



City of Cambridge

O-6
IN CITY COUNCIL
October 15, 2018

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR MALLON
COUNCILLOR CARLONE
COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

WHEREAS: The Economic and University Relations Committee held a hearing on October 4, 2018 to continue its investigation of a City-Based Cannabis Social Equity Program; and

WHEREAS: The goal of said hearing was to address continued ambiguities, gain input from the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (MACCC), Massachusetts Recreational Consumer Council (MRCC), Marijuana Policy Trust and the Cambridge Community Development Department, and gather first-hand experience of barriers faced by social equity and economic empowerment applicants for the ultimate purpose of advancing a more thoroughly informed, equity-centered plan, with lucid understanding of the steps and process required for execution; and

WHEREAS: The following questions remained:

- Could the City be required to grant a minimum percentage of licenses to social equity applicants? If yes, what else might be needed to support an efficient and effective City licensing and application process?
- What processes would applicants follow, and what would be the timeline for that process?
- Could the City's zoning provisions and buffer zones be revised to include businesses owned by women, minorities, veterans and other underrepresented populations, in addition to businesses fitting the current MACCC social equity criteria?
- What sorts of fee waivers and exemptions would be permissible for the City to provide to these applicants?
- Could the City limit the number of licenses granted to medical dispensaries, given the inequity already present in this area of the industry, unless they otherwise meet equity criteria [established by the City per above]?
- What steps could the City take to ensure a sustainable social equity program, and longevity of equitable ownership in the industry within its jurisdiction?
- How will the City and the individual Host Agreements it establishes hold social equity partners accountable to their promised diversity & equity plans? Are certain types of regulations and penalties possible; is there existing precedence?

Given that these questions need further scrutiny and clarification; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge is and will continue to be an example of a progressive, innovative City with robust economic opportunity and the resources to support the development and implementation of a well-informed Cannabis Social Equity Program that will, to the best of its ability, seek to promote sustainable equity in the Cambridge Cannabis industry; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Community Development Department and the City Solicitor to investigate the feasibility of the aforementioned queries posed by the Committee; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to include, as part of this investigation, further reference to existing research and the examples of municipal Community Host Agreements since provided by Commissioner Shaleen Title, and result in the construction of a draft template Community Host Agreement for the City of Cambridge for review by the Committee, accommodating wherever possible the suggestions of the Committee and the public; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the Committee on this matter by the date of the next Economic Development and University Relations Committee hearing in November.