

February 1, 2022

RE: Legislative Recommendations (Social Equity Council)

Governor Lamont and Members of the General Assembly,

Subsection (g) of June Sp. Sess., Public Act No. 21-1 requires the Social Equity Council to hire an independent third party to conduct a study and provide detailed findings of fact on specific matters, including, but not limited to:

1. Historical and current social, economic, and familial consequences of cannabis prohibition, the criminalization and stigmatization of cannabis use, and related public policies;
2. Historical and current structures, patterns, causes, and consequences of intentional and unintentional racial discrimination and disparities in the development, application, and enforcement of this prohibition and related public policies;
3. Foreseeable long-term social, economic, and familial consequences of unremedied past racial discrimination and disparities arising from past and continued cannabis prohibition, stigmatization, and criminalization;
4. Existing patterns of racial discrimination and disparities in access to entrepreneurship, employment, and other economic benefits arising in the state's medical marijuana sector; and
5. Any other matters that the council deems relevant and feasible to study for making reasonable and practical recommendations for establishing an equitable and lawful adult-use cannabis business sector.

Subsection (h) of the same Act requires, by January 1, 2022, the Council to take into account the results of the study conducted and make written recommendations to the Governor and the Connecticut General Assembly's Finance, Revenue, and Bonding; General Law; and Judiciary Committees regarding legislation to implement the provisions of said section.

To date, the Social Equity Council has hired an independent third party to conduct the required study: The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) at the University of Connecticut's Department of Public Policy. However, they have not yet completed their study, and therefore the Council is unable to provide the required legislative recommendations at this time. We expect to have this information, in addition to various other legislative recommendations not related to the submission of the study, in the coming weeks and will provide another update as soon as we have more information to share.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,



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