



City of Detroit Detroit City Council

FROM THE DESK OF
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Member Waters' Objection to Marijuana Ordinance Statement

We are a legislative body that represents Detroiters. The previous legislative body produced 9% Detroit ownership on the medical side. We must not cave to the pressures of non-equity applicants, nor Judge Friedman's "its likely unconstitutional" opinion. This can be a historic moment to level the playing field for Detroiters by creating real opportunities of ownership. Detroiters have paid the price through structural and systematic racism, hence, why we're here today.

Remember: the Little Caesars Arena (LCA) would have rather paid a fine than find Detroit contractors. Remember: the 10% low-income requirement on housing developments, Detroiters receiving Detroit legacy denial letters on Friday, MMFLA requirements to apply, Detroit's spatial requirements, and many other barriers to the industry. Let's take these structural & systematic inequities to court. If a pathway is not made, how many people will continue to frequent the black market? How much money did it cost the residents of Detroit to shut down Green Life Lounge? Let's move historically underserved black businesses from the back of the bus.

How will our outcomes be different on the Adult-use? How will we measure success?

A second public hearing is necessary to ensure that every Detroiters' voice was heard. During the public comment section of the hearing on the ordinance, I heard far too many people say, "I didn't know about this," or "Five days notice is not enough time".

It's our duty to create opportunities through policy, not create barriers to entry that end up choosing winners & losers. Where is the equity?