



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember
Magdalena Carrasco
Councilmember
Raul Peralez
Councilmember Pam Foley

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: March 22, 2019

Approved by:

Date: 3/22/19

SUBJECT: COUNCIL POLICY PRIORITY #13 AMENDMENT TO THE SAN JOSÉ MUNICIPAL CODE FOR THE CANNABIS EQUITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

1) Accept the staff report with two amendments:

- a. Add to the Legislative Priorities list to continue to advocate for additional funding cycles under the California Cannabis Equity Act of 2018 (Equity Act) established by Senate Bill 1294.
- b. Remove “in the City of San José” from criteria d) from the equity applicant qualifications section

BACKGROUND

We want to thank Michelle McGurk, Wendy Sollazzi, Professor William Armaline and the San José Cannabis Equity Working Group for their continued work to develop an equity lens as we look to meet the changing needs of the cannabis industry.

The period to apply for this year’s grant was very short, only allowing cities a one-month timeframe to understand the grant requirements and apply. We must continue to capture any opportunities to help grow and shape our equity program with adequate resources.

Other cities are lamenting the short timeline for the grant program. Thus they are now beginning to advocate for future funding cycles and a more robust application period. We hope that we join in advocating for the same message to the Bureau of Cannabis Control to help shape future implementation.

Additionally, the policy consequences from the “War on Drugs” did not recognize geographical municipal boundaries. Consistent with criteria c), criteria d) should not be limited to the City of San José boundaries. Removing the unnecessary location limitations, allows the program to serve its purpose: an equitable playing field for all. By opening the ordinance so that it applies to a broader segment of the population, we can adequately and broadly remedy the adverse impacts caused by the “War on Drugs.”

The signers of this memorandum have not had, and will not have, any private conversation with any other member of the City Council, or that member's staff, concerning any action discussed in the memorandum, and that each signer's staff members have not had, and have been instructed not to have, any such conversation with any other member of the City Council or that member's staff.