

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia, Arroyo, Lara, Louijeune, Worrell, Flynn and Fernandes Anderson



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING ON DIVERSIFYING CANNABIS
BUSINESS MODELS**

- WHEREAS,** On Nov. 8 2016, Question 4, a ballot initiative legalizing marijuana and setting up a system of regulated cannabis sales passed with support from 54 percent of voters; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The ballot initiative not only allowed for the legal sale of recreational cannabis, but also allowed up to a certain amount of cannabis to be grown in-home; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Four years later, on March 9, 2020 Pure Oasis in Grove Hall became the first marijuana store to open in Boston, also becoming the first licensed marijuana business opened by one of the Cannabis Control Commission’s economic empowerment applicants, a program originally intended to offset the head-start in the recreational market granted to existing medical dispensaries, which were nearly all white-owned; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On Friday April 30 2021, An Ordinance to Establish Guidelines for Permitting Retail Residential Kitchens, which allowed residents of Boston to prepare and sell certain types of food inside their homes, went into effect; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The goal of the ordinance was to create alternative means to entrepreneurship in a time when the cost of opening a brick-and-mortar storefront was unobtainable to many aspiring small business owners; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Barriers to opening a brick-and-mortar storefront still exist, especially for individuals interested in opening up a cannabis dispensary in the City of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** States across the country, including Colorado, have individuals to produce and sell edibles made in leased commercial kitchens ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council has in the past played a role in ensuring that there is equity in cannabis applications in the City of Boston and true equity in the cannabis market means ensuring that there is not just one single pathway to entrepreneurship; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing on diversifying cannabis business models in the City of Boston. Representatives from the City of Boston, the Cannabis Control Commission Massachusetts, cannabis entrepreneurs, members of the public, and any other interested parties shall be invited and are encouraged to attend.

Filed in Council: 5/4/2022