

**From:** Padric Gleason Gonzales [mailto:padric.gleason@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, January 2, 2021 3:33 PM

**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment re: agenda item #16 for upcoming meeting City Council meeting re: delivery-only permits

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear City Council,

I write in support of this motion. The cannabis equity program, while created in the spirit of providing opportunities for underserved entrepreneurs, failed to produce any enduring minority-owned businesses. In fact, 100% of marijuana shops in Long Beach are owned by white men.

The program participants' feedback highlighted startup costs as a major barrier to entry, because it costs a lot of money to locate, secure, build out, maintain, and operate a cannabis shop. Allowing delivery-only businesses will create a stepping stone for entrepreneurs to work in the legal cannabis industry and hopefully build wealth toward opening their own retail operations- without the huge upfront investment. We have letter carriers, bicycle couriers, food delivery, armored car services, port services- we're experts in moving product. Let's provide a new pathway for people to make money for themselves and their families through legitimate business. Please approve this recommendation.

Regards,  
Padric