

Detroit police make arrests at marijuana dispensary

Joe Guillen and Bill Laitner , Detroit Free Press 10:18 p.m. EDT July 14, 2015



Detroit police arrested two people and confiscated two firearms and drugs during a raid on a marijuana dispensary Tuesday afternoon.

Police seized 4,100 grams of marijuana (about 9 pounds), and removed 12 edible marijuana foods from the shelves at Detroit Medz, said Sgt. Cassandra Lewis of Detroit police Media Relations.

"Our Major Violators Unit executed a search warrant at the location at 4:30 p.m.," Lewis said.

According to state law, only Michiganders who possess state registry cards can legally use medical marijuana, but at the shop "they were just selling to anybody who walked in," she said.

Related: [Police raids of pot dispensaries lead to arrests](#)

Detroit does not have an ordinance regulating dispensaries. Detroit police favor having dispensaries be regulated, "so that it's safe not just for the customers but also for the community," Lewis added.



In addition, police say flyers advertising Detroit Medz, located at Hubbell and Puritan, were reportedly being distributed near John R. King Academic and Performing Arts Academy when a commencement exercise was taking place.

Some law enforcement agencies claim all dispensaries are illegal until the state Legislature passes a law allowing them. State Attorney General Bill Schuette agrees with that assessment.

The city of Detroit is overdue for regulating its fast-spreading dispensaries, said Winfred Blackmon, a community leader in northwest Detroit who is outspoken about medical-marijuana commerce.

Leonard Pitts Jr.: [Enough with this silly war on marijuana](#)

"I'm not against this for people who are sick, but what we want is regulation," said Blackmon, 67, chairman of the Metropolitan Detroit Community Action Coalition – a group of community leaders from across the city. He also heads a major homeowners group in northwest Detroit called the Schaefer-7/8-Lodge Association.

Blackmon has been complaining to the city about dispensaries for months and has been in regular contact with Councilman James Tate as well as with state legislators about the need to regulate them, he said.

A local ordinance, spelling out what Detroit authorities expect of the city's dispensaries, would protect legitimate operators and weed out any that are undesirable, added [Southfield attorney Michael Komorn, president of the Michigan Medical Marijuana Association](#).

But without such regulation in place, Tuesday's raid was ill-advised because Detroit police should focus on violent crime – not dispensaries, Komorn said.

"I can't speak to this specific location, but there's a lot of dispensaries operating in Detroit and it's unfortunate that Detroit's leaders and citizens seem to be at odds about whether they should be there. Some people still see medical marijuana as just dope," he said.

"These places are not causing lawlessness and they're not hurting property values in the city," Komorn said.