

**AGENDA SPECIAL MEETING ANTIOCH CITY COUNCIL
CANNABIS STANDING COMMITTEE
COUNCIL MEMBERS WILSON AND TORRES-WALKER
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022
1:00 P.M.**

Special Meeting
1:00 P.M.

April 28, 2022
Meeting Conducted Remotely

The City of Antioch, in response to the Executive Order of the Governor and the Order of the Health Officer of Contra Costa County concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), held the Cannabis Standing Committee meeting live stream (at www.antiochca.gov/csc/meeting/). The Cannabis Standing Committee meeting was conducted utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.

1. ROLL CALL

Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:06 P.M. City Attorney Smith called the roll.

Present: Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson and Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker

Staff: City Attorney, Thomas Lloyd Smith
Outside Legal Counsel, Ruthann Ziegler
Director of Economic Development, Kwame Reed
Executive Legal Assistant, Rakia Grant Smith
Youth Services Network Manager, Tasha Johnson
Minutes Clerk, Kitty Eiden

2. INTRODUCTIONS

City Attorney Smith gave introductory comments and discussed parliamentary procedures.

Youth Services Network Manager Johnson introduced Shannon Starzyk, Director of the East Contra Costa County Family Justice Center.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON UNAGENDIZED ITEMS

John Jones requested his property at 1409 West 4th Street, Antioch, be added to the green zone for growing. He noted infrastructure was in place for this use.

4. REQUEST BY BAKER ANTIOCH I, LLC (COOKIES) FOR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF CANNABIS BUSINESS USE PERMIT (#19-14) TO RED WORKSHOP ANTIOCH, LLC

Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler presented the staff report dated April 28, 2022, recommending the Cannabis Standing Committee provide direction to staff. She reported Red Workshop had indicated they agreed to all terms and conditions including the Social Equity Program that was part of Cookies Operating Agreement. She noted she would also like them to confirm that as part of this meeting.

A. Public Comment

Ryan Johnson, General Counsel representing Cookies, explained that they previously obtained the permits for a dispensary for the location they propose to transfer the Operating Agreement and the obligations thereunder. He reported they had another dispensary located in close proximity that would be selling similar products and they would like to create diversity for customers and the City and also make it so the sales from one of the dispensaries were not cannibalizing the sales from the other. He stated they proposed to transfer this location to Red Workshop and felt it was a well-suited operator for Antioch and would benefit the community at large.

Edward Linetskiy, representing Red Workshop, stated he oversaw regulatory compliance and the licensing aspect. He yielded the floor to Sara Connolly who oversaw operations

Sara Connolly, representing Red Workshop, gave an overview of their qualifications and experience in the cannabis business. She stated they reviewed all the documents agreed upon by Cookies and they did not plan to make any changes to the Operating Agreement. She stated they were also committed to following through with the stipulations of the Social Equity Program.

B. Discussion and direction to staff

In response to Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson, Ms. Connolly confirmed that Cookies and Red Workshop were two separate entities. Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler reviewed the Social Equity Program. She reported Red Workshop would be continuing the Opportunity Junction Social Equity Program that Cookies had agreed to, under the same terms and conditions.

Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson stated she applauded the work being done by Opportunity Junction and stated she was hopeful other organizations would be given opportunities to participate in Social Equity Programs.

City Attorney Smith explained other cannabis operators would be coming forward so there would be opportunities to expand to other organizations. He noted Opportunity Junction had created a program that was contingent upon the funding they were receiving from Cookies and changing the Social Equity Program now would jeopardize the program.

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker stated they had previously discussed the creation of an application process that would be opened to the community. She noted the work around cannabis equity and the legalization of cannabis for recreational purposes was meant to

decriminalize black communities and communities of color that had suffered disenfranchisement and imprisonment because of the War on Drugs. She questioned how they would know if these populations were being served by these programs.

City Attorney Smith responded when original proposals were brought forward for consideration, the organizations fielded questions on how their programs were related to those goals.

Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson requested an application process be agendized as soon as possible.

City Attorney Smith stated he would work with Youth Services Network Manager Johnson and come back with an agenda item that covered the scope of the Committee's request.

Following discussion, the Cannabis Committee directed staff to present this item to the City Council.

5. DELTA FAMILY PHARMS – REVIEW OF PROPOSED OPERATING AGREEMENT AND SOCIAL EQUITY PLAN

Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler and Youth Services Network Manager Johnson presented the staff report dated April 28, 2022, recommending the Cannabis Standing Committee provide direction to staff.

A. Public Comment

Shannon Starzyk, representing East Center Director of the Family Justice Center, gave an overview of their organization and the Generations Connect Program.

B. Discussion and direction to staff

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker questioned how the work of the Family Justice Center was related to the idea around equity for communities most impacted by the War on Drugs.

Youth Services Network Manager Johnson explained in cohort in the Family Justice Center proposal would be implement two community violence prevention projects with support from adult allies and participants from those impacted populations.

Ms. Starzyk explained the content curriculum would include critical conversations related to how people of color had been impacted, how to recognize and embrace the history, and move forward with healing centered engagement. She noted they would also develop a platform in which there was voice and advocacy so they could build future leaders to make changes for a better community.

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker discussed the importance of addressing the institutional setbacks for black people and people of color. She thanked Ms. Starzyk for explaining that those items would be included.

City Attorney Smith commented that each of the cannabis businesses at this site wanted to work with the Family Justice Center to support this programming.

A. Public Comment – Continued

Martin spoke in support of developing a process for vetting of the social equity partners.

B. Discussion and direction to staff

Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler explained Operating Agreements and Social Equity Programs. She noted there were semi-annual reviews of the Social Equity Programs, and if the Committee, Council, or staff felt the goals were not being met they retained discretion to change it.

Youth Services Network Manager Johnson commented there would be ongoing cohorts and each set would engage in a 10-week program.

Shannon Starzyk added new cohorts would begin every 10 weeks. She stated the Family Justice Center would provide a sustainable program that could be built out. She noted she wanted youth 12-24 years to be connected to the community and it could be extended to support youth through high school and college. She explained that those participants could then come back as mentors tied to leadership and internships. She noted sustainability was key to bringing about systemic change and she was willing to make that happen. She commented that they could build it out to where there was continued development on an educational and professional level that tied it all back to equity, justice, advocacy, voice, capacity building, relationship and giving back to the community.

The Cannabis Committee supported moving this item forward to the City Council.

City Attorney Smith reported the term of the Operating Agreement was 10-years and there were two possible 5-year renewal extensions. Additionally, the City would meet with the parties prior to the expiration to decide on the renewal terms. He noted they had originally started with an annual review which was then revised to semi-annual.

6. DELTA LABS, INC. – REVIEW OF PROPOSED OPERATING AGREEMENT AND SOCIAL EQUITY PLAN

Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler presented the staff report dated April 28, 2022, recommending the Cannabis Standing Committee provide direction to staff.

A. Public Comment - None

B. Discussion and direction to staff

Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson supported moving this item forward to Council for further discussion.

In response to Councilmember Torres-Walker, City Attorney Smith explained that two of the proposed Operating Agreements and Social Equity Programs before the Committee this afternoon were the same operator and all three businesses were located on his property.

Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler explained that agenda items #5-7 proposed the same Social Equity Program as discussed. She noted they were different cannabis businesses, which was why they had to be considered separately and why they had separate use permits. She further noted they were in different suites of the same building at the same address.

Youth Services Network Manager Johnson explained these three businesses were smaller entities with smaller amounts of funding so it made sense to combine them since there would be only one entity for the non-profit to report to.

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker stated she had concerns; however, she supported moving the item forward to the City Council.

7. KWMA COLLECTIVE – REVIEW OF PROPOSED OPERATING AGREEMENT AND SOCIAL EQUITY PLAN

Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler presented the staff report dated April 28, 2022, recommending the Cannabis Standing Committee provide direction to staff.

- A. Public Comment - None
- B. Discussion and direction to staff

In response to Councilmember Torres-Walker, City Attorney Smith explained that this Operating Agreement/Social Equity Program was for a different operator than the first two businesses.

Youth Services Network Manager Johnson stated there was ongoing work for finding local non-profits; however, the challenge was many were doing great work, but lacked capacity to adhere to the reporting process. She reported that she had identified key organizations with infrastructure in place and other Operating Agreements would be coming forward, so she was attempting to match them to ensure money was being seen in the community. She noted she would continue to work on the application process so she could identify others. She further noted there were smaller non-profits that did not have a 501c3 so they needed an umbrella and fiscal agent to assist. She commented that they would continue to discuss how to build capacity within the smaller areas.

Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler added that another factor was that the recipient of the Social Equity Program needed to be serving Antioch residents and sometimes there were programs that served a broader area. She stated based on prior direction from this committee the focus needed to be on serving Antioch residents.

City Attorney Smith stated that for the purposes of this program they could identify the Antioch population that they would serve and funnel funding towards them.

Youth Services Network Manager Johnson stated another challenge was when an organization was identified, and they took the proposal back to their Board they turned down funding because the money was from a cannabis company.

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker spoke in support of holding additional Cannabis Committee meetings to address outstanding issues.

The Committee agreed to move this item forward to the City Council for further discussion.

8. CONTRA COSTA FARMS – REVIEW OF PROPOSAL TO CONDUCT A TEMPORARY CANNABIS EVENT AT THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY EVENT PARK

Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler presented the staff report dated April 28, 2022, recommending the Cannabis Standing Committee provide direction to staff.

A. Public Comment

Martin Wesley gave a PowerPoint presentation of CoCo Farm’s proposal to conduct a temporary cannabis event at the Contra Costa County Event Park which included the following:

- Benefits and Audience
- License Nuances
- Parking & Security
- Event at a High Level
- Why this is perfect fit for Antioch

B. Discussion and direction to staff

The Cannabis Committee agreed to forward this item to Council for further discussion.

Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson requested the following items be agendaized for a future Cannabis Committee meeting.

- A process discussion for Social Equity Programs
- California Cannabis Department Program (funding and equity around incubators)

Director of Economic Development Reed stated he would bring the California Cannabis Department Program back for discussion.

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker agreed to agendaizing a process to identify non-profit organizations for Social Equity Programs and revisiting goals for funding.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker, seconded by Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson the Committee adjourned the meeting a 2:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Kitty Eiden

KITTY EIDEN, Minutes Clerk