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**\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2011

**CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SUCCESSFULLY SHUTS  
DOWN SKID ROW MARIJUANA SHOP**

**LOS ANGELES** –The City Attorney's Office has successfully shut down a medical marijuana shop which had illegally opened in downtown Los Angeles in an area closely monitored by the Central City East Association. Deputy City Attorney Maria Aguillon successfully prosecuted the case.

On June 16, 2011, a nuisance abatement case alleging violations of the City's Zoning Code, the state Health and Safety Code and Business and Professions Code was filed against the property owners, Dennis Shiraga and Hideko Shiraga, and the marijuana shop, Green Day Collective Inc.

"Skid row is a testament to the devastating impact of substance abuse. It is in our shelters, missions, and horrifically, on our sidewalks every single day. It leads to violence, disease and death," said Estela Lopez, Executive Director of the Central City East Association. "We have more social services here than anywhere, trying valiantly to restore every person to a life without addiction. The absolute last thing this neighborhood needs is a marijuana dispensary. We immediately contacted the City Attorney's Office. They, along with police, acted with great compassion and concern for this community and today we can be grateful to their efforts that this dispensary is closed."

In May 2011, the City Attorney's Citywide Nuisance Abatement Program received information from the Central City East Association (CCEA) that CCEA's Business Improvement District security reported that a medical marijuana shop had just held a grand opening for its business. The shop was located within 1,000 feet of Gladys Street Park (624 E. 6th Street) in the Skid Row area of downtown Los Angeles.

Shortly before the first hearing, the property owner and the marijuana shop stipulated to a judgment in the City's favor. The defendants agreed that the marijuana shop would close and the premises would be immediately vacated. The defendant shop owners also agreed not to operate a marijuana shop anywhere in the City. The property owner agreed not to rent to any marijuana-related enterprise in the future and to pay \$20,000 in penalties. The Court signed stipulated judgment on October 3, 2011.

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