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Encouraging diversity in cannabis regulation

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Hi. I'd like to introduce myself as a stakeholder in the 15th council district. My name is Matt Garland. I am a longshoreman by trade, father of two young boys. I have been a mmj patient for 15 yrs.

My connection to the cannabis industry is as a patient. My passion in cannabis regulation is social justice and family safety.

I gave a public comment at the REIRN meeting about why the committee should support small business licensing and provide a pathway for licensing for black market operators. The best way to create safer communities is to provide fair and accessible licensing for the broadest group of business operators possible, including the black market, thus bringing them out of the shadows of prop 215 and holding them accountable to our communities.

I'd like to ask the council committee to also consider diversity as a virtue of the current black market. It has traditionally been an economic opportunity for people who have fewer job options. The black market has fostered diversity by virtue of the low barrier to entry.

I want the committee to consider setting the bar to entry low when crafting a regulatory framework for LA. Creating a business environment in which the most amount of people can participate, especially at a micro business level, will encourage diversity. Creating a regulatory environment for a cottage industry to thrive will invite the stewardship ethic of small business operators that is the best fit for Los Angeles.

Thank you
-Matt Garland
Sent from my iPhone