

## Law and Legislation Committee Report

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**File ID:** 2019-00227

February 26, 2019

**Discussion Item 03**

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**Title:** Training for Cannabis Dispensaries

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** 1) Review and discuss whether to require that city permitted cannabis dispensaries complete a training program that includes prevention of cannabis consumption by youth, annually; and 2) provide policy direction to staff.

**Contact:** Joe Devlin, Chief, (916) 808-4772; Zarah Cruz, Program Specialist, (916) 808-8925, Office of Cannabis Policy and Enforcement, Office of the City Manager.

**Presenter:** Joe Devlin, Chief of Cannabis Policy and Enforcement, (916) 808-4772, Office of the City Manager.

**Attachments:**

1-Description/Analysis

## Description/Analysis

**Issue Detail:** In 2018, the City of Sacramento (“City”) partnered with the Sacramento County Office of Education to offer a series of free courses to educate individuals who work in cannabis dispensaries (“dispensary”) on the safe and responsible sale of cannabis. Six trainings were held between September and November and were attended by owners, managers, budtenders and various dispensary employees.

The four-hour courses were customized to cover specific state and City regulations pertaining to cannabis retail, with the goal of preventing youth access to cannabis and ensuring consumer safety. Specific topics included checking identification, handling complex and tricky situations, and safety and security in dispensaries. Staff has planned at least six more trainings for the coming months.

Staff believes that this program is vital in making sure that dispensaries, which are the only public interfacing component of the cannabis supply chain, do not become access points for youth consumption and that dispensary employees are well informed of the reasons why young people should not use cannabis. As part of the City’s commitment to complement its regulations with sound policies around community education and youth prevention, staff recommends that the Law and Legislation Committee (“Committee”) consider making a cannabis training program, which includes youth consumption prevention education, a mandatory requirement for all dispensary employees.

**Policy Considerations:** If the Committee approves the recommendation to make the program a mandatory requirement for all employees, staff will return with the appropriate ordinance or resolutions to effect such policy for the Committee’s consideration at a future meeting.

**Economic Impacts:** None.

**Environmental Considerations:** This action is exempt from CEQA because it is the adoption of an ordinance, rule, or regulation that requires discretionary review, including environmental review, and approval of permits, licenses, or other authorizations to engage in commercial cannabis activity (CEQA Guidelines § 15061(B)(1), Bus. and Prof. Code § 26055(h)) and because it does not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3)).

**Sustainability:** Not applicable.

**Commission/Committee Action:** Not applicable.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** Dispensaries are the only public interfacing component of the cannabis supply chain. It is important to make sure that this retail component is not accessible to the youth. An educational program for dispensaries will provide the necessary knowledge and training to dispensary staff needed to ensure that cannabis products do not land in the hands of the youth. It also helps employees understand state and City regulations so they can better ensure consumer safety. While such programs are offered for free, currently it is on a voluntary basis. Staff is recommending the Committee consider making it a mandatory training for permitted dispensaries.

**Financial Considerations:** None.

**Local Business Enterprise (LBE):** Not applicable.