



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

SANTA MARIA-LOMPOC BRANCH

P.O. BOX 1092

SANTA MARIA, CA 93456

May 18, 2021

Lompoc City Council
100 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436

OFFICERS:

**Lawanda
Lyons-Pruitt**
President

Jeff Hall
1st Vice-President

Paula Irving
2nd Vice-President

Pam Gates
3rd Vice-President

**Beverly
Washington**
Secretary

Dorothy Davis
Treasurer

Gloria Mantoath
Assistant Treasurer

RE: Unfinished Business, Item #7

Dear Mayor Osborne and Council Members,

On behalf of the Santa Maria-Lompoc Branch of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) its members in both Santa Maria and Lompoc, its officers and Executive Committee, we call upon you and the City Council to fix the taxation structure of the Cannabis Tax for Manufacturing by placing the City's cannabis tax ordinance for Manufacturing before the voters for approval at an upcoming election .

While dispensaries currently are taxed at 6% on \$1 million in sales - \$60,000 goes to the City, but on the manufacturing side there is 0% tax and only a nominal fee of \$30,000. We recognize that manufacturing is the larger side of the cannabis industry and if there is \$10 million in manufacturing, the City gets \$30,000. If that figure is \$50 million in manufacturing, the city still only gets \$30,000.

As the industry is more and more successful, the fee is a smaller and smaller percentage. Surely, you all recognize that this is inequity of the city's revenue structure as most other cities of comparable size with a Cannabis industry have a tax on manufacturing! You should not let the thought that taxing manufacturing will scare the industry away, which we believe will be the contrary, when you look at how well this industry is thriving.

We all recognize that this income is needed to make Lompoc what it should be with adequate police and fire protection for its citizens and to move forward. Thus, we ask that a ballot measure be placed before the voters to decide what is best for them and their neighbors. We know that this decision is critical to the future of Lompoc—and ask that you let the residents decide, not the Cannabis Industry.

Sincerely,

Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.