

## Jennifer Bergstrom

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**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 10:28 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: FOR THE RECORD

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**From:** SHERYL ROY <  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 9:43 AM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <[LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Elizabeth Patterson <[EPatterson@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:EPatterson@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Christina Strawbridge <[CStrawbridge@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:CStrawbridge@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Steve Young <[SYoung@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:SYoung@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Tom Campbell <[TCampbell@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:TCampbell@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Lionel Largaespada <[LLargaespada@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LLargaespada@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Lorie D. Tinfow <[LTinfow@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LTinfow@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Ben Stock <[BStock@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:BStock@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Josh Chadwick <[JChadwick@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:JChadwick@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Erik Upson <[EUpson@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:EUpson@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** FOR THE RECORD

Re: Proposed budget items as follows:

- **Create a part-time Equity and Diversity Manager position (30 hours/week) at an estimated cost of \$133,000 per year;**
- **Conduct an “Equity Indicators in Benicia” report with consultant costs estimated at \$75,000;**
- Mandate anti-bias training for all City employees and elected and appointed officials at an estimated cost of \$8,000.

As a life-long citizen of Benicia, I would like to voice my **strong opposition** to the first two proposed budget items above.

I think anti-bias training for all City employees is a good idea, but the other two are an over-reaction to recent events in our nation that, from what I could see, did not particularly affect our town.

These are unnecessary expenditures, and I am sure our City can find more appropriate ways to spend over \$200,000,

Respectfully,

Sheryl Roy  
Benicia, CA

September 1, 2020

From: Stan Golovich

To: Benicia City Council

Subj: Cannabis Equity Program

Unconscious bias has been demonstrated in Benicia regarding regulated cannabis activity. During three years of public hearings, opponents repeatedly expressed what they thought about weed in the absence of reinforcing evidence that commercial activity is a bad idea, or more specifically, “not a good fit” for Benicia. It is an extremely good fit for any city that engages it. The popularity of cannabis is growing because people of all ages love weed and spend generously to acquire it. Every city in Solano County is now woke on weed and will be selling it and making money by late 2021.

The California Cannabis Equity Act of 2018 specifically addresses cannabis sales activity by Black and Latinx entrepreneurs, and provides grant funding support to jurisdictions with equity programs designed to assist minority licensees gain entry to, and successfully operate in, the state's regulated cannabis marketplace. The cities of Sacramento, Oakland, Berkeley, San Francisco, and Los Angeles have cannabis equity programs in place.

Benicia has engaged a course to improve and sustain social equity in our town. In this regard, we are primed to establish a Cannabis Equity Program that would be manifested in a second cannabis storefront operated by qualified applicants, preferably a woman or women-owned licensee. Such a program would be consistent with point number 9 of the City Manager's Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> slide presentation as well as points in the resolution adopted on that date.

The onerous “no weed” buffers, rooted in unconscious bias and adopted by this council, are hurting us economically and are not conducive to establishment of a Cannabis Equity Program. This program can be managed as an adjunct function of the newly created Equity and Diversity Manager. The job description for the billet should include grant writing experience and an appreciation for cannabis consumerism.

A second cannabis store creates more jobs and increased tax revenue from resident and visiting consumer spending. Weed sells like hotcakes. The results of Measure D are sure to reinforce the overwhelming support for a second cannabis retail as originally approved.

It's time to take the next step in your commitment to equity in Benicia.

Stan “Weedman” Golovich  
Benicia cannabis guru  
YES on Measure D!