



January 29, 2021

Regina Jackson, President and CEO
Est Oakland Youth Development Center
8200 International Blvd
Oakland, CA 94621

To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the East Oakland Youth Development Center in support of the City of Oakland's Proposition 64 application submitted by the Special Activity Permits Division's Cannabis Equity Programs to fund The Oakland Cannabis Awareness and Safety Program.

We strongly support this grant application and the focus to create two public awareness campaigns on the impact of cannabis. (1) a campaign to educate youth about cannabis use with a goal of decreasing youth usage rate, (2) a campaign to inform 21 and over consumers of safe marijuana use (encourage purchase from equity-owned cannabis businesses in the regulated marketplace) a series of cannabis safety practices and protocols workshops for growing facilities and dispensaries.

Since 1978, East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC) has provided East Oakland youth with a safe place to learn and grow. Our continuum of programming is designed to complement Oakland Unified School District's education and supplement with character based leadership exposure for youth. All of this is offered through the lens of social justice and with a healing centered approach with staff trained in Trauma-Informed Care. Poverty levels in East Oakland have increased dramatically since the Great Recession, as has homelessness as gentrification continues to displace many long-term Oakland residents from their homes. These inequities result in youth who, without intervention, are likely to become disenfranchised opt out of the educational system and become vulnerable to the prison system.

For more than a decade EOYDC has worked within the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth's umbrella year round providing resources. In a separate capacity, I serve as Chair of the Oakland Police Commission. My goal is to provide insight to policy and training to protect against the upstream factors for youth violence.

The opportunity to be a part of The Oakland Cannabis Awareness and Safety Program is a tremendous one in that we are part of the village that will nurture and keep our youth safe while at the same time encouraging responsible entrepreneurial opportunities for our adult aged community.

Sincerely,

Regina Jackson, President and CEO
East Oakland Youth Development Center