

## CT Social Equity Council Appoints New Executive Director

**HARTFORD (August 6, 2024)** — Connecticut’s Social Equity Council (SEC) announced today they have named Brandon McGee the new Executive Director of the SEC. McGee’s background as a nonprofit leader, combined with a deep commitment to social equity and justice, will help to further advance the mission of the SEC.

“I’m thrilled that Brandon will lead our next chapter as executive director of the Social Equity Council,” said **Andrea Comer, SEC Council Chair**. “His decades of experience in policy and program, as well as his passion for empowering marginalized communities will be of tremendous benefit as we implement our mission of supporting equity in the cannabis industry and meaningfully impacting those communities most harmed by the war on drugs. We have a profound opportunity to effect change in those neighborhoods statewide, and I am excited to leverage Brandon’s thought leadership in this work.”

“It is an immense honor to accept the role of executive director of the Social Equity Council,” said **Brandon McGee, incoming Executive Director**. “My career in public service, as a Legislator and Chair of both Housing Committee and Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, has always been driven by a deep commitment to advocating for marginalized communities, and this opportunity aligns perfectly with my life’s mission. My recent role as the Deputy Commissioner of Housing has further fueled my dedication to ensuring everyone has a fair chance to succeed, and I am thankful to Governor Lamont and Commissioner Mosquera-Bruno for the opportunity to serve our state in that capacity.

The mission of the Social Equity Council is a natural extension of my lifelong dedication to social justice and community empowerment. Together, we will work to rectify the injustices of the past through targeted community investments while continuing the work to build a more inclusive and equitable cannabis industry for all Connecticut residents. I am eager to collaborate with the Social Equity Council Board, our team, community leaders, and stakeholders to create meaningful change and foster economic opportunities in our state’s most affected communities.”

“We created the Social Equity Council to oversee the transfer of the cannabis market from one that for many decades was unregulated, operated dangerously, and caused severe injustices and disparities, to one that provides stronger public health and safety oversight while righting some of the wrongs caused by the so-called war on drugs,” **Governor Ned Lamont** said. “Brandon, particularly through his service in the legislature and his role as deputy commissioner at the Connecticut Department of Housing, has spent much of his adult life serving as an advocate for those who have been historically disempowered and marginalized, and he has the exact experience and dedication needed to guide the council in carrying out the mission we envisioned when we

enacted this law. I applaud the members of the Social Equity Council on selecting Brandon as their next executive director.”

To select the next executive director, the Social Equity Council developed a hiring panel that included SEC Chair and State Treasurer designee Comer, Senate Minority Leader appointee Avery Gaddis, Black and Puerto Rican Caucus appointee Melvin Medina, and House Majority Leader appointee Ojala Naeem. Three finalists were selected for interviews, and the panel recommended a candidate for Council approval. The Council voted overwhelmingly to approve McGee’s selection.

McGee will officially start his role on August 30. The entire SEC team looks forward to working under his leadership and are confident that he will guide the Council in the right direction.

### **About the CT Social Equity Council (SEC)**

The Social Equity Council was created to make sure the adult-use cannabis industry 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 [Social Equity Council \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/social-equity-council).

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