

eComments Report for City Council Meeting Agenda of April 18, 2023

Item	Name	E-mail	Address	Comment	Received
<p>7. (23-0389) Recommendation to increase appropriations in the General Fund Group in the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department by \$1,150, offset by the Third Council District One-time District Priority Funds transferred from the Citywide Activities Department, to provide signage at Channel View Park in memory of Ashlee Armond; and</p> <p>Decrease appropriations in the General Fund Group in the Citywide Activities Department by \$1,150, to offset a transfer to the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department.</p>	Dave Shukla	dave.shukla@gmail.com		Support.	4/18/2023
<p>8. (23-0383) Recommendation to adopt resolution calling on top maritime importers to Long Beach to adopt existing emissions-reducing technologies and take steps to make port calls to the San Pedro Port Complex on zero-carbon ships by 2030. (Citywide)</p>	Dave Shukla	dave.shukla@gmail.com		Support. Is there a way to check existing ships for Bilge Dumping at any point in between departure and docking into L.B. Port?	4/18/2023

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<p>20. (23-0374) Recommendation to receive and file the application of Ahtrst Concessions, LLC, dba The Queen Mary, for an original application of an Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) License, at 1126 Queens Way. (District 1)</p> <p>Levine Act: Yes</p>	Dave Shukla	dave.shukla@gmail.com		Appreciating these Levine Act disclosures	4/18/2023
<p>22. (23-0376) Recommendation to determine that the granting of Facility/Pipeline Permit Supplement No. S-1-22 under existing Facility/Pipeline Permit No. P-157-89 to Signal Hill Petroleum, Inc., will not be contrary to the public interest; and, authorize City Manager, or designee, to issue said permit supplement in accordance with Section 15.44.060, Permit Issuance, of the Long Beach Municipal Code. (District 4)</p> <p>Levine Act: Yes</p>	Dave Shukla	dave.shukla@gmail.com		Oppose. What's the need for the Natural Gas line, really?	4/18/2023

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<p>25. (23-0104) Recommendation to receive supporting documentation into the record and conclude the public hearing and consider two third-party appeals by Laurie Angel and Kirk Davis (APL 22-006); and</p> <p>Deny the appeals and approve a Site Plan Review (SPR 22-078) for the development of a 303,972 square foot concrete tilt-up building including 9,000 square feet of office space approximately 51 feet in height on a 14.16-acre lot at 5910 Cherry Avenue in the General Industrial Zoning District. (District 9)</p>	Sona Coffee	sonacoffee@gmail.com		<p>Please do not move forward with approving the site plan without first conducting an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to identify appropriate mitigation measures for the impacts of this project to the surrounding neighborhoods. The traffic report included in the developer study (p.6) states the project will bring an increase of 180 truck trips and 354 cars trips per day. P.4 of the staff report acknowledges there are environmental justice and pollution concerns with the project site, but states the CEQA process is not required for approval of the site plan. However, this opinion only views the warehouse site and not the impacts from the truck trips and traffic congestion. I appreciate that the proposed project will cleanup the pollution on-site, but the project also needs to consider the quality of life impacts to the community. Please direct staff to conduct an EIR and identify equitable development and mitigation measures to protect public health in our community.</p>	4/18/2023
PUBLIC COMMENT	Miriel Bereal	mirielb@icloud.com		<p>Great afternoon Everyone with giving all glory and honor to THE MOST HIGH GOD; my name is Miriel "Mae" Bereal. I am a verified Applicant and have been a part of the Social Equity Cannabis Program within the City of Long Beach, since 2019. I am Applicant #7 within your System, with pending licenses for Medical Manufacturing, Cultivation, Distribution and I'm currently in the running for a Dispensary. I have also co-founded a social equity alliance called the LBSEE, which stands for Long Beach Social Equity Entrepreneurs. Today I am asking that you all reduce the buffers between non-equity and equity dispensaries. The inventory for Retail spaces within The City is VERY limited so reducing the buffer by at least HALF would help us greatly to participate within the retail cannabis market in The City. Equity is good, though INCLUSION is the goal! My current space is located within Suely's District of District 6 and is in need of a reduction in buffer; if not, more help from The City.</p>	4/18/2023

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PUBLIC COMMENT	Rhonda Love - Dreamkreator Studio	hello@dreamkreator.org		<p>Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,</p> <p>We request that you please accept this public comment and include it in the public records for the City Council meeting scheduled for April 18, 2023. We express our full support of the proposed mixed-use development located at 450 The Promenade North, and ask you to please deny the appeal and support the Planning Commission's approval of the Site Plan Review.</p> <p>Dreamkreator Studio is a non-profit organization that fosters communities through media, art, and technology. As a contributing voice in the community, we support the proposed development, as it aligns with the city's strategic plan and vision for Downtown Long Beach, and the Downtown Plan. It's optimal use of the property, includes high-density housing, ground floor commercial space, and open space, perfect the presence of arts and culture, with essentials for residents, workers, and visitors- please approve!</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Rhonda Love CEO & President Dreamkreator Studio</p>	4/18/2023
29. (23-0388) Recommendation to receive and file a presentation in recognition of Cambodian Genocide Remembrance Day.	Dave Shukla	dave.shukla@gmail.com		Support	4/18/2023

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<p>30. (23-0384) Recommendation to request City Manager to work with the Office of Cannabis Oversight to develop a tax relief plan to help stimulate the growth of local cannabis retail establishments with structured incentives that promote community benefits, local hiring, livable wages, and fair labor standards, and return to the City Council as part of the FY24 budget process.</p>	Zach Donahue	zach.donahue@catalystcannabis.co		<p>I am writing to introduce myself as Zach Donahue, with Catalyst Cannabis Co. I have been a part of the legal cannabis industry since 2020 and have witnessed firsthand the remarkable growth and changes that have taken place in the industry.</p> <p>As an industry, we have made significant strides in the legal market, including the creation of union jobs, formal education, and 17 locations. However, despite these successes, we are concerned about the potential collapse of the industry due to high taxes.</p> <p>It is my belief that tax reform is urgently needed to help stimulate the growth of local cannabis retail establishments. I hope that the city takes these recommendations into consideration and works to develop a tax relief plan that supports the continued growth and success of the cannabis industry while prioritizing the well-being of local communities.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Zach Donahue</p>	4/18/2023
<p>30. (23-0384) Recommendation to request City Manager to work with the Office of Cannabis Oversight to develop a tax relief plan to help stimulate the growth of local cannabis retail establishments with structured incentives that promote community benefits, local hiring, livable wages, and fair labor standards, and return to the City Council as part of the FY24 budget process.</p>	Natalie Aguilar	nataguilar94@yahoo.com		<p>I'm Natalie Aguilar and I'm from Catalyst Cannabis Co in San Bernardino. I started in the cannabis industry in 2018 and have seen the growth and changes the industry has made and been forced to endure from then to now. As an industry, we have made HUGE strides in the legal market but Catalyst alone offers - 17 locations that all have union jobs, formal education, we work with city leadership in uplifting our communities and yet, we are in fear of this industry collapsing due to high taxes. We need tax reform now and I support the recommendations made to the city today. Our industry needs to have the city develop a tax relief plan to help stimulate growth of local cannabis retail establishments and reward companies that are hiring locals, provide living wages and career pathways for workers, and promote social equity in our communities. Long Beach possess the power to create change and i am here today to ask you to be in our favor.</p>	4/18/2023

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<p>30. (23-0384) Recommendation to request City Manager to work with the Office of Cannabis Oversight to develop a tax relief plan to help stimulate the growth of local cannabis retail establishments with structured incentives that promote community benefits, local hiring, livable wages, and fair labor standards, and return to the City Council as part of the FY24 budget process.</p>	<p>Sam Solomon</p>	<p>samanthasolomon7@gmail.com</p>		<p>I currently work at the Catalyst Mid City location. Before moving to this store, I worked at Catalyst DTLB for a little under a year--my first year in the cannabis industry. I've learned how the industry has endured in the past and I've seen a legal market that's just beginning to expand. I agree with the recommendations for tax reform made to the city today because this blooming industry is at risk of wilting. Tax relief needs to happen now. We want to see the city of Long Beach supporting companies that hire local, promote social equity, and strive to uplift the community.</p>	<p>4/15/2023</p>
<p>31. (23-0379) Recommendation to request City Attorney to prepare ordinance to amend the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) to reduce the adult-use and medical cannabis cultivation and retail taxes for equity businesses by half the rate set in Section 3.80.261 of the LBMC. (Citywide)</p>	<p>Miriel Bereal</p>	<p>mirielb@icloud.com</p>		<p>Reducing Equity Taxes by half, for not only retail and cultivation, but including testing, manufacturing and distribution. All Equity should have minimal, to no taxes, due to the harm that the 'War on Drugs' has caused us. Understandable you all want to make some sort of money from the business that we would be conducting within The City, though also take into account how much we have paid already. Please use the cannabis tax dollars that have already been collected to be poured into Social Equity businesses. Within the various 'rules' that have been drafted up, they state that non-equity must assist Equity. This would 'recognize and address the long-term negative social impact associated with the disproportionate enforcement of cannabis policies on Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and low-income communities in the City', as stated on The Cities website regarding Equity and your 'long-term' goals. I do believe it is time that we accomplish some of these goals. Now.</p>	<p>4/18/2023</p>

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<p>31. (23-0379) Recommendation to request City Attorney to prepare ordinance to amend the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) to reduce the adult-use and medical cannabis cultivation and retail taxes for equity businesses by half the rate set in Section 3.80.261 of the LBMC. (Citywide)</p>	Sarah Armstrong	canwonk@gmail.com		<p>To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council From: Sarah Armstrong JD Outreach Chair for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties - Americans for Safe Access Re: SUPPORT Agenda Item No. 31 File No. 23-0379 - Reduced Taxes for Equity Cannabis Retailers and Cultivators The Los Angeles and Ventura County Divisions of Americans for Safe Access concurs with the statement in the item's report which states: "Reducing taxes for equity businesses will reduce the barriers to entry in an already established and competitive local market..." Our organization urges the honorable council to pass this measure when it comes before them, and in doing so "...support the City's goal of creating equitable opportunities in the local cannabis industry in Long Beach." Reducing taxes is a meaningful step in assuring that social equity candidates get the help they need to thrive. Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>	4/18/2023
<p>31. (23-0379) Recommendation to request City Attorney to prepare ordinance to amend the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) to reduce the adult-use and medical cannabis cultivation and retail taxes for equity businesses by half the rate set in Section 3.80.261 of the LBMC. (Citywide)</p>	Jim Gabbar	forex91004@fitzola.com		<p>Will the City Council agree to cut in half the property tax rate for all new homeowners? Why should these businesses be gifted this tax relief that was already set into law when they embarked on the enterprise of selling a vice? There are plenty of more worthwhile causes in this city that need funding or relief and businesses selling drugs are not at the top of the list. This is a an example of our elected officials being out of touch and misguided with their efforts. at the very least this should be placed on the ballot so constituents have a chance to voice their opinion on the matter, instead of hiding behind special interests and hard to access meetings. It is very suspicious there are no Levine Act disclosures for this item.</p>	4/18/2023

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31. (23-0379) Recommendation to request City Attorney to prepare ordinance to amend the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) to reduce the adult-use and medical cannabis cultivation and retail taxes for equity businesses by half the rate set in Section 3.80.261 of the LBMC. (Citywide)	Fatima Montez	fm562@yahoo.com		I am a mother of middle-school and high school school kids in district 7 and don't have the resources to come to council or to provide information to my kids who talk about marijuana all the time. Kids are using marijuana at age 11 now. How is the city addressing this? With tax dollars? The marijuana dispensaries just care about making more money, opening more dispensaries and selling more weed. They don't care about how many more kids are using, or that there is more litter. Use the tax money to help our community, not the marijuana dispensary.	4/18/2023
31. (23-0379) Recommendation to request City Attorney to prepare ordinance to amend the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) to reduce the adult-use and medical cannabis cultivation and retail taxes for equity businesses by half the rate set in Section 3.80.261 of the LBMC. (Citywide)	Clive Walters	clivewhisiker@yahoo.com		Have we not learned from the historical issues of the tobacco industry? Why do we continue to let paid agents of the cannabis industry lobby and bully the policy makers of Long Beach into poor health and safety for the community. We would not sit and listen to tobacco, alcohol or even Rx industry folks talk about why we should make it easier for them to sell their products to our residents, why are we doing this with cannabis? We need these taxes to address the harms of the industry.	4/18/2023

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31. (23-0379) Recommendation to request City Attorney to prepare ordinance to amend the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) to reduce the adult-use and medical cannabis cultivation and retail taxes for equity businesses by half the rate set in Section 3.80.261 of the LBMC. (Citywide)	Chris Diemand	chris@catalystcannabis.co		Good Evening, My name's Chris Diemand Jr. and I'm the General Manager of the Catalyst Cannabis Co in Santa Ana. I moved here in 2019 leaving a well tenured + paying job from the Midwest to dive into the "unknown" yet intriguing, newly regulated Cannabis Industry. I have seen the growth + excitement and also the hardships + changes the industry has made and been forced to endure from then to now. We have made HUGE strides to help support + grow the legal market - union jobs, formal education, 17 locations, working with city leadership and uplifting our communities and yet, we are in fear of this industry collapsing due to high taxes. We need tax reform now and I support the recommendations made to the city today. Our industry needs to have the city develop a tax relief plan to help stimulate growth of local cannabis retail establishments and reward companies that are hiring locals, provide living wages and career pathways for workers, and promote social equity in our communities. #WFTP	4/18/2023
31. (23-0379) Recommendation to request City Attorney to prepare ordinance to amend the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) to reduce the adult-use and medical cannabis cultivation and retail taxes for equity businesses by half the rate set in Section 3.80.261 of the LBMC. (Citywide)	Robert Morris	romorris562@gmail.com		Taxes should not be reduced. How are we addressing the impact of recreational cannabis legalization on increase of youth using cannabis? Cannabis tax dollars should address this the same way tobacco tax dollars do. Use tax dollars to invest in cannabis prevention programs for youth.	4/18/2023

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<p>32. (23-0380) Recommendation to acknowledge and consent to an Assignment and Assumption of the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Escrow Instructions, dated March 10, 2022, for the disposition of City-owned exempt surplus property located at 854 East 7th Street, commonly known as the former Long Beach Armory for an affordable housing development, from Armory Arts Collective, LP (Assignor), to Linc Armory, LP (Assignee); and</p> <p>Consent to a change in population type for the affordable housing development from general affordable housing to affordable housing restricted to senior adult households. (District 1)</p> <p>Levine Act: Yes</p>	Carlos Torre	cdelatorre11@gmail.com		<p>My name is Carlos de la Torre and I am the owner of Cornerstone Wellness in Los Angeles. I am also a founding member of the UCBA Trade Association. We stand with our fellow members in Long Beach and ask for your support in reducing the taxes on cannabis businesses. The legal cannabis industry is currently suffering a significant downturn. Instead of working with us to help stabilize the industry, the ton-def state of California (CDTFA) has decided to raise the excise tax on retailers by turning a tax on goods into a gross receipts tax (A super greedy and shady move). This new decision has a profoundly negative impact on our small business and it will certainly drive even more people back to the illicit market. Lowering the city tax will go a long way in helping to steady the receding tide of customers and it will certainly and significantly help the struggling social equity businesses. Please help our businesses survive by passing an ordinance to lower the tax. Thank you.</p>	4/17/2023
PUBLIC COMMENT	Miriel Bereal	mirielb@icloud.com		<p>The overall narrative for the comments that I have made, is that Equity needs help, NOW. Not years from now, not months from now... now. This Office of Cannabis has been open for quite some time and to only have about 2 Equity Applicants with licensing is a clear sign that there is a link broken in the chain. Please fix it. The more Applicants that are in the System, the more money the State gives you, & the more money the City makes from tax dollars. It also benefits from us cleaning up the community, as we would NOT have the areas surrounding our business be run down; we would feed, help, build and uplift our communities, so that we could once again walk as GOD intended for us to walk. We've been oppressed long enough, even The State is talking about 'Reparations' for Slavery.. they recognize something is owed to what we've endured, please recognize the same for the 'War on People'. Families were changed for generations, it is time we turn things around, and got back on track.</p>	4/18/2023