

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, Jan. 24, 2022

City of San Diego Awarded State Grant to Support Cannabis Business Division

GRANT FUNDING WILL BE USED TO DEVELOP AN ONLINE PORTAL AND AUTOMATED TRACKING SYSTEM

SAN DIEGO – As part of the City of San Diego's ongoing effort to support local businesses as they navigate the legal cannabis industry, the California Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) recently <u>awarded a</u> \$764,261 grant to the City's Cannabis Business Division. The goal of this award is to develop tools necessary to help businesses comply with local and state laws.

"The grant funding will help streamline and enhance the local regulatory process," said Mayor Todd Gloria. "We want to ensure that our local cannabis community has the resources to develop a marketplace that benefits both businesses and the community alike."

DCC Grant funding will be used to:

- Develop a web portal that will automate and streamline the tracking and upload of annual selfcompliance requirements.
- Procure equipment and software to inspect, track and actively regulate licensed businesses.
- Hire a consultant to help applicants navigate the permitting process.
- <u>Ensure equitable opportunities</u> to enter the legal cannabis market are available for populations and communities disproportionately affected by cannabis prohibition.
- Fund training and education for licensees on applicable City and state regulations and requirements.

"This grant will help us become more responsive to the growing local legal cannabis market. The funding will ensure we can effectively permit and regulate the local industry while also ensuring compliance with City regulations," said Cannabis Business Division Deputy Director Lara Gates.

The City's <u>Cannabis Business Division</u> is within the Development Services Department. The division was created in 2020 to help develop and manage the City's cannabis program by issuing permits and regulating cannabis businesses conforming with San Diego Municipal Code requirements.