



Washington Cannabis Solutions for Equitable Inclusion

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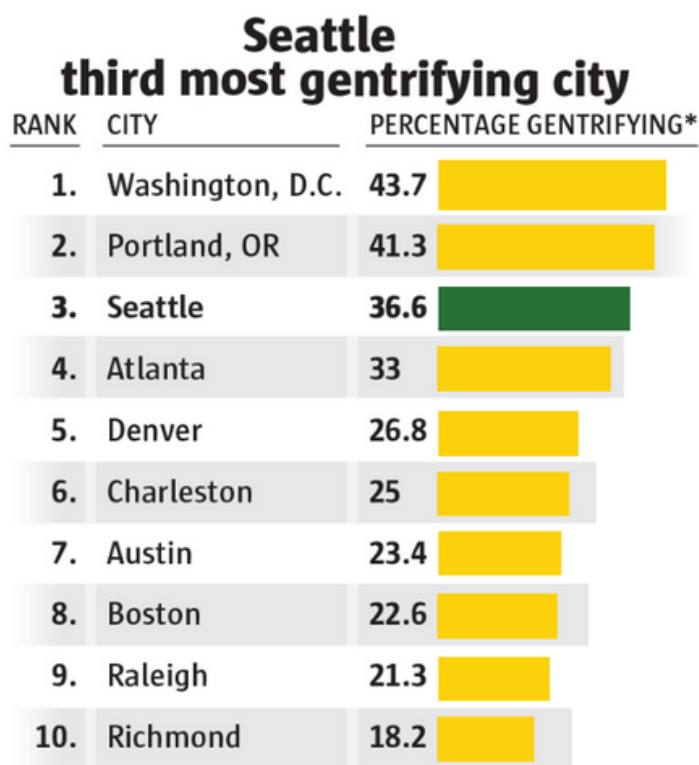


END CANNABIS APARTHEID IN WASHINGTON

In Seattle, and across Washington, Black people have been excluded from ownership in an industry that was built on their backs and at their expense.

There were many Black-owned medical cannabis dispensaries in Washington, but after 2012 legislation passed, they were driven out of business. Now, of the approximately 50 cannabis shops in a rapidly gentrifying Seattle, 0 are Black owned.

The policies and power structures that shape the cannabis industry were built and are maintained at the expense of Black people, and the subsequent harm and violence of decades of cannabis arrests and incarceration persists today.



THE SEATTLE TIMES

0 OF 48

ZERO BLACK OWNED STORES IN SEATTLE

ILLUSION OF INCLUSION

BLACKS ARE PAINTED ON STORE WALLS & EMPLOYED AS BUDTENDERS & SECURITY

INCREASE CANNABIS LICENSES

LCB retail, producer and processor licenses are becoming more and more consolidated and monopolized. This will lead to the industry being dominated by a few publicly traded companies within just a few years if unchecked.

Increasing Cannabis Licenses Will:

- Help build an inclusive cannabis industry
- Generate economic opportunities for BIPOC communities
- End the shame of profiting from a blatantly exploitative and discriminatory system
- Protect small businesses
- Prevent outside ownership and the predatory behavior of the large multi-state operators (MSO's) by continuing to require residency for all license holders.
- End the monopoly of white owned cannabis retail in Washington.

Breeders Licenses

I-502 has a closed loop on genetics. Breeders who can access new genetics will provide stability and wider variety of consumer choices for adults and medical patients.

Home Delivery and Public Consumption Lounges

- Home delivery will increase access for medical patients and the impaired, and lower risk of DUI
- Consumption lounges provide safe areas out of the view of the public for cannabis consumption. This will provide additional tax revenue for the state and give tourists places to use cannabis when hotel/motels will not, decreasing complaints of public consumption.

HOME GROWS

Adult home grows without fees or registration, up to 15 plants per housing unit

- Age 21 and older citizens should be allowed to grow up to 15 plants, just as adults can brew beer or wine for themselves.
- Revenue to the state can come from seed and clone sales
- No fees or registration insures all citizens have the freedom to grow their own if they choose.

LCB REFORM

The WSLCB has a long history as a toxic work environment and culture of racism since the 1930s. A history which the LCB leadership continues to dismiss and deny.

The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board has been described by its own employees as corrupt and discriminatory, and is in need of major reforms.

Elimination or reduction of the WSLCB board positions and the "Marijuana Enforcement" division.

- The board can be completely eliminated as redundant and too easy to corrupt with a single appointed director to replace them.
- The "Marijuana Enforcement" division can be eliminated as redundant with local and state peace officer agencies who have
- the proper training and legal authority to handle felony and misdemeanor
- criminal behavior.
- Wa State Dept of Agriculture can handle plant and product inspections.
- WA State Dept of Revenue can handle tax related issues

LCB REFORM

Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) enforcement agents, many without peace officer training or certification are acting as police, with no legal jurisdiction to investigate criminal matters on cannabis, and some even using the "Blue Lives Matter" emblem in their emails.

The toxic culture in this agency continues in spite of assurances by their leadership that they would reform themselves.

Cultural change was never implemented, and the toxic culture is expanding, the full scope of the problem ignored by state leaders, big name cannabis groups and the media. Meanwhile, this agency expands its' power into more and more areas of law enforcement, little by little, adding to their policy manual.

COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT

The LCB has proven they require assistance to provide fair and unbiased service. If the LCB is going to continue to exist and maintain authority over cannabis, they must build community trust., which requires transparency. A community oversight committee with LCB subpoena and investigative powers will:

- Provide a systematic means by which to achieve continuous improvement in LCB/stakeholder relations.
- Provide an independent process for review and appeal of formal stakeholder complaints.
- Contribute to timely, fair, and objective review of formal stakeholder complaints.
- Provide fair and equal treatment to both community members and cannabis regulators.

APPLICATION RECONSIDERATION

- 2011 Papa John started a medical marijuana co-op in Seattle, Bella Sole, which became a successful enterprise.
- 2015 He applied to the LCB for retail licenses but was denied due process. His applications were arbitrarily downgraded by LCB employee, Frank Odell. His qualifications were held to much greater scrutiny than successful white applicants, illegitimate taxes were assessed to his medical marijuana co-op, and the LCB even enforced rules that were not yet on the books to disqualify Papa John. To further add insult to injury, a white woman who was a member of Papa John's co-op was then able to successfully apply for two retail licenses using the same paperwork and qualifications.
- 2020 Due to the abuse of power by the LCB, Papa John has been financially devastated. He now lives in affordable senior housing and is dealing with bank overdrafts and having to choose between his medication and rent.

Papa John is a Black man in his 80's who has served his country and community honorably. He is a war hero who fought bravely for our country, a minister, an elder emeritus in his church, a civil rights, community leader since the 60's.



APPLICATION RECONSIDERATION

Please join Black Excellence In Cannabis in our efforts to have the LCB reconsider Bella Sole's applications by contacting the members of the LCB below to voice your support.

Jane Rushford - Board Chair, (360) 664-1711, jane.rushford@lcb.wa.gov

Ollie Garrett - Board Member, (360) 664-1713, ollie.garrett@lcb.wa.gov

Russell Hauge - Board Member, (360) 664-1715, russell.hauge@lcb.wa.gov

Rick Garza - Director, (360) 664-1650, rick.garza@lcb.wa.gov

Rebecca Smith – Licensing Director, (360) 664-1615, rebecca.smith@lcb.wa.gov



Washington State Commission On

African American Affairs

"We contend that these Black gentlemen have argued, labored, and waited long enough. This issue needs to be rectified. In an issue where the community is unified in decrying the practices of the LCB, this is an easy and justifiable win for BEC, the Agency (LCB), and the Black community."

"...we stand united behind BEC and their quest for both equity, and the reversal of a decision that has had a tremendous economic impact on these Black men and the broader Black community.

In closing, we are confident in our documentation, and would respectfully request the (LCB) Board reconsider this matter immediately."

- Commissioner Paula Sardinas, NBPLA

We are ready to work with committee staff on specific language in bill proposals for the 2021 legislative session that addresses these concerns.

WHO WE ARE

Activists and Entrepreneurs, Committed to Working For Change



Founded by Black cannabis entrepreneurs from the Seattle area. Our membership now includes men and women of all races, from all around the United States. We are committed to building an inclusive cannabis industry which provides access for people of color to benefit from the economic opportunities created by legalization.

CONTACT US



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[FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/BLACKEXCELLENCEINCANNA/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/blackexcellenceincanna/)



[@BLACKEXCELLENCEINCANNABIS](https://www.instagram.com/blackexcellenceincannabis)



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REFERENCE LINKS

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