

Slide #1



Slide #2

**PRESENTED TO  
YOU BY:**

Jason Clark

**NORTHWEST CREDIBLE MESSENGER**

&

Christopher Poulos



**WASHINGTON  
STATEWIDE REENTRY  
COUNCIL**



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Slide #3

## FACILITATOR INTRODUCTION



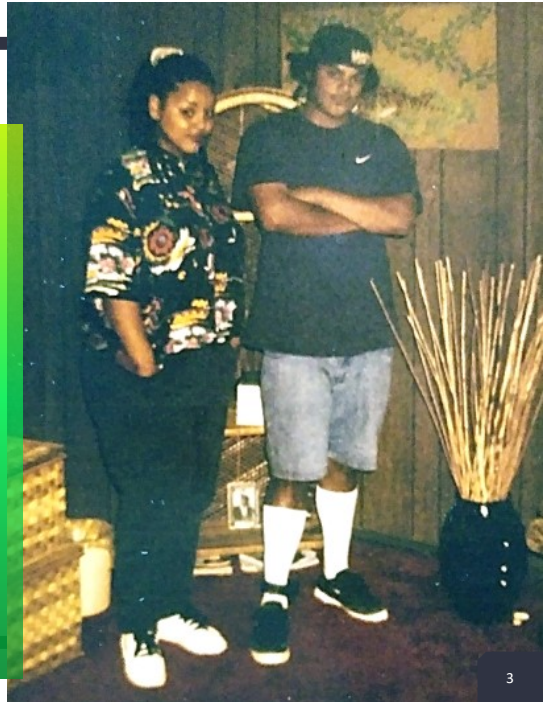
Jason J. Clark  
Principal & Consultant

Our **Mission** is to empower community leaders and community-rooted organizations through **Capacity Building** , **Policy Advocacy** , and **Positive Youth Justice** . Through utilizing the Credible Messengers Model focused on cultivating new and emerging leaders, empowering young people and strengthening communities, we envision collective success.



**NORTHWEST CREDIBLE MESSENGER**

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Slide #4



## FACILITATOR INTRODUCTION

Christopher Poulos  
Executive Director  
Washington Statewide Reentry  
Council

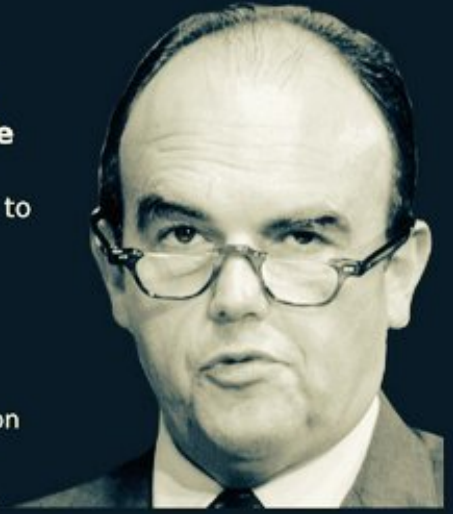


## WHY THE WAR ON DRUG USERS?

"You want to know what this was really all about? Nixon had two enemies: the antiwar Left, and black people. **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. **Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did."**

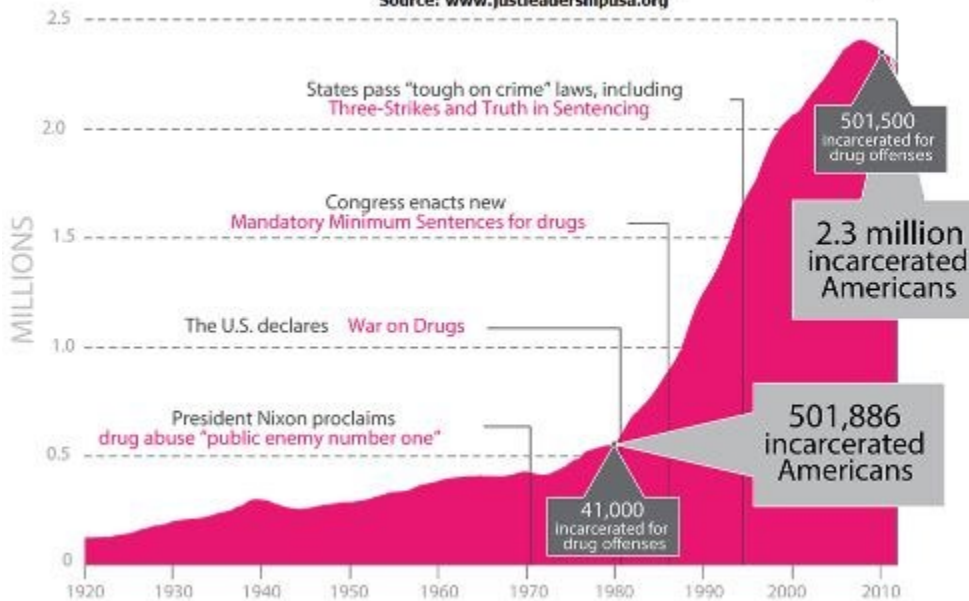
-- John Ehrlichman, Counsel and Assistant to US President Nixon

Interviewed in 1992. Full quote in "Truth, Lies, and Audiotape" (2012) by Dan Baum, journalist and author of *Smoke and Mirrors: The War on Drugs and the Politics of Failure*.



## INCARCERATED AMERICANS (1920-2013)

Source: [www.justleadershipusa.org](http://www.justleadershipusa.org)



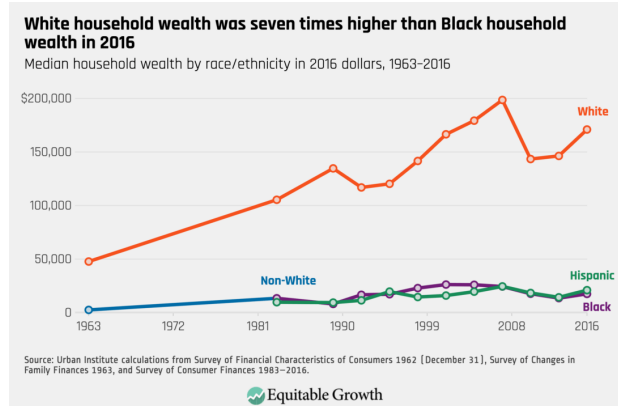
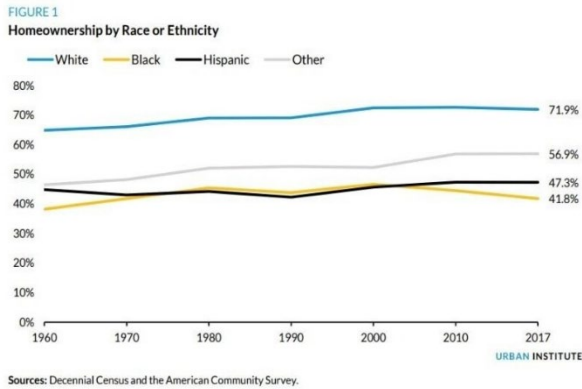
Before World War II, the making, implementation, and enforcement of criminal justice policy in the US were almost exclusively within the purview of the states or local authorities, not the federal government.

From the 1940s onward, public officials and policy makers at all

levels of government (federal to state to local) increasingly sought changes in judicial, policing, and prosecutorial behavior specific to criminal justice policy and legislation. These changes ultimately resulted in major increases in the government's capacity to pursue and punish lawbreakers and, beginning in the 1970s, During Nixon's administration (1969 – 74) our US prison populations transformed, in an escalation of sanctions for a wide range of crimes, labeling drug use as, "Public Enemy #1."

When the War on Drugs began in 1971, our prison population was 200,000, today it is over 2 million. There were more than 1.5 million drug arrests in 2014, more than 80% were for possession only. Almost half were for marijuana. In Louisiana, they're still handing out mandatory sentences to people who sell weed.

## Slide #7 Social Equity



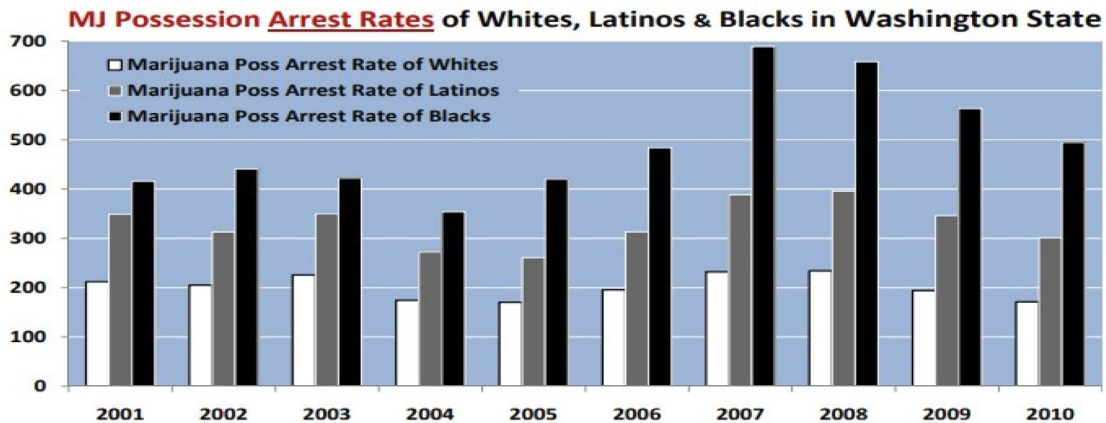
If we were to study the historical narrative of failure in Social Equity Initiatives in our country, FHA lending would be a great place to shine a light. Loans being denied, higher interest rates leading to more money owed and possible foreclosure, and redlining which equated to some homes not increasing in value at all. In 1949 my Grandparents purchased their home in Detroit's Westside for \$11k. 71 years later that house has not increased in value. – J. Clark

These types of situations were seen in many families over the years and impacts were made in many forms. Not developing equity in your family home could mean not having funds to send your children to college, translating to less career options and other disparate outcomes.

According to <https://criminal-justice.iresearchnet.com/> Disparities in educational opportunities contribute to a situation in which communities of color experience less educational attainment than whites, are more likely to be incarcerated. Combine that with neighborhoods impacted by over policing and racial bias and you have a recipe for disparity in CJ systems.

Repeating cycles in different systems does not produce different outcomes. It is imperative that Black and Brown community business leaders, new and emerging business leaders and individuals are strategically mentored through capacity building and developed into the solution for this body of work to make sustainable, long term impacts.

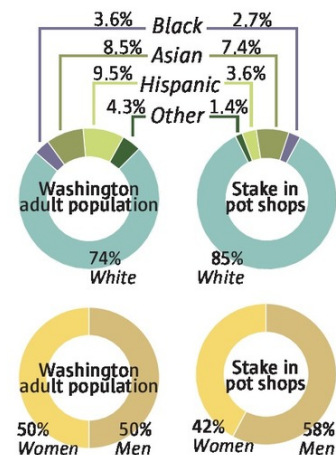
Slide #8 The Impact of Diversity in Ownership



Use Data Source: US Dept HHS, SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2002-2010, 2003-2005. Table 1.80B Marijuana Use in Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month among Persons Aged 18 to 25, by Racial/Ethnic Subgroup Annual Averages Based on 2002-2003 and 2004-2005.

Washington - Overview	2010 Census	
	Counts	Percentages
Total Population	6,724,540	100.00%
<b>Population by Race</b>		
American Indian and Alaska native alone	103,869	1.54%
Asian alone	481,067	7.15%
Black or African American alone	240,042	3.57%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific native alone	40,475	0.60%
Some other race alone	349,799	5.20%
Two or more races	312,926	4.65%
White alone	5,196,362	77.27%
<b>Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin (of any race)</b>		
Persons Not of Hispanic or Latino Origin	5,968,750	88.76%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin	755,790	11.24%

**Diversity of legal pot shops**  
Of all the people with an ownership stake in Washington's legal pot shops, 85 percent are white.



Source: Seattle Times analysis of state records  
ZACH WALKER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

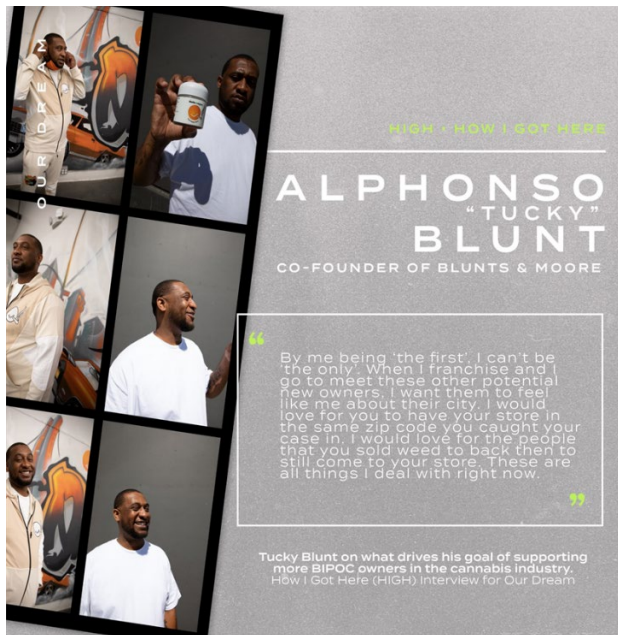
Marijuana Arrest rates in a graph utilized from a recent UW data set demonstrates, in correlation to the total population, Black and Latino people are disproportionately contacted for Marijuana than whites as well as underrepresented in the diversity recorded in 2016 by the Seattle Times in the cannabis industry.

From the perspective of social equity, legalizing an industry formerly relegated to the black market and ending a prohibition that always disproportionately impacted communities of color, will help eliminate one of the great racial inequalities in our society. Building Equity not just into race, but Black and Brown people impacted by incarceration from the war on drugs, will help them stand out from their competitors. It is a win-win all around.

In 2017, the size of the legal cannabis market was roughly \$10 billion. By 2030, the industry is projected to reach \$75 billion in sales, putting it on par with the American soda industry. The story of the next 10 to 12 years is going to be who shares in that \$65 billion in growth, equitably.



Slide #9 Examples of Implementation



**MARIJUANA BUSINESS SUPPORT NOW AVAILABLE!**

Did you or your family and neighborhood experience poverty, trauma and harm due to criminalization of marijuana in the City of Sacramento? ARE YOU READY TO BECOME A CANNABIS ENTREPRENEUR?

If so, join us for a **COMMUNITY ORIENTATION** ::::

**THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019**  
Greater Sacramento Urban League  
3725 Marysville Boulevard  
Sacramento, CA 95838  
**REGISTER @ 10:30 AM**  
**SESSION @ 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Learn about the City of Sacramento’s **CORE** program (Cannabis Opportunity, Reinvestment and Equity). **CORE** was created to assist individuals and communities who are facing barriers to starting cannabis businesses due to the racialized enforcement of marijuana laws.

Whether you are an underground operator or ready to build a new business startup, the Sac GreenEquity team is eager to help you remove the barriers and successfully enter the Sacramento region’s \$4 BILLION legal cannabis industry.

PRESENTED BY: **GREEN EQUITY**  
A City of Sacramento CORE Program

**Greater Sacramento Urban League** Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.

**REGISTER NOW @ www.SacGreenEquity.com**  
Registration REQUIRED! Free Admission. Space Limited.  
For More Information, Call 916.576.2008



**Equity Permit Program – Oakland, CA**

- Rigorous application for felons and residents
- Requirements: Oakland resident, lived in police beats with disproportionately higher number of cannabis-related arrests
- Equity applicant / Incubator (General Applicant)

Example #1 is a recipient of Oakland's Equity Permit Program. For a long time the only black cannabis business, now there is 2 since 2016.

A model nationally recognized, but diversity can be misleading in media based on their numbers.

Much of the success for their first business was related to the resilient nature of the owner being creative and finding a business partner that could assist after being blocked by the industry.

<https://bppj.berkeley.edu/2020/04/08/spring-2020-journal-engineering-equity-in-oaklands-cannabis-market/>

**Cannabis Opportunity Reinvestment and Equity Program (CORE) – Sacramento, CA**

- 10 new licenses were awarded to participants (Oct. 2020)
- Candidates will go through a competitive scoring process
- Requirements: low-income, from zip codes impacted by war on drugs, prior arrest for cannabis-related charge
- Criteria: whether the applicants will be able to successfully submit a complete application for a dispensary permit, be able to successfully operate a dispensary and utilize criteria reasonably necessary to protect health, safety and welfare.
- Participants resources to put into business are not a factor

Of 30 licenses, 29 businesses were open, less than 5 minority owned and none Black owned.

While this program has applied the right mixture of Capacity Building resources, they failed in providing equity as a program outcome for their communities.

Slide #10 Review...

Marijuana Licensing —	Criminal History Record Check																		
Criminal History Record Check	When the board processes a criminal history check on an applicant, it uses a point system to determine if the person qualifies for a license. The board will not normally issue a marijuana license to an applicant who has accumulated eight or more points as indicated below:																		
Distance from Restricted Entities	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Time period during which points will be assigned</th> <th>Points assigned</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Felony conviction</td> <td>Ten years</td> <td>12 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gross misdemeanor conviction</td> <td>Three years</td> <td>5 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Misdemeanor conviction</td> <td>Three years</td> <td>4 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Currently under federal or state supervision for a felony conviction</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>8 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nondisclosure of any of the above</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>4 points each</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Description	Time period during which points will be assigned	Points assigned	Felony conviction	Ten years	12 points	Gross misdemeanor conviction	Three years	5 points	Misdemeanor conviction	Three years	4 points	Currently under federal or state supervision for a felony conviction	n/a	8 points	Nondisclosure of any of the above	n/a	4 points each
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License Approval or Denial																			
Local Authority Notification																			
Marijuana Licensing FAQ																			
Public Comment																			
Applications —	<p>All criminal history must be reported on the personal/criminal history form. Regardless of applicability, failure to disclose full criminal history will result in point accumulation. See WAC 314-55-040 for more information.</p> <p>If a case is pending for an alleged offense that would earn eight or more points, the board will hold the application for the disposition of the case. If the disposition is not settled within ninety days, the board will administratively close the application.</p>																		

Statistical and anecdotal evidence illustrate that Ban the Box policies help dismantle the structural discrimination faced by people with records in the **employment** market. Moreover, fair hiring policies benefit our communities in the form of increased **tax** revenue and public safety.

Why not here? Why not now? To be truly equitable, adjusting the above images point system or really evaluating the need may be beneficial for communities disproportionately impacted.