

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
PAUL KORETZ
FIFTH DISTRICT



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LA City Councilmembers Koretz/ Price Call for City-County Emblem Program to Identify Legal Cannabis Businesses

May 4, 2022, Los Angeles, CA – Today, Los Angeles City Councilmembers Paul Koretz (CD5) and Curren Price (CD9) introduced a motion calling on the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to implement the County of Los Angeles’ Emblem Program for Authorized Cannabis Stores. The Program provides for the issuance of an Emblem Placard to licensed commercial cannabis businesses that will serve as notice to the public and enforcement agencies that the business is licensed, has been inspected by the LA County Department of Public Health and is in compliance with all applicable public health laws and regulations.

The Program is intended to protect consumers from the detrimental effects created by the sale of untested and unregulated cannabis products by unlicensed cannabis businesses. The program would allow licensed retail (storefront and delivery) businesses to apply for an emblem, obtain the requisite inspection, and place the emblem on the store’s premises so that it is visible to the public from the exterior of the store, as well as provide and make health-related information accessible to consumers. It also would help law enforcement agencies in enforcing City cannabis laws.

“Unfortunately, unlicensed commercial cannabis activity continues to undermine the legal commercial cannabis industry and threaten the health and safety of Los Angeles residents,” said **Councilmember Koretz**. “I have been working on getting this emblem program designed and implemented for the past few years because consumers have a difficult time discerning legal and illegal businesses by appearance and may be unknowingly doing business with unlicensed operators, many of which sell unregulated products that are tainted, contaminated or mislabeled, and could cause serious illness if consumed.”

“Establishing an Emblem Program will allow patrons to make an informed choice of where they want to shop and spend their hard earned money. This initiative will provide a comfort level that they’re at a business that is properly regulated and inspected by the County,” said Councilmember Price. “Furthermore, such a program will inform customers of safe locations to shop for legal cannabis.”

“Public Health commends and thanks the City of Los Angeles for considering the implementation of the Los Angeles County Cannabis Compliance and Enforcement Program (CCEP),” said **Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health**. “The adoption of our program by the largest city in the county will ensure that the many in our community, both cannabis employees and consumers, are afforded the maximum safety measures prescribed by our Public Health inspection process.”

The CCEP ensures that basic construction and equipment requirements are met at each cannabis facility prior to issuing a Public Health Permit. Program staff then conduct two annual inspections to ensure that these facilities follow the State regulations and local ordinances.

“DCR looks forward to facilitating, educating and verifying that our licensed operators also meet all public health standards which will allow the public to make informed and healthy consumer decisions,” said **Michelle Garakian, Acting Executive Director of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR)**. “We welcome our partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health; our collective aim is to partner to protect the health of consumers, employees and the community.”

If the new ordinance is approved, the emblem program would launch later this year.

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