

March 10, 2021

Dear Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force Members:

Thank you for your leadership in promoting business ownership in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities who have been disproportionately impacted by the criminalization of cannabis.

As you continue to engage the community and develop recommendations for the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board as they work to establish a social equity program for retail cannabis licenses, we take this opportunity to introduce ourselves.

**1619 Cannabis Collective is a newly formed, 100% Black-owned cannabis enterprise based in Seattle.** Our members come from diverse professional backgrounds in education, social justice, finance, marketing, law, management, technology, and philanthropy, and we share the Task Force's important goal to expand access to opportunities created by the growing cannabis industry for Black people and other communities of color.

We are committed to placing Black folks at the center of the cannabis industry's future in Washington state. If we are ultimately granted the opportunity and responsibility of a retail cannabis license, **we will establish a community-based 1619 Impact Investment Fund focused on redressing the impacts of cannabis' criminalization on Black individuals and the resulting plunder of Black wealth and opportunity.** Please see the attached one-page overview of 1619 Cannabis Collective with additional details of the investment fund's goals.

Again, thank you for your commitment to center the voices of BIPOC communities in this process. We look forward to engaging the Task Force and your important work in the months and years to come. Please reach out to us if you have any questions at [contact@1619cannabis.com](mailto:contact@1619cannabis.com).

Sincerely,

1619 Cannabis Collective  
Jacqye Jones  
Tony Talton  
Darnell McAdams  
Nic McGrue  
Brian Surratt

March 23, 2021

Hello,

My name is Steve Shelton. I am a grateful African American I502 majority business owner. My partners and I operate a Tier 3 producer/processor license located in Sequim WA. I myself however reside in the Seattle, WA. I have had decade long strong family ties to the Seattle area specifically the CD (Central District). I consider myself very fortunate and lucky to have the opportunity to be apart of the cannabis industry in WA State.

However, there are several people who look just like me who were not as lucky or as fortunate to have the opportunity to be apart of this growing industry. I've bared witness to the racial inequities the i502 marijuana industry has established. Minorites who have been prosecuted for marijuana possessions and many who are ineligible seem to not have the same means as many caucasians and European Americans who own the majority of the marjiunana industry in WA, which is viewed as lidicrous to the black community.

I commend the state for implementing the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force. It's imperative for the state to finds solutions to repair the racial inequities surrounding the i502 business in WA. I look forward to receiving updates re: the task force, future meetings and any information surrounding the topic.

Warm Regards,  
Steve

April 7, 2021

Good morning Christy ,

Hope you had a great easter weekend ! My question is the last disproportionate areas meeting. If the state "legally" can't structure a program specifically on race, then why not allow applicants that are low income? Helping the community should be one of the main requisites for this program and to help those communities in poverty.

Reassuring these new stores do not go in the same direction of others with horrible employee retention and with no care at all for thier community what so ever should not be overlooked. I have been in this industry for about 7 years and noticed that most companies are the same , just worried only on production numbers snd metric's.

Having applicants that are low income , will allow those truly affected by this industry and the war on drugs to be able to succeed like the rest. Applicants should be people who truly want to change this industry for the better and actually help those within the community supporting them .

Also one of my concerns is with the drug convictions to be eligible for the program. I understand we are trying to make things right for the war on drugs , but we feel those convictions should only be for cannabis in this program. There should be separate programs especially since cannabis is a healthier and safer alternative to alcohol and hard drugs. But mainly , we need applicants that are knowledgeable and passionate by cannabis only to succeed in this competitive market. Allowing so many applicants especially if adding all drug convictions to the eligibility list will only create a bigger funnel that most likely will overwhelm LCB with so many applications for barley 30 licences.

I apologise for this rant but this is something thats really been bothering me lately and i wanted to put my input on this topic. I was supposed to send this on Monday morning but my family restaurant was burned down by an arsonist so im a bit late with it. Thank you for all your help so far and see you all at the next meeting . Enjoy your week !

Sincerely,  
Jasmine & Edgar Castaneda

