

Communication from Public

Name: Starlite Industries LLC

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Council File No: 25-0357

Comments for Public Posting: The following is my public comment based on my personal experiences and the following articles:

<https://www.sfgate.com/cannabis/article/los-angeles-social-equity-cannabis-stores-20313738.php>

<https://lataco.com/dispensary-permit-fee-increase> Good morning, Councilmembers. My name is

Hansel Urbina, and I've been a Social Equity retail applicant since September 3rd, 2019. In nearly six years, I've paid over \$10,000 in fees to the City. And despite doing everything right, I've received no grant funding since 2020 because I didn't have an approved location 2 years ago. Over the past year, DCR delayed my location approval for seven months, when the ordinance says it should've taken one. For two of those months, I was told my application was sitting on Jason Killeen's desk. No movement. No explanation. I was then forced to pay for a 2020 application as if I had opened a store even though services were never rendered the first time. That's not due process, that's extortion. On April 23rd, Mr. Killeen blamed delays on staffing vacancies. But the DCR today, with more staff, is less responsive than it was in 2020. I've submitted multiple requests just to find out who my analyst is. To this day, I still don't know who my analyst is. Now you want us to pay a 137% fee increase, up front, to fund the very dysfunction that's blocked us for years? L.A. TACO reports these increases are meant to cover DCR's inefficiencies. And SFGATE says only 14 out of 506 Social Equity applicants have opened stores. That's less than 3%. This isn't Social Equity, it's structural failure. Jason Killeen called concerns like mine a "red herring." But I'm not an exception. I'm the rule. A council staffer told me, "DCR is on an island, with no accountability. Most of the staff wouldn't last in the private sector." That's the truth. We've paid in time. We've paid in fees. We've paid in patience. Reject this increase. Demand accountability. Stop making Social Equity applicants pay for DCR's failure.