

# San Francisco Office of Cannabis

Presented by  
San Francisco Office of Cannabis

9/15/2020

# Office of Cannabis Updates:

- ▶ Grants
- ▶ Legislative Updates
- ▶ Permitting by the Numbers
- ▶ Highlights from recent OOC Weekly Communications
- ▶ Cannabis Oversight Committee's Meeting Budget

# Cannabis Grants Pilot Program Updates

## ▶ Request for Proposals

- ▶ [Information on Website](#) (Under Resources)
- ▶ Issued RFP (9/9/20)
- ▶ Bidders Conference (9/14/20)
- ▶ Proposals Due (9/25/20)

## ▶ Direct Equity Grants

- ▶ Building out website content
- ▶ Building out application materials and contracts
- ▶ ETA to launch: Late September/Early October

# Cannabis Grants Pilot Program Updates

- ▶ Independent Review Committee
  - ▶ Planning
  - ▶ Entertainment Commission
  - ▶ SF Unified School District
  - ▶ San Francisco Dept. of Public Health
- ▶ Thank you non-voting members of the Oversight Committee!

# Cannabis Grants Pilot Program Updates

- ▶ Cannabis Direct Equity Grants

- ▶ Closed Pool for Eligibility

- ▶ Grants Conference: Opportunity to Learn More about the Process for Receiving Direct Assistance from the OOC

- ▶ Late September/Early October

# Legislative Update: Temporary Suspension of Cannabis Business Tax

- ▶ What does the proposed legislation say/do:
  - ▶ Delays Prop D cannabis tax for 1 year
  - ▶ It increases the exempted amount in gross receipts to 1,000,000 (from 500k)
  - ▶ 2.5% rate for retail (5% for over 1.5 million)
  - ▶ 1% for all else (1.5% for over 1.5 million)
- ▶ Status:
  - ▶ Sponsor: Supervisor Mandelman
  - ▶ Introduced on 9/1
  - ▶ 30-day period before assigned to a subcommittee

# Permitting by the Numbers

	August 2019	August 2020
Equity Permanent Permits Issued	0	10
Applications Waiting for Tier 1 Processing	140	0!!
Applicants Referred to Planning	32	104
Applicants in Buildout (final stages)	11	23
Number of Verified Equity Applicants	298	342

# Highlights from Recent Communications

## Free Legal Assistance Opportunities for Verified Equity Applicants

- ▶ If you're a verified equity applicant looking for free legal assistance through the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS), please contact Princess Bustos at [Pbustos@sfbar.org](mailto:Pbustos@sfbar.org) or Jeremy Schwartz at [jeremy.schwartz@sfgov.org](mailto:jeremy.schwartz@sfgov.org).

## Deferral of Business Fees

- ▶ The City is providing tax relief for small businesses by delaying the collection of the unified license bill until March 1, 2021.
- ▶ The City extended the 2021 Business Registration Fee deadline to March 1, 2021.
- ▶ For details about these actions, please [navigate here](#).

# Highlights from Recent Communications

## Paid Opportunity for Cannabis Experts to Teach at City College

- ▶ Specifically, CCSF seeks someone to teach workshops on:
  - ▶ Equity in the Cannabis Industry: What is social equity in cannabis? What does it mean in San Francisco? How do you become an equity applicant and build your business?
  - ▶ METRC: An overview of the METRC track and trace system. Why it's used and how to use it.
- ▶ If interested, please reach out to Blayke Barker at [bblayke@ccsf.edu](mailto:bblayke@ccsf.edu).

A course on cannabis at CCSF is in the works!

# Highlights from Recent Communications

## Fraud Alerts

- ▶ It has been brought to the OOC's attention that some operators received fraudulent messages from individuals purporting to represent cannabis regulatory agencies. These messages included requests to solicit operator's financial information.
- ▶ Please remain vigilant regarding phishing attacks.

# Highlights from Recent Communications

## Best Public Safety Practices for Cannabis Business Operators

- ▶ Create a safety plan with your employees;
  - ▶ clear protocol for managing public safety situations, including internal telephone trees and updated contact information with law enforcement
- ▶ Get to know your SFPD District Station Captains
  - ▶ regularly update your point of contact
  - ▶ provide information regarding your security personnel and whether your security guard(s) is armed.
- ▶ Get to know the beat officers patrolling your neighborhood

# Highlights from Recent Communications

## 2020 Census

- ▶ The census is a count the federal government does of every person living in the United States. It happens once every 10 years. You can complete the census online, by phone, or by mail at any point until the end of October 2020.
- ▶ Governments use census data to decide:
  - ▶ How much money each state gets for education, infrastructure, seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, and drawing of district lines

# Highlights from Recent Communications

## COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

- ▶ Social Distancing Protocol
  - ▶ Signage & Education (e.g. maintain 6' distance)
  - ▶ Protective Measures (e.g. face coverings)
  - ▶ Sanitization (e.g. disinfect high touch areas)
- ▶ Get COVID-19 Tested
  - ▶ Free for Essential Workers
  - ▶ Multiple City test sites
  - ▶ Results in less than a week

# Oversight Committee Budget

- ▶ Initially budgeted for 10 meetings (pre-COVID)
- ▶ Agreed to meet every other month for a total of 7 meetings for 2019/2020
- ▶ Initially agreed to no meeting in Aug (traditionally a time for recess)
- ▶ COVID-19, shift to virtual meetings, increased administrative costs per meeting
  - ▶ Increased coordination, mock meetings, and preparing materials in addition to existing roles and responsibilities

# Oversight Committee Budget

- ▶ On track for 7 total meetings (current meeting = 6, next meeting will be our 7<sup>th</sup>)
- ▶ Our 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be our last for the year
- ▶ Productive and successful past year!
  - ▶ Issued 4 legislative recommendations regarding the cannabis industry
  - ▶ Voted on core recommendations for the equitable distribution of equity grant funds for VEAs and technical assistance providers
  - ▶ Successfully pivoted to inclusive and accessible virtual meetings
  - ▶ Training on labor regulations and requirements
  - ▶ Issued a formal letter in response to legislation
  - ▶ Convening City Depts. to present and provide updates on their roles in the cannabis permit application process

# Oversight Committee Budget

When to schedule the Committee's final meeting for the year?