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## **Council Says "No" to Medical Marijuana Dispensaries**

*Cathy Dausman*

The Orinda City Council moved to ban Medical Marijuana Dispensaries (MMD) within the city, directing staff to draft an ordinance to implement the decision. The discussion regarding policy options at its February 1st regular meeting was short, and the vote unanimous, with all council members taking part. Mayor Smith extended her sympathies "to people suffering from cancer or another illness that medical marijuana relieves, who have to travel a distance to obtain that medication."

A temporary moratorium on establishing MMDs in Orinda took effect July 7, 2009 and will expire July 6, 2011. The proposed new ordinance, which is expected to be approved at an upcoming council meeting, will make the ban permanent.

Reach the reporter at: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)

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