

Social Equity Marijuana Task Force  
Washington State Liquor Control Board (LCB)

RE: Marijuana Retail License  
Joshua Campbell Esq  
10/23/2020

Dear Task Force and LCB,

I would like to thank the LCB for the time, attention, and dedication towards allowing additional marijuana retail licenses for social equity purposes. I was able to attend all three outreach sessions that were held. A lot of frustration, pain, and anger was voiced. Your patience and compassion have not gone unnoticed.

One of the speakers at the first session touched on an area of concern for me. My family has been heavily affected by the war on drugs. I've worked hard to get where I am today and had questions surrounding my ability to apply as a social equity candidate, and member of the black community here in Washington State. I have never been charged with a Marijuana crime but have several family members affected by the war on drugs. This has directly affected me, my family, and my community.

In the United States and more specifically here in Washington State, the 60's, 70's, and 80's were a difficult time for black Americans. Race, class, opportunity, laws, and many other factors were drastically different than they are today. Selling drugs was a way for my father's side of the family to make money in order to successfully take care of the family. Needless to say, drug use, sales, and the war on drugs in general, eventually lead to the downfall of our family and community. This all started with Marijuana and eventually led to harder drugs. As a result of the war on drugs my parents divorced when I was young. Growing up in a single parent home, I had to work extremely hard to get where I am today. Marijuana which was once illegal, is now a lucrative industry. My family struggles all started with Marijuana. Had Marijuana been legal, with the ability to produce, process, and sell, I truly believe things would have been different for me, my family, and my community. When the committee makes its determination, I would hope my circumstances, and others with similar circumstances such as mine would be taken into consideration.

Even though I don't have a Marijuana charge, I would hope that the committee would still take my application under consideration. From my understanding the intent of the legislature was to not exclude criminal infractions.

Marijuana started the downward spiral for my family leading them toward harder drugs. If I'm unable to find a Marijuana charge, I would hope the committee would not hold this against me. I know Marijuana played a significant roll in my family with the war on drug. Attempting to locate records has proven to be quite challenging. There are significant criminal records and drug

charges. When the committee decides on this issue, I believe they should take circumstances like mine into consideration.

I have been fortunate enough to overcome my family's past and rise to success. I relish the opportunity to help others in my community to do the same. However, because I've moved for school, work, and opportunity, I haven't always lived in a disproportionately impacted area. This is also something I would hope the committee takes into consideration.

Once again, I would like to thank the LCB for giving me an opportunity to write this letter. Your time, attention, and dedication are appreciated. I look forward to submitting my retail license application for your consideration.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and the last name "Campbell" clearly legible.

Joshua Campbell Esq