

RESPONSIBLE CANNABIS SALE,
EDUCATION, AND
CONSUMPTION
IN PUEBLO COLORADO



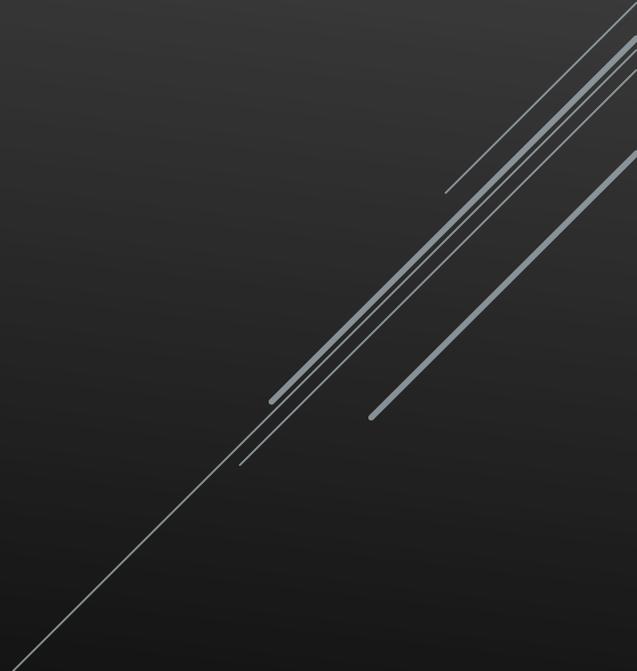
SOCIAL EQUITY

“EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IS A PRIORITY FOR THE STATE OF COLORADO”

- ▶ The Marijuana Enforcement Division is committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable cannabis industry in Colorado that acknowledges the effects of decades of criminal enforcement of marijuana laws on communities of color. As part of Colorado's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, the MED is focusing on outreach and engagement resources to support diversity initiatives in the cannabis industry. The MED's efforts aim to increase diversity in the number of Owner Licenses, which have less diverse representation in comparison to the number of Employee Licensees, so the industry is more reflective of Colorado's demographics.
- ▶ A person who meets the eligibility criteria for a Social Equity Licensee can participate in the divisions “Accelerator Program” or may apply to independently own and operate a Regulated Marijuana Business license.
- ▶ Fitting the criteria, and becoming a Social Equity Licensee, we feel being able to utilize the program to open the first Consumption Lounge in Pueblo, where people can consume cannabis safely, with guidance, is the most logical next step.

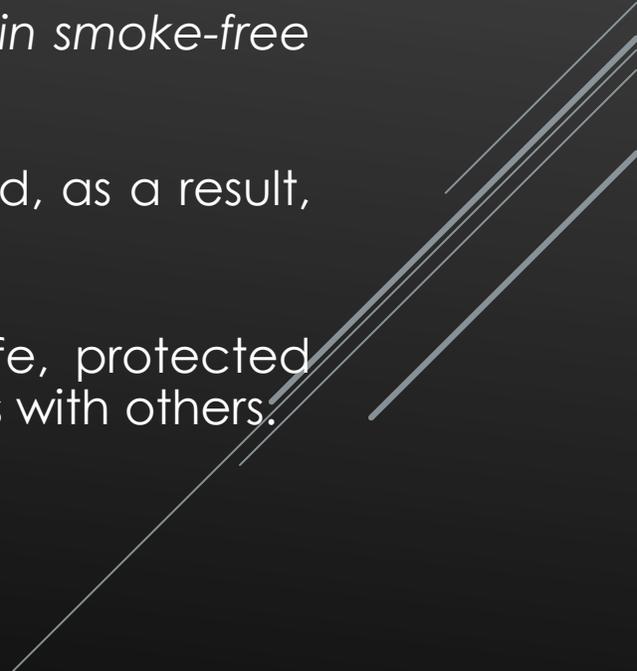
RESPONSIBILITY

The future of consumption lounges for cannabis use is promising in several areas

- ▶ For the responsible adult-use of cannabis, as the industry continues to thrive and expand, the need for licensed social consumption lounges becomes greater.
 - ▶ Regulated spaces are crucial for many medical patients, who may live in government-funded housing that ban federally illegal drugs, assisted living facilities, and apartment complexes where use is also banned.
 - ▶ For non-Colorado residents, the consumer visits our state, purchases cannabis legally, but has the dilemma of finding somewhere to consume legally. There are few if any cannabis friendly hotels in the area, public use is illegal, understandably so.
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- ▶ Consumption lounges will encourage people to purchase products from licensed dispensaries for enjoyment in sanctioned venues, as opposed to buying from unlicensed dealers and consuming in clandestine places like parks or parking lots.
 - ▶ *This is especially helpful in cities where tourists, who may be staying in smoke-free hotels, are prominent cannabis customers.*
 - ▶ Social lounges are poised to be another cannabis tourism attraction and, as a result, revenue stream for their respective municipalities.
 - ▶ Social consumption lounges welcome visitors and locals alike into safe, protected hubs to enjoy both new and familiar products while creating relationships with others.
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- ▶ Social consumption lounges have the potential to be the safest places to consume and learn about dosing. CBD heavy products will be available for consumers who encounter negative effects from THC, as CBD has been proven to counteract those negative effects of THC.
 - ▶ For instance, dispensaries in Oakland California, adapted the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control's intoxication guidelines, so budtenders know when to cut off service. The department also provides operating procedures to manage any medical emergencies that may occur.
- ▶ Social consumption lounges will generate much needed tax dollars for the City of Pueblo, which will benefit the community immensely.
- ▶ In 2018, Colorado passed SB18-211. "Marijuana Consumption Club License" concerning licensing marijuana consumption lounges.

RESPONSIBILITY

SB18-211 - MARIJUANA CONSUMPTION CLUB LICENSE

BILL SUMMARY

- ▶ The bill creates a marijuana consumption club (club) license. The license is subject to the same licensing requirements as other retail marijuana licenses. The license may be issued to a person who operates an establishment where retail marijuana or retail marijuana products may be sold and consumed. The club's sales are limited to the same limits as a retail marijuana store. The club may not serve food prepared on site or alcohol. Entry to the club is restricted to those persons at least 21 years of age. A club shall purchase its retail marijuana or retail marijuana products from a licensed marijuana business or get a cultivation license and sell its own marijuana. A club may not permit outside marijuana or marijuana products. All retail marijuana or retail marijuana products must be consumed or disposed of on site. A club and its employees shall successfully complete a responsible vendor program annually. A club has the same immunity to a lawsuit for an injury caused by a club patron that a bar enjoys.
- ▶ The bill allows a local government to permit clubs in its jurisdiction. If a local government permits clubs, it shall adopt an approval or licensing requirement. In order to operate as a club, the club must comply with the local and state licensing regulations. A club is exempt from the 'Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act' for marijuana consumption purposes if it is fully ventilated. Public display, consumption, or use of marijuana in a club is not a criminal offense.

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Cannabis related traffic citations have only increased from 2014-2020 as shown below. This number is sure to decrease with Cannabis Consumption Lounge availability.

Year	Conspiracy	Manufac- ture	Distrib- ution	Possession with Intent	Possession	Public consumption	Possession under age 21	Possession/ consumption in vehicle
2008	101	378	486	937	10,998	126		
2009	149	394	507	951	10,756	179		
2010	194	534	513	734	9,924	204		
2011	218	543	482	595	9,580	202	1	
2012	176	534	497	526	9,777	218		
2013	133	193	465	379	3,701	259	3	94
2014	74	158	339	308	2,859	327	784	1,030
2015	126	363	368	507	1,406	223	3,182	883
2016	182	628	426	644	957	175	3,530	835
2017	271	753	510	836	998	241	3,816	870
2018	103	685	330	758	761	144	4,005	1,008
2019	114	608	224	530	505	90	3,071	1,129

Source: Colorado State Judicial Branch. Analyzed by the Division of Criminal Justice.

Driving under the influence citations issued by Colorado State Patrol, by perceived impairing substance, 2014–2020

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
N citations	5,705	4,898	4,605	4,858	5,168	5,245	4,805
Marijuana only	359	335	388	336	426	391	417
Marijuana & alcohol	213	210	239	217	469	455	865
Marijuana & other drugs	112	107	153	169	190	193	226
Other drugs only	201	204	245	259	536	477	627
Alcohol only	4,820	4,042	3,580	3,877	3,258	3,729	2,670
Unknown impairment	0	0	0	0	289	0	0
Marijuana-involved*	684	652	780	722	1,085	1,039	1,508
% citations							
Marijuana only	6.3%	6.8%	8.4%	6.9%	8.2%	7.5%	8.7%
Marijuana & alcohol	3.7%	4.3%	5.2%	4.5%	9.1%	8.7%	18.0%
Marijuana & other drugs	2.0%	2.2%	3.3%	3.5%	3.7%	3.7%	4.7%
Other drugs only	3.5%	4.2%	5.3%	5.3%	10.4%	9.1%	13.0%
Alcohol only	84.5%	82.5%	77.7%	79.8%	63.0%	71.1%	55.6%
Unknown impairment	--	--	--	--	5.6%	--	--
Marijuana-involved*	12.0%	13.3%	16.9%	14.9%	21.0%	19.9%	31.4%

Source: Colorado State Patrol (2020).
 Note: Impairment type is based on the trooper's assessment at the time of the citation and may not reflect toxicology results.
 *Includes impairment from marijuana only, marijuana and alcohol, and marijuana and other drugs.

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In conclusion, it is paramount for the City of Pueblo to allow a safe place for consumption of cannabis. Not only will we generate large amounts of tax revenue, offer a safe place to consume cannabis and educate the consumer, but assist greatly with the decline of driving while under the influence, thus keeping the community safer.

