

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, CREATING THE EQUITY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUND

WHEREAS, Fresno Municipal Code (FMC) section 9-3316(b)(6)(vii) establishes an Equity Assistance Program in the City of Fresno (City); and

WHEREAS, the Equity Assistance Program was approved by the City Council (Council) on October 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Council wishes to establish the Equity Assistance Program Fund (Fund) to benefit local equity businesses operating in the City under FMC section 9-3316(b)(6) to support such businesses in workforce development, access to affordable commercial real estate, access to investment financing, and access to legal services and business administration technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, Council wishes to encourage commercial cannabis business permit applicants to consider the Fund in the development of the community benefits and investment plan portion of their application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. **Establishment of Fund.** Consistent with FMC section 9-3316(b)(6)(vii), the Equity Assistance Program Fund is established to receive monies contributed by commercial cannabis business permit applicants as part of their community benefits and investments plan or otherwise appropriated by the Council from cannabis related tax revenue or state grant funds, for the purpose of providing assistance to entities and

1 of 3

Date Adopted:

Date Approved:

Effective Date:

City Attorney Approval: MRD

Resolution No.

organizations operating in the City as a social equity applicant as defined under FMC section 9-3316(b)(6).

2. **Use of Fund.** Program funds shall be dispersed by the City Manager or his or her designee to Social Equity Applicants for any of the following purposes:

- (a) Workforce development;
- (b) Access to affordable commercial real estate;
- (c) Access to investment financing;
- (d) Access to legal services and business administration.

3. **Disbursement.** The City Manager shall authorize disbursements to eligible Social Equity Applicants on a case-by-case basis consistent with the selection criteria and procedures set forth in Section 4 below.

4. **Administration.** The City Manager is hereby directed to amend and/or create any necessary commercial cannabis business permit application selection criteria and procedures to implement and fulfill the intention of this resolution.

5. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon approval.

* * * * *

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____ 2021.

AYES :
NOES :
ABSENT :
ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: _____, 2021
Mayor Approval/No Return: _____, 2021
Mayor Veto: _____, 2021
Council Override Vote: _____, 2021

YVONNE SPENCE, MMC CRM
City Clerk

By: _____
Deputy Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DOUGLAS T. SLOAN
City Attorney

By: _____
Mary Raterman-Doidge Date
Senior Deputy City Attorney