



San Francisco's Weed History

In 2016, California passed Proposition 64 and legalized marijuana for recreational use, but the story goes back much further than that to 1966, when the first-ever US head shop opened in the Haight-Ashbury district. The year 1972 saw the rise and fall of Proposition 19, which attempted to decriminalize possession and sale of weed. Some years after its failure, the passing of the Moscone Act of 1975 got the job done by reducing possession of one ounce of marijuana from a felony to a misdemeanor. Even though a revolution doesn't happen overnight or at the hands of a single person, there is one character of this story that stands out from the rest: Dennis Peron. Along with being heavily involved with the youth movements of the 60's and 70's he was an advocate for the benefits of medical marijuana.

He led a personal crusade in 1990 to pass Proposition P, the measure that legalized the medical use of marijuana within San Francisco city limits. Thus was born the first public dispensary in the United States, the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club. The San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club spent many a late-night working on Proposition 215, which legalized the possession and cultivation of marijuana for medical use, and made California the first U.S. state to legalize weed in any sort of capacity. As of December 31st, 2014, there were 28 Permitted Medical Cannabis Dispensaries (MCD) operating in the City and County of San Francisco. Even though Peron "didn't support Proposition 64 because he believes weed has become too commercialized", it was him who paved the way to where the city is today.