



City of Grover Beach

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
Thursday, January 18, 2007

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CITY HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO COMPLY WITH COURT ORDER

The City of Grover Beach has been directed to return a small quantity of marijuana to Mr. Kenneth Parson. The Police Department obtained the marijuana as a result of a legal traffic stop and arrest. Mr. Parson was not in possession of the necessary medical documentation to legally permit possession at the time of the arrest. The State Court has subsequently ruled that the substance should be returned to Mr. Parson.

The Grover Beach Police Department and the Grover Beach City Council are aware that we are in the midst of a serious conflict. Federal law does not recognize marijuana as a legal substance, and its possession by an individual is a violation of federal law. California, on the other hand, recognizes use and possession of marijuana for legitimate medical purposes as valid. In this case, City officials are being asked to return the substance and consequently violate federal law. City officials and police officers swear an oath to protect and preserve both state and federal law. This is an oath that we hold dear and the fact that we are being directed to violate federal law in order to carry out state law is distasteful. This City Council stands united in support of our Police Chief and our Police Department.

This issue is not about the use of marijuana for medical purposes. It is about a conflict that must and should be resolved. The City would like to have the opportunity to pursue this issue further, but has determined that, given the potential cost of filing a suit in federal court and the City's limited resources, it is less than prudent to pursue this action. Consequently, the City will comply with the order of the State Court. The marijuana was returned before 5:00 p.m., January 19, 2007.

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