



MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

**City of Northampton
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Marijuana Establishment Host Community Agreement Social Equity Plan

I. Introduction

The City of Northampton has welcomed Marijuana Establishments of all types since the passage of ballot initiatives that legalized medical marijuana in 2012 and recreational marijuana in 2016. Unlike other communities that have placed hurdles in the path of this burgeoning industry, Northampton has chosen not to do so. By ordinance Host Community Agreements (“HCAs”) for adult retail establishments are limited to twelve (12), but the City does not otherwise regulate Marijuana Establishments through zoning or otherwise. The Mayor, as chief executive officer of the City, has the sole authority to execute HCAs for Marijuana Establishments in the City. In that role, the Mayor hereby promulgates the following Social Equity Policy for Marijuana Establishments.

II. Definition

All terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them by the Cannabis Control Commission (the “Commission”) in its regulations.

III. Application

This policy shall apply to Social Equity Applicants as defined in M.G.L. c. 94G and the regulations of the Cannabis Control Commission.

IV. Host Community Agreements and Equity Applicants

To encourage greater participation by Social Equity Applicants, the Mayor commits to the following:

- A. The Mayor or her designee will inform the Commissions’ social equity program as to the availability of Host Community Agreements (“HCAs”). The Mayor shall also post such information on the City’s website.

- B. The City does not impose any fees for entering into an HCA, but to the extent that there are costs imposed by the City, those fees will be waived for Social Equity Applicants.
- C. The Mayor shall grant HCAS on a 1:1 basis, where a General Applicant may be approved only after a Social Equity Applicant has commenced operations. The City will administer such 1:1 Local Approval Process until such time as 50% of the Licensees operating in the Host Community are Social Equity Businesses.
- D. The Mayor will use its current form of HCA, which has been approved by the Commission, as a template for negotiating HCAs with social equity applicants and commits to complying with the HCA negotiations practices outlined in 935 CMR 500.181(4) and 501.181(4).
- E. When an HCA is issued to a Social Equity Applicant, the City will document that the HCA has been issued to a Social Equity Applicant. The Board will post on the website data as to how many HCAs are held by Social Equity Applicants. The City will publish data regarding its total applicant pool, which shall identify each pre-verified or verified social equity business, social equity program participant, or economic empowerment priority applicant.

Signed: 
Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra

Dated: 3/10/2025