

## L.A. NOW

From the metro staff of the Los Angeles Times and...

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA — THIS JUST IN

KTLA 5 NEWS FOX 5  
SAN DIEGO

### Venice pot doctors shut down after raid by state medical board and police

April 20, 2011 | 7:26 pm



One of the Venice boardwalk's eye-catching only-in-California features, the storefront pot doctors who lure patients with barkers, was shut down Wednesday, when the state medical board and law enforcement officers raided three locations linked to Medical Kush Doctor.

Investigators carted boxes and at least two large plastic bags that appeared to contain marijuana out of the deep-blue building next to Muscle Beach that houses a doctor's office, a smoke shop and a popular dispensary called the Medical Kush Beach Club.

Jennifer Simoes, spokeswoman for the Medical Board of California, said the warrant was sealed. She declined to discuss the reason for the board's investigation, but said the warrant was served at 1313, 1811 and 2017 Ocean Front Walk.

Attorneys for Medical Kush Doctor raced to the beach, but said they were not allowed on the premises. Graham Berry, one of the lawyers, said the warrant authorized a search of the offices, vehicles and "anything else that your imagination could run to." He said it also allowed officials to seize records related to the unlicensed practice of medicine. "Since all these doctors appear to be duly licensed, I don't know what they are referring to," he said.

Berry said that the raid started about 10:15 a.m. and that by the time he arrived at 11, he found a line of patrol cars, a crowd gathered outside, news cameras and a news helicopter fluttering overhead. "Once I arrived, they pulled the sliding gate door down," he said.

The Medical Kush Beach Club was also shut down, but Berry said, "It appeared to me that the target was the doctors and the practice of writing recommendations and the collective was a collateral casualty." The Medical Kush Beach Club is operated by Sean Cardillo, who is also the registered agent for Kush Dr., the limited liability corporation that runs the doctor's offices.

Cardillo could not be reached for comment.

Stewart Richlin, another attorney who represents Cardillo, said that agents seized 5 pounds of marijuana from the dispensary but that he expected it to be returned. "They involved the Medical Kush Beach Club unfairly," he said. He added that he did not know whether any cash or equipment was seized but said no one was arrested in the raids.

Richlin said Kush Dr. rents space and provides promotional services for medical marijuana doctors. He said he believed the doctors followed state law in issuing recommendations for marijuana use.

"As far as I know, it's by the book. I'm surprised that this is happening," he said. "I have a feeling by the time the fat lady sings on this it will be a lot of sound and fury signifying nothing."

Simoes said the operation was conducted with the Los Angeles County district attorney's office, the Los Angeles Police Department, the county Sheriff's Department and the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which provided search dogs.

**RELATED:**

[Two lawsuits challenge Los Angeles' lottery plan for medical marijuana dispensaries](#)

-- John Hoeffel

*Photo: Law enforcement officers emerge with what appears to be marijuana during a raid on the Medical Kush Doctor facility on Wednesday. Credit: Mariah Tauger / Los Angeles Times*

---

## Comments (8)

I hate to see any collective shut down, but the way this particular place operated seemed to cross the line. To actually have people out front enticing people to come in and get a recommendation is a bit much. When that anti cannabis forces would put together their propaganda, it often included pictures of this place with the barker out front. I'm against closing collectives, but these places need to stop pushing the limit the way they do.

**Posted by: GMK | April 20, 2011 at 09:54 PM**

HERES THE TRUTH!

AT THE END OF EVERY NIGHT THE DOCTOR GOT PAID 1/3 CASH PAYOUT FOR BEING THERE FROM SEANS KUSH DR.

SO HOW IS THE RENTING FROM SEAN?

THAT IS A COMMISSION 1/3 PAYOUT FROM THE KUSH DR TO INDIVIDUAL DOCTORS.

THATS SCREWY.

ISNT A DOCTORS OFFICE SUPPOSE TO BE OWNED BY A DOCTOR?

**Posted by: stevery stonery | April 21, 2011 at 12:19 AM**

---

# Los Angeles Times