



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

Tyisha Walker-Myers
Alder, Ward 23

President of the Board

Vice Chair
Youth & Youth Services Committee

Member
Finance Committee
Litigation Settlement Committee
Black & Hispanic Caucus

225 Winthrop Avenue, 2nd Floor
New Haven, CT 06511-5154

Telephone: (203) 901-3436
E-mail: Ward23@newhavenct.gov

To Whom it May Concern:

I write to express my deep concern about the lack of a social equity cannabis provided being selected from the City of New Haven.

As The Social Equity Council was developed in order 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" it was alarming when the successful applicants were announced and there were none from New Haven.

This was even more concerning given the work that residents of New Haven like Kebra Bolden-Smith have put in to facilitate this effort through advocacy for equitable, recreational cannabis legislation, organizing with WomenGrow CT, and serving as president of CT United for Reform and Advocacy, which helped pass "An Act Concerning the Equitable and Responsible Regulation of Cannabis". New Haven has been at the forefront at every level yet somehow not one New Haven social equity applicant was successful. In the meantime, we hear that before the ink is even dry on legislation regulation cannabis locations in New Haven, large scale cannabis entities already have plans to start operations in New Haven.

The Social Equity license were designed to ensure that entrepreneurs of color have a chance to share in the business opportunities springing from legalization and bring those to the cities hardest hit. By all measures New Haven fits those categories yet was not awarded a social equity license. By not doing so the industry in New Haven is likely to be dominated now by corporate giants with no stake in the relevant social concerns that were to be addressed through this process.

As that's what a New Haven applicant would primarily focus on - providing jobs to those who have been most affected by the War on Drugs and incarceration it doesn't seem logical or consistent with the legislation that there isn't a social equity applicant from New Haven. I therefore respectfully request that you take the appropriate steps to address this issue and have the purpose, aims and goals of this opportunity be realized by and for the people of New Haven who have been most impacted.

Sincerely,

Hon. Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, New Haven Board of Alders

