



Express Orders and Curbside Pickup

NOW AVAILABLE

A HOLISTIC PATH TO HEALING

3015 H Street
Sacramento, CA
916.822.4717

www.ATherapeuticAlternative.com

1:1 PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS

COMPASSION PROGRAM

LARGE VARIETY OF ADMINISTRATION
TECHNIQUES & CANNABINOID PROFILES
PROVIDED

Educated, Compassionate,
Knowledgeable Staff

PREMIER CANNABIS DISPENSARY
C10-0000019-LIC

commonly-used policy called “sniff-and-search,” which is exempt from the Fourth Amendment rights against illegal search and seizure and which lets police officers search a vehicle based on their own ability to detect the smell of cannabis, therefore establishing “probable cause.”

Not only does sniff-and-search rely on subjective conclusions by the officer, the policy does not distinguish between cannabis versus legal CBD and hemp, which all smell alike. Recently, some court cases have questioned the policy.

Prosecutors are beginning to make the distinction as well. In a 2020 directive e-mailed to his colleagues, Florida State Attorney Bruce Colton wrote, “Until labs are set up to distinguish between hemp and pot, officers should not make a probable cause arrest for a cannabis-related offense.”

Cannabis taxes and police funding: Some police reform advocates are also asking whether law enforcement agencies should benefit from cannabis tax revenues.

In Portland, voters in 2016 allowed pot revenues to fund public safety, drug and alcohol treatment programs, and to support small neighborhood businesses. But a 2019 audit showed that 79% of that tax revenue went to the police department for traffic safety and enforcement of existing cannabis laws, while only 5% went to drug and alcohol treatment.

“It is outrageous that in a city like Portland we are funding the disruption of our own communities with money meant to uplift us,” said Rachel Knox, chairwoman of the Oregon Cannabis Commission.

“The war on drugs has been a profitable one for law enforcement, and its legalization diminishes this,” she told SN&R. “Arguably, equity and community restoration budgets should match or exceed law enforcement budgets.”

One answer: social equity programs: The stigma, the arrests, the institutional roadblocks all add up to another rigged system for African Americans.

“It’s nefarious, cruel, corrupt, and abhorrent, especially when we

know—when data has shown—the direct correlation between marijuana arrest rates and socioeconomic disparity,” Knox said.

Social equity programs are supposed to assist individuals from underrepresented groups, or with prior cannabis convictions, who are trying to start a cannabis business. License fees and some overhead costs are temporarily waived, giving the new business time to establish a foothold in the legal market.

“This industry cannot be built with just multi-state operators, owning all of the supply and being white-run, as it is now,” said C.J. Wallace, son of the late rapper Notorious B.I.G., who co-founded a socially active cannabis business, Think BIG

Wallace grew up around cannabis, both as an artistic tool for his recording artist parents, and a medicine for his autistic brother, Ryder.

“We want to honor all of the pain and creativity that cannabis and Black culture have given us,” said Wallace. “But also embrace it and think about the triumph we’ve had. That’s what we want to celebrate.”

Sacramento’s social equity program, called Cannabis Opportunity Reinvestment and Equity, recently received a \$3.8 million cannabis equity grant through the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development.

“The city remains committed to helping to correct historic inequities present in the legal cannabis industry by creating a pathway for business ownership by social equity members,” said Davina Smith, Sacramento’s cannabis program director. “The mandate of the city’s CORE program has never been more clear and its mission more vital.”

The Crystal Nugs delivery service, which has already been helped by the program, plans to apply and enter the lottery for one of the five walk-in dispensary licenses the city will offer later this year.

“I think the city understands the need for social equity in the industry,” said co-owner Maisha Bahati. □

**“I think the city
understands the
need for social equity
in the industry.”**

Maisha Bahati, co-owner,
Crystal Nugs