A Transformative Year

Growth Under Pressure

The Cannabis Oversight Team (CPOT) is pleased to release the 2020 Annual Cannabis Policy Report. Our 2021 goals and recommendations are centered in key findings in data transparency, management of the city’s cannabis tax revenue, ongoing racial disparities in traffic stops and use of force, and investments of the city’s time and resources to execute the recommendations contained in this report.

As we review 2020 in hindsight, so much has changed since we first convened in early 2019, both in our city and in the cannabis industry. We witnessed a global economic and public health crisis on the backdrop of major city, state, and federal elections. The entire country protested against racial injustices and police brutality. And, a historic federal cannabis legislation passed the US House of Representatives.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Kate Brown designated the cannabis industry as an essential business in Oregon and it continues to be one of the few remaining industries in the city with an active workforce providing vital relief to those suffering from the myriad of challenges presented in 2020. For that, we are all thankful.

All cannabis-related policy recommendations should be viewed through a total equity-building lens.

We advise the City of Portland on policies to deliver industry diversity, equity, accessibility, and sustainability for the city’s total benefit. Although stigmatized, this industry does not exist in isolation. As the leadership team of CPOT, we recognize the symbiosis between 1) the business owners, 2) the diverse and essential cannabis workforce and, 3) the countless cannabis patients and consumers residing within the city, many of which are within Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities. The resources provided by the cannabis industry to Portlanders extends well beyond the cannabis tax revenue.

Despite the cannabis industry’s growth in 2020, we still have many hurdles with many on the horizon. As the cannabis industry confronts these headwinds, Portland must continue to support initiatives that deliver the changes necessary in the cannabis industry, the city, and the community deserves. All of the work done by CPOT, now and in the future, will help to ensure the continued sustainability of the cannabis industry, both within the City of Portland and throughout the state.

CPOT is a strategic resource for the city and all interested parties to support those that have been disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition. As needed, CPOT will continue to educate, inform, and advise the city on policies that will ensure the legal cannabis industry is diverse, equitable, accessible, and sustainable in 2021 and beyond.

This year has been tumultuous for all of us and we understand and feel the anxiety surrounding the uncertainty that plagues our communities. That is why, this year, we are so proud of the equity-centered work we have accomplished and are excited to share our thoughts on how the city can be a leader in creating equitable and sustainable policies that will benefit the entire community. We hope this report provides a clear understanding of the work performed in 2020 and the direction we were headed when we entered 2021.
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Executive Summary

Last year the Cannabis Policy Oversight Team published the 2019 Cannabis Policy Report, which made 15 recommendations to the Office of Community & Civic Life regarding four priority focus areas: social equity, research, competency, and sustainability. CPOT offered over 50 detailed examples for how the city could create accessible, equitable, and sustainable cannabis-related policies. The 2020 report narrows CPOT’s focus based on previous recommendations through an analysis of local data and recommendations made in the City of Portland’s State and Federal Legislative Agenda.

Specifically, this report offers seven recommendations for competency, equity, research, and sustainability for how City Council can create cannabis-related policies that address the social harms of cannabis prohibition, reinvest resources from the Recreational Cannabis Tax Fund in impacted communities, and refine health, environmental, and public safety policy in cannabis regulation and education.

CPOT’s Top Goals for the 2021 City/State Legislative Agenda:

1. Eliminate Racial Disparities:
   • CPOT recommends developing and adopting a comprehensive cannabis equity framework, the Oregon Cannabis Equity Act, to provide equal opportunity for BIPOC ownership in the growing cannabis industry and invest in communities disproportionately impacted by over-policing and cannabis criminalization.

2. Support Portland Businesses and Non-profits:
   • CPOT recommends commercial tenant protections and resources for small businesses otherwise hindered from accessing traditional funding streams.

3. Advance Environmental and Climate Justice to Build an Equitable Future:
   • Immediately pursue development of city- and statewide environmental sustainability standards for cannabis businesses and allocation of resources to provide support in meeting them.

Policy Recommendations at a Glance

**Equity**
- Immediately improve the transparency in tax allocation decisions and outcomes.
- Develop and adopt a comprehensive state and city cannabis equity framework.

**Research**
- Immediately prioritize data collection and analysis of the societal, environmental, economic, and health impacts of legalization of adult-use cannabis.

**Sustainability**
- Immediately pursue development of city- and statewide environmental sustainability standards for cannabis businesses and allocation of resources to provide support in meeting them.

**Competency**
- Use current and emerging local and national data to redefine and recharacterize legal cannabis throughout the regulatory system, as well as to refine health and public safety policy around cannabis regulation and education.
- Prioritize workforce training and education for those making health or public safety policies or those who are interested in working within the cannabis industry.
- Ensure employees and employers are informed of workplace rights.
Key Findings

Data collection and reporting failures hinder a transparent, participatory budget process.

Ballot Measure 26-180 was passed by Portland voters in 2016 establishing a 3% city excise tax on cannabis that was promoted as funds that would directly benefit and support individuals and cannabis business owners that were affected adversely by racially-biased enforcement of cannabis prohibition. From 2017 to 2020, Portland collected $14.1 million in cannabis tax revenue. 73% was allocated to police ($4.9 million) and transportation ($5.4 million) programs while only 21% ($2.9 million) was allocated to small business support, workforce development, and support for communities disproportionately impacted by prohibition. While the public safety uses are allowed under the ballot measure, the city has not sufficiently involved community members, cannabis businesses, and others affected by past city cannabis policies in the overall budget decisions, nor has the city publicly reported its use of cannabis tax revenues.

Council convened The Marijuana Policy Oversight Team (MPOT) from April 2016 to March 2017 to provide recommendations on future marijuana policy decisions. CPOT members Al Ochosa, Laura Valden-Vega, and Dr. Rachel Knox participated. In November 2017, City Council adopted a budget note from the Cannabis Tax Steering Committee’s progress report highlighting the need for a community-driven, inclusive budgeting process and a process update from the commissioners in charge of the committee.

CPOT was convened in the first quarter of 2019 to provide recommendations on future cannabis policy to the Office of Community & Civic Life. The 2019 Annual Cannabis Policy Report was presented to the Cannabis Program in the fourth quarter highlighting the need for a community-driven, inclusive budgeting process.

This report was informed by the 2019 city audit “Recreational Cannabis Tax: Greater Transparency and Accountability Needed,” which highlighted that 94% of total public safety allocations from the Recreational Cannabis Tax Fund to date have produced no public reporting. The city’s 2019 audit also found that over $2 million of the tax fund has been used to backfill General Fund shortages despite City Code Chapter 5.04.515 Recreational Cannabis Tax Fund stating “Except for those established purposes, in no case shall revenues be transferred from the Recreational Cannabis Tax Fund to the City’s General Fund, or any other fund, for any other purpose.”

Despite over $5 million being invested into important Vision Zero goals, Metro’s “Portland Metropolitan Area Traffic Fatalities and Serious Injuries Annual Performance Report” found that traffic fatalities rose 17%, nonmotorized pedestrian and bicycle fatalities rose 11%, and serious injuries rose 10% over 2015 numbers. The greater Portland region did not meet any of the five safety targets the region set for the federal transportation performance measures or improve over the baseline from 2015. Portland is not on track to meet its Vision Zero targets.
Racial disparities persist in law enforcement interactions in Portland and Oregon.

Even though Black people make up 5.8% of Portland’s population, in the first quarter of 2020, 16.8% of drivers stopped by PPB were Black—nearly three times their proportion of the population. That percentage jumped to 18.4% in the second quarter. Black pedestrians were even more likely to be stopped by police, accounting for 16.4% of stops in the first quarter and 21.1% in the second. In fact, Black people were overrepresented in every single category in both PPB quarterly reports regardless of location, while white Portlanders were underrepresented in police stops in all parts of Portland. In the third quarter of 2020, PPB personnel reported an 80% decrease in stops of drivers and pedestrians, however despite the large reduction in the number of overall stops, there was only a 3% reduction in stops of drivers who were Black (15.3%). This distressing pattern shows racial disparities persist in Portland traffic stops despite half a year of civil unrest demanding police reform.

In “Patterns in the Portland Police Bureau Force Data Summary Reports,” Portland’s Training Advisory Council (TAC) found that Portland police also subjected Black people to force at higher rates than any other race in 2019. The data shows that the disproportionate policing of Black people, particularly young men, has persisted for years, even as overall use of force by officers has declined.

Small cannabis businesses need access to state-level financial and technical resources as there are many barriers to accessing traditional federal funding streams.

Due to the cascading effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, thefts, and wildfires in Oregon, small cannabis businesses around our city have been hit hard this year. Despite record sales revenue in 2020, the cannabis industry is facing some particular challenges that make their need for aid unique. This stems from the federal classification of cannabis, which means they do not have access to banking or federal disaster aid or small business protection loans. Much of the traditional structures put in place to protect small businesses come from banking. Because the federal designation affects access to banking, this means legal cannabis is a rapidly growing industry, largely built off family loans and personal credit cards. Fundamentally, this is not a sustainable model for small and medium cannabis businesses to succeed.

The lack of banking does not only mean a high level of cash on hand, which leads to increased risk for devastating theft, it means most small cannabis businesses lack the access to financing to help them cover unexpected, but necessary expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic and other losses. For example, the increase in cannabis business robberies has led to higher expenses for extra security, repairing property damage, replacing lost inventory and/or operating cash on-hand.
Additionally, businesses lose revenue when stores are forced to close for repairs or to rehire staff. Retailers have reported store-wide staff walkouts after armed robberies.

The legal cannabis industry in Oregon is driving record tax revenues for the state, while unable to receive support from the state through CARES Act funding, or any federally supported funding. Being designated an essential business has led to increased sales revenues for businesses but, the bottom line or profitability for the industry is suffering. Cannabis workers are justifiably scared and business owners are worried about how to survive after unprecedented expenses and ongoing threats with little government protection and/or support.
Introduction

Portland and Oregon need a cohesive strategy and framework for cannabis regulation and management of annual adult-use tax fund allocations.

CPOT, a volunteer, community-based advisory body, began its service to the city on February 21, 2019. CPOT is a group of 12 Portlanders with diverse stakeholder perspectives brought together by the Office of Community & Civic Life to explore cannabis-related public policies. Members include cannabis industry representatives and others possessing an in-depth understanding of issues affecting and affected by the cannabis industry. The advisory body brings forth insights regarding equitable access and outcomes in the following substantive areas: regulations; government spending; outreach activities; and economic development.

CPOT believes that over 100 years of racially-biased cannabis policies and disparate cannabis-related arrests, convictions, and sentencing have had long-lasting legal, social, economic, and inter-generational consequences to Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities. The City of Portland must adopt a strategic vision and an inclusive, community-driven approach to cannabis regulation, wealth creation, and the reparative use of adult-use cannabis tax funds.

Four years after the legalization of the adult-use market, City Council continues to vote on the Recreational Cannabis Tax Fund allocations as part of the overall city budget, with insufficient community and stakeholder involvement in program and policy development and decision-making. After a year of community input, council recently divested PPB of over $3M of the Recreational Cannabis Tax Fund allocated for public safety, yet Black Portlanders are still three times more likely to be stopped than white Portlanders by PPB. Portland has a rare opportunity to prioritize the expansion of the city’s equity training while at the same time supporting wealth creation in the communities who continue to be the most impacted by systemic racism and the War on Drugs.

This endeavor requires the city to create a strategic, holistic plan to coordinate resources and policies to reduce barriers to equity. The following is a comprehensive analysis of the findings and recommendations CPOT has compiled with the intention of informing improved cannabis and cannabis equity policies for the benefit of all Portlanders.
### Competency

Agencies involving health, economic development, and cannabis regulation need tools and education to adequately incorporate medical cannabis and the thriving cannabis industry into our community, as a lack of commitment, education, communication, and coordination across public agencies has negatively impacted Portlanders. Many who regulate, work alongside, serve, and engage with the cannabis industry still lack basic cannabis competency training and are often making decisions without clear guidance.

For example, historic federal cannabis legislation passed the US House of Representatives during 2020. The “Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act of 2020” is represented by its co-sponsors as ending the federal prohibition of cannabis, ensuring restorative justice for those impacted by it, and providing expungement of cannabis offenses. The MORE Act creates a Cannabis Justice Office and a Community Reinvestment Grant Program that even specifies that one of five requirements for local and state programs to participate in the grant program is to include prohibiting the denial of a cannabis license based on a conviction for a cannabis offense that took place prior to state legalization of cannabis or the date of enactment of the Act is in their licensing program. However, while the MORE Act does federally redefine, decriminalize, and deschedule cannabis, it lacks a mandate to states to implement cannabis-related expungement and resentencing, and due to 11th hour provisions added by legislators, it denies access for a federal permit or bond to anyone with prior legal proceedings related to a state or federal cannabis felony. These omissions and added provisions directly contradict the efforts of equity-centered cannabis policy reform across the country and shows a relative lack of competency among federal legislators in regards to programs and policies already established in local and state jurisdictions.

**Recommendation No. 1: Use current and emerging local and national data to redefine and recharacterize legal cannabis throughout the regulatory system, as well as to refine health and public safety policy around cannabis regulation and education.**

Cannabis policy-making has a history rooted in moralism, misleading propaganda, and racism. Early anti-cannabis rhetoric and heightened criminalization of cannabis during the government’s War on Drugs have dictated the public narrative and past policies related to cannabis. Although findings from studies commissioned by the medical community and our own government agencies have repeatedly countered the “public menace” narrative applied to Black people, policies and regulatory guidance have been slow to evolve. [Studies include, but are not limited to: La Guardia Report (1944); Shafer Commission (1972); and Denver Marijuana Health Impact Monitoring (2018).]

Portland has joined other legal cannabis regions (e.g., Los Angeles, Denver, Illinois, Massachusetts) in prioritizing...
reforming the cannabis lexicon, public education, data collection, and analysis in all areas of the emerging industry, including health and public safety. Improved information collection and trend analysis can allow for strategic planning and informed discourse about medical and adult-use cannabis. In the absence of reliable information and sound data, current-day policy-making and public perception around both medical and adult-use cannabis will continue to be vulnerable to those same detrimental drivers of prejudice.

**Things the City Can Do About it Now:**

1. Redefine and recharacterize cannabis by replacing “recreational” with “adult-use” in City Code (Chapter 14B.130 ‘Marijuana Regulatory License Procedure and Requirements’ and Chapter 5.04.515 ‘Recreational Cannabis Tax Fund’).

2. Support cannabis competency training for lawmakers and city employees in specific bureaus, offices, and departments including law enforcement, transportation, housing, building permitting, revenue; and allocate resources and funds to increase knowledge about cannabis throughout government and other systems.

3. Advocate for data collection and analysis, as well as equitable health and public safety policies at the state-level.

**Recommendation No. 2: Prioritize workforce training and education for those making health or public safety policies and those who are interested in working within the cannabis industry.**

Workers within the cannabis industry should have access to the training and information they need to be successful in their professional roles. The need for training and education is broad. Portland should invest in community training on cannabis potency, responsible use and storage, and entrepreneurship and workforce development for those interested in plant-touching professions or other ancillary services. The city should be exploring ways it can support the development of these needed training and education resources.

**Things the City Can Do About it Now:**

1. Encourage development of continuing education programs for those interested in entering any part of the cannabis industry or other ancillary services. Programs should support participants in self-identifying and developing pathways toward achieving long-term goals around economic mobility and wealth creation.

2. Support the development and delivery of a cannabis curriculum or training program for those making health and public safety policies.

3. Support the development and delivery of a cannabis curriculum or training program for those working with cannabis to better understand cannabis, its potency, and its effects.

**Recommendation No. 3: Ensure that employees and employers are informed of workplace rights relating to cannabis use and that cannabis employees and employers are informed of labor laws and workers’ rights.**

Oregon has been at the forefront of decriminalization and legalization of cannabis, however, employees throughout Oregon can still be terminated for off-work cannabis use. The City of Portland should update internal policies to align with cannabis legalization and advocate for fair workplace rights. We have a duty to ensure all working in the cannabis industry are a welcomed and valued part of our Portland workforce. Portland should dedicate resources to help empower cannabis employees with information, training, and needed resources around labor laws and workers’ rights.

**Things the City Can Do About it Now:**

1. Direct the city Licensing Program to provide access to education, training programs, and consultant resources to
employees and employers.

2. Align internal city employee off-hours cannabis use with the existing off-hours alcohol use policies.

3. Encourage all businesses in Portland to provide clear information about worker’s rights, drug testing policies, and drug testing schedules to employees.

Equity

Oregon must steward an equitable cannabis industry by prioritizing the reparative use of cannabis tax revenue. Revenue from cannabis must be used to rectify the damage caused by the War on Drugs and the disproportionate enforcement of cannabis prohibition laws in Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities. It is time for Oregon to recognize the degree to which prohibition negatively impacted the economic, environmental, human, and social health of Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities. City policies around cannabis and use of cannabis tax revenue must have a meaningful impact on Black, Indigenous, and Latinx peoples’ access to wellbeing, and this includes the intentional structuring and enforcement of equitable cannabis regulation and social equity support services.

Recommendation No. 1: Immediately improve the transparency in tax allocation decisions and outcomes.

In 2016, Portlanders voted on and approved Ballot Measure 26-180 to implement a local sales tax on adult-use cannabis sales within the City of Portland. The 3% sales tax was promoted to the public as monies that would benefit and support individuals and cannabis businesses owners that were adversely affected by cannabis prohibition.

Historically, over 80% of the taxes collected have been used for public safety programs with only 15% earmarked for the Cannabis Program’s SEED Initiatives. Furthermore, the city, particularly the Portland Police Bureau and Portland Bureau of Transportation, have not been transparent or accountable to how it has used the tax revenues. While these uses are allowed under the ballot measure, the necessary stakeholders, such as community members, cannabis businesses, or others affected by past cannabis policies, were not sufficiently involved in the annual budget decisions.

Things the City Can Do About it Now:

1. Utilize the 2021 SEED Initiatives Annual Report to determine annual City Council allocations to each of the four cannabis tax fund categories: 1) drug and alcohol treatment; 2) public safety investments; 3) support for neighborhood small businesses, especially women- and minority-owned businesses, including but not limited to, business incubator programs, management training, and job training opportunities; and 4) economic opportunity and education to communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition.

2. Strongly reinforce the requirement that all programs that receive an allocation from Recreational Cannabis Tax Fund to produce annual public reporting, including use of funds and impact, as mandated by Measure 26-180.
3. Report annually to oversight committees and the public on how the tax funds are being allocated, as well as provide rationale behind council decisions and report on outcomes in an accessible format.

**Recommendation No. 2: Develop and adopt a comprehensive cannabis equity framework.**

State governments and local municipalities have a duty to provide equal opportunity for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx ownership in the growing cannabis industry and invest in communities disproportionately impacted by over-policing and cannabis criminalization. Oregon must steward an equitable cannabis equity framework that prioritizes restorative practices, reparative justice, and equitable access. Oregon’s cannabis framework can be a leading example of economic, environmental, human and social equity best practices.

Lack of city and state social consumption laws promote disregard of the laws that exist around public consumption. Without legal, safe locations for personal consumption of cannabis, those who don’t own their homes hold the greatest risk of discrimination when using cannabis. This group includes tourists, patients in subsidized living facilities, and those in public housing. If we want to prevent diversion, reduce barriers to access, and reduce risk of persecution, it’s imperative that we give our cannabis ecotourism industry, adult consumers, and adult patients a safe and legal place to consume.

**Things the City Can Do About it Now:**

1. Prioritize equity specific uses for cannabis tax revenue and community reinvestment, for both the local and state cannabis tax revenue (e.g., investments into homeownership, landownership, funds for small businesses [cannabis or non-cannabis], educational opportunities, workforce development, and community development in the most-impacted communities).

2. Create a cannabis equity designation and licensing program to increase diversity in industry ownership, including but not limited to, potential licensing for social consumption of cannabis.

3. Create flexibility in the 1000 foot buffer between cannabis businesses in the City of Portland that has artificially reduced the number of affordable, qualifying commercial locations for multiple license types.

**Research**

Resources must be set aside to comprehensively collect, track, and analyze local and state data to understand the local, statewide, regional, national, societal, environmental, economic, and health impacts of our cannabis regulatory frameworks. If Portland wants to develop and maintain a robust, diverse, and productive cannabis industry, then efforts must be made to understand what our communities and small businesses need to thrive within the broader cannabis industrial ecosystem, but we must also promote public health and reduce possible cannabis-related harm.

**Recommendation No. 1: Immediately prioritize data collection and analysis of the economic, environmental, human, and social impacts of legalization of adult-use cannabis.**

Portland needs to strengthen the role of data in cannabis-related policy making. Resources and relationships must be established to comprehensively collect, track, and analyze local data to understand the economic, environmental, economic, human, and social impacts of legalization of adult-use cannabis. Portland’s information must be available to the public and should contribute to local, regional, statewide, and national data analysis and information sharing. High-quality data collection methods, tracking, and analysis will allow for meaningful comparisons over time and informed debate on sensitive topics.

**Things the City Can Do About it Now:**

1. With council direction and directive, convene a city-wide multi-bureau, multi-agency group to expand research
efforts required to share and to identify available cannabis-related data and gaps and develop a collection and monitoring project.

2. Dedicate resources (e.g., contracts, software, database, FTE) to improving the existing systems of data collection and analysis to identify trends.

3. Support state-level policy change to reform testing standards and advocate for research to analyze public health concerns.

**Sustainability**

The current regulatory framework of the cannabis industry must prioritize sustainability. Total sustainability is the combination of environmental, social, human, and economic sustainability. The cannabis industry, community members, and our local and state government agencies must collaborate on development and adoption of a long-term, systemic approach that will support thriving communities, climate justice, and an equitable and sustainable cannabis industry.

At its current level of development, the cannabis industry is responsible for significant environmental impacts. Businesses occupy an increasing amount of commercial building space, therefore the cannabis industry plays an important role in helping the community meet its emission reduction targets.

At its current level of development, the cannabis industry is responsible for significant environmental impacts such as consumption of finite natural resources, carbon emissions from production, distribution, and transportation, waste, waste management, and chemical usage. By immediately pursuing development of sustainability standards for Oregon cannabis businesses, we can support cannabis businesses as they are still developing to establish their brands and businesses in accordance with equitable and sustainable practices.

**Recommendation No. 1:** Immediately pursue development of city- and statewide environmental sustainability standards for cannabis businesses and allocation of resources to provide support in meeting them.

Oregon has been committed to fighting climate change for more than 27 years and has vowed to transition to 100% clean energy by 2050. Oregon cannabis businesses must maximize the economic, environmental, human, and social co-benefits of transitioning away from fossil fuels and reducing energy costs. Commercial buildings represent 23% of citywide emissions, and cannabis businesses occupy an increasing amount of commercial building space, therefore the cannabis industry plays an important role in helping the community meet its emission reduction targets.

**Things the City Can Do About it Now:**

1. Support state-level commercial tenant protections and financial and technical resources for small businesses otherwise hindered from accessing traditional funding streams.
2. Immediately pursue development of city- and statewide environmental sustainability standards for cannabis businesses and allocation of resources to provide support in meeting them.

3. Advocate for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and City of Portland’s Sustainability at Work Program to create a cannabis industry recycling guide and create cannabis-specific business certification (i.e., expanding the Sustainability at Work program which currently only offers certifications for office, restaurant, retail, and grocery).

Conclusion

As a nearly two-year-old advisory body to the Office of Community & Civic Life, CPOT strives to shape future cannabis policies that support equitable access and outcomes for all City of Portland residents and businesses. We must not have a legal adult-use industry that has produced over $14 million in the Recreational Cannabis Tax Fund revenue without addressing the fundamental complications of how our local government continues to over-police the Black, Indigenous, and Latinx community, fails to vote annually on tax allocations as the voters intended, and fails to hear the repeated calls for a community-driven, inclusive budgeting process.

After nearly 100 years of cannabis prohibition in Oregon, the City of Portland has an obligation to address systemic racism in the Portland Police Bureau. While CPOT supports the city’s decision to divest PPB of $3 million in cannabis tax funds and reinvest them in our Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities, there is still a substantial need to address the disproportionate policing of Black Portlanders in general, as they continue to be three times more likely to be stopped than white Portlanders by PPB. Beyond police reform, the expansion of the city’s equity training must be prioritized to support wealth creation and equitable access to well-being in the communities who continue to be the most impacted by systemic racism and the War on Drugs.

It is also imperative that City Council acknowledge the last four years of cannabis-related advisory body recommendations in order to make informed policy decisions around cannabis and community reinvestment in 2021. Portland must immediately improve the transparency in tax allocation decisions and outcomes, and develop and adopt a comprehensive cannabis equity framework to be stewards of an equitable and sustainable cannabis industry and community. The City of Portland must better engage all stakeholders affected by the rapid growth of the regulated cannabis industry to develop a citywide policy framework with guiding principles for the city and industry, including the thoughtful use of cannabis tax revenue. The city must collect, analyze, and share data on the economic, environmental, human, and social impacts of adult-use cannabis legalization.

Finally, a collaborative effort to create sustainable policies is needed by the City of Portland, the OLCC, and the Oregon Health Authority. CPOT aims to bring the cannabis industry, community members, and government agencies (state and local) together to craft and commit to a long-term systems approach. It is essential that Oregon’s regulatory agencies and the cannabis industry establish collective goals, policies, and guidance that ensures that the impacts of this emerging industry are more beneficial than burdensome to our communities and natural resources.

In the coming year, CPOT looks forward to its continued work on behalf of the residents of Portland with Mayor Wheeler and the incoming commissioner who will oversee the Office of Community & Civic Life bureau.
Appendix A

Member Service

Board Meetings
In 2020, CPOT members each dedicated 27 hours of service in formal board meetings, plus additional hours preparing and planning board meetings, planning and attending subcommittee meetings, hosting Cannabis Community Conversations, submitting written observations and recommendations to council, preparing and presenting testimony to council during budget work sessions, presenting the 2019 Cannabis Policy Report to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, and preparing the 2020 annual report for the bureau director.

In 2020, CPOT held 25 advisory body meetings, including 22 full board meetings and 3 subcommittee meetings to advance work on their policy recommendations and recruitment. Summaries of all meetings can be found on CPOT’s website. The first two monthly meetings were held in person for 2.5 hours. Then, to adapt to COVID-19 restrictions, CPOT’s meetings were held online bimonthly for 60 minutes at the end March.

The board reviewed advisory body parameters, bylaws, and process improvement, led city-level discussions around equity, provided written recommendations and observations to the City Council, and provided testimony during council budget work sessions. CPOT met significant challenges in 2020 including a change in city staffing and its advisory body leadership model, COVID-19 restrictions, and disruptions in meeting schedules and membership.

Meeting Schedule
- In-Person: Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 5,
- Cannabis Community Talk: Feb. 13, Sept. 3
- Competency Subcommittee: June 4, June 9, July 8

Meeting Topics
Each CPOT meeting was designed to further the members’ understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the cannabis industry, equitable economic development for individuals and communities, small business support, workforce development and workplace rights, drug policy reform, and restorative justice. In between meetings, there were substantial reading materials to help members fully understand the depth and breadth of cannabis regulations, government spending, outreach activities, economic development, health education, social equity programs, community outreach, and reducing barriers to access.

Communications to City Council
- COVID-19 response (3/24/20)
- Proposed changes to the use of the Recreational Marijuana Tax Fund outlined in the Mayor’s FY 2020-21 budget (5/20/20)
- Proposed Reinvestment Changes for Recreational Marijuana Tax Fund (6/10/20)
- Emergency Relief Fund (10/12/20) and Council Testimony - (starts at 28:46) - (10/28/20)
Appendix B

- February 14, 2020 - HB 4088 statewide Social Equity Framework Bill
- June 10, 2019 - city Cannabis Program support and testimony for SB 582 Cannabis Export Bill
- April 19, 2019- Letter from Portland city Council to Director of US Citizenship & Immigration Services

Appendix C

Adult-Use vs Recreational Use
‘Recreational Use’ is a type of personal use characterized by the enjoyment of the euphoric effects of cannabis, either alone or socially. However, titling the adult-use market ‘Recreational’ is reductive and misleading in that it assumes the only type of use by adults is recreational, and perpetuates a pejorative stigma and erroneous overemphasis of cannabis use as a vice. As recreational use is merely one type of personal uses (other uses being medical, therapeutic, or spiritual), a much more appropriate designation for nonmedical use is ‘Adult-Use,’ under which it is understood that an adult may use cannabis alone or socially for a variety of reasons without implying that they are using cannabis solely for recreational purposes.

Cannabis conviction
All nonviolent convictions related to and stemming from cannabis where injuries were not sustained.

Community-driven
Ideas and solutions are developed and determined by the community who will be served.

Competency
A fundamental knowledge, skills or ability that allows one to do something safely and successfully.

Equity
Equity is both the means to healthy communities and an end that benefits us all. Equity requires the intentional examination of systemic policies and practices that, even if they have the appearance of fairness, may, in effect, serve to marginalize some and perpetuate disparities. CPOT uses “health equity” interchangeably with total equity, both implying the same measurable outcome: equitable access to well-being and total health. For Oregon’s Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities to be truly healthy, all economic, environmental, social, and human needs must be met.

Marijuana
As defined by Portland City Code: “Marijuana” means the plant Cannabis family Cannabaceae, any part of the plant Cannabis family Cannabaceae and the seeds of the plant Cannabis family Cannabaceae. “Marijuana” does not include industrial hemp, as defined in ORS 571.300.

As defined by the CSA: Under section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act, certain types and parts of the Cannabis sativa L. plant are controlled under the drug class “marihuana.” Schedule I includes those substances that have a high potential
for abuse, have no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United states, and lack accepted safety for use under medical supervision.

As defined by the United States Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. Patent No. 6,630,507 was applied for in 1998 by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, approved in October of 2003, and expired on April 21, 2019. It covers “the potential use of non-psychoactive [synthetic] cannabinoids to protect the brain from damage or degeneration caused by certain diseases, such as cirrhosis.” Now, everyone is allowed to create synthetic drugs based on the cannabinoids outlined in the patent. However, they still require FDA approval. The government received a percentage of sales, approximated to be ‘six figures’ in royalties, as milestone payments. There have been at least four dozen cannabis-related utility patents approved, including No. 6,630,507.

Racism
Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.

Racial equity
When race does not determine or predict the distribution of resources, opportunities, and burdens for group members in society.

Reparative justice
Serving to make amends for a past harm, injustice or inhumanity.

Social equity
Fairness in social policy and equitable distribution of social resources and services to facilitate equitable access to education, self-determination, community participation, and good quality of life.

Sustainability
Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability is a paradigm for thinking about the future in which economic, environmental, human, and social considerations are balanced in the pursuit of ecological balance. Sustainability is often thought of as a long-term goal (i.e., a more sustainable world), while sustainable development refers to the many processes and pathways to achieve it (e.g., sustainable agriculture, etc.).

The War on Drugs
In June 1971, President Nixon declared a “War on Drugs.” He dramatically increased the size and presence of federal drug control agencies, and pushed through measures such as mandatory sentencing and no-knock warrants. A top Nixon aide, John Ehrlichman, later admitted: “You want to know what this was really all about. The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people. You understand what I’m saying. We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.” Nixon temporarily placed marijuana in Schedule One, the most restrictive category of drugs, pending review by a commission he appointed led by Republican Pennsylvania Governor Raymond Shafer. In 1972, the commission unanimously recommended decriminalizing the possession and distribution of marijuana for personal use. Nixon ignored the report and rejected its recommendations.

Wealth
Wealth is that which can be inherited across generations which enables future generations the capacity to generate more wealth. Knowledge, skills, history, and material property (like a house or business) can be inherited.