

Communication from Public

Name: Walter L Edwards

Date Submitted: 04/22/2020 10:37 AM

Council File No: 14-0366-S5

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Walter Lance Edwards I am a social Equity applicant # 576 I've been in this process for 4 years looking for the opportunity to gain some respect with myself and my five daughters raised up in South Central Los Angeles in the 8th 9th and 10th District when I lived in the 9 District I went to Carver Junior High and Jefferson High School at Jefferson High School I was arrested for having six joints took me to court they said I was a drug pusher sent me the Youth Authority for 18 months this program is for me. I call out for the Mayor and the City Council and DCR to Vet the people of this community that was harmed (I could not vote, I could not go to the military, I could not get a decent job, I could not get no College help funded by the state, I could not get a decent place to live you have a felony they dont rent to you. Let's get this program back to the way it was laid out. Social Equity Program Reports The City has adopted a Social Equity Program to provide equitable access to its licensing system to individual who have been disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs. The features of the program can be found in Section 104.20 of the Cannabis Procedures ordinance (link above). Additionally, below you may review the Cannabis Social Equity Analysis Report the City Council commissioned to assist in the design of the Social Equity Program, as well as the original motion introduced in City Council to create the Social Equity Program. Addendum to the Cannabis Social Equity Analysis Report Cannabis Social Equity Analysis Report Original Motion on Social Equity Program.Social Equity Program Overview Cannabis criminalization and its enforcement has had long-term, adverse impacts to the City of Los Angeles, particularly for low income and minority community members. The City of Los Angeles is one of the few jurisdictions in the United States attempting to address the impacts of past cannabis policies and their inequities by developing and implementing cannabis policies that seek to center equity in cannabis policy reform. The Social Equity Program (SEP) is one tool the City of Los Angeles is using to begin to acknowledge and repair the harm caused by the War on Drugs and the disparate enforcement of cannabis prohibition. The goal of the Social Equity Program is, “to promote equitable ownership and employment opportunities in the cannabis industry in order to decrease disparities in life outcomes for marginalized

communities, and to address the disproportionate impacts of the War on Drugs in those communities.” After conducting a Social Equity Analysis to both review the impacts associated with cannabis criminalization and to identify ways to eliminate barriers to entering the legal cannabis market by those individuals and communities disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs, the City identified that individuals with past cannabis arrests and/or convictions, and those that were low income and lived in high arrest communities or “Disproportionately Impacted Areas” experienced the brunt of societal harms associated with cannabis criminalization. As such, individuals who are low income, have past cannabis arrests and or convictions and those that live in Disproportionately Impacted Areas may qualify to participate in the City’s Social Equity Program. This Program aims to support people impacted by the War on Drugs and seeks to reduce barriers to entering the legal cannabis industry by providing a number of programs to support business ownership and employment opportunities. For those interested in owning and operating a licensed cannabis business, priority application processing is available, which seeks to afford eligible SEP applicants an opportunity to be first-to-market, which is critically important given the City’s limited number of available licenses. Furthermore, the SEP provides applicants technical and business assistance to assist in navigating City’s cannabis licensing process. Similarly, SEP applicants may qualify for fee deferrals and have the opportunity to participate in programming designed for new or first-time business owners to help them learn the ‘ins and outs’ of operating a licensed and compliant cannabis business in Los Angeles. The Social Equity Program will also support workforce development and job placement for those who are interested in employment opportunities rather than business licensing. As the lead agency for licensing and regulating cannabis in the City of Los Angeles, the Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR) is responsible for implementing the Social Equity Program and seeks to ensure that disproportionately impacted individuals and communities in the City have fair and meaningful access to the new economic opportunities afforded by legalization and the commercialization of the local cannabis industry. Please check our website regularly for more information and updates related to the Social Equity Program and its implementation.

Communication from Public

Name: Zeusage Metoyer

Date Submitted: 04/23/2020 10:49 AM

Council File No: 14-0366-S5

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is, Zeusage Metoyer I live in district, 9 and I am a social equity applicant. I am in support of the lawsuit filed by Social Equity Owners & Workers Association against the DCR and the city of L.A. The application process was unfair and disadvantaged hundreds of applicants. You need to take action.