

From: Gladys Vega <gladysv@chelseacollab.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 8:20 PM
To: Alex Mello

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Dear Alex,

Thank you for your time yesterday and for clarifying my questions. I wrote this piece to address the issue of criteria A.

On April 5th, I, Gladys Vega, Executive Director of The Chelsea Collaborative, submitted an application to the City of Somerville for a Cannabis License for our company East Coast Remedies(ECR), although we are a collective of partners I have 51% ownership of East Coast Remedies.

I strongly feel that I meet the Criteria for Group A, under the City of Somerville Priority License Application Process for Economic Empowerment Priority: As a strong Woman of Color(WOC), that also grew up in one of the 29 most disproportionate impacted communities in the Commonwealth.

I have lived in Chelsea for 41 years and through the years, I've personally witnessed the impacts of a drug crime, abuse, arrests and its adverse effect it had in my family. In 1993 I lost my only brother, I was directly and negatively impacted by the war of Drugs. I have seen hundreds of friends and neighbors go thru similar issues in our community. For 31 years I worked in the city of Chelsea — 30 of those years, I've worked tenaciously for the Chelsea Collaborative. I began as a receptionist and I humbly rose to be the Executive Director.

I am one of the owners with a proven track record of working through socio-economic challenges, I have significant experience in running a business in a very low-income community. Our community went through 3 different types of State mandatory Receivership (The Chelsea School Department-Under BU- the City of Chelsea under State-appointed receiver Jim Carlin and our local Chelsea Housing Authority),— My community was literally rebuilt. I forced myself at those tables not because I was invited but because at an early age I believed in promoting and implementing economic empowerment so our Latino residents and any newcomer could participate in crafting their own future.

With that responsibility and civility in mind, we've built a culture that focuses on doing the best we can to help members in our community to improve their economic status through EOSL, Financial services, Youth Employment, Immigration, Naturalization, Workforce, and Housing programs, we are the Latino and low-income support system in Chelsea. Most times we serve as a solid ground in times of crisis.

I have worked very hard to have a community that is civically engaged regardless of their economic social status. We practice, teach, and breath economic empowerment — this allows us to create paths towards Equality and Social Justice. We want our residents to be self-sufficient so they can open their own business, own their own homes and sustain their families, as they are also becoming engaged and building better neighborhoods. I am Gladys Vega, I am living example of an Economic Empowerment Woman.

Alex, This our Working Mission we included this mission in our PowerPoint presentation. East Coast Remedies is an economic empowerment cannabis organization with the desire to “set the standard” in recreational cannabis distribution. our primary focus is to exceed expectations. As an economic empowerment owned company, it is our mission to align our business goals with the *cultural values of the Somerville community. our core ambition is to elevate the customer’s experience by providing them with relevant, humanizing, Cannabis education, general precautions and information + high business standards/etiquette, and high-quality cannabis products. For the first time in history, the adult-use consumer of Massachusetts will have the ability to purchase quality, lab tested marijuana products in a safe and secure environment.

Please if you need anything else do not hesitate to email me or call or text me on my cel#

[REDACTED].

Mil Gracias!!! Gladys Vega, Directora Ejecutiva , My Cel#

[REDACTED]