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CT Social Equity Council Reviews First Cannabis Licenses Applications

41 Section 149 social equity applications reviewed by social equity council for consideration for cannabis cultivation rights by the Department of Consumer Protection

HARTFORD, Conn. (July 12, 2022) – Connecticut’s Social Equity Council (SEC), which was developed to ensure the equity of the state’s adult-use cannabis program, began its process of reviewing and voting on cannabis social equity applications during its full council meeting today.

During the meeting, the SEC reviewed 41 applications for Section 149 Social Equity Cultivator licenses and voted to forward 16 to the Department of Consumer Protection for further processing. If approved, for provisional licenses, the applicants will have the opportunity to prepare for full licensure by the DCP to cultivate, grow and propagate adult use cannabis at an establishment located in one of the state’s identified Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIA).

The state received more than 40 Section 149 cultivator license applications. All of the applications were first reviewed for social equity eligibility by the auditing and accounting firm of CohnReznick, a third-party reviewer hired to work with the SEC to create a comprehensive review system within the timeframe required, prior to today’s vote by the SEC.

To meet the social equity criteria applicant, all applicants must have resided in a DIA for at least 5 of the 10 years immediately before applying for the license or 9 years before they turn 18, have an average household income of less than 300% of the state median over the three tax years immediately before the application, and the Social Equity applicant must own at least 65 percent interest in the cannabis establishment.

“The SEC is proud to have taken its first important step today toward creating a socially equitable cannabis industry in Connecticut, said **GINNE-RAE CLAY, SEC, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**. “We thank everyone involved in putting together a process that provides an equitable opportunity for those impacted by the war on drugs to have a seat at the table and prosper in this new and very important industry. We look forward to reviewing applications for other licenses in the near future, as well as to announcing new initiatives designed to support those who receive provisional licenses.”

Cannabis was approved for adult-use on July 1, 2021. Adult-use cannabis retail sales are anticipated to begin in the state by the end of 2022. For information about Adult-Use Cannabis, visit ct.gov/cannabis.

About the CT Social Equity Council (SEC)

The Social Equity Council was to make sure the adult-use cannabis program is grown equitably and ensures that funds from the adult-use cannabis program are brought back to the communities hit hardest by the "war on drugs." The SEC oversees the verification of equity applicants, creates new programs to support cannabis businesses and businesses in other industries, and manages the more general community investments derived from the cannabis tax revenue. To learn more about Social Equity Council announcements, upcoming meetings, and adult-use cannabis information, visit portal.ct.gov/social-equity-council.