

Louisville Metro Council

Drug Testing Task Force

Mission: The mission of the Louisville Metro Council Drug Testing Task Force is to evaluate/audit current drug testing practices in Jefferson County, including federal and Department of Transportation testing procedures. The task force will perform cost/benefit analysis on drug testing and review the rapidly changing legal environment to determine if the Louisville Metro Council should implement an ordinance to protect workers from discriminatory drug testing for cannabinoids.

Organization: The drug testing task force should include at least two (2) Louisville Metro Council members, one from each caucus, a representative from the mayor's office and a representative from the county attorney's office. The task force should invite representatives from Congressman Yarmuth, Senator McConnell and Senator Paul's offices. The task force should also consider including state representatives and members of the Beshear administration to participate. The task force should meet bi-weekly for 90 days with the goal of making recommendations 120 days from inception. The task force should solicit input from local industry, Workforce Development, Chamber of Commerce, Department of Transportation and other sources. The public should also be invited to comment.

Cost: Participation in the task force is voluntary therefore the cost will be minimal. The task force should plan on six one hour meetings to solicit input. Two additional one hour meetings may be required to evaluate data and produce a recommendation report.

Considerations: Drug testing protection legislation is happening across the country including two bills currently in the Kentucky Legislature. The primary reasons for this emerging trend is the failure of drug testing to reduce drug use in the United States, the discriminatory nature of current drug testing protocols and the rapidly changing legal status of cannabis in the nation. The primary focus of the task force should be creating an ordinance to protect Jefferson county residents from a positive test for cannabinoids, banning testing for cannabinoids in Jefferson county altogether and/or exploring computerized based impairment testing to replace employment drug testing. The Louisville Metro Council, the mayor and county attorney have moved to protect local residents from prosecution for minor possession of cannabis. Local government should now take the next logical step and protect workers from discrimination for participating in legal activity.