibles and concentrates. Officers also seized approximately \$6,300 in cash, and recovered a 9 mm Springfield handgun and a pellet gun.

Fourteen medical marijuana dispensaries have received permits to operate legally in San Diego, including one located less than a mile from The Center of Holistic.

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