City of Melrose
Social Equity Marijuana Business
Initial Policies and Procedures

The City of Melrose adopts these initial policies and procedures to promote and encourage the full participation in the regulated marijuana industry by people from communities that have previously been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and enforcement and to positively impact those communities.

These Policies and Procedures are adopted to support, and are applicable to, those applicants looking to operate a Marijuana Business in the City of Melrose who qualify as Social Equity Businesses as defined in Chapter 180 of the Acts of 2022, *an Act Relative to Equity in the Cannabis Industry* ("Chapter 180"); this includes those applicants who qualify as Social Equity Program Participants or Economic Empowerment Priority Applicants ("EEA") under existing Cannabis Control Commission regulations.

1. Applications from Social Equity Businesses shall be prioritized in the licensure process so that their applications are reviewed before other applicants.

2. The City shall waive all application fees associated with the municipal and zoning review process for Social Equity Business applicants looking to operate in the City of Melrose.

3. At such time as the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) establishes minimum acceptable standards for host communities to promote and encourage full participation in the regulated marijuana industry by people from communities that have previously been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and enforcement and to positively impact those communities, the City will review and amend these Initial Policies and Procedures accordingly in compliance with those standards.

These policies and procedures shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in effect until amended and/or revoked.

Adopted: June 21, 2023
Date

By: _____
Paul Brodeur, Mayor