



**City of Daly City
Small Business Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, December 12, 2024 – 7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oa_pEn01tLQ

Call to Order:

Commission Chair, Amro Radwan commenced the meeting at 7:01 PM.

Roll Call:

Present: Joseph Bautista, John Penacerrada, Amro Radwan

Absent: Charles Hill, Maria Carson

Pledge to the Flag:

All

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Commissioner Amro stated the November meeting looked like an eventful one and asked to approve November's meeting's minutes. No Commissioner present had any questions or edits. Commissioner Bautista made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Penacerrada made a second. They passed the minutes unanimously.

Presentation:

Clerk Manio presented an update on the Cannabis Equity Program. In November 2023 she applied for a grant from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and was awarded in February 2024 \$75,000 to retain a contractor to assist in a cannabis equity assessment. After scouting several contractors, she attained an agreement with SCI Consulting Group who has developed cannabis equity assessments for numerous jurisdictions in California. She developed surveys which went out on social media, news feeds, e-newsletters, is posted in various locations like the ECD office and coffee houses. All cannabis operators in the City and Small Business Commissioners also have print outs of the survey QR code. Clerk Manio stated she is positioning the City to receive Phase 2 of the Cannabis Equity Grant which may provide resources to equity applicants to help with regulatory compliance, access capital, and technical assistance. Manio and SCI conducted two townhalls: one in-person at Westlake on October 8, 2024 and one virtual on November 20, 2024. Clerk Manio presented the findings SCI presented during the virtual townhall. Since it was over 45 minutes she condensed it to 10 minutes. She reiterated that communities of color have shouldered the heaviest burden of cannabis enforcement and were the most affected by The War on Drugs. When California legalized cannabis in 2016 we had the opportunity to right those historical wrongs but we have to be proactive about it in the communities who have been affected most by prohibition as they are finding themselves locked out of the legal industry due to lack of technical knowledge and lingering effects of cannabis convictions. She stated these are not just stats on a presentation; these are real people whose lives have fundamentally been altered. This assessment is aimed to help provide real practical support from people of these impacted communities and to tackle those barriers head on. Clerk Manio went over the history of Daly City's cannabis ordinance and zoning. She mentioned that data was not kept prior to 2009 so data is skewed as the War on Drugs was more heavily prominent in the 1980's and 1990's. She discussed the different demographics based on ethnicity, education level and income level and the different barriers to entry of the industry. She presented possible program services and benefits such as an expungement clinic,

but stated a program has yet to be developed as the City is still in assessment phase. Commissioner Penacerrada summarized the presentation for better understanding and hopes to better educate the community on the industry. He believes in the product and medical marijuana as some of his family members used it for cancer treatment, but mentioned that even with education there is still a social stigma around the product. He asked if there was any way they could be more involved. Commissioner Bautista commented that this was a great program and wondered if cannabis businesses would be open to pay into the program. He also questioned who should have equity priority. Chair Radwan asked if there were any learnings from the San Francisco's equity program. He mentioned that it was still federally illegal and wondered how the incoming administration would affect the industry.

Discussion:

The link to the Legacy Business Nomination Form was resent along with a list of potential Legacy Businesses. Clerk Manio asked if Commissioners were open to having the Legacy Business Celebration during their regularly schedule Commission meeting, which is also in line with National Small Business Week. Director Mothershead asked if nominations could be submitted by January. Commissioners were ok with having the event during their meeting in May. Commissioner Penacerrada stated this will be good PR for any business and that Commissioners should prioritize this program.

Announcements and Communications:

Commissioner Bautista mentioned that Daly City's Water Waste Water Dept. is conducting tours of their facilities.

Next Meeting:

Next regularly scheduled meeting scheduled for January 9, 2025, at 7 PM.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Adjournment:

Chair Radwan told everyone to have a happy holiday and adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.