

John Long

From: Sieh Samura <samuraent@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2018 9:05 AM
To: City Clerk Contact; Board of Aldermen; Mayor
Subject: Re: Equity in cannabis licensing for Somerville

Dear Somerville Board of Alderman,

Thank you for your time.

My name is Sieh Samura, I'm an Iraq War veteran that has worked hard for the past 5 years to create pathways to ownership and equity in the emerging cannabis economy.

My wife and I are both certified Economic Empowerment Applicants, and are fortunate enough to have been selected to be in the inaugural class of the first business accelerator for the cannabis industry in the nation.

Our experience is the sum of many years of effort, advocating for social equity in the emerging cannabis economy.

We are but one of three teams selected for the 1st of what we hope will be many more entrepreneurs and small businesses that will now have an opportunity to enter the licensed market.

The Sira Accelerator does what so many of us activists have been looking for in helping small businesses get on their own two feet and gain access to a highly restrictive market.

We were very excited to be accepted into the program but are concerned about the recreational cannabis outlet that Sira Naturals is looking forward to opening in Somerville, as it will be one of the only two, principal places available for Accelerator Participants to introduce our products.

All members of the three-team Sira Naturals Accelerator, inaugural class are either women, people of color, or economic empowerment applicants.

A delay in the ability of Sira Naturals to sell our products in Somerville will immediately have a detrimental effect on this promising cannabis social equity program and threaten the effectiveness of this first business accelerator for the cannabis industry in the country, and the viability of the program for all potential future Accelerator Applicants.

I believe the Sira Naturals Accelerator has greater immediate potential to encourage cannabis market equity locally than the Cannabis Control Commission itself can! And I will continue to work towards those ends.

These types of market partners, that honestly look to effect real equity and market change should be supported and rewarded.

This is exactly the type of relationship that activists and advocates like myself have been trying to encourage for small businesses and RMDs.

We would greatly appreciate it if you would take this into consideration as you contemplate licensing issues for Sira Naturals and cannabis businesses in Somerville.

I will be in attendance at the hearing tonight, and will be available for your questions, if you are so moved. Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully consider a healthy cannabis economy in Somerville.

Sincerely,

Sieh Samura

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