

## MOTION

Thriving businesses in communities impacted by the War on Drugs are a tremendous asset to offsetting the economic impact of mass incarceration in Los Angeles. Yet, few programs exist to support vulnerable communities during the inception and development of enterprises, which leads to a tremendous gap in wealth-creation, job growth, asset-building and entrepreneurial success rates. This conversely strips many innovators of the opportunity to put their talents to use in growing Los Angeles's economy, and decreases the number of quality jobs available in these communities.

Given the large chasm in skills, capital and informational access, the process to provide comprehensive support for small business development will be a significant imperative for the City to undertake with regard to the legalization of cannabis, particularly to respond to the intent of voters expressed in Proposition 64 and Measure M to rectify the damages wrought by the War on Drugs.

There are key models that Los Angeles organizations have piloted that have business elements which can be replicated in the cannabis industry, like the LA Cleantech Incubator.

It may be helpful to subcontract one community-based or non-profit organization to act as a social equity opportunities coordinator (SEOC) to oversee the social equity business and workforce development program. The SEOC will be responsible to:

- Ensure that the city matches licensing opportunities with strong outreach, a robust incubator/pilot program, intensive training or coaching for participants and explicit measures to aid in capital acquisition and land use issues. This pilot may include a physical location for the cooperative creation of cannabis manufacturing, cultivation and other businesses.
- Hold recruiting sessions via outreach partners to explain the social equity licensing and business incubation program to qualified applicants. These sessions should also highlight possible strategies like cooperative ownership, as well as quality job opportunities for transitional workers.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the CAO, CLA and appropriate departments including the Department of Cannabis Regulation to report back on the aforementioned models for business cultivation in vulnerable communities and pilot programs for cannabis in the City of Los Angeles.

I FURTHER MOVE that these departments study the co-location of the small business social equity programs under one umbrella organization.

AUG 18 2017



Presented By: \_\_\_\_\_



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