

**EMBARGO UNTIL: 11:00 A.M. P.D.T, Thursday May 21, 1998**  
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## **Oakland Cooperative to Openly Dispense Medical Marijuana For First Time Since Preliminary Injunction - U.S. Attorney to be Notified**

**HIV, Multiple Sclerosis and Other Seriously Ill Patients to Receive Pot at 11:00 a.m., Thursday May 21, Oakland Buyers Cannabis Cooperative, 1755 Broadway, Oakland**

11:00 a.m. Press Conference with:

- Jeff Jones, Director, Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative
- Gerald Uelman, Professor of Law, former Dean, Santa Clara University School of Law
- David Sanders, HIV and chronic pain patient, 43
- Yvonne Westbrook, Multiple Sclerosis patient, 45
- Ken Estes, Quadriplegic patient, 40
- Ima Carter, Congenital Scoliosis - Diverticulosis patient, 55

**Oakland, CA --** Just hours after Federal Judge Charles Breyer signs into law a preliminary injunction against six California medical marijuana clubs, Jeff Jones, Director of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative announced that he will openly dispense medical marijuana to four seriously ill patients at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday May 21. U.S. Attorney Michael Yamaguchi will be notified in advance of the cooperative's actions, Jones said.

"For these four patients, and others like them, medical marijuana is a medical necessity," said Jones. "To deny them access would be unjust and inhumane."

Violation of the preliminary injunction could initiate Contempt of Court proceedings against the Oakland Cooperative. A Contempt case, during which a medical necessity argument would likely be made by attorneys for the cooperative, would be heard by a jury who would have to reach a unanimous verdict.

"I'd trust a jury of Californians before federal bureaucrats," said Jones. "All the evidence shows that marijuana has medicinal qualities and should be re-scheduled. Voters in two states have already endorsed medical marijuana, and others look set to follow. Yet the federal government refuses to consider the facts and instead is hell-bent upon enforcing outdated marijuana laws."

Ken Estes, 40, a Quadriplegic patient who uses medical marijuana from the OCBC to relieve chronic pain and control muscle spasms, says he fears for his safety should the club be closed. "I feel that my only alternative would be to go out on the street to find the medicine that helps me," he said.

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