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Feds Moving to Drop Case Against Nation's Oldest Medical Cannabis Dispensary

BERKELEY, CA -- In a landmark victory for the nation's oldest medical cannabis dispensary, Berkeley Patients Group (BPG) will have its federal asset forfeiture case dismissed.

"In the end, compassion and sensibility prevailed," said Victor Pinho, BPG Communications Director, "We share this victory with the entire California medical cannabis community and the patients we've had the privilege of serving over the past 17 years."

BPG has been providing medical cannabis to qualified patients since 1999 in full compliance with state and local laws, the longest continuously operating dispensary in the country.

In May 2013, the federal government initiated a forfeiture action against the property leased by BPG. The forfeiture action was an attempt by then U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag to shutter the operations of BPG (and other dispensaries in Northern California) by seizing the property on which they operated.

Two weeks ago, the DOJ filed to dismiss the forfeiture seeking to take BPG's location.

"We knew from the very beginning that the outcome of this case would impact the medical cannabis community at-large. Our activist roots prompted us to stand up and fight this challenge from the federal government," stated BPG Director Etienne Fontan.

BPG has a legacy of being a model dispensary and a best-practice leader in California. The City has twice declared October 31 to be Berkeley Patients Group Day and Congresswoman Barbara Lee presented BPG with a Congressional Certificate of Recognition honoring our long-standing service to the community.

"BPG is excited to continue leading our industry into the future without any further distractions," said Pinho.

The legal team involved with the case will address questions during an upcoming press conference. Berkeley Patients Group is located at 2366 San Pablo Avenue in Berkeley, California. The dispensary is open everyday from 9 am to 9 pm.

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