

EAST PALO ALTO SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION  
(EPASAPC)

# ENGAGING EAST PALO ALTO IN COMMUNITY-LEVEL CHANGE

The Community vs. the Peninsula  
Caregivers Collective (PCGC)

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## BEGINNING TO SAY “No”

- October 2010 – Peninsula Caregivers Collective (PCGC), 501C-3, applies for a special use permit to operate a medical marijuana dispensary in the city of East Palo Alto
- November 2010 - EPASAPC mobilizes en force at a Special East Palo Alto City Council Public Hearing

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## BUYING TIME

- November 2010 - Working with City Planning Manager Brent Butler, EPASAPC prompts review of local zoning codes , delayed decision
- December 2010 – PCGC files temporary use permit
- December 2010 - EPASAPC begins community education campaign, including door-to-door canvassing, workshops, focus groups and use of social and local media

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## MAKING THE CASE

- January 2011 – Because of EPASAPC's active community presence, the Easy Palo Alto city council invites the coalition to act as advisors /experts in special environmental impact forum
- February 2011 – City council votes to reject special use application
- February 2011 – PCGC hires lawyer, files appeal to city council decision
- February 2011- EPASAPC increases outreach efforts, recruits community members to attend appeal session

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## THE COMMUNITY TAKES A STANCE

- May 2011 – In a 3 to 1 vote, the East Palo Alto city council votes to permanently amend the city municipal code, banning medical marijuana dispensaries anywhere within city limits.
- Ordinance 351 sets precedent and neighboring city of Palo Alto follows EPA lead, rejecting medical marijuana measure with a 67% NO vote in November 2012

# Contact Info

For more information about EPASAPC or to learn how to get involved, contact One East Palo Alto:

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We also invite you to learn more about One East Palo Alto's initiatives at [www.oneepa.org](http://www.oneepa.org)