



**Draft Minutes of the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force  
Licensing Workgroup  
September 22, 2021  
Virtual Meeting**

**Workgroup Members Present:**

Mike Asai, Industry Representative  
Ollie Garrett, WSLCB and Task Force Member  
Pablo Gonzalez, Industry Rep and Task Force Member

Monica Martinez, Co-Lead and Task Force Member  
Micah Sherman, Industry Representative  
Angel Joi Swanson, Industry Representative

**Workgroup Members Absent:**

Michelle Merriweather, Co-Lead and Task Force Member  
Crystal Oliver, Sungrowers Association

Craig Bill, GOIA and Task Force Member  
Kevin Oliver, NORML

**Guests and Other Participants:**

Throughout the meeting, approximately 44 members of the public joined and participated. The workgroup thanks all of those who attended and shared their time, expertise, and lived experience to help shape this important work.

**Staff Support:**

Anzhane Slaughter  
Joy Hollingsworth

Crystal Ogle

**Call to Order**

Monica Martinez, Co-Lead, called the public meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file). Anzhane Slaughter, Staff shared the Zoom protocol, conversation norms, and reviewed the agenda. Prior to moving onto the agenda, Monica Martinez, Co-Lead amends agenda to prioritize legislative action. Micah Sherman, Workgroup Member will be acting as Co-Lead in Michelle Merriweather's absence.

**1. Recap – September 14, Task Force Meeting**

Micah Sherman, Co-Lead briefed the workgroup on the Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> TF meeting. The Licensing workgroup advanced 3 recommendations: 1. Any new licenses are reserved for SE through 2029 which includes any newly issued license and license

types. 2. All SE license have the ability to be located anywhere within the county that a municipality allows it to be located. 3. The statewide buffer be reduced from 1000ft to 500ft for everything but schools and playgrounds.

## **2. Continued Discussion – Equity goal in Cannabis Industry**

Monica Martinez, Co-Lead asks the workgroup to re-visit the idea of 50% of licenses being reserved for SE applicants as a goal. In earlier discussions the group learned that other states and cities have used 50% similarly as a goal. Micah Sherman, Co-Lead, furthers discussions by clarifying that 50% reserved for SE would be all licenses and shows a pie chart (on file) to illustrate the idea.

Public comment includes support for 50% of all license types to be the goal for SE and to remain realistic in setting up applicants for success. Another comment was for support in SE licenses being excise tax exempt, that such a status gives owners a competitive edge. The workgroup briefly discusses this possibility. Ultimately they decide to discuss it in the future.

After pausing for a break, the workgroup continues meeting. Monica Martinez, Co-Lead presents a slide (on file) showing recommendation #1 stating 300 SE retail licenses (or more if comes out of discussion) should be given out over 2-3 licensing windows. The workgroup begins discussion around the recommendation. The workgroup discusses amending the recommendation from counties to include state-wide and consensus is supportive of this amendment. A slide is shown Recommendation #2 SE retail licenses can be located in any municipality that allows for the sitting of additional retail licenses. This would not preempt local restrictions but simply give flexibility to the license to locate said license where they are able and open jurisdiction allows it. Discussion begins. Discussion includes concern 6 months isn't long enough to find/secure location and clarification that the recommendation include current license holders who qualify as SE is made.

Public comment contained concern for anti-black comments being made after Pablo Antonio Gonzalez, Member, said he was troubled by the focus on social equity being on African Americans and not other minorities such as Hispanics, Asians or Women. Questions about the selling of current licenses results in clarification of HB 1443 which does not mention having to sell to only SE applicants. A suggestion is made to discuss the selling of licenses and recommendations in a future meeting. Other public members voiced agreement for 300 retail licenses to be given between 2022-2029 and suggested creating a resource such as a dashboard or database that potential licensees can view location options for viability as the applicants get their licenses.

The group discusses the wording of the recommendations and come up with the following recommendations:

1. Task Force should recommend to the legislature that at minimum 300 additional Social Equity retail licenses should be created and issued with multiple licensing windows between 2022 and 2029
2. All social equity retail licenses and current title certificate holders who fit the social equity definition can be located in any municipality that allows for the sitting of additional retail licenses. This would not preempt local restrictions but simply give flexibility to the licensee to locate said license where they are able and an open jurisdiction allows it.
3. 50% of total licenses have to be social equity before any licenses are issued to any general applicant.

### **3. Briefing and Discussion – New License Type: Social Consumption Lounges**

Bailey Hirschburg is unable to present today due to the change of agenda. Bailey is looking forward to presenting sometime in the future.

### **4. Next Steps**

Anzhane Slaughter, Staff provided upcoming Task Force and Work Group meetings.

### **Adjournment**

Co-Lead Monica Martinez thanked everyone for coming, staff, everyone attending we appreciate all of you coming. \_ adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

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