

## **POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING (DRAFT)**

**May 11, 2023, Meeting 10:07 A.M.**

**Virtual Meeting via Teams**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Call to order**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Shirley at 10:07 a.m.

#### **2. Attendance**

Michael Jefferson

Ojala Naeem

Edwin Shirley

Councilmembers Juliane Avallone, Andrea Comer, Avery Gaddis, and Chairperson Paul O. Robertson participated in the meeting as guests.

Committee members absent: Subira Gordon.

Staff: Executive Director Ginne-Rae Clay, Attorney Komla Matrevi, Legislative and Communication Manager Kristina Diamond, and Program Manager Jennifer Edwards.

#### **3. Legislative Updates**

Legislative manager Kristina Diamond presented updates on the Hemp Bill and communicated several staff recommendations that the policy committee could present to the full Council. The legislative recommendation made by staff the following:

- Delayed start date for the hemp farmers to cultivate cannabis (2026).
- \$3M licensure fee just like the social equity cultivators.
- Limited number of hemp farmers allowed to cultivate cannabis.
- No equity joint ventures – or limit to one EJV.
- Must *have an SEC approved* social equity plan and workforce development plan.

The policy committee members discussed these recommendations in detail. Councilmember Jefferson supported the recommendations as presented by Kristina Diamond and invited other members to offer ideas to staff to further improve the recommendations. Councilmember Comer noted the importance of protecting social equity owners in this nascent industry from the risk of oversupply and market saturation. Councilmember Gaddis, Chairperson Robertson, and Councilmember Naeem shared the position of Councilmember Comer. Discussion ensued. The Committee concluded that the recommendations presented by staff need to be strengthened to further protect social equity owners and the market from the risk of oversupply.

The Committee did not vote on the recommendation. Instead, there's an agreement that staff will provide updated recommendations for the policy committee to present at a special meeting of the Social Equity Council. At this moment, the committee didn't have a quorum.

#### **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.