

Cannabis Oversight Committee

Public Banking Recommendation Text

09/13/2023 Meeting

Introduced by: Chairman Ali Jamalian

The City of San Francisco shall incept and fund a Public Cannabis Bank in accordance with the California Public Bank Act, which allows municipalities to establish Public Banks that will use the deposits to make loans that directly benefit local communities.

Priority should be given to local social equity and legacy businesses. However, in the spirit of promoting our beloved City and attracting tenants to the downtown area, I also suggest opening accounts for any cannabis license holders, provided they rent a minimum amount of space in San Francisco, and employ San Francisco residents.

We recommend a minimum threshold of 1200 Sq. Ft. and 2 full time employees for out-of-town Cannabis Companies to qualify for a San Francisco Public Cannabis account.

We recommend the City of San Francisco work closely with the Cannabis Oversight Committee to define the eligibility criteria, community benefits and funding for such a bank.

The San Francisco Cannabis Bank shall render all services traditionally offered to small businesses in accordance with the regulations set forth by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI). These services shall include but not be limited to:

- Business checking with interest
- Merchant Services
- Treasury Management
- Money and Market Accounts
- Business Credit Cards
- Automated Clearing House Access (ACH)
- Online Banking/Accounting Software Integration
- Payroll Services
- Retirement and Health Savings accounts