



RESOLUTION NO. 40627

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS, DEPUTY MAYOR BLOCKER, AND
2 COUNCIL MEMBER USHKA

3 A RESOLUTION relating to social equity; reserving the City's unused allotted retail
4 cannabis licenses for social equity applicants per the definition in
5 Washington State's Chapter 236, Laws of 2020, and requesting eight
6 additional retail cannabis licenses be granted to the City, if possible, for
7 social equity applicants from the newly formed Legislative Task Force on
8 Social Equity in Marijuana.

9 WHEREAS retail cannabis is a growing business in the City, with
10 \$6.5 million in product sold monthly within the City, and

11 WHEREAS the City has been allotted 16 retail cannabis licenses by the
12 Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, and has distributed 14 licenses to
13 date, leaving two available, and

14 WHEREAS equity is a key driver in policy-making in the City, however Black
15 Americans have been under-represented in the City's cannabis industry,
16 particularly in areas most impacted by the war on drugs, and

17 WHEREAS on March 31, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed into law
18 Washington State's Chapter 236, Laws of 2020 ("Law") that establishes a
19 Marijuana Social Equity Program, which authorizes the Washington State Liquor
20 and Cannabis Board to issue previously forfeited, canceled, revoked, and unissued
21 marijuana retailer licenses to eligible applicants adversely affected by the
22 enforcement of marijuana prohibition laws, and

23 WHEREAS according to the Law, a social equity applicant is an applicant
24 with majority ownership and control by at least one individual who has resided in a
25 disproportionately impacted area for at least five of the preceding ten years, or has
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1 been convicted of a misdemeanor marijuana offense, or is a family member of
2 such an individual, and

3 WHEREAS a “disproportionately impacted area” is a census tract or
4 comparable geographic area with a high rate of: (1) poverty and unemployment;
5 (2) participation in income-based or state programs and; (3) arrest, conviction, or
6 incarceration related to the sale, possession, use, cultivation, manufacture or
7 transport of cannabis, and
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9 WHEREAS reserving the City’s unused allotted cannabis licenses for social
10 equity applicants per the definition of the Law, will: (1) increase the number of
11 diverse livable wage jobs by advocating for additional licenses to promote small
12 retail cannabis business entrepreneurship and jobs; (2) increase positive public
13 perception related to the City economy by advancing Black retail ownership in a
14 state where only one percent of retail cannabis is owned by Black Washingtonians;
15 and (3) improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and
16 race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment by
17 adding options for additional cannabis retail entrepreneurship reserved for social
18 equity applicants; Now, Therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

22 Section 1. That the proper officials of the City are hereby authorized to
23 reserve the City’s unused allotted retail cannabis licenses for social equity
24 applicants per the definition in Washington State’s Chapter 236, Laws of 2020, and
25 request eight additional retail cannabis licenses be granted to the City, if possible,
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1 for social equity applicants from the newly formed Legislative Task Force on Social
2 Equity in Marijuana, as soon as practicable.

3 Section 2. That the City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to take
4 and execute any additional measures or documents that may be necessary to
5 complete this transaction which are consistent with the approved form of
6 documents referenced by this Resolution, and the intent of this Resolution.
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8 Adopted _____
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10 _____
11 Mayor

12 Attest:
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14 _____
City Clerk

15 Approved as to form:
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17 _____
City Attorney
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