

August 2, 2022

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 8-2-22 ITEM NO. RA 32

Dear Supervisor Heinz,

My name is Denzel Mason and I am the majority owner of Your Bright Horizon 192, LLC. I am unable to attend today's meeting because I am the Assistant GM of a dispensary and must open the store this morning.

I qualified for the social equity program because I made a mistake in my early 20s and was cited for drug paraphernalia in Scottsdale. I have learned from this mistake and kept myself out of trouble since 2014.

In November 2021, I was at a friend's house when a canvasser from Your Bright Horizon knocked on the door to explain the social equity program. I realized that I qualified for the program and was able to complete DHS's 10-hour training program after work as the first step in entering the social equity lottery.

The process to enter the social equity lottery was difficult. Scottsdale courts did not have easily accessible copies of my police report that I had to submit with my application. Even worse, there was an 8-week COVID-related backlog for record request! Your Bright Horizon helped me navigate the process and worked with government officials to get copies of the required documents before the application deadline.

Your Bright Horizon helped me get the marijuana paraphernalia charge expunged from my record. They paid the legal cost and met me at the courthouse to help file documents. I needed to show an expungement document to qualify for the social equity lottery. With Your Bright Horizon's help and persistence, my expungement was granted one day before I would have been disqualified from the social equity lottery.

On April 8th, I received a call from Your Bright Horizon while I was at work. They let me know that I was one of the 26 social equity license winners. I could barely contain my excitement!

I have always wanted to work in the marijuana industry. I left a high-wage management job at a Fortune 100 staffing firm to get my first gig in the marijuana industry as a receptionist. Since then, I have worked hard, staffed nearly every position in the dispensary and was recently promoted to Assistant General Manager. I believe in the healing power of marijuana and take pride in treating our patients like they are family.

I always told my mother that I would own a marijuana dispensary. The social equity program made that dream a reality. It is my intention to take the skills I have learned working in the industry and operate a successful dispensary that I am proud to call my own.

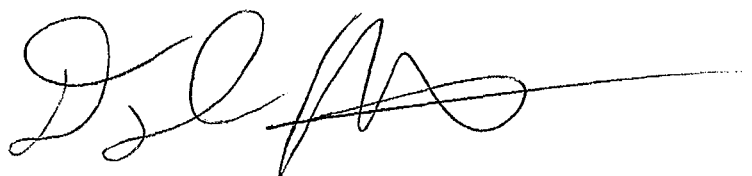
I have just over a year to find a store, negotiate a lease, build out the location and get approved by DHS. All the work I need to do to open a store can only start once I have signed a lease for an approved location. I am fortunate that Your Bright Horizon is continuing to mentor me through this complicated process.

I would like to thank staff for being thoughtful in their approach to regulating marijuana. Removing the outdated and unnecessary Type III Conditional Use Permit will increase my chances to open my own successful dispensary. Unnecessary red tape will make it nearly impossible to open before the deadline and DHS has made it clear that they will revoke my social equity license.

I urge you to vote in favor of staff's recommendation.

Sincerely,

Denzel Mason
Majority Owner, Your Bright Horizon 192, LLC



AUG 02 22 AM 09:43 PC CLK OF ED

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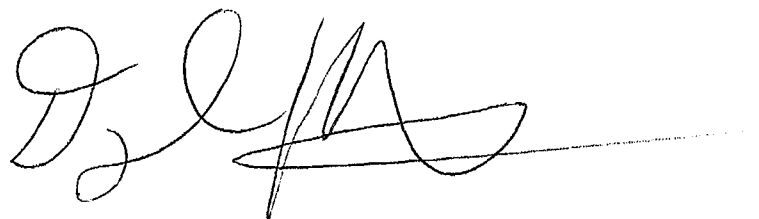
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Denzel Mason
Majority Owner, Your Bright Horizon 192, LLC

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Dear Supervisor Grijalva,

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Dear Supervisor Christy,

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