



# San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***POLICE RAID LOCAL SMOKE SHOPS*** *San Diego Police Seize Inventory After Undercover Sting Operation*

**San Diego, CA:** The San Diego City Attorney and San Diego Police have taken action to address complaints from the public about businesses that sell marijuana paraphernalia. San Diego Police served search warrants today on four smoke shops in the City of San Diego. Officers seized marijuana pipes and other drug smoking materials as part of a crack down on so-called "head shops" that police say blatantly market and sell drug paraphernalia. Today's action comes after underage Police operatives purchased drug paraphernalia at the smoke shops on June 4, 2009.

This police action marks the second phase of a San Diego County and Citywide effort to enforce state drug paraphernalia laws at local smoke shops. Last November, County peace officers and the District Attorney cracked down on smoke shops illegally selling marijuana paraphernalia in the County of San Diego. This latest phase spearheaded by the City Attorney and San Diego Police Department is targeting smoke shops in the City of San Diego.

Community residents have complained to the City Attorney and Police about San Diego smoke shops flagrantly selling marijuana paraphernalia in violation of state laws. According to San Diego Police Captain Miguel Rosario, "We are responding to community concerns, particularly about the clientele that smoke shops are attracting into these communities. We want to ensure that these businesses are operating legally."

The four smoke shops where the seizures occurred are:

- ***420 Smoke Shop***, located at 4799 1/2 Voltaire
- ***Freak Factory***, located at 3740 1/2 - 3742 Mission Blvd.
- ***Smoke-n-Stuff***, located at 5945 Mission Gorge Road
- ***Up in Smoke***, located at 7200 El Cajon Blvd, Suite "A"

In addition to the drug paraphernalia seizures, the smoke shop clerks who sold the marijuana paraphernalia face prosecution for violations of California's Health and Safety Code. The cases will be forwarded to the City Attorney's Office for prosecution.

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