



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF™

CANNABIS REGULATION

PRESS RELEASE

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State Department of Cannabis Control Taps L.A.'s Dr. Brown for Committee

August 10, 2022 - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR) congratulates Dr. Imani Brown for her appointment to the California Cannabis Advisory Committee for the California Department of Cannabis Control (DCC). According to the DCC, Dr. Brown and 15 other newly appointed individuals are the first slate of committee members since the Department's creation in 2021.

"Dr. Brown is uniquely experienced and brings a wealth of knowledge that I believe will be invaluable to the work of the California Cannabis Advisory Committee," said Michelle Garakian, DCR's Interim Executive Director. "She is an expert in urban policy and planning, brings her experience in business development, and her one-on-one work with cannabis business applicants and licensees to the table. We are pleased to have her represent our city."

Dr. Brown joins Madison Shockley III, owner of Off the Charts in South Los Angeles and a DCR social equity verified licensee, as one of two representatives from Los Angeles serving on the committee.

The State's California Cannabis Advisory Committee will advise DCC on standards and regulations for licensed cannabis businesses, including maintaining public health and safety and protecting legal business from burdens of operation and reducing the unlicensed market.

In August 2019, Dr. Brown was named as the first Director of the Social Equity Program and oversees the Business, Licensing, Compliance, Technical Assistance and Workforce Development Programs for DCR. She is responsible for managing the department's Grants and Pro Bono Legal Services programs for verified Social Equity Program Applicants with the goal of promoting equitable ownership and employment opportunities in the cannabis industry.

"I am humbled and thrilled to be able to help the committee as a whole but, in particular, the entrepreneurs who are in or intend to be part of the legal cannabis industry," said Dr. Brown. "I expect my experiences here in Los Angeles will shed light on real world issues facing those in the industry while maintaining and protecting public health and safety."

The City of Los Angeles Department of Cannabis Regulation is responsible for administering the commercial cannabis licensing and regulatory program established by the Los Angeles City Council. Specifically, DCR processes all applications for commercial cannabis licenses in the City of Los Angeles, makes licensing decisions or licensing recommendations to the Cannabis Regulation Commission, and regulates the operations of licensed commercial cannabis businesses in the City. Measure M, passed by more than 80 percent of voters in March 2017, gave the City Council the full authority to regulate cannabis-related activity within the City of Los Angeles. With that authority, the Department of Cannabis Regulation was established by ordinance on July 30, 2017.

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