

Help for Burglarized Cannabis Stores

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

tional development of Black, Indigenous and Latin communities, which were the most impacted by historical cannabis prohibitions.

“Cannabis businesses are required to pay taxes on their total sales, and this includes money that has been stolen,” said Oregon Cannabis Association Interim Executive Director Meghan Walstater. “We are grateful for Portland City Council’s support as the cannabis industry works to recover from multiple crisis.”

COVID-19 also affected the

cannabis workforce similar to what we’re seeing in the food service, retail and hospitality industries, according to Cannabis Workers Coalition Executive Director Savina Monet. “Many owners and employees tested positive for COVID or required taking off work to care for loved ones who required care. This resulted in many stores temporarily shutting down or having reduced hours.”

Chistina Coursey, a cannabis licensing and policy coordinator, said the burglaries have been particularly devastating to witness.

“Each case has been growing

more and more violent. Many employees and owners are growing fearful, small businesses owners are afraid one more time could put them out of business,” Coursey said.

The city’s Cannabis Emergency Relief Fund will provide one-time grants of up to \$25,000 for small sized licensed cannabis businesses within Portland city limits, and up to \$5,000 to cannabis industry workers economically impacted from COVID-19, vandalism, robberies, wildfire, and the residual effects of illness, trauma, and grief suffered from such impacts.


The city’s Cannabis Program will also provide waivers from prior year licensing fees for businesses to stay in compliance and not endure further economic hardship.

“Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, small businesses have dealt with many difficulties as they fight to survive, and our local cannabis industry has had to deal with unique challenges,” said Civic Life Commissioner-in-Charge Jo Ann Hardesty. “These include being ineligible for federal relief dollars and operating under federal laws that often

force shops to operate in a cash only environment – making them frequent targets of burglaries. This gap has compelled the City to action and I’m proud of the work by the Office of Community & Civic Life to create a safety net for our cannabis industry and workers through the Cannabis Emergency Relief Fund.”

Civic Life will work with three community partners --NuLeaf Project, The Initiative and, the Oregon Cannabis Association--to implement the grant administrative process. Grant applications are expected to open on Feb. 1.

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WAKE YOU UP AT NIGHT?



Do you wake up tired in the morning? Do you wake up in the middle of the night? Do you have problems with attention and focusing? Does your significant other complain about any of the above? Have you been told that stress cause by choking and waking up abruptly causes mini heart attacks?

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