

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: A lottery fails to reward social equity applicants who made reasonable effort to prepare prior to application submission through the online portal. Internet and computer access are readily available through public resources (e.g., libraries, coffee shops, and computer cafes offer computers and high-speed internet). Additionally, the Department of Cannabis Regulation provided a detailed walkthrough of the application interface through video tutorials and offered one-on-one assistance for all applicants. Lack of reasonable effort is to blame for an individual's inability to navigate the online platform, not lack of knowledge or access. Being sensitive to the needs of those in LA's diverse community, additional video tutorials may be provided by the Department of Cannabis Regulation for online submissions and the online portal should be made even simpler. Moreover, disabled individuals should be offered appropriate assistance through community resources as needed. A lottery, as evident through history, offers opportunity for corruption and lack of transparency. This system should reward social equity applicants who make a reasonable effort to learn how to navigate simple web pages, upload a document, and copy/paste an address into a text box. Those same applicants, given their willingness to learn and utilize resources available to them, are more likely to bring positive outcomes to a taxation program intended on reinvesting in its community. Individuals should not be rewarded based on "luck of the draw" and should definitely not be rewarded for lack of reasonable effort.