



April 30, 2019

The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council Budget Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Social Equity & The Upcoming Budget - CF 19-0600

Dear Honorable Members of the Budget Committee:

As we move towards the onerous task of the annual budget, we hope that the City will consider the accomplishments of the Department of Cannabis Regulation and the material progress that department has made towards a meaningful and sustainable Social Equity Program.

Ms. Packer and her team have worked tirelessly to overcome funding and staff shortfalls. Despite these impediments, they have created from scratch one of the largest cannabis licensing efforts in the state while simultaneously crafting the largest Social Equity Program in the country. The demands upon her department are many and seem to increase endlessly.

The Department of Cannabis Regulation (the DCR) has behaved responsibly, with transparency and great care. Fully funding their efforts, ensures that the Social Equity Program moves forward. It gives Ms. Packer the monies she needs to ensure she has adequate staff and resources to move forward.

The Southern California Coalition and Americans for Safe Access are deeply grateful for political courage of the Council and our Mayor. The willingness to invest in a meaningful and successful Social Equity Program is a step few elected officials have ever been willing to take. In this effort you could not have a better partner than Ms. Packer and her very dedicated team. We hope that the Honorable Members of the Budget Committee will recognize the achievements of the DCR and supply the budgetary support the department needs to move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ad Sp".

Adam Spiker
Executive Director
The Southern California Coalition

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sha".

Sarah Armstrong JD
Director of Industry Affairs
Americans for Safe Access

Cc: Andrew Westall
Cat Packer
Michell Garakian
Alexander Freedman