March 1, 2019

The Honorable City Council

of the City of Los Angeles

Room 395, City Hall

200 North Spring Street

Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Recommendations for enforcement against unlicensed commercial cannabis activity (Council File No. 14-0366-S5)

Honorable Members:

On February 28, 2019, the Cannabis Regulation Commission considered a report from Cat Packer, the Executive Director of the Department of Cannabis Regulation, concerning the status of the City's enforcement efforts against unlicensed commercial cannabis businesses. The Commission also received extensive public comment concerning the same. Subsequently, the Commission acted by directing the Commission Executive Secretary to transmit a letter to the City Council with the following recommendations regarding the City's enforcement efforts.

The City should immediately establish an enforcement task force that includes all relevant City departments, including DCR, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Department of Building and Safety, the Department of Water and Power, the City Attorney's Office and the Mayor's Office. This task force must be adequately funded and staffed so that it can explore all reasonable methods and procedures to shut down unlicensed commercial cannabis businesses, which includes, without limitation, shutting off the utilities of unlicensed businesses, padlocking or barricading unlicensed businesses, prosecuting the operators and landlords of unlicensed businesses, and assessing fines and penalties to all property owners that allow unlicensed businesses to use their property. Further, it is important that the task force be required to regularly report on its progress to the Rules Committee.
The Commission appreciates the efforts of the City Council to address the problem of unlicensed commercial cannabis businesses and it intends to support the City's enforcement efforts in whatever way it can.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rodriguez
Executive Secretary
Cannabis Regulation Commission

As authorized by Commission action on February 28, 2019
Commission President Robert Ahn - Yea
Commission Vice President Rita Villa - Yea
Commissioner Philip Mercado - Yea
Commissioner Misty Wilks - Yea
Commissioner Victor Narro – Not Present