

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

Special Meeting
1:00 P.M.

July 1, 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 1:03 P.M. and 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 - None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON UNAGENDIZED ITEMS - None

4. PRESENTATION OF CURRENT CANNABIS OPERATIONS IN ANTIOCH

Director of Economic Development Reed presented the maps of the East Antioch and Verne Roberts Dispensaries.

A. Public Comment - None

B. Discussion and direction to staff

Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson discussed the importance of being thoughtful and strategic in how the City supported Cannabis projects to ensure they were not negatively impacted by over saturation.

In response to Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson, Director of Economic Development Reed clarified the current cannabis businesses had a dispensary or delivery component. He reported the two businesses currently in the application process were located on “G” Street and Somersville Road.

Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson requested quarterly updates on current and proposed cannabis businesses.

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker thanked Director of Economic Development Reed for the presentation.

5. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CANNABIS BUSINESS ORDINANCE (ANTIOCH MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 9-5.3845)

Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler presented the staff report dated July 1, 2022, and Proposed Cannabis Area CB-4, CB5 and CB6 maps, recommending the Cannabis Committee review the attached proposed ordinance and provide direction to staff either to modify the draft or to present the draft ordinance to the Planning Commission for review and ultimately to the City Council for review and possible adoption.

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

In response to Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson, Director of Economic Development Reed confirmed that residential buffers only pertained to Antioch residences.

Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler commented that the state did not require buffers between Cannabis businesses and residential uses. She confirmed that Antioch added a residential buffer that only applied to Antioch residences. She reported when a Cannabis cultivation business was proposed north of Brentwood, the Brentwood City Council objected, and the County reviewed the objection and approved the project. She reviewed the buffers for CB5 and CB6 and explained the City’s definition of sensitive uses was more restrictive than the state. She noted in some incidences they had also reduced buffers. She further noted that natural barriers such as railroad tracks, four lane arterial roadways and highways may also be considered buffers.

Following discussion, the Cannabis Standing Committee directed staff to present the draft ordinance to the Planning Commission for review and ultimately to the City Council for review and possible adoption.

6. SOCIAL EQUITY PROGRAM FOR CONSIDERATION: RUBICON

City Attorney Smith announced Youth Services Network Manager Johnson would be bringing back the Social Equity Program application process for consideration at the next Cannabis

Standing Committee meeting. He requested the Committee provide feedback on the Social Equity Program for Rubicon and United Core Alliance.

Youth Services Network Manager Johnson confirmed that she was working on the application process with Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler which would be brought forward for consideration at the next Cannabis Standing Committee meeting. She explained that they did not want the application process to stall, so she was introducing Rubicon's program. She stated they were a local non-profit doing work in Antioch to effect change. She reported they were proposing legal support and removal of any barriers to employment for 100 participants annually, in Antioch. She noted their services included assisting with rap sheet reviews, criminal record remedies, drivers' licenses, fines and fees, child support modifications, family services, public benefits and housing, discrimination, expungement as well as other legal support as needed. She reported in 2020-2021 they had provided services for 369 justice impacted participants, 131 from Antioch and 77 of those received individualized legal support. In 2021-2022, they served 310 justice impacted participants, 123 from Antioch and 61 of those received individualized legal support. She stated the social equity programs that currently existed primarily worked to engage youth or create workforce development opportunities for young adults and there was a gap in legal services for those individuals that were trying to access employment. She noted those individuals had been disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs and disenfranchised. She requested feedback from the Committee regarding this program.

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

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker stated she was familiar with Rubicon programs. She questioned if they were funded by a specific dispensary.

City Attorney Smith responded they were bringing this program forward prior to pairing them with a cannabis business to seek the Committee's feedback and if supported, they could be introduced to future projects.

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker stated that she believed Rubicon was quite large and already well funded. She commented that she was not opposed to them being on the list of potential programs; however, she believed there were smaller organizations in the community that could use the funds. She discussed the possibility of larger organizations being potential incubators to support smaller organizations doing the work. She noted the larger non-profit could take on the responsibility of reporting and managing the funds.

City Attorney Smith commented that funding may not be significant for smaller cannabis businesses and some larger non-profits may not be willing to take on the responsibility if the work outweighed funding.

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker proposed considering smaller non-profits and how they could increase capacity to access and manage the funds while doing the work in the community.

Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson agreed with Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker and stated she was pleased the City was focused on the original intent of Social Equity Programs.

7. SOCIAL EQUITY PROGRAM FOR CONSIDERATION: UNITED CORE ALLIANCE

Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler gave an overview of the United Core Alliance (UCA) Expungement Program. She noted they were based in Sacramento; however, the expectation would be that they would work solely with Antioch residents. She further noted their Board of Directors had experience in the cannabis industry and their goal was expunging drug related arrests and criminal records. She stated if selected they would be required to work within Antioch. She reported One Plant on their own initiative gave funding to this group to work in the Antioch community.

City Attorney Smith explained that Matthew Emory from One Plant reached out to him regarding expungement services and following that discussion they talked about and met with the President of UCA, Khalil Ferguson. He noted One Plant was very interested in sponsoring them; however, they were not able to fund them alone, so they were interested in a partnership. He noted he had informed UCA that they would be bringing their organization to the Cannabis Standing Committee to determine if there was interest and if so, they could be placed in the Social Equity Plan.

Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler added the next business that may be coming for a recommendation on the Operating Agreement and Social Equity was Natural Supplements. She noted they looked like they may be a large business that may generate a large amount of social equity revenue and could be considered for working with UCA.

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

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker thanked Outside Legal Counsel Ziegler for the presentation. She reported expungement services were available for free through the Public Defender's office. She questioned if people were paying for these services through UCA because they had been unsuccessful through the free process.

City Attorney Smith explained that UCA conducted community outreach and coordinated expungement efforts for them. He noted the idea was not to charge for the services. He further noted the budget would be provided for the allocation of funds within their organization. He stated the idea was that they would assist residents through the entire process. He commented that Mr. Ferguson could provide more details for the Committee.

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker clarified that reclassification and expungement did not mean the record would go away because their criminal record would still exist at the Department of Justice, so it would limit the type of employment they could potentially access.

She reported the Public Defender's office did these types of events several times a year and Back on Track already did this work in the City of Antioch.

City Attorney Smith stated that they could look at Back on Track to determine if they were an organization that they should bring back to discuss supporting.

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker stated she was always interested in funding locally before funding organizations that were not based in Antioch.

Director of Economic Development Reed reported that Mr. Ferguson had reached out to Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson previously to discuss the creation of a Social Equity Program.

Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson reported the State Cannabis Department received funding and Mr. Ferguson was going to assist the city in getting more funding for Antioch.

Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker added she believed the intent was to develop a process where formerly incarcerated people impacted by the war on drugs could become cannabis operators. She suggested staff work with Mr. Ferguson to determine if there was a possibility of bringing that program forward. She suggested postponing consideration of their expungement program until it was determined if Back on Track was a viable option.

8. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council/Committee Member Torres-Walker, seconded by Council Member/Committee Chair Wilson the Committee adjourned the meeting a 2:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Kitty Eiden

KITTY EIDEN, MINUTES CLERK