



April 17, 2020
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors:

The San Francisco Cannabis Oversight Committee sincerely hopes that this letter finds all of you in good health and that your loved ones are safe and healthy in this time of COVID-19. We are aware of the sensitivity of this time period and want to acknowledge the many challenges facing the City and express our gratitude for your offices taking the time to review our recommendations regarding the language set forth in Ordinance (File#200144) to Cease Acceptance of New Applications for Cannabis Retail Permits.

The Cannabis Oversight Committee discussed this proposal at length and took public comment during its regular committee meeting on March 3, 2020. Committee members agreed that a moratorium would be more appropriate than an indefinite stoppage of permit application submissions. Upon request, the Office of Cannabis (OOC) offered insight on an appropriate moratorium timeframe based on the current number of applications in the queue and based on the length of time it takes to process an application which is anywhere from 18 to 24 months. As a result of these discussions, the Cannabis Oversight Committee submits to the Board of Supervisors the following concerning San Francisco Police Code Section 1606(e):

Recommendation:

- (e) As of the effective date of the ordinance in Board File No. 200144 enacting this subsection (e), the Director shall decline to accept for processing any new applications for Cannabis Business Permits under this Article 16 in the following categories: Cannabis Retailer, Storefront Cannabis Retailer, Delivery-Only Cannabis Retailer, Medicinal Cannabis Retailer, and Cannabis Microbusiness (to the extent relating to retail activity) until after two years following the enactment of Board File No. 200144 or once the number of equity storefront retailers is equal to the number of pre-existing cannabis storefront businesses.

Although the Committee recommends such a moratorium (motion approved with four Ayes: Jamalian, Flynn, Stout, Richard; two Nays: Parks & Cry), we want your offices to be aware that the comments from the community expressed a great concern that the process into permit and licensure is still inequitable and that ceasing to provide an opportunity to submit applications does not help to make a more equitable playing field for people who have been harmed by the “War on Drugs.” Community members shared that those harmed by the “War on Drugs” are trying to play catch up in acquiring knowledge and skill sets to set up businesses in a heavily regulated cannabis industry.

The Cannabis Oversight Committee would like to work closely with both Supervisors Safai and Walton's offices to support the development of more innovative solutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nina Parks

Chair

On Behalf of the San Francisco Cannabis Oversight Committee