



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made on the 31st day of March, 2020 by and between Sira Naturals, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation having a medical retail store located at 240 Elm Street in Davis Square (Sira Naturals) and Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc., a Massachusetts not-for-profit corporation having a primary office located at 66-70 Union Square, Somerville, MA 02143 (CAAS).

WHEREAS CAAS' Housing Advocacy Program (HAP) provides housing advocacy, homelessness prevention, benefits enrollment, and related services to low-income residents of the City of Somerville Massachusetts;

WHEREAS Sira Naturals is a vertically integrated cultivator, product manufacturer and retailer of cannabis products for both the medical and adult-use markets in Massachusetts, sustainably grown and sold with integrity and one of the state cannabis industry's largest employers and only union employer (UFCW Local 1445);

WHEREAS In December 2019, Sira redesigned its management plan in an effort to transform the cannabis industry's methodology and approach in communities disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs focusing its efforts on economic development through access to sustainable jobs, business mentoring opportunities and direct community investment beyond HCA mandated public benefits programs; and

WHEREAS Sira Naturals shares CAAS' commitment to Somerville's low-income residents – disproportionately immigrant and people of color - whose housing vulnerability often stems from the failed War on Drugs and desires to support HAP.

NOW, THEREFORE the parties agree to the following as a basis for their relationship going forward:


Sira Naturals is pleased to provide a sustained community investment in the Community Action Agency of Somerville's work with housing, homelessness and the Head Start programs and will work with CAAS to support, create and develop programs and partnerships benefitting Somerville people and communities impacted by the War on Drugs.

Sira Naturals has partnered with CAAS towards the following initiatives:

- Providing Gap funding for the City of Somerville grant funded Housing Search and Stabilization Advocate (HSSA) position in the amount of \$17,000 per year for the 3-year term of the City grant. Sira Naturals delivered the first annual contribution on December 20, 2019, and pledges to deliver the remaining payments on November 1, 2020 and 2021 respectively for a total contribution of \$51,000.
- \$10,000 contribution to the Somerville Cares Fund.

Sira Naturals looks forward to creating a substantive partnership model with CAAS in collaboration with the City of Somerville as it continues to develop and implement its community investment strategy.


CAAS

  
By: David Gibbs, Executive Director

Sira Naturals

  
By: Dwan Packnett  
VP Gov't Relations & Community Investment

Sira Naturals

  
By: Louis Karger  
Treasurer - Board of Directors