

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR LYDIA EDWARDS, FLAHERTY, LARA, ARROYO, BOK, BREADON, FERNANDES-ANDERSON, LOUIJEANE, MEJIA, MURPHY, WORRELL AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE
REGULATION AND SITING OF CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS IN
THE CITY OF BOSTON AND THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

- WHEREAS,** In 2019 the City of Boston passed An Ordinance Establishing Equitable Regulation of the Cannabis Industry in the City of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** That Ordinance created the Boston Cannabis Board with the intention that the Board would have regulatory and siting authority over the marijuana industry in Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Current codes and regulations require applicants seeking to open a marijuana establishment in Boston to appear before both the Boston Cannabis Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Appearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals after receiving approval from the Boston Cannabis Board can take months, which is an undue burden on the applicants; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Zoning Board of Appeals has already denied multiple applicants that have previously been approved by the Boston Cannabis Board, potentially exposing the City to legal action;
- WHEREAS,** Currently approximately six applicants have been approved by the BCB but denied by the Zoning Board of Appeals, three of the six are equity applicants
- WHEREAS,** In 2021, the City Council passed a zoning amendment separating the ZBA from the process of citing cannabis establishments and significantly changed the Boston Cannabis Board regulations to consider location, to enforce the half mile buffer, and to add members to the board with labor and zoning expertise. **THEREFORE**

BE IT ORDERED

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the zoning of cannabis establishments and the role of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Furthermore, representatives of Mayor Wu's administration and other interested parties will be invited to testify.