

UFCW Local 770

A VOICE FOR WORKING CALIFORNIA

UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION • UFCW770.ORG

John M. Grant, President

Date: 10/19/18
Kathy A. Finn, Secretary-Treasurer

Submitted in Rules Committee

Council File No: 14-0366-S5

Item No.: 1

~~Internal~~ Communication from the Public

October 18, 2018

Honorable Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
President, Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street, Room 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Continuous Operation During Phase II Licensing (CF – 14-0366-S5).

Dear President Wesson:

UFCW Local 770 is in receipt of the request by The Southern California Coalition (the Coalition) for an Ordinance amendment that would provide for continuous operation for Phase II cannabis business license applicants while their applications are vetted by the City of Los Angeles (the City). Other industry advocates have expressed their support of this amendment.

UFCW Local 770 has consistently supported issuing temporary approvals to non-retail commercial cannabis applicants that comply with the City's commercial cannabis zoning requirements. Temporary approvals would allow applicants to participate in the State's application process and immediately address any concerns with their applications for full licensure raised the City.

We therefore support the request for an amendment that would allow continuous operation of Phase II applicants that have met the baseline threshold for license review. This amendment will provide notice to the City of entities who wish to comply and allow them to come into compliance with the City's regulations. A lawful, local supply chain benefits licensed cannabis retailers who have historically supplied medical marijuana to qualified patients.

The City's experience in granting temporary approval by the Department of Cannabis Regulation under Measure M Priority Processing to Existing Medical Marijuana Dispensaries proved workable, and we believe that practice could be extended to Phase II applicants with similar success. Operating a cannabis business that is fully compliant with State and City laws takes a sizeable investment. Allowing Phase II applicants to stay open during the process will enable them to remain financially viable while they bring their operations into full compliance.

The City has the power to revise its legislation and provide Phase II applicants with a pathway to success and the opportunity to generate tax revenues for the City. Further, we supported this legislation because we were hopeful that this industry would create good quality jobs where workers would have a voice at work. We will not see that come to fruition until these businesses are lawfully in operation.

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We respectfully request the City amend its ordinance to permit lawful continuous operation for Phase II applicants from the date of their application submission.

Sincerely,

UFCW LOCAL 770



John M. Grant, President



Kathy A. Finn, Secretary-Treasurer

JMG:KAF:MO

cc: Los Angeles City Council Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee Members

Cat Packer, Executive Director, City of Los Angeles Department of Cannabis Regulation



October 19, 2018

The Honorable Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
Chair, Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: CF 14-0366-S5 Enforcement of Cannabis Business Regulations

Dear Council President Wesson,

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) would like to respond to the City Administrative Officer report dated October 18, 2018, regarding in-lieu fees for the Social Equity Program.

While VICA appreciates the recognition that many businesses experience higher lease costs, VICA urges the Council to move forward with a calculated average to determine the in-lieu fee.

Otherwise, a fee based on actual lease costs is unfair to different licensees. This approach would also fail to address the issue of owners versus renters.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gritzner
VICA Chair

Stuart Waldman
VICA President