

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Erving Jean-Jacques Calls for Equitable Access to Entheogenic Substances and Healing for Areas Impacted by the War on Drugs

Dorchester – Erving Jean-Jacques, a passionate advocate for mental health and the healing potential of entheogenic substances, urges the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to seize a historic opportunity to address the harms caused by the War on Drugs. Having directly or indirectly experienced the effects of trauma, Jean-Jacques firmly believes in the therapeutic effects of entheogens for healing these and other challenges.

Ballot Question 4: A Potential Turning Point
Ballot Question 4 has the potential to make a significant difference for our communities, and that's why the Entheogen Melanin Collective exists. As Erving Jean-Jacques puts it, "We've learned that if you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This underscores the importance of active participation and representation in shaping policies that impact our lives.

Existing Culturally Competent Infrastructure:
There is already a culturally competent infrastructure in place, consisting of local experts and organizations who have been deeply engaged in advocacy and support for affected populations. He stresses the importance of building with these experts rather than repeating the mistakes seen in the cannabis equity rollout, which failed to adequately support Black and Indigenous communities.

"Massachusetts stands at a pivotal moment where it can learn from its past and create a new, compassionate approach to entheogenic substances that truly serves those who have been marginalized," "We must ensure this industry is holistic, equitable, and culturally competent, avoiding a rehash of the failed cannabis equity process."

Key Actions for a Just Approach to Entheogenic Substances:

1. Advocate for Equitable Access: Push for regulatory frameworks that prioritize communities disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs, including Black and Indigenous populations. This includes supporting programs that lower barriers for Black entrepreneurs and neighborhood organizations to enter and thrive in the new market.

2. Support Expungement Efforts: Advocate for automatic expungement of criminal records related to these substances, which is essential to removing barriers to employment and community participation for those previously affected by drug laws.

3. Support Black/Indigenous Communities: Advocate for mental health relief that respects Indigenous traditions by protecting the sacred use of entheogenic plants. Jean-Jacques emphasizes that as Black communities with shared culture of trauma and resilience, it is crucial to stand in solidarity with Indigenous communities, pushing for culturally relevant therapies and safeguarding Indigenous knowledge from exploitation.

"By working with those who understand the unique cultural and legacy contexts of these communities, we can build a truly inclusive and effective system that heals and uplifts,"

About Erving Jean-Jacques
Erving is a committed advocate for mental health, neighborhood healing, and equitable access to therapeutic substances. His work focuses on empowering historically divested communities, especially those disproportionately affectedd by the War on Drugs, to access revitalization opportunities and resources.

For more information or to join this movement, please contact
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