



Cannabis Policy Oversight Team (CPOT) [DRAFT]

May 14, 2020

Zoom meeting

Audio participation for Public

Zoom audio phone number: 888-475-4499 (Toll Free)

Meeting ID#: 921 0979 1491

In attendance: Al Ochoa, Stephanie Neil, John Monteleone, Dr. Rachel Knox, Katherine Krajnak, Dr. Nicole Bowles, Laura Valden-Vega, and Erik Vidstrand

Civic Life Staff: Kimie Ueoka-Policy Coordinator, Christina Coursey-Interim Supervisor/Licensing Coordinator, and Arainnia Brown-Administrative Coordinator

Introductions: CPOT members and Civic Life staff stated their names, disclosed any conflicts of interests if any, and had the opportunity to share how their coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to this, members had the chance to share cannabis updates. Examples include industry, policy, research, and local regulation changes.

Workplace Safety: Since cannabis businesses were deemed essential; some CPOT members feel the safety adjustments were not well equipped for this pandemic. For example, some cannabis dispensaries are very small which means practicing physical distancing (6 ft. rule) can be challenging for employees and customers. Also, since cannabis businesses are considered a cash-based industry; handling cash can be difficult since there is no proper way to disinfect it. Lastly, there are some cannabis dispensaries where customers and employees are not required to wear a mask or gloves when entering.

Social Equity Grant Updates: On Wednesday, May 13th, 2020 Kimie and Christina presented to City Council. The presentation consisted of the Review Panel's recommendation for year 3 grants. Next Wednesday, City Council will decide to approve selected grant proposals or not. In addition to this, The Cannabis Program was recently informed we possibly may not oversee the Social Equity grant funds next year. The funds might be allocated to another department or City partner per the Mayor's fiscal year budget proposal.

Subcommittee: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the cannabis program only has the capacity to focus on one priority for a subcommittee session. CPOT members decided to focus on competency. The subcommittee will focus on competency through a safety and health lens for the industry. They will focus on competency from a social equity lens as well.

Next Steps: Going forward, Arainnia will send the link for the Mayor's proposed budget and the information for the City Council's meeting next week regarding the Social Equity Grants. In addition to this, Kimie will start planning the subcommittee session and Vice-Chair Stephanie Neil will draft a letter for City Council to consider more safety and health practices for cannabis industry workers.