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 the development and implementation of the Social Equity Program (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 development and implementation of the City’s Social Equity Program. 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 Social Equity Program.

First, the Commission supports the recommendations contained in DCR’s February 8, 2019, report to the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Second, the Commission supports DCR’s budget request to adequately fund the Social Equity Program. Third, the Commission recommends that the City Council consider adding additional criteria for qualifying for the Social Equity Program, including identifying additional areas of the City disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs.
The Commission appreciates the efforts of the City Council and DCR to develop and implement of the Social Equity Program at it intends to support those 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 – Nay (as to the first recommendation only)
Commissioner Victor Narro – Not Present