



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 19, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 1294 (Bradford): Cannabis: State and Local Equity Programs

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of SB 1294 (Bradford). This bill proposes to require the Bureau of Cannabis Control provide grants, upon appropriation of funds by the Legislature, to local jurisdictions to assist equity applicants and licensees in gaining entry to and successfully operating in the cannabis marketplace. The City of Long Beach recognizes social equity as a core focus of cannabis policymaking and supports equal opportunity in the cannabis industry.

On July 10, 2018, as part of a Commercial Adult-Use Cannabis Business Ordinance, the Long Beach City Council adopted a Cannabis Social Equity Program ("Equity Program"). The Equity Program provides benefits and assistance to individuals and communities most impacted by the criminalization of cannabis. The Equity Program will be coordinated by the Office of Cannabis Oversight, the Office of Equity, and the Pacific Gateway Workforce Innovation Network. The Equity Program will provide two major benefits to participants: (1) Equity Business Ownership Assistance and (2) Employment Opportunities.

The Equity Program will help participants open a cannabis business by providing fee waivers, expedited application and plan check review, business license tax deferrals, and application workshops. The Equity Program will also provide additional support by requiring all non-equity cannabis businesses to submit plans on how they intend to support equity businesses and disadvantaged Long Beach communities. With respect to employment opportunities, the Equity Program will require all non-equity cannabis businesses to ensure that at least 40% of total annual work hours are performed by program participants.

SB 1294 will further advance the goals of social equity by supporting local efforts to promote equal opportunity in the cannabis industry. Through these efforts, California can become the model for other states looking to regulate the cannabis industry in a fair and responsible manner.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 1294 (Bradford) and requests your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District