



State of New Jersey
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

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DIANNA HOUEYOU, *Chair*
KRISTA NASH, *Commissioner*
MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, *Commissioner*
SAMUEL DELGADO, *Commissioner*
CHARLES BARKER, *Commissioner*
JEFF BROWN, *Executive Director*

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NEW JERSEY
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024

1 COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

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3 DIANNA HOUENOU, Chair

4 MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO

5 KRISTA G. NASH

6 CHARLES BARKER

7 SAID, Secretary

8

9

10 ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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12 JEFF BROWN

13 WESLEY MCWHITE III

14 CHRISTOPHER RIGGS

15

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17 PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT:

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19 ABIGAIL KALMBACH

20 FELICIA STOLER

21 ALYZA BREVARD-RODRIGUEZ

22 MICHAEL WIEHL

23 CARLOS ALMANZAR

24

25

1 CHAIR: Good morning, everyone, and
2 welcome to the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory
3 Commission's board meeting. The time is 11:05, and I
4 call this meeting to order.

5 Mr. Said, can you please read the notice
6 of the public meeting?

7 THE SECRETARY: Good morning, Chairwoman.
8 This is a regularly scheduled meeting of the New Jersey
9 Cannabis Regulatory Commission's 2024 annual meeting
10 schedule.

11 Adequate notice of this meeting has been
12 provided in accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer
13 Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was
14 provided to the Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record,
15 Courier Post, Star Ledger, and the Trenton Times on
16 December 12, 2023. The agenda and information
17 regarding the in-person meeting and the ability to live
18 stream was also posted on the CRC website.

19 The meeting time and location has also
20 been posted on the website of the New Jersey Cannabis
21 Regulatory Commission, and with the Office of the
22 Secretary of the State.

23 CHAIR: Thank you. Can you please take
24 roll call?

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

1 COMMR. CHARLES BARKER: Present.

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-

3 Kosso?

4 COMMR. MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO: Present.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash? COMMR. KRISTA

6 G. NASH: Present.

7

 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is

8 absent. Chairwoman Houenou?

9 CHAIR: Present.

10 THE SECRETARY: We now have a quorum.

11 The first order of business is for the

12 Commission to go into executive session to discuss

13 legal matters and litigation updates. These are

14 discussions that are not shared with the public. We

15 believe the executive session should take about 45

16 minutes.

17 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there a motion to

18 go into executive session?

19 COMMR. BARKER: Madam Chair, I move that

20 we go into executive session.

21 CHAIR: Is there a second?

22 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Second.

23 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-

24 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion to go

25 into executive session?

1 Hearing none, all those in favor say aye.

2 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Aye.

3 COMMR. BARKER: Aye.

4 COMMR. NASH: Aye.

5 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay. Any
6 abstentions? The motion passes. So we -- as Mr. Said
7 mentioned, we expect the executive session to last
8 approximately 45 minutes. So we can expect to resume
9 the public session at about, we'll say, we'll do an
10 even 12 o'clock. All right.

11 Thank you very much. We will keep the
12 live stream running during that time. Staff who remain
13 in the room will not be able to answer any questions
14 about matters that are on the agenda today. And thank
15 you for your patience, everyone.

16 All right. We are back. The executive
17 session has ended, and so the time is now 12:28, and we
18 will resume the public portion of this meeting. Before
19 I turn it over to Mr. Said to announce the next agenda
20 item, I do want to note there is one change to the
21 agenda that has been made. And so that is if you're
22 looking on our website, Agenda Item Number 11, Cases,
23 Claims and Petitions, that has been postponed.

24 So that will not be considered today.
25 That is the only agenda changes that we have. So, Mr.

1 Said, can you please announce the next agenda item?

2 THE SECRETARY: Next up on the agenda is
3 approving the minutes of both the Commission's public
4 session held on March 13th, and the executive session
5 held on February 15th. The minutes have been shared
6 with the members of the Commission prior to this
7 meeting.

8 CHAIR: Thank you. If there are no edits
9 to the meeting minutes for the February 15th executive
10 session and March 13th public session, I will ask for a
11 motion.

12 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: So moved, Madam Chair.

13 CHAIR: Moved to adopt the meeting minutes
14 by Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there a second?

15 COMMR. NASH: Yes.

16 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is
17 there any discussion on this motion?

18 Hearing none, all those in favor of
19 adopting the meeting minutes say aye.

20 COMMR. BARKER: Aye.

21 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Aye.

22 COMMR. NASH: Aye.

23 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay. Any
24 abstentions? Motion passes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Next item on the agenda is

1 the chair's report.

2 CHAIR: Thank you. Good afternoon, every
3 -- and happy Eid ul Fitr to everyone. Tomorrow marks
4 the NJCRC's third birthday. In light of the
5 Commission's upcoming birthday, I want to note some of
6 the progress that we have made thus far, starting with
7 some of the progress on the 2024 priorities that I had
8 outlined in my announcement back in February,
9 scheduling of the -- of a public town hall to solicit
10 feedback on the application and licensing process is in
11 progress and will be announced soon.

12 Outreach to eligible institutions to
13 conduct a study of the agency has been completed. And
14 the first set of annual reports for the meta -- for the
15 medicinal cannabis industry is scheduled and on track
16 for adoption in May. Now although the agency is still
17 just a toddler, the last 3 years have seen incredible
18 changes in the cannabis landscape.

19 We have quadrupled the number of medical
20 dispensaries open to patients. We've issued licenses
21 for every class of adult-use cannabis businesses. We
22 worked with the New Jersey Economic Development
23 Authority to support their grant program offering up to
24 \$250,000 for a funding for nearly 100 businesses. We
25 launched a yearlong cannabis smart, cannabis safe

1 public awareness campaign to inform people on safe and
2 responsible cannabis use, including important
3 deterrence messages for vulnerable populations, and we
4 now have more than 100 new adult-use businesses
5 operational and serving consumers.

6 Setting up this new industry has been, and
7 continues to be a process, one that shouldn't be rushed
8 haphazardly, and I'm proud to say that our work to
9 provide meaningful access to a regulated cannabis
10 industry is bearing fruit.

11 We are already seeing a diverse and
12 inclusive recreational and medicinal cannabis market,
13 one that continues to grow with time. Under the
14 leadership of Governor Phil Murphy, myself, and
15 Executive Director Brown, New Jersey has been a
16 national leader in taking unregulated operations that
17 lived more or less in the shadows, and turning it into
18 a regulated and responsible above ground industry, and
19 doing so in a way that promotes diversity and
20 inclusion, meaningful access to economic opportunities,
21 and true collaboration with the public.

22 I wanna thank my fellow commissioners,
23 NJCRC staff, and staff in the Office of the Governor
24 for their hard work and commitment to these efforts.
25 As chair of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission, I

1 remain committed to the Commission's values of equity,
2 safety, and transparency, and to effectuating the goals
3 expressed by the legislature, the Governor and the
4 public.

5 We at the Commission will continue to do
6 all we can to keep New Jersey at the forefront of
7 equity and accessibility in cannabis. As the NJCRC
8 enters its fourth year, I'm excited for what comes
9 next, including seeing even more business -- business
10 owners realize the American dream and get to hang their
11 shingles.

12 Happy birthday to the New Jersey Cannabis
13 Regulatory Commission, and congratulations to everyone,
14 truly, everyone, on all that we have achieved together.

15 This concludes my Chair's report. Thank
16 you. Are there any questions from the board? Hearing
17 none, Mr. Said, I'll turn it back over to you.

18 THE SECRETARY: Next item on the agenda is
19 the executive director's report.

20 CHAIR: Director Brown.

21 MR. JEFF BROWN: Thank you, Chairwoman
22 Houenou, commissioners. And I echo the thoughts and
23 congratulations on the three-year anniversary. As a
24 bunch, we're far more civilized than my three-year-old,
25 and eat less snacks. So I think we're in good shape

1 and on the up and up.

2 CHAIR: I don't know if we eat
3 fewer snacks.

4 MR. BROWN: Well, I can -- I'm only
5 speaking to myself -- for myself. She does eat a lot
6 of snacks.

7 So I'm gonna cover licensing update, and
8 then I'm gonna pass it over to Director McWhite to give
9 our quarterly report on licensing and demographics in
10 this developing industry. First slide, please. And on
11 this slide, I'll note, you know, this industry is
12 expanding week by week, you know, month by month, and
13 I've said previously that, you know, while we've
14 eclipsed a hundred dispensaries; I think we're actually
15 over 120 now; yeah, we have over 120 open retail sites
16 throughout the state, 2024 is gonna be the year where
17 we see a lot of new cultivators -- independent
18 cultivators, new cultivators, manufacturers get
19 operational.

20 And we're starting to see that. I think
21 in the last six months, we've had more than 10 new
22 cultivators, I think seven manufacturers, that have
23 come online, and that number grows, as well, month by
24 month. So that's gonna lead to more product diversity,
25 more, you know, downward pressure on prices, and

1 ultimately a more consumer focused market.

2 So this just highlights some of the new
3 retail outlets that are open throughout the state. We
4 present this every month, and the list grows and
5 changes month by month. So congrats to all the
6 businesses and business owners who are getting their
7 doors open and serving this market.

8 So for our Office of Licensing, we've now
9 received just under 2,500 applications. Of those 2,481
10 applications, 1,856 have been approved. Vast majority
11 of those are conditionals. 131 applications are still
12 under review in the Office of Licensing. There are 303
13 applications that are pending resubmission following a
14 cure. Those are applications that were deficient, and
15 are waiting to be resubmitted once that deficiency is
16 cured.

17 And I'm happy to say that this is, I
18 think, the first time I've presented this slide where
19 we've had less than a hundred applications under review
20 in the Office of Compliance and Licensing. So
21 applications are making their way through -- through
22 the process getting to the -- getting to these meetings
23 to have board action and then ultimately on the path to
24 implementation.

25 To date, the CRC, the Commission has

1 issued 1,380 conditional licenses, 312 conditional to
2 annual conversions, 164 annual licenses, and 72 ATC
3 expansions. In total, there are 236 operating licenses
4 and permits issued throughout the state. Several of
5 those are, you know, held by -- or multiple licenses,
6 permits held by the same entities in some cases, but
7 thus far, the progress is that we have over 200
8 licenses and permits in the market for businesses that
9 are serving consumers and patients.

10 Today we have 17 conditional applications
11 up for consideration, 15 conditional to annual
12 conversion applications, 4 annual applications, 3
13 expanded ATCs, and 9 annual renewal applications. In a
14 snapshot, on medical enrollment, we're just under
15 80,000 patients, 79,722, just over 5,000 caregivers,
16 and just over 1,500 healthcare practitioners
17 participating.

18 And with that, I'm gonna turn it over to
19 Director Wesley McWhite.

20 MR. WESLEY MCWHITE III: Thank you,
21 Director Brown. Thank you, Madam Chair, and
22 commissioners, and the public too. I'm really excited,
23 as always, to share with you our consistent quarterly
24 report that will detail our progress that we have made
25 for diversity and inclusion for Quarter 1 of 2024.

1 So let's get started. So far this is a
2 breakdown of our awards by class and application types.
3 So as Director Brown was saying, we are seeing more
4 cultivators and manufacturers being approved, and also
5 applying for conversion and being approved to annuals.
6 We still have a number of approved conditionals under
7 cultivators and manufacturers that we are hopeful that
8 they will continue to apply for conversion.

9 We are also seeing a consistent number of
10 retailers applying for conversion to annual and also
11 still receiving conditionals as well. Really excited
12 about 476 annual -- well, 476 annual licenses have been
13 awarded. 79 of those are social equity businesses, and
14 337 are diversely owned businesses.

15 So between Quarter 4 of 2023 and Quarter 1
16 of 2024, we have seen an increase in social equity
17 businesses that have been -- that have received annual
18 licenses from 65 to 79, and an increase in diversely
19 owned businesses awardees from 266 to 377.

20 A key population data of awardees, we been
21 consistent with making sure we lay out for the public
22 and for the board the rate of submission versus the
23 rate of approval for conditionals and annuals.

24 And so conditional submission to
25 conditional approval remains at pace between Quarter 4,

1 2023 and Quarter 1 of 2024. It is also worth noting
2 that we have seen an increase of about 5 percent in
3 annual submissions for minority owned businesses from
4 37 percent and Quarter 4 of 2023 to 41 percent and
5 Quarter 1 of 2024, without seeing a dip in the annual
6 submission percentage.

7 This is our awards by social equity
8 status. So we have seen a notable increase across the
9 board and social equity businesses. We've had one
10 additional approved social equity annual business, and
11 13 additional approved conversion to annuals, and 22
12 additional social equity conditionals. Really keening
13 in on that social equity conditionals that social
14 equity applicants or potential business owners are
15 still utilizing the conditional model, which is
16 encouraging.

17 You know, we look at these numbers, but
18 being out in the field and talking with members of the
19 public, these are real people with real faces and real
20 dreams and aspirations, and particularly those that are
21 of social equity that are making it through our
22 process.

23 Majority Ownership Awardees with prior
24 marijuana convictions, these are individuals who have
25 been most impacted by the war on drugs. And in

1 addition for the Majority Ownership Awardees with these
2 prior marijuana convictions, between Quarter 4 of 2023
3 to Quarter 1 of 2024, just one additional approved
4 annual, 10 additional approved conversion to annuals,
5 and 22 additional conditionals. That's funny. Sorry.

6 Diversely Owned Business Awardees between
7 Quarter 4 and Quarter 1 of 2024, we have seen a
8 significant increase across the board in diversely
9 owned business awardees. There are 10 additional
10 approved annuals between the last two quarters, 63
11 additional approved conversion to annuals, and 42
12 additional approved conditionals for diversely owned
13 business awardees.

14 And we also seen an increase in Impact
15 Zone Business Awardees between Quarter 4 and Quarter 1
16 of 2024. Again an increase across the board among
17 impact zones, businesses, 10 additional approved
18 annuals, and 32 additional approved conversion to
19 annuals.

20 We always wanna continue to provide data
21 around annual license awardees distribution by county.
22 One of Vice Chair Sam Delgado's favorite slides. So as
23 you can see. If not, all of these will continue to be
24 on our website. Burlington, Atlantic, Camden, Union,
25 Somerset, and Hudson County continue to lead

1 municipalities in annual license awardees, and we've
2 seen an increase among 14 counties having seen more
3 annual awardees, with Union, Bergen, and Hudson County
4 seeing the most in that increase.

5 Conditional to annual conversions
6 distribution by county here, Atlantic, Essex, and Union
7 are leading, and the largest increase here goes to
8 Atlantic County, South Jersey.

9 Quarterly data benchmarks. Again we
10 continue and consistently surpass our statutory
11 benchmarks for both minority owned and women or
12 disabled veteran owned businesses, with over 30 percent
13 for both minority owned and women and disabled veteran
14 owned businesses. We do wanna note here that there has
15 been a significant increase in annual awardees or
16 license awardees for disabled veterans, and between
17 Quarter 4 and Quarter 1 of 2024.

18 And we wanna continue to report out what
19 disabled veterans are being awarded and continue
20 outreach there.

21 This is a breakdown of our diversely owned
22 certification data between new AU licenses and
23 expansions. So as you can see here, there are 4
24 diversely owned businesses that have received annual, 7
25 conversions, 37 minority MBEs, Minority Business

1 Enterprises, 61 conversions, 2 minority business
2 enterprises and disabled veteran owned businesses. A
3 lot of letters. And all this means is that folks are
4 making it through the process with the proper
5 certification data, and we're gonna continue to track
6 that.

7 We're also seeing some diversity and
8 expansions to annuals as well. Really love this slide.
9 So MJBIZ Daily does a annual DEI report. And so what
10 they do is they survey cannabis businesses across the
11 country and put together national averages of majority-
12 minority owned and women owned businesses.

13 So as you can see here, according to the
14 report, cannabis businesses who are majority-minority
15 owned has seen a 4 percent decrease, and majority owned
16 women owned cannabis businesses has seen a national
17 decrease of 6 percent. And so while New Jersey has
18 seen a green rush, I like to call it, in diversity with
19 37 percent of our annual licenses so far awarded to
20 minority owned businesses and 41 percent are awarded to
21 women owned businesses.

22 So while the state of diversity nationally
23 is experiencing a slight decrease, a diversity in
24 majority business ownership continues to soar among
25 national averages here in the great state of New

1 Jersey.

2

3 So we wanna continue to add in expansion -
4 - expansion numbers to our benchmarks. And even when
5 you expand -- expanded ATCs into our benchmarks, we are
6 still exceeding those minority owned businesses that
7 have been awarded with the addition of the expanded
8 ATCs licensees is over 22 percent at 37 percent and 44
9 percent, and women or disabled veteran-owned
10 businesses, surpassing that benchmark by 29 percent.

11 We have seen a notable increase in
12 majority-minority ownership. So when you reconcile
13 race and ethnicity, for annual awardees, there are 26
14 additional black or African American owned business
15 awardees, 12 additional Asian owned, a majority owned
16 annual awardees, and additional 7 Hispanic or Latino
17 owned business annual awardees between Quarter 4 of
18 2023 and Quarter 1 of 2024.

19 And while only 10 percent of businesses in
20 the state are black owned, almost 20 percent of annual
21 licenses have gone to black owned entities. And while
22 only 10 percent of businesses in the state are Asian
23 owned, 21 percent of annual licenses have gone to Asian
24 owned entities.

25 20 additional operational businesses. We
wanna continue to break down the numbers of current

1 operating businesses. And so there have been 20
2 additional operating businesses between Quarter 4 and
3 Quarter 1 of this year, 3 additional cultivators, 2
4 additional manufacturers, 14 additional retailers, and
5 1 additional testing lab. And so we're seeing an
6 increase across the board in percentages also of impact
7 zones, previous marijuana convictions, social equity
8 businesses, and diversely owned businesses that are
9 open and operational.

10 Operational business license under the
11 CREAMM Act, so there are DORES, Department of Treasury
12 certifications. We've seen 10 additional women
13 business enterprises, 5 additional minority business
14 enterprises, and 5 additional minority and women
15 business enterprises who are operational.

16 Operational businesses licensed under the
17 CREAMM Act, when you -- that are self-reporting and
18 with DORES. So 3 additional Asian operators, 2
19 additional Black or African American operators.

20 And so that concludes the data report. So
21 as you can see, across the board there continues to be
22 an increase in diversity for annual awardees. We
23 continue to see a great distribution, particularly in
24 South Jersey with annual awardees, and we're gonna
25 continue pushing this thing. And I said yesterday,

1 we're gonna continue to be on the ground talking to
2 annual license holders.

3 You know, we're meeting with them to talk
4 about social equity reporting and what they're doing in
5 the community, and what we feel and what we're seeing
6 on the ground is just a real buzz about what's
7 happening here in the cannabis industry, that we're
8 seeing true diversity and we still have ways to go.

9 So I'll turn this back over to Executive
10 Brown.

11 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Director McWhite,
12 and great work. I just had one just brief question.
13 Can you talk a little bit about some of the work your
14 office has planned with outreach to awarded but not
15 operational businesses?

16 MR. MCWHITE III: Yeah. So what we're
17 doing is we're gathering information about some of the
18 roadblocks that individuals are experiencing between
19 race and ethnicity, between impact zone, social equity
20 businesses, and trying to get a really granular on what
21 some of those roadblocks are.

22 So far what we're finding in there -- they
23 are external to the CRC. So a lot of the holdup are
24 the municipal approval process. Some folks are being
25 held up in zoning offices and trying to get final

1 certifications to open. We're also seeing investors
2 pulling away, particularly from minority businesses,
3 just not understanding the layout of the market.

4 And so we continue to provide resources
5 for those individuals that are within our jurisdiction,
6 but a lot of the external factors to why folks aren't
7 getting operational just yet are outside of the CRC.
8 So we'll continue to gather that data and try to put
9 that in some type of data report for the board so you
10 can see exactly where some of those issues lie.

11 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Director McWhite.
12 And I will pass it back to you, Chairwoman Houenou.

13 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown and
14 Director McWhite. Are there any questions from the
15 board regarding the information provided? Commissioner
16 Del Cid-Kosso.

17 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Thank you, Director
18 McWhite, for that report. Just a quick question.
19 Maybe this is something that you are thinking about
20 doing in your office.

21 Is there an appetite to start tracking
22 information, like demographic information on the
23 employees that are working in a lot of these shops?
24 Can you speak to that? Have you already been working
25 on that?

1 MR. BROWN: So I'll just add that we do
2 intend to present that at a -- at a future date. We
3 have some demographic information on the ATC
4 identification card holders.
5 We're getting that information compiled on all the
6 cannabis business ID card holders. And so I do
7 anticipate, you know, we should have at least something
8 fairly, you know, complete by the next quarterly
9 report.

10 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Thank you.

11 MR. MCWHITE III: If I may, I do wanna
12 make mention that a lot of the new AU businesses and
13 the expanded ATCs continue to provide self-report
14 employee demographics.

15 So within the social equity reports that
16 we transmit to you all, you'll be able to find some
17 tables and graphs on what diversity looks like. As you
18 know, these are self-reporting, and so not all the
19 employees answer these surveys, but they are
20 encouraging more folks with their marketing and their
21 campaigns to try to get more folks to fill out those
22 surveys.

23 CHAIR: Thank you very much. Mr. Said
24 will continue on with the agenda.

25 THE SECRETARY: Next item on the agenda

1 are the committee reports.

2 CHAIR: So we have a couple of committee
3 reports today. We will start with the permitting and
4 licensing committee, and I will turn it over to
5 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso to provide that report.

6 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Thank you, Chairwoman.
7 Good afternoon. I'm gonna dive right into it because
8 we do have a few important updates to cover today.
9 First slide, just a general report and the number of
10 extensions granted for the month of March. There were
11 43 in total, 35 conditional extensions, 2 were 2019 RFA
12 extensions, and 6 were adult-use extensions to operate.

13 The Committee continues to receive
14 extension requests from the 2019 RFA awardees. Out of
15 the 44 of the 2019 RFA awardees, 21 are still waiting
16 to become operational. We are seeing that these
17 awardees are facing external factors, as Director
18 McWhite has mentioned, that are beyond their control
19 such as local permitting delays and construction
20 buildouts.

21 To prevent this -- to prevent them from
22 losing their award due to this operational deadline
23 that was set in the 2019 RFA, the committee is now
24 recommending the board to consider and amend the 2019
25 RFA to remove this operational deadline and amend the

1 2019 RFA final agency decisions accordingly. Next
2 slide.

3 On a similar note, there are about 394
4 adult-use awardees that have yet to request an onsite
5 assessment. As many of you already know, and our Chief
6 Counsel is gonna go over that in more detail, under
7 NJAC 17:30-7.14 F, awardees must request a final onsite
8 assessment within 365 days from the date of the award.

9 Again, they are experiencing similar
10 external factors, facilities are not yet built out or
11 remain under construction, and there are delays within
12 local approvals. The Committee is now recommending to
13 waive this NJAC 17 colon dash -- sorry, 17:30-7.14 F to
14 eliminate the 365-day deadline by which a cannabis
15 business must request a final onsite assessment.

16 This waiver is gonna help cannabis
17 businesses that may be at risk of losing their license
18 due to these delays caused by external factors.

19 And lastly, the committee is gonna be
20 soliciting feedback on the application and licensing
21 processes. The Committee will convene a public hearing
22 this spring, we're hoping -- we're aiming for mid-May,
23 to give the public an opportunity to weigh in on the
24 current licensing process, understand what's working
25 and what can be improved, and hear ideas to make the

1 processes more efficient.

2 We are already on Year 2 of the
3 recreational sales, and this feedback is gonna be
4 crucial for the next step this agency is gonna take to
5 improve the licensing process here in the Garden State.

6 So stay tuned for more details and our
7 social media platforms. And I'll send it back to you,
8 Madam Chair, and feel free to weigh in on any of the
9 updates that I just made.

10 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Del Cid-
11 Kosso. I want to thank you and the Permitting and
12 Licensing Committee for taking my suggestion on the
13 elimination of operational deadlines seriously. It's
14 something that I think would really benefit for -- be a
15 huge relief, not just for our awardees, but also for
16 our operations internally at the Commission.

17 So thank you for entertaining that idea.
18 And I'm really happy that we are here together making
19 this presentation for recommended board action on this
20 to remove this barrier for businesses. Are there any
21 questions from the board regarding the Permitting and
22 Licensing Committee's report?

23 Hearing none, then I will turn it over to
24 the Product Safety Packaging and Labeling Committee for
25 their committee report. Commissioner Nash.

1 COMMR. NASH: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 Good afternoon, everyone. On behalf of the Safety
3 Packaging and Labeling Committee, I want to share some
4 exciting news. The packaging and labeling guide for
5 adult-use cannabis businesses has been developed and is
6 now posted on the Commission's website.

7 This guide provides really important
8 information about the packaging and labeling
9 requirements for cannabis and cannabis products under
10 the CREAMM Act.

11 All licenses -- sorry, all licenses -- all
12 licensees and registrants are required to follow the
13 packaging and labeling rules and to know and understand
14 the rules as found in NJAC 17:30-16.2 through 16.6.
15 This guide covers topics such as sanitation, unusable
16 and usable cannabis, and cannabis products shall be
17 handled on food grade stainless steel tables and in a
18 secured area.

19 To protect public health, employees
20 involved in manufacturing of ingestible products and
21 prior to engaging in the manufacturing process shall
22 undergo food safety training, and that includes causes
23 and preventions of foodborne illnesses and safe food
24 handling practices, including handling of major food
25 allergens, serving sizes, which I'll cover in the next

1 slide, child resistant packaging and containers.

2 As to weight, there is no weight limit on
3 the amount of unusable or usable cannabis that is sold
4 to another cannabis cultivator or a manufacturer. If a
5 cultivator packages usable cannabis flour for sale to a
6 cannabis retailer. That package may contain any
7 increment up to and including one ounce or 28.35 grams.

8 Next slide. Each single serving of
9 cannabis product shall contain no more than 10
10 milligrams of active THC or the equivalent weight as
11 best determined based on THC potency dependent on form,
12 except that each single serving of a beverage shall
13 contain no more than five milligrams of active THC.

14 For edibles, the package shall contain no
15 more than 100 milligrams of active THC. I'm gonna talk
16 about child resistant packaging. And sometimes adult
17 resistant packaging. Child resistant packaging is
18 really important as we know. It is designed or
19 constructed to be significantly difficult for children
20 under five years of age to open, and not difficult for
21 adults to use properly.

22 Packaging must be fully enclosed, opaque,
23 of a single color, and light resistant, and it must be
24 able to be resealed in a child resistant manner unless
25 the package contains a single serving cannabis item.

1 For ingestible products in liquid form
2 with multiple servings, the container must have a
3 resealing cap or closure. All containers must be
4 properly labeled, and this includes any container that
5 holds usable cannabis, as well as any other container
6 used to display a cannabis item for sale.

7 Expiration dates. Labels must include
8 specific product information, including expiration
9 dates, also brand names, class of cannabis information,
10 license holder information, ingredients. And there's a
11 lot more, so definitely check it out.

12 In the next slides, we will cover false,
13 misleading, deceptive labeling, and the universal
14 symbol. Cannabis businesses are not authorized to sell
15 cannabis in a package or with a label that contains any
16 information that is false, misleading, or deceptive.
17 Labels should not contain statements, illustrations,
18 images, cartoons, color schemes, graphics, or features
19 that make it appealing to children, among other things.

20 Cannabis products must be labeled with the
21 new standard -- the New Jersey State THC warning
22 symbol. For convenience, downloadable versions of the
23 symbols and product imprints for both packaging and
24 labeling can be found on the Commission's website.
25 Labels should also display strains and chemotypes and

1 cannabinoid profiles.

2 Chemotypes displaying high THC, low CBD,
3 moderate THC, moderate CBD, low THC, high CBD. So
4 those are just examples. And again, please use it for
5 reference. For lab testing, all products must include
6 a summary of the written report detailing the results
7 of the lab testing and serving sizes. Lab testing
8 reports shall include, but are not limited to potency
9 of all major cannabinoids, a list of major terpenoids
10 detected. Criteria for labeling a single serving and
11 labeling multi serving packages, as you can see here,
12 can be found in the guide.

13 There is much more detailed information in
14 this guide, and we hope that you will find this
15 resource helpful. The packaging labeling guide, as I
16 said, can be found on the Commission's website at
17 nj.gov/cannabis under Business Resources.

18 Madam Chair, I would like to turn it back
19 to you. Thank you.

20 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Nash, and
21 congratulations to you and your committee for getting
22 this across the finish line. I know this is something
23 that you worked hard on for quite some time. So
24 congratulations to the committee on getting that done.

25 Are there any questions from the board

1 regarding the committee's report? Hearing none, we'll
2 move forward.

3 THE SECRETARY: Next item on the agenda is
4 the consideration of rule waivers and advisory notices
5 on regulatory policy.

6 CHAIR: Thank you for this. I will turn
7 it over to Council Riggs for summary remarks.

8 MR. CHRISTOPHER RIGGS: Thank you, Chair
9 Houenou. The first item that will be up will be the
10 waiver of the Adult-Use Regulation that requires an
11 onsite inspection within 365 days of your award.

12 As Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso and Director
13 McWhite explained, there are a lot of external factors
14 that are preventing entities from becoming operational
15 within those 365-day time frame. The waiver is
16 specific to NJAC 17:30-7.14 F and K. F is, a licensed
17 applicant shall have 365 days from the date of the
18 notice of approval to request a final onsite
19 inspection, and K goes on to say the same similar above
20 within 365 days of that notice of approval, the
21 Commission shall decline to issue the license.

22 The waiver has some conditions attached,
23 so what it's gonna do is it's gonna -- it doesn't
24 impede on the health and safety or wellbeing of
25 anybody. There's no public health concerns with this

1 waiver.

2
3 But next slide, please. The terms and
4 conditions include the fact that this only applies to
5 annual awardees. It eliminates the 365-day deadline,
6 but the big important part is that the awardees must
7 stay in communication with their compliance field
8 monitor. And the committee that is recommending this
9 waiver, the Permitting and Licensing Committee, will
10 periodically review the status of the communication of
11 those entities with their field monitor.

12 And if there is a lack of communication, a
13 notice will go out to that entity indicating that you
14 may be subject to having your award rescinded if you do
15 not communicate with the field monitor. So we are
16 gonna hold everybody's feet to the fire, but they are
17 not subject to that 365-day timeframe. And that is
18 really all I have with this waiver.

19 I think it's gonna help the businesses.
20 So the staff is recommending that the board approve
21 this waiver. Thank you.

22 CHAIR: Thank you, Council Riggs. Are
23 there any questions from the board? Hearing none, is
24 there a motion on this matter?

25 COMMR. BARKER: Madam Chair, I move that
we approve the waiver of the regulations.

1 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Second.

2 CHAIR: Right. Moved by Commissioner
3 Barker. Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is
4 there any discussion on this motion?

5 I, for one, I'm very excited that we're
6 gonna be moving forward -- that we are considering this
7 and that there's interest in the board in eliminating
8 this regulatory requirement.

9 To underscore what Councilor Riggs said, I
10 think as we continue to make sure that businesses are
11 staying in touch with their field monitor and, you
12 know, make -- demonstrating efforts to become
13 operational, I think removing this regulatory deadline
14 will be a great help for those businesses. Without
15 waive -- without this waiver, businesses would risk
16 losing their award at a point where they are so close
17 to the finish line already, and really think to take
18 that away from them at that point in time would really
19 be a disservice.

20 So I'm really excited about this item. If
21 there's no further discussion, Mr. Said, can you
22 please call the vote?

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

24 COMMR. BARKER: Aye.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-

1 Kosso?

2

COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

3

THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

4

COMMR. NASH: Yes.

5

6 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is
absent. Chairwoman Houenou?

7

CHAIR: In the spirit of Vice Chair

8 Delgado, I will say enthusiastic yes.

9

THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

10

Next item on the agenda is the
11 consideration of revisions to the 2019 RFA for
12 alternative treatment centers.

13

CHAIR: Councilor Riggs, I will turn it
14 back over to you for remarks.

15

MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair Houenou.
16 This is similar to the AU operational deadlines in the
17 final agency decisions that were issued to dispensaries
18 for the 2019 RFA.

19

They were given operational deadlines to
20 be permitted. They were extended by way of resolution,
21 but still given 18 months to be operational and fully
22 permitted. We are planning, and this is -- this
23 resolution is recommending that we eliminate those
24 operational deadlines for those entities. Those
25 entities will be getting another final agency decision,

1 eliminating that operational deadline from those
2 entities, but similar to the AU awardees and the
3 extension on their operational deadlines, the committee
4 will continue to evaluate the progress and the
5 construction build outs for the 2019 RFA awardees so
6 that they become operational in a timely fashion.

7 Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 CHAIR: Thank you, Councilor Riggs. Are
9 there any questions from the board? Hearing none, is
10 there a motion on this matter?

11 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, I move to
12 adopt this resolution concerning the removal of the
13 operational deadlines for the 2019 medical cultivators
14 and dispensary awardees to become fully permitted.

15 COMMR. NASH: I'll second.

16 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Del Cid-
17 Kosso, seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is there any
18 discussion on this motion?

19 Just as I was very excited for the last
20 one, I'm also very excited that this elimination of the
21 deadlines will apply to our medical operators, you
22 know, businesses that have been waiting for even longer
23 for -- to become operational and start serving our
24 patients. So I'm very excited about this as well.

25 There's no further discussion. Mr. Said,

1 can you please call the vote?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

3 COMMR. BARKER: Aye.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
5 Kosso.

6 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

8 COMMR. NASH: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is
10 absent. Chairwoman Houenou?

11 CHAIR: Another enthusiastic yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

13 Next item on the agenda is the
14 consideration of applications for name changes.

15 CHAIR: Director Brown, I'll turn it over
16 to you to describe the businesses that don't like their
17 names, that wanna change their names.

18 MR. BROWN: We have some name changes.
19 They're on the screen. I'll just note that for
20 businesses that are waiting to be approved or that are
21 seeking a name change, it's really important to note
22 that under our rules, you can only advertise the
23 business and have signage that is according to the
24 approved name of the business.

25 So until you are approved for a name

1 change, you must continue to adhere to those
2 regulations, and if not, you may be subject to an
3 enforcement action. So well, we move these pretty
4 quickly. So you know, once you -- once you apply, the
5 board hears it, approves, and then you're good to go.
6 But before that happens, you got to keep advertising
7 under the approved name.

8 So with that, we have these five name
9 changes. You can see them on the screen. And they're
10 -- they've all done what they need to do, filed with
11 the secretary of state, filed the application with us,
12 and are recommended for approval.

13 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown. Are
14 there any questions from the board?

15 Hearing none, is there a motion on this
16 matter?

17 COMMR. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to
18 approve the applications to change the business name of
19 the Adult-Use License Awardees and Expanded ATCs.

20 COMMR. BARKER: Second.

21 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash,
22 seconded by Commissioner Barker. Is there any
23 discussion on this motion?

24 Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please
25 call the vote?

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

2 COMMR. BARKER: Aye.

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
4 Kosso.

5 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

7 COMMR. NASH: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is
9 absent. Chairwoman Houenou?

10 CHAIR: My vote is yes, and I want to
11 underscore what Director Brown mentioned. If -- for
12 those businesses that are considering name changes,
13 either now or in the future, you must operate under
14 your existing present name that has been permitted or
15 licensed by the Commission.

16 So my vote is yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

18 Next item on the agenda is the
19 consideration of applications for ownership changes.

20 CHAIR: Director Brown, the floor is
21 yours.

22 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
23 have five ownership changes for consideration by the
24 Commission, Anka Field, Blossom Dispensary, Docanna
25 LLC, Natural Selections Dispensary, and Puffin Store.

1 Several of those are adding new owners.
2 One is a transfer of ownership to another entity, and
3 then one is changed to an ownership structure. These
4 have been vetted by our compliance and investigations
5 team against our regulations concerning ownership and
6 limitations. Where necessary, the individuals or
7 entities have undergone financial probity, individual's
8 criminal history background checks, and all five of
9 them are recommended for approval.

10 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
11 questions from the board regarding these applications
12 for ownership change?

13 Hearing none, is there a motion on this
14 matter?

15 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, I move to
16 consider the approval of the request for transfers of
17 ownership.

18 CHAIR: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso moves
19 to approve the transfers of ownership. Is there a
20 second?

21 COMMR. NASH: Second.

22 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash.

23 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this
24 motion to approve the transfers of ownership?

25 COMMR. BARKER: Brief discussion, Madam

1 Chair.

2

CHAIR: Yes, Commissioner Barker.

3

COMMR. BARKER: I just wanna ask the
4 industry to please -- please refrain from predatory
5 practices. It is very hard, especially as a regulator
6 in this new industry. You're trying to balance the
7 interests of individuals who are private actors and
8 entering into private contracts, and so you wanna give
9 them the autonomy and trust that they understand what
10 they're doing.

11 But from what we know from policy and
12 history, everybody doesn't fully understand that
13 sometimes people are taken advantage of. And so I just
14 want to really stress, it was very hard going through
15 these, and in trying to really understand whether
16 somebody understood the terms of the deal. So I'm
17 asking the industry and putting that clarion call out
18 on both sides.

19 If you are an applicant, please, if you
20 can, try to get somebody to review your contract. I
21 know everybody cannot afford an attorney, but please,
22 if there's somebody that you know -- if there are
23 operators and people who have gone through the process,
24 please lend a hand to those that are coming up behind
25 you.

1 And investors, as Director McWhite said,
2 we really want you in this industry. We think New
3 Jersey is prime, but we want you to be fair and set --
4 and set the right bar. Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll
5 leave it there.

6 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Barker.
7 Is there any further discussion on this motion?

8 Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Said,
9 can you please call the vote?

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

11 COMMR. BARKER: Abstain.

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
13 Kosso.

14 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

16 COMMR. NASH: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is
18 absent. Chairwoman Houenou.

19 CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

21 Next item for consideration is the Adult-
22 Use Cannabis Business Conditional License Applications.

23 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Brown, I'll
24 turn it over to you to provide some remarks on the AU -
25 - sorry, the Adult-Use License applications received.

1 MR. BROWN: Absolutely. Thank you,
2 Chairwoman Houenou. So I'm gonna cover the overall
3 licensure process as I normally do, and then we'll go
4 through the different cohorts.

5 So when we receive an application, they're
6 assigned a priority based on what the business
7 qualifies for, social equity, diversely owned, impact
8 zone, bonus points, or just general applicants, also
9 micro businesses, or annual -- or standard, rather.

10 That priority is verified, applications
11 and -- applications are moved through the process
12 according to that priority and the time that they're
13 submitted. They're assessed for completeness.
14 Applications that are complete are moved forward to
15 scoring. Then the applications are scored in
16 accordance with our regs and the notice of application
17 acceptance. Applications that score sufficiently high
18 to move forward, move forward.

19 There's a financial source management
20 review that takes place with all applications
21 initially, and then for annuals and conversions,
22 there's a full qualification vetting that goes on,
23 which includes criminal history background checks,
24 financial probity, review of any agreements that are
25 submitted with the application.

1 We -- staff undertake quality control to
2 make sure nothing's been missed, make sure they meet
3 all the regulatory requirements, and then they're
4 recommended to the board for approval.

5 So the first set of applications up for
6 approval are 17 conditional licenses listed here. I
7 will note as we go into this, originally there were two
8 planned resolutions, because Vice Chair Delgado is
9 recused from one application SVA Services -- SVA NJ
10 Services, LLLC. Since Vice Chair Delgado is not
11 present, we are gonna do all 17 applications together.

12 So you can see the list of applications
13 here. It is also listed on our website. So all 17 of
14 these conditional applications have gone through that
15 process and are recommended for approval by the CRC
16 Board.

17 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown. Are
18 there any questions from the board regarding the
19 conditional license applications presented?

20 And I just wanted to know -- or expand on
21 what Director Brown mentioned regarding Vice Chair
22 Delgado's recusal. He did not receive any application
23 materials related to Application Number 1967 for SVA NJ
24 Services LLC.

25 If there are no questions from the board,

1 is there a motion on this matter?

2 COMMR. BARKER: Madam Chair, I move that
3 we approve the conditionals up for recommendation.

4 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Barker.

5 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Second.

6 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-
7 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion?

8 Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please
9 call the vote?

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

11 COMMR. BARKER: Aye.

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
13 Kosso.

14 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

16 COMMR. NASH: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is
18 absent. Chairwoman Houenou?

19 CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

21 Next item up for consideration is the
22 Adult-Use Cannabis Business Conditional License
23 Application Denials.

24 CHAIR: Director Brown.

25 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Chairwoman.

1 Unfortunately we do have some denials previously
2 awarded conditional licenses. Similar to previous
3 recommended denials, these are applications who've been
4 awarded and then have not paid the fee following award.
5 They've been noticed several times, and all of them
6 have failed to pay after those notices, and therefore
7 they are recommended for denial here.

8 There's six conditional applications that
9 are recommended for denial. If the board does deny
10 them, they can reapply when they're ready to pay those
11 fees, but unfortunately, they've been unable to do so,
12 so far, and have received several notices and therefore
13 are recommended for denial.

14 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
15 questions from the board?

16 Hearing none, is there a motion on this
17 matter?

18 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, I move to
19 adopt this resolution concerning the denial of Class 1,
20 Class 2, and Class 5 conditional licenses.

21 CHAIR: Is there a second?

22 COMMR. NASH: Second.

23 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is
24 there any discussion on this motion?

25 Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please

1 call the vote?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

3 COMMR. BARKER: Abstain.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
5 Kosso.

6 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

8 COMMR. NASH: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is
10 absent. Chairwoman Houenou?

11 CHAIR: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

13 Next item up for consideration is the
14 Adult-Use Cannabis Business Conversion License
15 Applications.

16 CHAIR: Director Brown, the floor is
17 yours.

18 MR. BROWN: Thank you. The board has 15
19 conditional to annual conversion licenses for its
20 consideration today. They fought -- went through the
21 full process as I outlined before, and are all
22 recommended for approval. And there's a list of those
23 applicants on the next slide. That list is also
24 available on our website.

25 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any

1 questions from the board regarding these applications?

2 Hearing none, is there a motion on this matter?

3 COMMR. BARKER: Madam Chair, I move that
4 we approve the conditionals being recommended to
5 convert to annuals.

6 CHAIR: Is there a second?

7 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Second. Seconded by
8 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion on
9 this motion?

10 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you
11 please call the vote?

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

13 COMMR. BARKER: Aye.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
15 Kosso.

16 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

18 COMMR. NASH: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is
20 absent. Chairwoman Houenou.

21 CHAIR: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

23 Next item up for consideration is the
24 Adult-Use Cannabis Business Annual License
25 applications.

1 CHAIR: Director Brown, the floor is
2 yours.

3 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Chairwoman Houenou.
4 We have four annual license applications under
5 consideration by the board of commissioners today.

6 They all went through the process as I
7 outlined at the beginning of this -- this portion of
8 the board meeting, and are all recommended for
9 approval.

10 CHAIR: Thank you. Any questions from the
11 board regarding these annual license applications?
12 Hearing none, is there a motion on this matter?

13 COMMR. NASH: So moved.

14 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash to
15 approve the --

16 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Second.

17 CHAIR: -- annual license applications,
18 seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

19 Is there any discussion on this motion?
20 Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

22 COMMR. BARKER: Aye.

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
24 Kosso.

25 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

2 COMMR. NASH: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is
4 absent. Chairwoman Houenou.

5 CHAIR: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

7 (Applause)

8 Next item up for consideration are the
9 expanded ATC certifications.

10 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Brown, I will
11 turn the floor over to you to describe the applications
12 -- or sorry, the certifications for medical businesses
13 to expand into the adult-use market.

14 MR. BROWN: Thank you. There are three
15 alternative treatment centers that are certifying to
16 expand to add adult-use retail sales.

17 Theo A. Cannabis LLC for a Class 5
18 retailer, HillviewMed Incorporated, which is a Class --
19 for a Class 1 cultivator, and then Green Medicine NJ
20 LLC for a Class 1 cultivator.

21 All of -- per the statute and per our
22 rules, they have to certify that they have adequate
23 supply to both continue to serve the medical market and
24 add additional adult-use consumers.

25 They have to certify that they have the

1 practices in place to both manage patient population
2 and new retail adult-use sales, as well as municipal
3 approval for adult-use sales where they operate. All
4 of these have met those certification requirements and
5 are recommended for approval.

6 CHAIR: Thank you. So I believe we'll go
7 through these one by one. All right. So starting --
8 well, before we go by -- go one by one, is there any --
9 are there any questions from the board regarding the
10 alternative treatment center certifications received?

11 Hearing none, is there -- we'll start with
12 Theo A. Cannabis LLC. Is there a motion related to
13 Theo A. Cannabis LLC?

14 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, I move to
15 adopt this resolution concerning the acceptance of
16 certification for ATC Theo Cannabis LLC to expand
17 operations to the adult personal use cannabis market.

18 CHAIR: Is there a second?

19 COMMR. NASH: Second.

20 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this
21 motion? Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please call
22 the vote as it pertains to Theo A. Cannabis LLC?

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

24 COMMR. BARKER: Abstain.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-

1 Kosso.

2

3 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

5 COMMR. NASH: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is
6 absent. Chairwoman Houenou.

7 CHAIR: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

9 CHAIR: Next we will consider HillviewMed
10 Incorporated. Is there a motion related to HillviewMed
11 Incorporated?

12 COMMR. NASH: So moved.

13 CHAIR: Commissioner Nash moves to accept
14 certification to expand into the adult-use market. Is
15 there a second?

16 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Second.

17 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-
18 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion?

19 Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please
20 call the vote?

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

22 COMMR. BARKER: Abstaining.

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
24 Kosso.

25 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

2 COMMR. NASH: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is
4 absent. Chairwoman Houenou.

5 CHAIR: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

7 CHAIR: And then finally, we will consider
8 Green Medicine NJ LLC. Is there a motion related to
9 Green Medicine NJ LLC?

10 Last call for a motion related to Green
11 Medicine NJ LLC.

12 COMMR. NASH: So moved.

13 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Second.

14 CHAIR: Commissioner Nash moves to accept
15 the certification to expand into the AU -- adult-use
16 market, and seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is
17 there any discussion on this motion?

18 Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please
19 call the vote?

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

21 COMMR. BARKER: Abstaining.

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
23 Kosso.

24 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

1 COMMR. NASH: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is
3 absent. Chairwoman Houenou.

4 CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

6 Next item up for consideration is the
7 Adult-Use Cannabis Business Annual License Renewal
8 Applications.

9 CHAIR: Director Brown, the floor is
10 yours.

11 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. So
12 there are nine licenses up for renewal. I believe
13 nine, if I'm counting right. A couple of these
14 entities are up for their second renewal, Ascend New
15 Jersey LLC, and Ayr Wellness New Jersey LLC.

16 And then there are four up for renewal
17 after their first year of operations in the adult-use
18 market, Earth & Ivy, Nova Farms Woodbury, MPX New
19 Jersey, Union -- and Union Chill Cannabis Company. I
20 do wanna recognize Earth & Ivy, Nova Farms and Union
21 Chill. These are our first standalone AU Class 5
22 retailers that are up for renewal.

23 So they've been operational for a year --
24 or coming up on a year and are up for renewal. So all
25 these entities have submitted renewal applications.

1 They're all in compliance with our regs and statute,
2 and are recommended for renewal today.

3 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
4 questions from the board regarding these renewal
5 applications?

6 Is there a motion on this matter? And
7 I'll note that these are all presented -- unlike in the
8 past where the board has considered these annual
9 license renewal applications one by one, they're now
10 presently presented to us in -- as all at once.

11 Is there a motion on this matter?

12 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: I move to adopt the
13 resolution concerning the renewal of adult-use cannabis
14 business licenses and expanded ATCs.

15 COMMR. NASH: Second.

16 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this
17 motion to adopt the resolution?

18 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you
19 please call the vote?

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

21 COMMR. BARKER: Abstaining.

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
23 Kosso.

24 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

1 COMMR. NASH: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado is
3 absent. Chairwoman Houenou.

4 CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

6 Next item on the agenda, we have notices
7 of enforcement actions.

8 CHAIR: Thank you. So I will turn it over
9 to Director Brown, all right, Director Brown, for
10 summary remarks on this particular Notice of violation
11 that was issued.

12 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Chairwoman Houenou.
13 So unfortunately, we do have a notice of violation for
14 the board to consider today.

15 I've said before, the goal is compliance
16 here, and we always like to maintain a compliant
17 industry. So when we have to bring these before the
18 board, it's never a pleasurable thing. But we do have
19 one for URB'N Dispensary. They failed to secure their
20 storage area, which is a requirement under our
21 regulations.

22 They were given a verbal warning, they
23 were given a written warning to correct, and then
24 finally after those measures, we followed up with a
25 notice of violation. I can tell you that it's the

1 estimation of our Office of Compliance that they've
2 corrected this following the NOV, and that as of right
3 now we're not recommending any further enforcement
4 action.

5 Now if this remains, if we find that this
6 is a problem again, that recommendation will change and
7 we'll be bringing a further notice of violation to the
8 board for consideration. But as of right now, our
9 recommendation is that this issue has been addressed
10 and will hopefully continue to be addressed and won't
11 be a problem in the future.

12 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown. Are
13 there any questions from the board regarding the
14 information presented?

15 Hearing no questions, is there a motion on
16 this matter? Last call. Is there a motion on this
17 matter?

18 I will make a motion. I will move to
19 close this -- I move that we close this matter without
20 imposition of a monetary penalty. However I do wanna
21 note that according to staff's investigations, this
22 entity has been warned not once, not twice, but now
23 three times for their actions.

24 And so I am unlikely to be so inclined to
25 not impose a penalty should this come up again.

1 However given the mitigating circumstances here, the
2 fact that this business has been cooperative by all
3 accounts with rectifying the issue, there has been no
4 impact to the public health or safety as a result of
5 the behavior, and that the -- there have been no
6 further issues since the business has corrected --
7 corrected the noncompliance, I'm supportive of not --
8 of closing this out to impose no penalty with a strong
9 caveat that I will unlikely be -- unlikely to be so
10 inclined should this come up again. So that is my
11 motion.

12 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: I second that.

13 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-
14 Kosso.

15 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this
16 motion to close the matter related to NOV Number 4524
17 with no penalty imposed?

18 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you
19 please call the vote?

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

21 COMMR. BARKER: Nay.

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
23 Kosso.

24 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

1 registered speakers. When it is your turn to speak,
2 please come up to the microphone. There is a single
3 button that says "push". You'll push that button until
4 you see the green light appear on the microphone, and
5 then you may begin. To ensure that the meeting minutes
6 are accurate, please state your name very clearly
7 before you dive into your comments.

8 With that, Mr. Said, can you please call
9 upon our first speakers?

10 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Chairwoman. As
11 a reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's
12 public comment period will be limited to three minutes.
13 Please be respectful and concise during your comments.

14 The first person up on the list is Abigail
15 Kalmbach.

16 MS. ABIGAIL KALMBACH: Hi, my name is
17 Abigail Kalmbach. I'm speaking again in front of you
18 guys. I am coming to you as a license holder whose
19 conditional license has been -- has expired because we
20 couldn't find a municipality to house it, and I'm also
21 coming to you as a scientist and a member of the -- and
22 a patient in the -- in the med program.

23 I think one of the reasons it was
24 interesting to see -- hear Director White's report
25 earlier where he was stating that there's some external

1 factors that are limiting people's abilities to get
2 into the market, and one of those external factors is
3 of course the number of municipalities that have opted
4 out.

5 And I know that several municipalities who
6 have opted out cited as one of the reasons for opting
7 out is that there's lack of educational material
8 provided by the CRC or the State of New Jersey to just
9 -- to give the -- the government officials in those
10 towns, some sort of feeling of reassurance that
11 cannabis is not the drug of the past that -- and has
12 beneficial aspects to it. So I really urge the
13 Commission to provide educational materials on your
14 website.

15 There are a number of different states
16 that have educational materials to the public, and it
17 would be really reassuring to -- like Massachusetts,
18 Colorado, Oregon has -- and I'm sure we could get them
19 to lend us some of their materials.

20 I also am -- it would also speak to the --
21 to prove the CRC needs to provide education materials
22 and also get institutional access for the Jack Koenig
23 (ph) law, and that hasn't been implemented at all.

24 Secondly, I wanna shift from that to the
25 batch sizes that we have. Thank you, Commissioner

1 Barker, to -- I can (inaudible) the baby's fine. I've
2 got a couple. Oh, sorry, buddy. Thank you,
3 Commissioner Barker for speaking up last month at the
4 meeting and trying to push forward the -- changing the
5 batch sizes.

6 I really urge you guys to consider that
7 further. The cost of batch sizes to the companies, if
8 you assume a failure rate of 8 to 9 percent, is
9 actually very low if you consider what would happen to
10 the cost of destroying a 50 or 100-pound batch if it
11 fails. So either the batch sizes -- right now the
12 batch sizes are far too large to have a representative
13 sample to be tested, and people don't have that
14 reassurance then when they go to the reg -- go into the
15 regulated market that you're gonna have a product that
16 has tested clean. I'll provide a link to this study in
17 my written statements. Thank you.

18 THE SECRETARY: Next up on the list is
19 Michael Wiehl.

20 MR. MICHAEL WIEHL: Good morning,
21 Commission. My name's Michael Wiehl, better known as
22 the dispensary guy online, and I run a weekly live
23 stream in cannabis. And I wanted to talk about some
24 issues I find in the State of New Jersey and the
25 cannabis market.

1 First off, I wanted to inquire about how
2 we -- if the notice of violations from 7 to 44 are
3 available to the public, and if there's a way to access
4 that information in transparency towards other
5 dispensaries and what may have been done wrong and how
6 they cannot make the same mistakes that other
7 dispensaries have made before them.

8 Also I'd like to talk about badging.
9 Individuals towards -- dispensaries being badged
10 towards individual dispensaries. If there's an
11 individual that works for, say, a security company,
12 just as an example, that works for X, he can't go cover
13 Dispensary Z without a separate badge. So there's one
14 -- just for instance, I know of two employees at a
15 security company that have been fingerprinted six
16 individual times.

17 That's 12 individual fingerprints for them
18 to work at six different dispensaries, and the business
19 owner has to pay that cost every single time. So I
20 just wanted to look in that. Also while we're talking
21 about that, I wanted to talk about the -- the sizing on
22 the concentrations that you're doing with the infused
23 that's coming out of the market.

24 I think it's ridiculous that infused Ace
25 are going for 24.5 grams off of an allotment of one

1 ounce. That's a 24 and a half thing plus one ounce and
2 the patient has to leave. At that point in time,
3 you're kind of forcing an adult-use patient or anything
4 to leave, turn around and walk back into the
5 establishment.

6 You're setting precedent for bad things to
7 happen in this -- in this industry by limiting it to
8 one ounce. If you're gonna continue to put infused in
9 that high of a category, a 7-gram allotment for a 1
10 gram infused edible or a 1-gram pre-roll is ridiculous.
11 1 gram's 1 gram, three and a half is three and a half.
12 That's it as far as I'm concerned with that.

13 Batch size testing, obviously that needs
14 to be addressed. The medical program is failing
15 miserably on a daily basis by -- it's down another
16 2,500, 3,500 patients since last month. It's looking
17 like, by my estimations in 26 months, when we're
18 celebrating a five-year anniversary of the CRC, there
19 will be no medical patients left.

20 Hill -- I don't wanna name. Two manufacturers just
21 left the medical only to stretch their legs in the
22 adult-use market. I see no reason for a cultivator to
23 come online in the New Jersey market medical only. I
24 can't remember the last time I saw an application come
25 across as just a medical only cultivator.

1 There's no reason for anybody to join the
2 medical program right now. I don't see anything
3 changing, and unless drastic changes happen, that's not
4 gonna happen. I've also seen medical -- transfers from
5 applications, like the transfer from medical to adult-
6 use as little as one day. So I don't know what's going
7 on with that.

8 Everything else -- so there's no reason
9 for anybody to come into the medical market as a
10 medical only. And also the market saturation, I know
11 you guys can't control it where businesses are a thing,
12 but the actual physical of a dispensary opening in
13 another dispensary's parking lot and things like that,
14 it just needs to be looked at just in general as
15 licenses are being issued across the board.

16 Thank you so much for your help. And you
17 guys are doing a great job. I do wanna say thank you.

18 THE SECRETARY: Next up on the list is
19 Margarita Tsalyuk. All right. I don't see that
20 person. Next is Deanna Robinson. Okay. Next is Dr.
21 Felicia Stoler.

22 DR. FELICIA STOLER: Okay. All right.
23 Hey, I'm Dr. Felicia Stoler. I am the president of
24 Blue Dream Cannabis, and I'm happy to be here to
25 address your group because I also sit on the licensing

1 board for the State of New Jersey, so I appreciate the
2 hard work that goes into taking legislation and putting
3 it into a regulated business.

4 The committee that I sit on is still
5 working through, the Dietician and Nutritionist
6 Licensing Board, so I know how hard it is. So I
7 actually am coming here as somebody who is very
8 frustrated with the process. That I have applied for a
9 -- for a micro license, and I wanted to take advantage
10 of a time period when it was open for women and
11 minority business enterprises at the end of December,
12 and I was having a lot of questions about the
13 application process.

14 Now mind you, I like to consider myself a
15 pretty computer savvy person. I think I can read and
16 understand what was written on the CRC website, and
17 then when I went into the portal, I found it very
18 challenging. I was challenged with trying to get
19 answers to questions in advance, so that if I - or when
20 I wanted to apply, I wanted to make sure that all my
21 paperwork was intact, that everything that was required
22 was taken care of properly.

23 And in fact, I was unable to get any
24 answers to my questions in a timely manner. So after
25 an e-mail and a voicemail, I then decided, well, I

1 might as well just apply because within a week or two,
2 I haven't gotten answers to my questions. And
3 unfortunately, the only way for me to learn how to do
4 this was to apply and to get a cure letter.

5 I'm on my third or fourth round of cure
6 letters trying to get through a process. To me, this
7 doesn't feel like a user-friendly experience. And I
8 know from having met some people recently down at MJ
9 Unpacked, I'm -- and listening to you today, I'm aware
10 that there is change coming, but I also recognize that
11 sometimes when we all do something and it seems really
12 user friendly to us, maybe it's not user friendly to
13 other people.

14 And I appreciate all the data that was
15 presented today about the applications, and some of
16 which I would challenge you going forward as you make
17 improvements is to look at how many e-mails you get,
18 how many phone calls you get, what is the time period
19 in which you're responding to those, and how many times
20 are people repeatedly asking questions.

21 So those were just some items that I
22 personally wanted to address that, you know, I find
23 frustrating. I would love to see this industry change,
24 and I actually advocate as a healthcare professional
25 for the industry and, you know, would love to see it --

1 a little bit of an easier process for everybody
2 involved. Thank you.

3 THE SECRETARY: Next person on the list is
4 Carlos Almanzar.

5 MR. CARLOS ALMANZAR: Carlos Almanzar. I
6 am here today because 420 is down the street.
7 Unfortunately, my family, we're going through a
8 situation and I cannot apply to you guys since I fixed
9 the problem in my hometown. Now I saw 420 as an
10 opportunity where I could do something good for my
11 community. Now I applied to throw a concert in my
12 hometown where all the proceeds was gonna be donated to
13 the kids and eight families that are in need that are
14 losing their home.

15 So I did a presale online and we sold
16 1,283 tickets. That's almost \$100,000. I was like,
17 oh, wow, this is just a presale. So I went to the town
18 to apply for this concert.

19 My main concern is I live in the hood. I
20 see what's going on with the fentanyl, the mix with the
21 cannabis and everything. So they were all, you cannot
22 do this because how can you control that? Fine. So I
23 went to a lot of dispensaries and I asked, hey, can I -
24 - but I -- you gotta get approved.

25 So as we turn in three, I wanted you guys

1 to look into a one-day licenses, like the one-day
2 liquor license that they do for events. Because, you
3 know, everybody that's throwing these events, they can
4 lose their career if they get caught. So we should
5 look into that because \$125,000, guys, in one day of
6 presale, and that all that was gonna be donated to the
7 kids.

8 But unfortunately the town can't see, and
9 you know, I don't wanna break the law because
10 everything that I do is under the microscope right now
11 since everything that my family's going through. So I
12 would like, you know, look into that, guys. A one-day
13 license made for next year. I would like to make that
14 donation because if -- that amount was so fast. I know
15 what I could do if it really happened the right way.

16 Wait, I want every cannabis come out of a
17 dispensary, so like that is cannibal and we know that
18 it's clean, that we're not putting nothing that is
19 gonna harm somebody. So that's that.

20 And my other thing too is you guys are
21 doing a great job, but you guys need to start visiting
22 some of these dispensaries. These guys back here, the
23 dispensary guy, he goes through a lot. You know, I
24 respect them.

25 But we gotta see who they hiring. It's

1 crazy to me that a corporate store is hiring more local
2 than a local store, you know. So I think you should
3 look into that because that's the main thing. If we're
4 not helping our community and we bring in the outsiders
5 just so they could push more product, then for what?
6 It's not how it's supposed to be.

7 So it'd be nice if we see more local
8 people getting hired. You know, that's what my
9 dispensary was gonna be. So far I haven't seen no
10 other dispensary like mine with a learning center
11 inside a dispensary. So we need to push that because
12 it's not all about the money, guys. Thank you.

13 THE SECRETARY: Next person on the list is
14 David Feder. All
15 right. Next on the list is Jeff Allman. I don't see
16 that person. Next on the list is Dr. Alyza Brevard-
17 Rodriguez.

18 DR. ALYZA BREVARD-RODRIGUEZ: Am I good?
19 All right. Good afternoon. It's Dr. Alyza Brevard-
20 Rodriguez. Hello, Commission. I advised that I would
21 come back this month with my investors, and I did.
22 Many of them here. Feel free to raise your hand. But
23 the universe found it fit for me to bring you my
24 greatest investor to date. He was due on April 24th,
25 but he decided to come an entire month early because

1 I'm pretty sure he wanted to be here with me today.

2 So this cannabis licensing process and
3 having a newborn is next level unlocked, but with much
4 more sleep, last month I shared my story, experience in
5 this process, and unfortunately, a lot of the money
6 that's been wasted. I thought about staying home
7 today, but my commitment to evidence-informed
8 perspectives and the arrival of my son and my kid's
9 legacy overall, I wanted to continue to make it make
10 more sense.

11 If not for the Commission, then for the
12 people who are at home watching who desire a healthy
13 and equitable industry, but have yet to activate. As
14 you know, many of us in minor -- that are minority
15 operators do not come from wealth, and we will
16 represent the first generation of wealth in our
17 families. In my case, my children will hopefully be
18 second, but there's still quite a ways behind.

19 You see, the Rockefellers have seven
20 generations of wealth and over 170 heirs with their
21 wealth acquired from the oil boom, just like here with
22 the green rush. Their net worth is now over \$15
23 billion. America's first oil well was drilled in
24 Titusville, Pennsylvania in 1863, where Rockefeller and
25 a few of his partners entered this booming new

1 industry, similar here to what we see with cannabis.

2 He invested in the Cleveland refinery, but
3 here with my investors, they have all been
4 intentionally selected from disenfranchised minority
5 communities.

6 Within a short time, Rockefeller gained
7 more shares of his company and he formed the standard
8 oil company of Ohio, which today is that family's
9 primary source of wealth.

10 They really don't even have that many
11 other businesses. Most of it is just philanthropy and
12 oil. I hope this proves why your systems and process
13 are critical historically more than ever before. I see
14 many of the recommendations that I made implemented
15 here, and that makes me so happy and so proud to have
16 decided to do business here in New Jersey in an
17 industry that many have hesitation to enter.

18 Nonetheless, I appreciate you all, and I
19 thank you for awarding today, The Other Side
20 Dispensary, a minority, women owned, disabled veteran
21 business. Director Wesley, you can change it now.
22 Thank you so much for your time. I was gonna add
23 LGBTQ, but you got a lot on your plate.

24 THE SECRETARY: Next person on the list is
25 Charlana McKeithen. Next on the list is Mariam Kure.

1 I don't see those people. Next on the list is Amina
2 Kure. Next on the list is Damon Hanchell. Next on the
3 list is Shatan. Next on the list is Hugh Giordano.
4 Okay. Next on the list is Xavian Jackson. Next on the
5 list is Samuel Reichbart.

6 All right. I'm gonna go over the names
7 again that I called that didn't show up. Charlana
8 McKeithen. Miriam Kure. Amina Kure. Damon Hanchell.
9 Shatan. Hugh Giordano. Xavian Jackson. And Samuel
10 Reichbart.

11 Chairwoman Houenou, this will conclude the
12 registered speakers we have for today's public meeting.

13 CHAIR: Thank you. And thank you to
14 everyone who spoke and shared their experiences with
15 the Commission today.

16 Again, if anybody needs to -- would like
17 to submit written comments to the Commission, the
18 deadline for doing so is 5 o'clock tomorrow, Friday,
19 April 12th.

20 This concludes the business that we have
21 before us today. Is there any new business for the
22 board to consider?

23 Hearing none, is there a motion to
24 adjourn?

25 COMMR. NASH: Motion to adjourn.

1 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Second.

2 CHAIR: Commissioner Nash moves to
3 adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is
4 there any discussion on this motion to adjourn?

5 Hearing none, all those in favor say aye.

6 COMMR. CID-KOSSO: Aye.

7 COMMR. BARKER: Aye.

8 COMMR. NASH: Aye.

9 CHAIR: Aye. All those opposed say nay.
10 Any abstentions? All right. Motion passes.

11 Time is 1:57, and we are adjourned Thank
12 you everyone.

13 (Meeting concluded)

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes represent a true and complete summary of the public meeting held by the Cannabis Regulatory Commission on **April 11, 2024**.



Daniel Said

Christopher Riggs
Chief Counsel

Daniel Said
Board Secretary

Date: 5/15/2024

Date: 5/15/2024