

Levesque, Jennifer

From: Nichole Rice [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 1:00 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Agenda Item I.1- public comment

Good evening, my name is Nichole Trujillo Rice and I'm the Political and Legislative Director for the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 8-GS. Our union represents 35,000 members within the retail grocery, wholesale meat, food processing, wine and distillery production, pharmaceutical and legalized cannabis industries.

The need to raise standards for the workforce within the cannabis industry has never been greater. Just like the other industries we represent workers within, the cannabis industry was and has been deemed an essential business and has remained open the entirety of this global pandemic. As you may know, the UFCW has done a lot of work on the State and Local level to pass policy to protect workers and consumers within the cannabis industry. The Labor Peace Requirement, the workplace safety training, going after online platforms allowing non licensed operators to advertise and sell to consumers, etc. There is still a lot of work to do, but enforcement is priority for us right now. The pandemic has exposed more rapidly the bad actors and we need to do our part to keep workers safe.

We hope that this body will commit to including strong labor standards such as those recommended. Broader and more defined labor and safety requirements ensures responsible applicants will be on a level playing field and will make it easier for the city to identify responsible operators who will adhere to its labor, workplace, and environmental standards and best practices. I want to highlight and make it clear that including such standards does not preclude operators from applying – it simply sets the bar for the types of jobs that will be created.

Thank you for your consideration.

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