

## La Puente reverses stance on marijuana dispensaries

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LA PUENTE - After capping the number of medical marijuana dispensaries allowed in the city at six last month, the City Council voted 4-0 Tuesday night to draft an ordinance to push them all out.

The city was scheduled to consider an ordinance that would limit how close the dispensaries could be to schools, parks and libraries.

But with a number of residents expressing concerns over the dispensaries and their effect on children, the council took a different direction.

Councilmen John Solis and Dan Holloway moved to rid the city of the dispensaries.

"The residents have spoken," said Councilman David Argudo, who has also opposed the dispensaries.

The city attorneys will draft an ordinance that bans medical marijuana dispensaries. In the meantime, attorneys have also been directed to draft an ordinance that would force existing dispensaries to be at least 1,000 feet away from churches, school and parks.

No time frame for the ordinance was set but officials said they hoped to have it ready as soon as possible.

Nearly 170 people showed up for the meeting, filling the chamber and the hallway with anti-marijuana posters and signs.

On Jan. 13, the city approved the limit of six dispensaries and enacted regulations in response to an influx of applications. Since then, 12 business license applications rushed in before the cap took effect Feb. 12.