The Department of Cannabis Regulation is currently in the process of issuing licenses for cannabis-related businesses in the City of Los Angeles. However, across the City, a significant number of businesses are operating without a license. Many of these businesses do not follow the City's rules for cannabis-related activity, do not pay or collect taxes, create public safety issues for residents and undermine the City's efforts to create a regulated marketplace. As the City continues its efforts to license legitimate cannabis businesses, it is imperative that more be done to ensure that unlawfully operating cannabis businesses are encouraged to seek a City license to operate or shut down.

While the Police Department can arrest individuals involved in illegal cannabis activity, this may not be a significant deterrent to keep businesses from reopening once their employees are released. More innovative enforcement methods may be necessary to ensure that illegally operating cannabis businesses remain closed after enforcement efforts are taken. Currently, the Los Angeles Municipal Code allows the Department of Building and Safety to vacate and secure properties that fail to comply with administrative nuisance abatement decisions made by the Planning Commission. The City should establish a similar procedure for closing and securing illegally operating cannabis businesses that have been ordered to shut down, so that they remain closed.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of City Planning and the Department of Building and Safety, with the assistance of the City Attorney, report on ordinance language that would enable the Department of Building and Safety to barricade, padlock, fence or secure an unlawfully operating cannabis business that has failed to comply with an order by the City to cease operations, by whatever means the Department of Building and Safety determines as reasonable and necessary.
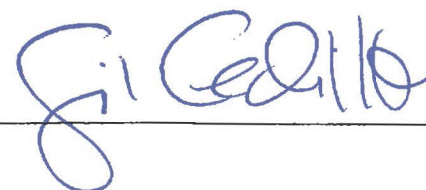
PRESENTED BY: _____

MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY: _____

OCT 1 2 2018