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Published April 27th, 2011

Council Votes Against Illegal Views and MMDs

By Andrea A. Firth

The City Council's April 19th meeting was wrapped up by 7:42 p.m. (possibly one of the shortest Council meetings on record), during which time the Council voted against illegally obtained views and medical marijuana dispensaries. View preservation. The Orinda City Council unanimously moved toward adoption of a zoning amendment to clarify that views that had been illegally created would not be protected or restored. Residents William and Patricia Hudson requested clarification of the view preservation portion of the City's Municipal Code after the owners of the property adjacent to their own illegally trespassed on to their property and removed several live oaks without permission in order to create better views before the sale of the neighboring property. According to the Hudsons, the new neighbors subsequently claimed rights to the view created by the illegal removal of the trees. MMDs. After establishing a temporary ban on medical marijuana dispensaries (MMDs) in July of 2009, the Council voted unanimously to support an ordinance to permanently bans MMDs in Orinda's downtown commercial and office districts. Orinda follows Moraga, which also banned MMDs within its borders. Moraga took a further step, prohibiting the outdoor cultivation of marijuana.

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[back](#)

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