

Cannabis Equity 2022

Charting a path toward a robust and more equitable Cannabis Industry in Seattle.



City of Seattle

Overview

- City wants to address inequities
- Beginning that work with a suite of proposed legislation:
 - Job Retention
 - Licensing Changes
 - Memorializing Next Steps



Background

- “War on Drugs” disproportionately impacted BIPOC communities
- City issues cannabis licenses only to those with State licenses
- State cannabis license holders are predominantly cannabis businesses owned by White men



What Legislation is included:

- Worker Retention & Transparency - Office of Labor Standards
- Licensing - Finance & Administrative Services
- Memorializing Next Steps



OLS: Worker Retention and Transparency

- Transparency and Notice requirement for all Seattle Cannabis License holders to employees
- Workers have a right to 90-day retention in case of sale of business except for cause
- Enforced by OLS and Private Right of Action



FAS: Social Equity Licensing and Update to Business License Fees

- No-cost license for Social Equity Applicants
- Increase City's Cannabis License fee
- Ancillary Cannabis businesses if approved by the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board



Charting a Path Forward

- Limitations on what the City can enact on its own; important to recognize the work that has been done
- Inclusion of BIPOC communities in wealth-building through the Cannabis industry and criminal record expungement efforts locally and nationally
- First step in what is an ongoing and dynamic body of work



Next Steps/Questions?

- Transmit legislation
- Committee deliberations/vote
- Council action

