



# CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Offered by Councilor Kim Janey

## ORDER FOR A HEARING REVIEWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE EQUITABLE REGULATION OF THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

**WHEREAS:** Since the passage of the Ordinance Establishing the Equitable Regulation of the Cannabis Industry in the City of Boston there have been significant developments to Boston’s Cannabis industry, such as the recent establishment of the Boston Cannabis Board by the Mayor, a million-dollar investment in the Cannabis Equity Fund, and the opening of Boston’s first recreational shop, which was also the Commonwealth’s first dispensary owned by people of color; and,

**WHEREAS:** Many small business owners still face many obstacles trying to enter the Cannabis industry, and many do not even know where they stand in the process; and the current constraints for small businesses because of the impact of COVID-19, in addition to the long wait many were already experiencing pre-COVID-19, companies will likely go out of business before they even get the chance to open; and,

**WHEREAS:** Recreational shops that were forced to close because of the pandemic, like Pure Oasis in Dorchester, are losing nearly \$2 million in daily sales, based on sales between December 30, 2019 until March 8, 2020, according to the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission; and the loss of revenue impacts not only the companies themselves, but the host municipalities; and,

**WHEREAS:** The implementation of this ordinance and supporting equity applicants in getting their businesses off the ground during this economic downturn could be a very important lever in reviving the economy post-pandemic and in closing Boston’s wealth gap; and,

**WHEREAS:** Prioritizing these efforts, would also achieve the desired outcome of creating an inclusive economy in the multi-billion dollar Cannabis industry, and achieving a process that also prioritizes equity and offers clarity, transparency, and accountability.  
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the implementation of the Ordinance Establishing the Equitable Regulation of the Cannabis Industry. Representatives from the Boston Cannabis Board, Office of Emerging Industries, the Office of Economic Development, the Cannabis Control Commission, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in Council: April 29, 2020