

## FW: Victims of the " War On Drugs" Shouldn't be Made to Beg PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEM 13 APRIL 1, 2019 BUDGET COMMITTEE

Honorable Nick Pacheco <nickpacheco@cannabudsman.com>

Mon, Apr 1, 2019 at 1:47 PM

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April 1, 2019 Budget and Finance Committee Item #13 Public Comment.

Please include in Public Record

Thank you.

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**From:** Hon. Nick Pacheco (Ret.)

**Sent:** Monday, April 1, 2019 1:32 PM

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### Subject: Victims of the " War On Drugs" Shouldn't be Made to Beg

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEM 13 APRIL 1, 2019 BUDGET COMMITTEE

Dear Mayor. Budget Committee Chair and Budget Committee Members:

In June of 2017 I provided public comment to the Council's Rule Committee regarding implementation of Measure M. At the time I was ignorant of the history of cannabis and how the God given plant was criminalized. I've received constructive criticism that I can lose my audience because I overwhelm them with too much information. So with all respect to every one else that has suffered at the hands of the government and its racist "war on drugs" I am going to make 2 points only.

**Point #1: Everything you've been told about marijuana/cannabis and its alleged detrimental impact on ADULTS is based in lies motivated by racism.** That is just a truism and if you like a formal presentation just tell me where and when and I will be there. Any time, any place!

**Point #2: 25% of cannabis revenue should be set aside every year in a non-reverting line item in the City budget and programmed by the Community in conjunction with DCR.** DCR's Director should not be requesting the resources every year, she should be presenting a programming plan for approval only. Any funds not expended each fiscal year should stay within the Department because the damage is so deep and wide in the community that there may be events that will require saving money over a number of years.

Measure M empowers you to establish this structure because Measure M calls on you to not only seek Social Equity but to seek Social Justice.

Having the community beg for resources each year can be seen as lacking an understanding of the severe damage done to the community under the guise of being a "war on drugs."

In an effort to remove my ignorance I learned so much about the history of cannabis and the racist war on people using drugs as a proxy. Let me share one key observation: the marijuana laws were initiated to deport or accelerate the deportation of Mexicans from the Southwest primarily.

**1930s: "Decade of Betrayal" (aka "The Forgotten Injustice"):** my government deported close to 1 million Mexican citizens from the USA in the 1930s. And 10 years after being deported to Mexico, every single Mexican US Citizen living in Mexico returned and reported for duty when the US Government had the audacity to draft them into World War II. There is no record of a drafted Mexican not showing up to serve. Here is a short video regarding these deportations and it includes Councilmember Gil Cedillo formally apologizing on behalf of the State of California for its role in the deportations.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhYKNjRz02s>

The 1930s deportations and Nixon's "war" devastatingly altered the fabric of the Mexican and African American communities.

**Money Flowing from Pain Must Heal:** the community was/is injured your big brother, the Federal Government, and as one of the strongest members of this family you must begin the healing process in a substantive manner that adequately addresses the scope and depth of the injuries.

This economic boon would not exist BUT FOR the lifting of the ban on marijuana and the ban on marijuana wouldn't exist BUT FOR the initial racism against Mexicans beginning in the early 1900s and refined by Nixon against the African American community in the 1970s. This continued "war on people" (not drugs) requires a more holistic approach to healing these communities.

You can control 3 out of every 4 dollars to fund the Department, pay for enforcement and enhance whatever City services you see worthy of this revenue. The community in conjunction with DCR should program the remaining 1 dollar out of every 4 to heal these communities.

Don't make these communities beg for help. Recognize the scope of injury and foster a private-public partnership that the rest of the Country would be proud to follow.

**HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE VICIOUS RACIST CAMPAIGN BY HEARST: STARTED IN THE EARLY 1900s (this is from 1915)**

