



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Raul Perez

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: February 11, 2022

Approved by:

Date: 2/11/22

**SUBJECT: ACTIONS RELATED TO THE CANNABIS EQUITY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION

Accept staff's report and recommendation on a Cannabis Equity Program; And request a progress report back to Council within six months of program activation.

DISCUSSION

I'd like to thank staff for their work in not only developing a Cannabis Equity Program, but also examining the historical impact that cannabis prohibition has had on our brown and black communities. History has shown, even within our own city, that a high number of low income and communities of color have been disproportionately targeted for cannabis-related offenses. Knowing this, we can and should support those who have been unjustly affected in the past with an equity program such as this.

As we are continuing to learn about the efficacy of Cannabis Equity programs and understanding how we can ensure its success in San José, I would like to ask staff to return in six months of implementation with an update that includes any metrics and data on how the program is functioning, so that we can continue to craft this program that will truly benefit the very same communities that were once criminalized.