

Date: September 1, 2021

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

Subject: **Communications from the Human Relations Commission**

At its August 4, 2021 meeting, the Human Relations Commission approved a recommendation to transmit the following recommendations about cannabis equity and the establishment of a Commission on Women and Girls to the Mayor and City Council.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy City Manager Teresa Chandler at (562) 570-5116 or Teresa.Chandler@longbeach.gov.

ATTACHMENTS: A – HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION – CANNABIS EQUITY
B – HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION – COMMISSION ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
REBECCA GUZMAN GARNER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK (REF. FILE #[21-0053](#))
DEPARTMENT HEADS

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Alyssa Gutierrez, Chair
Amy Eriksen, Vice Chair
Trace Camacho, Commissioner
Roman Seano, Commissioner
Chanel Smith, Commissioner
Christopher Covington, Commissioner
Mary Ellen Mitchell, Commissioner



Jon Schultz, Commissioner
Cory Allen, Commissioner
Zuleimy Gonzalez, Commissioner
Zoe Nicholson, Commissioner
Elisa Buchanan, Commissioner
Lissette Flores, Commissioner

August 9, 2021

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Long Beach
411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Recommendations regarding Cannabis Equity in the City of Long Beach

Honorable Mayor Garcia, Members of Long Beach City Council, and Tom Modica, City Manager

The mission of the Human Relations Commission is to inspire and support social justice and equity in the City of Long Beach and foster mutual understanding and respect for all, with a vision that Long Beach is a just and equitable community, free of discrimination and violence, where all people are valued and have the resources to reach their full potential. It is in this context that the Human Relations Commission submits this recommendation with a hope that our city continues to embrace values of justice, equity, respect and dignity for all its residents.

Over the past two months, the Human Relations Commission has heard from several community stakeholders, including the Long Beach Collective Association and the City of Long Beach's Office of Cannabis Oversight, to learn more about Long Beach's ongoing work around expanding the Social Equity program established in 2018. As the City of Long Beach engages in efforts to institutionalize equity and infuse an equity lens throughout its practices, policies, and decision-making, it is critical particularly in the cannabis space that more attention be paid to individuals and communities impacted by the war on drug and past cannabis convictions. Based on our meetings, hearing from members of the community, and our fellow commissioners, we have come up with a list of items we would like to request the City Council and staff consider in expanding this program. We believe the following items are critical to the ongoing success of the program:

Equity Business Ownership

- Explore using one-time American Rescue Plan money to expand the Social Equity Entrepreneurship Academy and available grant opportunities for applicants
- Add social-equity only cannabis licenses in Shared-License types, delivery, and storefront retail that will create space for social-equity licenses, and work to provide a robust path for ownership
- Create a proactive process to prevent predatory agreements and lenders for all social equity cannabis applications

- Ex: Contract with an attorney to provide technical assistance for equity applications to teach equity applicants how to adequately vet potential investors and partners
- Reduce the overall application timeline for social equity applicants in Shared-License types, delivery, and store-front retail

Community Reinvestment

- Allocate 40% of all Measure MA Tax Funding (Cannabis sales tax) into a Community Reinvestment Fund
 - Implement an equitable public budgeting process such as ‘Participatory Budgeting’ to determine how to allocate the funding
- Each year, as Cannabis equity sales tax increases, place additional funding in a Community Reinvestment Fund
- Establish a Cannabis Equity Advisory Board to oversee all aspects of Community Reinvestment processes including current reinvestment policies

Respectfully,

Alyssa Gutierrez, Chair
Human Relations Commission

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Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
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411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Recommendations regarding Establishing a Commission on Women & Girls

Honorable Mayor Garcia, Members of Long Beach City Council, and Tom Modica, City Manager

The mission of the Human Relations Commission is to inspire and support social justice and equity in the City of Long Beach and foster mutual understanding and respect for all, with a vision that Long Beach is a just and equitable community, free of discrimination and violence, where all people are valued and have the resources to reach their full potential. It is in this context that the Human Relations Commission submits this recommendation with a hope that our city continues to embrace values of justice, equity, respect and dignity for all its residents.

The Human Relations Commission unanimously supports the creation of a Commission on Women and Girls in the City of Long Beach. Over the last year as the Human Relations Commission (HRC) engaged community and stakeholders in a series of discussions around the modernization of the HRC, we heard the need for a dedicated commission to focus on elevating policy recommendations that address the unique experiences and challenges facing women and girls in our city.

A Long Beach Commission for Women & Girls, working intersectionally and inclusively, would promote equality and justice for all women and girls; cis, trans and those who identify as female, focusing on economic equity, educational equity, access to health care including reproductive choice, violence against women and other key issues identified by the Commission as significantly affecting women and girls.

The California Women's Commission has recognized the overwhelming circumstances that women face and the extraordinary compounding demands of the COVID-19 pandemic and wage inequality. They have asked California cities to join Berkeley, Carson, Compton, Glendale, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Santa Monica and West Hollywood in establishing a Commission for Women & Girls.

The City of Long Beach is one of the primary leaders in California in setting a standard for inclusion, diversity, equity, respect and full inclusivity. There is an abundance of expertise on

women and girls in Long Beach and as such, appointing women from every district assures the city of a brilliant Commission for Women & Girls working on their behalf. Uplifting the lives of women and girls, uplifts everyone.

The Long Beach Human Relations Commission is presenting this letter of recommendation to the Mayor and City Council to establish the Long Beach Commission for Women & Girls and recommend to begin with a series of listening sessions with women and girls in the city to gain additional feedback on the needs of women and girls that the Commission could address. The Human Relations Commission is committed to supporting the implementation of the listening sessions.

It has been 46 years since the Long Beach City Council was first asked to establish a Women's Commission. From an article in the local paper, November 5, 1975, Councilwoman Renee B Simon proposed a Women's Commission. Her motion died as she was unable to get a second to her motion. "I am absolutely dumbfounded," Mrs. Simon declared "and I'm sure the women in Long Beach will be equally shocked." Today, let us get that second and make it unanimous.

Respectfully,

Alyssa Gutierrez, Chair
Human Relations Commission