



CITY OF OAKLAND
Department of Economic and
Workforce Development

SPECIAL ACTIVITY PERMITS • 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 1st Floor • Oakland, CA 94612

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Board of State & Community Corrections (BSCC)
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Ste 200
Sacramento, CA 95833
publiccomment@bscc.ca.gov

Re: Budget Modification Request for
Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Cohort 2

Dear Chair Penner and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the City of Oakland, I am requesting that the Board ask BSCC staff to reconsider the decision to deny the City of Oakland's Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Cohort 2 budget modification request. As outlined below, our requested budget modification (1) aligns with the Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Cohort 2 Grant Program, (2) is consistent with the City of Oakland's initial application, (3) responds to a public safety emergency that did not exist at the time of our application, and (4) is within the BSCC's authority to approve under the grant agreement.

The Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Cohort 2 Request for Proposals solicited proposals to assist law enforcement and other programs to address the public health and safety associated with the legalization of recreational cannabis. Our requested modification seeks to reallocate a portion of the City of Oakland's grant funding due to the surge of armed burglaries of Oakland's licensed cannabis businesses and the withdrawal of a non-profit that was assigned to carry out a subcomponent of the original proposal. More specifically, our request is to utilize \$120,000 per year on:

1. Overtime for police officers to patrol areas with cannabis businesses at night to deter armed burglars; and
2. Implementing an online platform to communicate public safety alerts with cannabis businesses in Oakland.

Even with this proposed reallocation, the City of Oakland's grant program will still allocate more than ten percent of the overall budget on youth development/youth prevention and intervention through the Public Health Institute's youth education campaign with Castlemont High School. Furthermore, if the BSCC is concerned that the proposed reallocation does not allocate enough funding towards youth development/youth prevention, the City of Oakland is open to redirecting \$30,000 originally allocated towards data management to enhance the Public Health Institute's operations.

In addition to aligning with the Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Program Cohort 2, the City of Oakland's requested modification mirrors the initial proposal. Our application proposed to (1) educate youth and discourage youth cannabis consumption, (2) encourage consumers to support equity-owned cannabis businesses in the regulated marketplace, and (3) improve the safety of licensed cannabis businesses through security workshops and inspections. As outlined above, the

City of Oakland's modified proposal does not eliminate our youth education campaign. Likewise, we are set to implement a public awareness campaign to support equity-owned licensed cannabis businesses. The requested change of increased police patrols and an online alert system will simply enhance the effectiveness of the last component of the City of Oakland's application, improving the safety of licensed cannabis businesses, by strategically increasing the amount of police overtime to cover evening patrols and adding a public safety communication system for the City of Oakland and cannabis operators.

This requested change is in response to the surge of armed burglaries of Oakland cannabis businesses that have taken place in recent months. On December 21, 2021, the Oakland City Council responded to this crime wave by adopting [Resolution No. 88982](#). This resolution directs the City Administration to pursue funding and assistance to support businesses harmed by armed robberies and prevent future incidents. The recent crime wave did not occur a year ago when the City of Oakland submitted its application, and unless state grant resources become available, these crimes will likely continue.

Finally, the BSCC has the authority to approve the requested budget modification. Under Exhibit D, Paragraph 7. MODIFICATIONS, the Grant Agreement states:

Changes may include modification to project scope, changes to performance measures, compliance with collection of data elements, and other significant changes in the budget or program components contained in Attachment 1: Prop 64 PH&S cohort 2 Request for Proposals/Application for Funding, or approved modifications.

Paragraph 7 thus affords the BSCC broad discretion to approve modifications. Again, as outlined above, the City of Oakland's request only enhances an existing component of its application, and this change is the result of a public safety emergency.

The City of Oakland understands the difficulty of administering grant programs and appreciates the BSCC's willingness to analyze the information provided above. Ultimately, the City of Oakland's requested modification aligns with both the Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Cohort 2 Grant Program and the City of Oakland's grant application, it is responsive to a public safety emergency and City Council Resolution, and it is within the BSCC's authority to approve. We respectfully request that the BSCC reconsider its denial for all of these reasons.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Greg Minor
Assistant to the City Administrator