



State of New Jersey
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

1 NEW JERSEY CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION
2 PUBLIC MEETING
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4 VIDEO RECORDING

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8 Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024

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1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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3 DIANA HOUENOU, Chairwoman

4 SAM DELGADO, Vice Chair

5 MARIA DEL-CID-KOSSO

6 KRISTA NASH

7 CHARLES BARKER

8 JEFF BROWN

9 CHRISTOHER RIGGS

10 WESLEY MCWHITE

11 DANIEL SAID, Secretary

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1 CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. Thank you
2 for joining us, the time is 11:04, and I call this
3 meeting to order. Mr. Saeed (ph) can you please read
4 the notice of the public meeting.

5 THE SECRETARY: Good morning, Chairwoman.
6 This is a regularly scheduled meeting of the New Jersey
7 Cannabis Regulatory Commission's 2024 annual meeting
8 schedule. Adequate notice of this meeting has been
9 provided in accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer
10 Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was
11 provided to the Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record,
12 Courier Post, Star Ledger, and the Trenton Times on
13 December 12th, 2023. The agenda and information
14 regarding the in-person meeting and the ability to live
15 stream was also posted on the CRC website. The meeting
16 time and location has also been posted on the website
17 of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission and
18 with the Office of the Secretary of the State.

19 VICE CHAIR: Present.

20 THE SECRETARY: Legal Matters and
21 litigation updates; these are discussions that are not
22 shared with the public. We believe the executive
23 session should take about 45 minutes.

24 CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Saeed. Is
25 there a motion for us to go (inaudible) session?

1 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman I
1 (inaudible).

3 CHAIR: Is there a second?

4 MR. CHARLES BARKER: Second, Madam Chair.

5 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there any
6 discussion on this motion to go to executive session?

7 Hearing none all those in favor for going into the
8 executive session, say aye?

9 MR. BARKER: Aye.

10 MS. MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

11 CHAIR: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso, did
12 you cast a vote?

13 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

14 CHAIR: Okay, great. Thanks. All those
15 opposed say nay. Are there any abstentions? All
16 right, motion passes. As Mr. Saeed mentioned, we will
17 go -- we expect the executive session to last
18 approximately 45 minutes. For any staff that do remain
19 in the room they will not be able to answer any
20 questions about items that are on the agenda for
21 today's consideration. We can expect the public
22 session to resume at 11:00 -- actually, we'll go 12
23 o'clock even, make it easy for everybody, right? Thank
24 you. Good afternoon, time is 12:01 and we will resume
25 the public portion of this meeting. Mr. Saeed, can you

1 please announce the next agenda item?

2 THE SECRETARY: Next up on the agenda is
3 approving the minutes of both the commission's open and
4 executive sessions held on April 11th and the executive
5 session minutes from March 13th. The minutes have been
6 shared with the members of the commissions prior to
7 this meeting.

8 CHAIR: Thank you. If there are no
9 further changes or questions to the -- regarding the,
10 the minutes for both the March 13th and April 11th
11 meeting, I will ask for a motion to adopt the meeting
12 minutes.

13 MS. KRISTA NASH: Motion to approve the
14 exec session and regular meeting minutes.

15 MR. BARKER: Second.

16 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Barker,
17 thank you. Is there any discussion on this motion to
18 approve the meeting minutes? Hearing none, all those
19 in favor of approving the meeting minutes say aye.

20 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

21 CHAIR: Aye.

22 MR. BARKER: Aye.

23 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

24 MS. NASH: Aye.

25 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay. Any

1 abstentions? Motion passes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Next item on the agenda is
3 the Chair's report.

4 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Saeed. I want to
5 start my Chair's report today with just a few quick
6 updates on some of the 2024 priorities I announced back
7 in February. So one of the priorities outlined was
8 adopting statutorily required annual reports and I'm
9 happy to say that we'll be acting on some of the
10 medical annual reports later today. The commission's
11 review of -- I'm sorry. Commissioning a review of the
12 agency as required by law that is in progress; initial
13 outreach to eligible institutions to conduct a study of
14 the agency has been completed, thank you Vice-chair
15 Delgado for spearheading that.

16 Soliciting industry feedback to improve
17 licensing and permitting processes; the permitting and
18 licensing committee will soon be giving a committee
19 report to share updates on that item today, and we have
20 established an ad-hoc committee to review and recommend
21 changes or updates to the commission's bylaws, and so I
22 thank Vice-chair Delgado and Commissioner Nash for
23 stepping up to serve on that ad-hoc committee.

24 Lastly I want to acknowledge that this is
25 the last public board meeting for Executive Director

1 Jeff Brown as he moves on to bigger and better things,
2 I must say that the cannabis market would not be what
3 it is today without Jeff's work in public and behind
4 the scenes. Director Brown and I hold what may be the
5 two most unenviable positions in this agency. You
6 know, the duties and responsibilities of the Executive
7 Director sometimes make the role a thankless job,
8 nevertheless, Director Brown has sought to make every
9 decision one that he believed was in the best interest
10 of the agency and the industry.

11 Even before the commission came into
12 existence in April 2021, Jeff spent many days and
13 nights I'm sure, planning and preparing for what the
14 agency, the medicinal cannabis market and the adult use
15 cannabis market should look like. Immediately in the
16 early days of the commission's life Jeff and I agreed
17 on probably 98 percent of things, and I do believe that
18 that alignment -- that strong alignment allowed us to
19 launch this new state agency with tremendous strength
20 and vision. From day one, Jeff was supportive of
21 ensuring that the commission embraced equity, diversity
22 and inclusion both in creating the cannabis industry
23 and within the agency itself. I know Jeff cares deeply
24 about and takes great pride in his work, and I think
25 the results of his labors speak for themselves; 53

1 dispensaries serving medicinal patients.

2 Free patient registration in the medicinal
3 cannabis program. Opening the adult use cannabis
4 market before anyone thought it would happen and a
5 projected one billion dollars in cannabis sales this
6 year alone. The sacrifices Jeff made are evident, and
7 the commission will continue to build on the work he
8 has done over the last six years. Thank you, Jeff for
9 the dedication, the blood, sweat and tears that you
10 poured into this work. Without a doubt, the commission
11 and indeed the industry at large wouldn't be what it is
12 today without you. We wish you well as you start the
13 next chapter of you career and take on new challenges.
14 And upon Director Brown's departure, our Deputy
15 Executive Director Christopher Riggs will serve as
16 acting Director -- I'm sorry, acting Executive
17 Director. I'm excited to see Deputy Riggs step into
18 this role, and not just because I don't want to be the
19 only one in an unenviable position, but congratulations
20 to you as well Deputy Riggs, and I'm sure you will
21 bring much more success to this agency in your new
22 role. Now I want to open the floor for any other
23 commissioners to share a few words regarding our
24 Executive Director's departure.

25 MR. BARKER: Very brief. Very brief. I

1 just want to say thank you, Jeff, God bless you and
2 your family and best wishes going forward man, thank
3 you.

4 MS. NASH: Madam Chair?

5 CHAIR: Yes, Commissioner Nash.

6 MS. NASH: Thank you. You are one of the
7 most knowledgeable people about Cannabis and we were so
8 fortunate to have you head up this agency. We couldn't
9 have done it without you so thank you and the
10 Department of Health is very fortunate to have you.
11 Chris, I want to congratulate you, I have no doubt with
12 Jeff's mentorship you -- you're going to do great so
13 good luck.

14 CHAIR: Thank you. I know Commissioner
15 Del Cid-Kosso who is joining us by phone also wanted
16 to, to share a few words. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

17 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes, thank you. Thank
18 you, madam Chair. Jeff, congratulations again. Again
19 -- well, thank you first of all for the six years of
20 your work in this state. The Department of Health is
21 really lucky to have you back, you and I come from the
22 same state but -- and I wish you the best of luck, and
23 like the chairwoman did mention, you know, we wouldn't
24 be where we are today in this, you know, in this
25 commission without you, without all your help, your

1 knowledge and I'm looking forward to continuing to work
2 together in some capacity, and I wish you the best of
3 luck and congratulations to Chris Riggs as well on his
4 promotion. Thank you.

5 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Del Cid
6 and Vice-Chair Delgado.

7 VICE CHAIR: And Jeff, I, I want to thank
8 you. I think the, the Cannabis market here in the
9 State of New Jersey owes you a great gratitude for
10 opening this market up here and it's very -- it's
11 historical, you know. And Chris, I wanna wish you all
12 the luck in the world, thank you.

13 CHAIR: Do you wanna say anything?

14 THE SECRETARY: (Inaudible).

15 CHAIR: All right. Thank you and that's
16 all we have for today's Chair's report.

17 THE SECRETARY: Next item on the agenda is
18 the Executive Director's report.

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

21 MR. JEFF BROWN: Thank you, madam chair.
22 Thank you commissioners and thank you very much for the
23 kind words. You know, I remember when we were first
24 starting this agency and we were first getting to know
25 each other, talking about, you know, the values that we

1 wanna bring to New Jersey's Cannabis marketplace, to
2 the -- the work that we do and, you know, I'm confident
3 that we've, we've really succeeded in doing that as
4 Vice-chair Delgado said, you know, starting this and
5 getting it to where it is is historical. I did just
6 wanna share, you know, when we think back to even where
7 things were when I first came in as assistant
8 commissioner for medicinal marijuana, there were five
9 dispensaries, all vertically integrated.

10 Only two of them had manufacturing
11 capabilities, edible products were not allowed for
12 adults, by a statute they were limited to children
13 only, there were you know very few minors in the
14 program and so, you know, no edible products and, you
15 know, to see where it's grown, you know, first in
16 medical expansion and now especially when we launch
17 recreational sales is just remarkable and so, you know,
18 I wanted to thank the commission, thank the commission
19 members, Chairwoman Houenou, Vice-chair Delgado,
20 Commissioner Nash, Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso, and
21 Commissioner Barker for, you know, the partnership over
22 these last several years in getting this market started
23 and getting it off the ground, and I really wanted to
24 thank all of the CRC's staff who have also put in
25 blood, sweat and tears to get us to where we are and

1 will continue to do so. Congrats to Chris Riggs,
2 deputy Executive Director moving into acting Executive
3 Director, I'm confident that you have the, you know,
4 the leadership skills, the expertise and you know, the
5 knowledge to really be successful and you have an
6 amazing team around you so, you know, I'm confident. I
7 think all signs are pointing up for the CRC and all
8 signs are pointing up for New Jersey's Cannabis Market,
9 so thank you.

10 THE SECRETARY: Thank you.

11 MR. BROWN: So this is my last Executive
12 Director's report. And I'm not big on long goodbyes so
13 I'm gonna keep it somewhat brief, but you know,
14 progress continues to be made with licensure of new
15 businesses. More dispensaries keep opening up, we're
16 now above 130 open retail sites, many serving
17 medicinal. And I'll note there are more medicinal
18 dispensaries now in the state of New Jersey than there
19 ever have been in history. There are more medicinal
20 products in the market than there ever have been in
21 history. It's cheaper to register than it has ever
22 been in the history of the program and I'm confident
23 that this commission is just gonna take what we've done
24 and continue to reform to make sure medicinal continues
25 to be a priority. And adult use cannabis just

1 continues to flourish and expand and I'm gonna cover
2 some numbers in a moment on that but you know, I'm
3 standing firm on my one billion dollar projection for
4 this year, I think we're on track to hit that, and that
5 upward trend is only gonna continue into 2025.

6 As far as application processing, we've
7 now received over 2500 applications of those, almost
8 1900 have been approved. We still have 128
9 applications under review in the office of licensing,
10 there's 312 that are pending resubmission following a
11 cure, and there's 136 applications under review in
12 office of compliance and investigations, see that
13 number has gone up since last month because we are
14 still receiving applications and they are moving
15 through the process.

16 As far as license issuances, we're now
17 just under 1400 conditionals, 327 conditional to annual
18 conversions, 168 annuals and 75 expanded ATCs in
19 total, 245 operating licenses and permits have been
20 issued in this market, and when you at look the
21 conditional to annual conversions and annuals and
22 expanded ATCs, total awards are in excess of 500 so you
23 know, that's 500 licenses, permits that are -- you
24 know, if they haven't 'already started operating or
25 just pending a final inspection to get operation and

1 start serving New Jersey's market. Up for
2 consideration today, 32 conditional applications, 11
3 conditional to annual conversion applications, eight
4 annual applications, one expanded ATC and we have five
5 annual renewal applications.

6 Patient enrolment we're at 77,500 when
7 this was taken as of May 6, I actually checked it today
8 and it said 77,700 so we're, we're seeing some increase
9 which is great. We continue to see enrolment of new
10 patients around -- you know, between 2,000 and 3,000
11 every month. So there's still people enrolling,
12 there's still people being served by the medical
13 program, 5,000 care givers and 1500 health care
14 practitioners; that's doctors, APNs and physician
15 assistants.

16 I talked about numbers so, you know, we
17 did announce a historic first quarter. The first
18 quarter of 2024, there were over two hundred million
19 dollars of adult use cannabis sales, that's the first
20 time we've eclipsed 200 million dollars in a single
21 quarter. When we look at -- this is in the second
22 quarter, but 420 weekend, 420 is an unofficial holiday
23 in the, in the cannabis world, and 420 itself was the
24 busiest day on record for cannabis, adult use cannabis
25 sales or cannabis sales total in the state. So you can

1 look just under six million dollars. I think when we
2 have the final medical numbers we're probably gonna be
3 above six million dollars for that day. The previous
4 busiest day was the Wednesday before Thanksgiving last
5 year which was 4.25 million, and before that it was
6 420, 2023 which was just over three million. So we
7 nearly doubled the -- what the market did last 420 this
8 year and you can see sales were strong across that
9 whole weekend.

10 I think once we -- so year over year
11 growth for the first quarter was 38 percent and I think
12 preliminary numbers for April show even higher year
13 over year growth for April alone, but when all is said
14 and done it's probably gonna be in the mid 40 percent
15 growth range for April. So really good stuff and --
16 you know, I didn't say it in my, you know, my opening
17 remarks but I also -- you know, it's important to thank
18 all the entrepreneurs and, you know, everybody who's a
19 part of the market, the advocates, everybody who's,
20 who's, you know, fighting to you know start a business
21 or reform laws and regulations, you know, we wouldn't
22 be here without, without everyone who's been a part of
23 this process. So with that, I'm going to turn it over
24 to soon-to-be acting Executive Director Chris Riggs to
25 talk about some of his future priorities and some of

1 the things coming down the pike.

2 MR. CHRISTOPHER RIGGS: Thank you,
3 Executive Director Brown, and before I talk about these
4 things, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention some of the
5 success that you've had here at the CRC. Starting an
6 agency and rolling out the adult use cannabis market
7 was no easy task. I wanna thank you and the board for
8 setting up the framework and the foundation and most
9 importantly hiring an awesome staff, we have an awesome
10 staff at the CRC that gets the work done. I'll be
11 forever grateful for your leadership, your mentorship
12 and of course, your friendship. We used to say we're
13 building this thing -- this plane while we're flying
14 it.

15 Well, I'm confident right now that it's
16 built, it's flying and this agency is set up for
17 continued success so thank you for all the work that
18 you put in. For my priorities and the continued
19 success of the CRC, I'm anxious and looking forward to
20 working on the clinical registry permit rule adoption
21 that's a subset alternative treatment center that
22 requires these entities to do medical research. The
23 medical research that we needed to understand what
24 cannabis is good for and the medical benefits that we
25 can get from the cannabis plant.

1 So what we're seeing in other states with
2 the clinical registry and permit rollouts is we've seen
3 an uptick in patient population and patient enrolment
4 so we're looking forward to seeing if that, that is --
5 that holds true in New Jersey. In the coming months we
6 will be presenting a recommendation to the board for
7 the clinical registrant rule adoption and I'm looking
8 forward to that.

9 The next thing I'm looking forward to is
10 something that Wesley has put blood, sweat and tears in
11 and that is the Social Equity Recognition Program. Our
12 Office of Diversity Inclusion is putting together a
13 program that will recognize the business for their
14 social equity efforts in the cannabis space; hiring
15 from impact zones, social equity -- working with social
16 equity businesses, working with diversely owned
17 businesses. So we'll be rolling out that social equity
18 recognition program in the short term. And lastly New
19 Jersey's own testing guidance; we've been following
20 Maryland's testing guidance for quite some time.
21 There's nothing wrong with Maryland's testing guidance
22 but I am looking forward to utilizing the research that
23 we've had our awesome staff do on -- with other states'
24 testing and other industries' testing and rolling out
25 New Jersey's own testing guidance that can be a model

1 for the entire nation.

2 So thank you, and thank you for all the
3 well wishes from the board, I'm looking forward to
4 working with all of you, and thank you Jeff and here's
5 to continued success for the CRC. Thank you.

6 CHAIR: Thank you both. Are there any
7 questions from the board regarding the Executive
8 Director's report? Hearing none, we'll move forward.

9 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair?

10 CHAIR: Oh yes, Commissioner Del Cid-
11 Kossa.

12 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Thank you. It's not,
13 it's not much of a question but more of a statement. I
14 wanna thank his last report. I just have a question on
15 -- a statement on the patient enrollment numbers. You
16 know, it is (inaudible) is the total number of patients
17 that we have now and I wanna state that a year ago we
18 were about 125,000 if I'm not mistaken. You know, I
19 look forward to working with our acting Executive
20 Director Riggs to see -- one, to see how we can
21 brainstorm and improve our numbers in terms of patients
22 on how we can make it easier for patients to enroll in
23 our program and you know, this is a program that has
24 been ongoing for almost a decade now, a little over a
25 decade. I wanna make sure that we continue to

1 prioritize patients and that we continue to find
2 solutions as to how we can serve our patient population
3 better.

4 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Del Cid-
5 Kossa, well said. Any other questions? Hearing none,
6 we'll move on. Mr. Saeed?

7 THE SECRETARY: Next item on the agenda is
8 the committee reports.

9 CHAIR: All right. So we have one
10 committee report today, that'll be the permitting and
11 licensing committee, so I will turn it over to the
12 committee chair, Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

13 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Thank you, madam
14 chair. I'm gonna keep it short, today we have a few
15 updates from the May (inaudible) in the month of April.
16 Unfortunately we're gonna continue to see that a lot of
17 these awardees are requesting additional time due to
18 delays in local municipalities by control and funding
19 issues.

20 In the previous meeting, we announced that
21 the committee wanted to hold their virtual listening
22 session, but we are excited that we are doing that, and
23 that's happening next week on Thursday, May 16th from
24 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom, and we wanna hear
25 from you. We wanna know what aspects of the

1 application process were easy to navigate, what were
2 some of the challenges that you faced? We are really
3 eager to learn from you who have gone through this
4 process so the committee can evaluate those thoughts
5 and ideas and make changes to our application and
6 licensing processes where needed.

7 Before I hand it back to you madam chair,
8 I'll like to thank the committee for entertaining this
9 idea, I think it's always good to sit -- you know, to
10 take step back and reflect on the work that we are
11 doing. That is not only impacting business owners, but
12 also most importantly their livelihood. And hopefully
13 you can see in front of you the two graphics, so please
14 feel free to share that with your network. We do have
15 some posts that were available through our social media
16 platforms this morning, and if you have any questions
17 please feel free to reach out to our staff, thank you.

18 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Del Cid-
19 Kosso. Are there any questions from the board
20 regarding the permitting and licensing committee's
21 report? Vice-Chair Delgado?

22 VICE CHAIR: Yeah, I just have a question
23 for Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. How are we --
24 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso, how are we promoting the
25 virtual listening sessions? Is every applicant

1 getting, getting an e-mail or are you notifying every
2 applicant? How is that occurring? Do you know?

3 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yeah. So we are not
4 only promoting on our social media platforms, but we
5 also connect to our stakeholders and there was a press
6 release that went out to -- went out this morning to
7 everyone who had signed up for our, our newsletter.
8 And I think (inaudible) may be able to give you a more
9 in depth report on that Commissioner Delgado offline,
10 if that's okay with you.

11 VICE CHAIR: Yeah, that's fine, that's
12 fine. I'll talk to (inaudible). Thanks.

13 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Thank you.

14 CHAIR: Thank you. Any other questions?
15 Okay. Thank you, Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. And Mr.
16 Saeed, can you please announce the next agenda item.

17 THE SECRETARY: Next item on the agenda
18 are public notices and publications.

19 CHAIR: Director Brown, I will turn the
20 floor over to you. We first have up our annual reports
21 on medicinal cannabis activities.

22 MR. BROWN: Yes, thank you Chairwoman
23 Houenou. So we have several reports to adopt here and
24 I'll just note, you know, there's two annual reports
25 today, the rest should be adopted post my departure,

1 but you'll have -- they'll all be done and you know,
2 just requiring edits and board consideration. So you
3 know, the first two were 2018 and 2019, they outline
4 activities undertaken by the division of medicinal
5 marijuana during those years to expand the market. You
6 know, we're required to cover the applications by
7 patients, caregivers, physicians, you know, the number
8 of permits issued, you know, any other major efforts
9 undertaken by at the time the division.

10 I did just wanna note a couple things, I
11 think the big moves during those years policy-wise, one
12 was in 2018, the Department of Health under
13 Commissioner Shareef Elnahal issued the executive order
14 six report which essentially outlined both actions and
15 recommendations to begin reforming New Jersey's medical
16 market. At that time, patients were required to go see
17 a physician four times a year to maintain enrolment in
18 the program, and so you know, some of the
19 recommendations in that report were to change the
20 statute to reduce the number of required physician
21 visits to, you know, just one annually.

22 Additionally, we reduced registration
23 fees, made some regulatory changes; there were rules
24 proposed in 2018 to enact the changes included in the
25 E06 report that we could. And, and then a statutory

1 recommendations, and in 2019 we saw the passage of the
2 historic Jake Koenig (ph) Compassionate Use Medicinal
3 Cannabis Act. And when I think about the most
4 gratifying experiences that I've had in this position,
5 probably close to number one was the bill signing for
6 that with Jake's family. And you know, one of the
7 barriers that Jake had was that there was a limit on
8 what patients could purchase every month.

9 And we still have that, but a key facet of
10 Jake Koenig's law was that that limit was lifted for
11 patients dealing with terminal diseases. And you know,
12 right after the bill signing we issued a notice to the
13 entire industry that we were going to stop enforcing
14 the limit for terminal patients and that was repealed
15 immediately and to be a part of that and you know,
16 Jake's family were just remarkable people to take the,
17 you know, the tragedy that they had and turn it into
18 change that is -- are benefitting medicinal cannabis
19 patients today. You know, it's just a -- it's just an
20 awesome experience and that's -- that happened in 2019
21 and we started implementing the, the changes included
22 in that law immediately thereafter; focusing on the
23 patient-focused provisions first. So those are the
24 annual reports, following adoption they'll be submitted
25 to the governor and legislature and posted on the

1 commission's website.

2 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown. Are
3 there any questions regarding -- from the commissioners
4 regarding information provided? All right, and I do
5 want to note that -- and Director Brown feel free to
6 add on to this, that the -- because the Jake Koenig law
7 signed in 2019 and the -- that law added new
8 requirements -- reporting requirements that were not
9 previously required, so the 2018 and 2019 reports for
10 the medical cannabis activities were not -- were under
11 a different, more limited scope for the annual reports,
12 could you just elaborate a little bit on that?

13 MR. BROWN: Yeah, that's correct. And
14 you'll note on the slide here, so for example, it says
15 business development efforts and results by Office of
16 Minority, Disabled Veterans and Women, that's termed
17 under our (inaudible) organization as the Office of
18 Diversity and inclusion, the Director McWhite leaves.
19 That office was created, at least on paper in the -- in
20 Jake Koenig's law but didn't start to exist until the
21 commission was seated and you know, we started our work
22 here. So for example, those efforts are not included
23 in those reports because they were not -- you know, the
24 law passed in 2019 and we established the commission in
25 2021.

1 CHAIR: Thank you. I just wanted to make
2 sure that we highlight because as we move forward to
3 catch up on the -- our statutory reporting
4 requirements, I wanna make sure that the public also
5 understands that the, the report will likely change a
6 little bit as we move forward with adopting the future
7 reports to account for those added requirements in the
8 law. Thank you. If there are no other questions or
9 thoughts, is there a motion on this matter?

10 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, I move to
11 adopt this resolution concerning the adoption of the
12 commission's annual report on medical cannabis
13 activity.

14 MR. BARKER: I second.

15 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there any
16 discussion on this motion to adopt the annual reports?
17 Hearing none, Mr. Saeed, can you please call the vote?

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

19 MR. BARKER: Abstain.

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
21 Kosso?

22 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

24 MS. NASH: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Delgado?

1 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

3 CHAIR: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next
5 item on the agenda are the social equity excise fee
6 reports.

7 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Brown, I'll
8 turn it back over to you.

9 MR. BROWN: So -- and thank you, madam
10 chair, just real quick, I would be remiss if -- in
11 talking about the 2019 annual report if I didn't thank
12 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso because when we were going
13 to meet with legislators, educate them about the issues
14 with the medical program that needed to be changed,
15 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso was with me at the
16 Department of Health and participated in and actually
17 led many of those meetings so, thank you Commissioner
18 Del Cid-Kosso for that. And with that on SEEF, the
19 Social Equity Excise Fee report, I'm going to pass it
20 over to Director Wesley McWhite to outline the process
21 in the report.

22 MR. WESLEY WHITE: Thanks, Director Brown,
23 this is the last time you'll do that for -- between us
24 so -- but I just wanna say really briefly thank you for
25 all of your hard work. As you know, some of us we

1 travel to -- across the country for -- particularly for
2 cannabis regulators association and Jeff is a rock star
3 in the building. They all want to clamor to hear what
4 we are doing in Jersey and because New Jersey stands
5 tall, not just here in the state, but nationally, we
6 can thank Jeff for all of his efforts to help get us
7 there and we're gonna continue to do that Jeff, and I'm
8 gonna call you if I need things, thanks. So right
9 before you the Jersey CRC as we know is required to
10 recommend, provide recommendations to the governor and
11 the legislature on what to do with fees for Social
12 Equity Excise Fees that have been collected. In March
13 we held three virtual hearings, one for the north,
14 south and central New Jersey.

15 And before you are recommendations
16 specific to cannabis investments, grants and low
17 interest loans to small businesses, economic and
18 financial and technical assistance for cannabis
19 businesses, but even beyond that the public provided to
20 us recommendations about educational support
21 particularly for GED programs, vocational programs and
22 certification programs. Economic development that goes
23 even beyond cannabis, particularly for job readiness
24 training, community activities that are sustainable,
25 that lead to more economic activity even beyond

1 cannabis. Supportive services like food assistance,
2 supportive services for reentry organizations for
3 individuals that were incarcerated that are looking to
4 be productive citizens again upon their release, and
5 also cannabis business ownership and advocacy
6 communities also gathered together to provide comment
7 and recommendation to us about a number of topics.

8 But I do want to take this opportunity to
9 thank the many community members, thought leaders and
10 advocates, state and local social justice
11 organizations, many, many diverse non-profits across
12 the state and individuals directly impacted and harmed
13 by cannabis prohibition and criminalization that
14 contributed to the recommendation report before you.
15 But this is just one stop in the process, one cog in
16 the wheel. The CRC -- the public has done their part
17 so far with showing up to our public hearings in a very
18 good way. The CRC is now doing its part by assembling
19 this recommendation report and handing it over to the
20 board for a vote, but now the public still needs to
21 stay engaged by engaging with their legislators on
22 making sure that these recommendations are heard from
23 them as well between the public and legislators as
24 well.

25 So really, really excited about all of the

1 work that has been put into this, and then one final
2 thank you to all of the staff; particularly our comms
3 team staff at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and
4 all of the support that they have provided in making
5 sure that we got this across the finish line and we're
6 really excited to present this to the board and the
7 public.

8 CHAIR: Thank you, Director McWhite. Are
9 there any questions from the board? All right, hearing
10 none, is there a motion on this matter? Last call for
11 a motion on this matter?

12 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
13 we accept the report on Social Equity and Excise Fee
14 hearing report.

15 CHAIR: Is there a second?

16 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

17 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there any
18 discussion on this notion?

19 MS. NASH: Yes, Madam Chair.

20 CHAIR: Commissioner Nash.

21 MS. NASH: In previous years, Commissioner
22 Barker and I have hosted the SEEF hearings and really
23 enjoyed hearing from the public. Our role here is to
24 communicate what you ask and we communicate this
25 through this report to the legislature. I think

1 speaking for myself I would like to see the monies go
2 towards the communities that are you know, quote, most
3 hardest hit, and I think what director McWhite said is
4 very important. You really need to reach out to your
5 legislator to advocate for that because you need to be
6 heard. If you take the time to step up to share your
7 ideas you should see them through. That's all, thank
8 you.

9 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Nash. Any
10 other -- any further discussion on this motion to
11 accept the report on the Social Equity Excise Fees? If
12 there's no further discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you
13 please call the vote?

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

15 MR. BARKER: Nay.

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
17 Kosso.

18 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

20 MS. NASH: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Delgado?

22 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou.

24 CHAIR: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next

1 item on the agenda is the consideration of applications
2 for name changes.

3 CHAIR: Director Brown?

4 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Chairwoman Houenou,
5 and thankfully this will be the last time I'm
6 presenting name changes. But we do have, we do have
7 three; Harmony Holdings of New Jersey LLC wishes to
8 change their name to Elicit Gardens NJ LLC, James
9 Joiner LLC to James Boutique Dispensary and Perennial
10 Group Corporation to Cream Retail Dispensary
11 Corporation. So they've all submitted the necessary
12 documentation and are filed with the Secretary of State
13 and are recommended for approval here.

14 CHAIR: Thank you. Any questions from the
15 board? Hearing no questions is there a motion on this
16 matter?

17 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair -- oh, you wanna
18 go?

19 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve
20 the name change applications.

21 CHAIR: Is there a second?

22 VICE CHAIR: I second.

23 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there any
24 discussion on this motion to approve the name change
25 applications? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Saeed, can

1 you please call the vote?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

3 MR. BARKER: Abstain.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
5 Kosso?

6 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

8 MS. NASH: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Delgado?

10 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

12 CHAIR: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next
14 item on the agenda is the consideration of applications
15 for ownership changes.

16 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. So we
17 have three ownership changes and I do just want to
18 note, in the board packet, the recommendation memo does
19 still include Harvest Works, but Harvest Works is not
20 being considered today. So I just wanna note that on
21 the record, it's not on the slide here. Up for
22 consideration are, ADCO Garden State LLC which is
23 adding a new owner. Sweet Leaves LLC which is a change
24 to their existing ownership structure and Happy Time
25 Buds are adding a new owner. They've all submitted

1 necessary documentation, complied with the background
2 investigation as appropriate and are all recommended
3 for approval here by the CRC Board.

4 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown. Are
5 there any questions from the board? Hearing no
6 questions is there a motion?

7 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
8 we approve the request for transfer of owners
9 (inaudible).

10 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

11 CHAIR: All right. Moved by Vice-Chair
12 Delgado, seconded by Commissioner Del Sid-Kosso. Is
13 there any discussion on this motion to approve the
14 requested ownership changes?

15 MS. NASH: Yes, I have that. Just a
16 comment.

17 CHAIR: Commissioner Nash.

18 MS. NASH: So for -- just to remind the
19 public that for any diversity owned businesses, the
20 majority ownership must remain with the diversely owned
21 business owner throughout the 24 month period upon the
22 business opening. So it's very important for us here
23 and I just wanted to emphasize that. Thank you.

24 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Nash. Are
25 there any -- is there any further discussion on this

1 motion? Hearing none, Mr. Saeed, can you please call
2 the vote?

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

4 MR. BARKER: Staying.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
6 Kosso.

7 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

9 MS. NASH: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Delgado?

11 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

13 CHAIR: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: The motion Passes. Next

15 item up for consideration is the adult use cannabis

16 business conditional license applications?

17 CHAIR: Director Brown?

18 MR. BROWN: Thank you. So as per usual,

19 I'll just overview -- give an overview of the whole

20 process and then we'll go through the cohorts one by

21 one. So we have conditional applications, conditional

22 to conversion applications and then straight to annual

23 applications up for consideration today. As part of

24 our licensure process, when we receive an application

25 they're sorted by time and priority.

1 And so initially we assign a priority
2 based on whether they're a social equity business, a
3 diversely owned business, impacts owned business or
4 just have bonus points or just a general application.
5 They're then reviewed in accordance to that priority
6 and time. The priority is verified so we make sure
7 that they're being moved in accordance with what they
8 actually qualify for.

9 Applications are then assessed for
10 completeness. Those that are deemed complete are then
11 moved forward to scoring. Those that score
12 sufficiently high per the notice of application
13 acceptance are then moved on to financial management
14 and limitations review that looks at, you know,
15 agreements and also ownership structure initially. For
16 annuals and conversions, those are -- then they move to
17 qualification which is criminal history background
18 checks, financial probity and you know, background
19 investigation into the business itself and the proposed
20 operations.

21 Finally, those that are estimated to be
22 deemed qualified then move forward to quality control
23 where we make sure that they're compliant with all our
24 regs (sic) and then finally they're presented to the
25 board for, for potential approval. So first we have 32

1 conditional licenses that have gone through this
2 process and are recommended for approval by the board.

3 CHAIR: Thank you, and yes, I see the
4 conditional license applications are listed. Are there
5 any questions from the board regarding the conditional
6 license applications being recommended for approval?
7 Hearing no questions is there a motion.

8 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve
9 the, the 32 conditional license applications.

10 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash, is
11 there a second?

12 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

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

15 MR. BARKER: Just a brief comment, Madam
16 Chair.

17 CHAIR: Commissioner Barker.

18 MR. BARKER: I just wanna ask the
19 community to please, please, please be careful not to
20 create names, business names, products, merch (sic) and
21 or related packaging and labeling that may confuse or
22 mislead children or are related to children-related
23 products or establishments. You know, and I wanna be
24 clear, I do understand the need for creative control
25 and freedom of expression, and I understand in the new

1 industry we're trying to balance that so I don't wanna
2 inhibit that, but at the same time I do wanna balance
3 that against public safety so our children are
4 protected. So thank you.

5 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Barker.
6 Any further discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Saeed, can
7 you please call the vote?

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

9 MR. BARKER: Aye.

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
11 Kosso?

12 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

14 MS. NASH: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Delgado?

16 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

18 CHAIR: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next
20 item up for consideration are the adult use cannabis
21 business conversation license applications.

22 CHAIR: Director Brown?

23 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
24 have 11 conditional to annual conversion licenses up
25 for consideration by the board, they went through the

1 process I outlined previously and are recommended for
2 approval.

3 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
4 questions from the board regarding the 11 applications?
5 Hearing no questions, is there a motion? (Inaudible)
6 motion --

7 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve
8 the conditional to annual license conversion
9 applications.

10 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Nash. Is
11 there a second?

12 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I second.

13 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado, is
14 there any discussion on this motion to approve the
15 license applications? Hearing no discussion, Mr.
16 Saeed, can you please call the vote?

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

18 MR. BARKER: Aye.

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
20 Kosso?

21 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

23 MS. NASH: Yes

24 THE SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Delgado?

25 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

2 CHAIR: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next
4 item up for consideration are the adult use cannabis
5 business annual license applications.

6 CHAIR: Director Brown, I'll turn the
7 floor back over to you.

8 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Chairwoman Houenou.
9 So there are eight annual licenses up for
10 consideration, they've all gone through the process I
11 outlined previously and are all recommended for
12 approval.

13 CHAIR: Thank you. Any questions from the
14 board regarding the eight applications recommended for
15 approval? Hearing no questions is there a motion on
16 this matter?

17 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
18 we approve the eight adult use standard license
19 applications.

20 CHAIR: Is there a second.

21 MS. NASH: Second.

22 CHAIR: Thank you. Seconded by
23 Commissioner Nash. Is there any discussion on this
24 motion? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you
25 please call the vote?

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

2 MR. BARKER: Aye.

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-

4 Kosso?

5 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

7 MS. NASH: Yes

8 THE SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Delgado?

9 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

11 CHAIR: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next
13 item up for consideration are the expanded alternative
14 treatment center certifications.

15 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Brown, I'll
16 turn it over to you to describe the certification
17 requests that were submitted.

18 MR. BROWN: Thank you. So we have one ATC
19 certification up for consideration. It's Brute's Roots for
20 -- to expand their class into -- class to -- the
21 medical manufacturing permit into a class two
22 manufacturing license. So they have to show they have
23 adequate supply, they can continue to serve patient
24 need, have municipal approval, they've met all those,
25 all those requirements as noted in the regs (sic) and

1 are recommended for approval here.

2 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
3 questions from the board? Hearing no questions, is
4 there a motion on this matter?

5 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
6 we approve Brute's Roots alternative treatment
7 certification.

8 CHAIR: Is there a second?

9 MS. NASH: Second.

10 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this
11 motion? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you
12 please call the vote?

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

14 MR. BARKER: Aye.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
16 Kosso?

17 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

19 MS. NASH: Yes

20 THE SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Delgado?

21 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

23 CHAIR: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next
25 item up for consideration are the adult use cannabis

1 business annual license renewal applications.

2 CHAIR: Thank you. I'll turn it back over
3 to you Director Brown.

4 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Chairwoman Houenou.
5 There are five annual license renewals up for
6 consideration today; they're all ending their first
7 year of operations. It's NJ Leaf, Mountain View
8 Pharmacy, The Social Leaf Leaf House and Kind Kush.
9 They've submitted the necessary documentation required
10 by our regs and are all recommended for approval here
11 for their first annual license renewal.

12 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
13 questions from the board regarding these annual license
14 renewals? Hearing no questions is there a motion on
15 this matter?

16 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
17 we approve the license renewal applications.

18 CHAIR: Is there a second?

19 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

20 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-
21 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion to
22 approve the (inaudible) license renewals? Hearing no
23 discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you please call the vote?

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

25 MR. BARKER: Abstain.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
2 Kosso?

3 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

5 MS. NASH: Yes

6 THE SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Delgado?

7 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

9 CHAIR: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next
11 item on the agenda, we have cases, claims and
12 petitions.

13 CHAIR: Thank you. I will turn it over to
14 Deputy, Deputy Riggs to provide a summary of the ATC
15 employee ID cards.

16 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chairwoman. This
17 is -- we have one medical employee that applied for
18 their ID card and they had a disqualifying conviction
19 under the medical statutes. This individual was given
20 the opportunity to show rehabilitation in accordance
21 with the statute if they provided adequate
22 documentation to show that they've been rehabilitated
23 from this disqualifying conviction, and they are
24 recommended to be approved to hold an ATC
25 Identification Card, thank you.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, Deputy Riggs. Are
2 there any questions from the board? Hearing no
3 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

4 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move that we
5 approve the request for termination rehabilitation.

6 CHAIR: Is there a second?

7 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

8 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-
9 Kosso. Any discussion on this motion? Hearing no
10 discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you please call the vote?

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

12 MR. BARKER: Aye.

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
14 Kosso?

15 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

17 MS. NASH: Yes

18 THE SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Delgado?

19 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

21 CHAIR: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next
23 item on the agenda we have the open public comment
24 period.

25 CHAIR: Thank you. As we prepare for --

1 to hear public comment, I want to remind everyone that
2 members of the public can submit their comments to the
3 commission in writing by going to our website,
4 nj.gov/meetings -- I'm sorry nj.gov/cannabis/meetings.
5 The deadline to submit written comments for today's
6 meeting is five o'clock p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, May
7 9th.

8 Written comments will be shared with the
9 commission members and they will be made public.
10 Speakers will be limited to three minutes. Mr. Saeed
11 will call out the names of our registered speakers;
12 when you hear your name called, please come down to the
13 front and the microphone has already been turned on.
14 Thank you to our tech crew and so we ask that you just
15 restate -- state your name very clearly for the record
16 and your time will be kept track of -- sorry, we will
17 be keeping track of that three minute time over here on
18 the clock to your left. Mr. Saeed, can you please call
19 on our first registered speakers?

20 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Chairwoman. As
21 a reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's
22 public comment period will be limited to three minutes,
23 please be respectful and concise during your comments.
24 The first name on the list is Margarita Tsalyuk. I
25 don't see that person. Next is Tiffany Pearsall. Next

1 on the list is Deanna Robinson. Next on the list is
2 Chris Aponte. Next is Kevin Babilonia. Next is Thomas
3 Ginefra.

4 MR. TOM GINEFRA: Good afternoon, my name
5 is Tom Ginefra, I'm the CEO and Founder of Terp Taxi
6 Cannabis Delivery, thank you for having me today.
7 Jeff, thank you for your time and I wish you good luck
8 in your new position. Chris, congratulations. Thank
9 you for all the hard work, to the both of you. So I
10 also want to say thank you very much for giving my
11 business a conditional license in February. I didn't
12 get a chance the last few meetings to say that so I
13 finally get the chance today, and my business partner
14 Jordan Acuna (ph) also says thank you very much as
15 well. There's just two few things that I just wanted
16 to address, very simple.

17 The first being, you know, my software
18 team is from Colorado and they were mentioning that the
19 way the Colorado structures their administrative code;
20 they require retailers to work with Social Equity
21 Delivery services so -- and for the foreseeable future.

22 So if we could possibly take a look at how
23 they structure their administrative code and see if we
24 can adopt the same rules it would be greatly
25 appreciated especially coming from my business partner,

1 you know, being a social equity applicant, being in a -
2 - you know, in a disadvantage for a long time. I think
3 that you know to have come this far through that
4 adversity and possibly have a connection to retailers
5 would be an amazing thing.

6 The second thing I wanted to touch up on
7 is we're obviously hearing the news that cannabis is
8 being rescheduled or it's -- quite likely it will be,
9 and so you know, I'm sitting in my room thinking about
10 it and obviously probably in my lifetime it's possible
11 that it would be entirely de-scheduled, and it made me
12 think of who would be getting into the business besides
13 people like myself and I immediately thought of, you
14 know, DoorDash and Uber.

15 And so, if we could see if we could amend
16 the administrative code to, you know, possibly prohibit
17 those larger corporations who haven't gone through the
18 trials and tribulations of getting involved in an
19 industry that quite frankly it's very difficult, right?
20 And so, they weren't there through that adversity. So
21 I feel like if we could just, you know, develop just a
22 little bit of language that would prohibit or at least
23 make it more difficult for them to get involved because
24 they, they didn't go through that hard work and risk
25 their life savings and deal with any adversity like we

1 have and anybody -- and you know, a bunch of other
2 people that are in my position. So if we could just
3 consider that that would be greatly appreciated. And
4 that's all I wanted to say, thank you for your time.

5 THE SECRETARY: Next person on the list is
6 Jason Kabbes.

7 MR. JASON KABBES: Hi. Thanks for
8 allowing me to speak today, Chairman Houenou, rest of
9 the executive board, really appreciate this. I'm Jason
10 Kabbes, I'm with the GSCC Management. I'm here today
11 speaking on behalf my company as well as I believe on
12 behalf of a lot of licensees from the 2019 graduating
13 class so to speak, the 2019 ATCs.

14 We feel pretty left out and left behind in
15 this program these days. We have suffered a lot of
16 harm that the previous ATCs from the 2012 and 2018
17 classes have not suffered. I can sit here and go
18 through the timeline, but I just wanna lay that out in
19 the front end. We do not feel included in this adult
20 use program. We feel like we're being left behind. We
21 sat through a lot of harm during the two-year
22 injunction and people are forgetting about us we feel
23 like.

24 A lot of us cannot afford to pay these
25 grandiose crossover fees from medical to adult use. We

1 think it's an excessive fee, we think it's onerous, we
2 think our fee should be equitable to other entrants
3 into the market. Just to reiterate, let's go through a
4 brief timeline of what the 2019 ATCs are actually going
5 through. In 2018 when Governor Murphy took office he
6 said he was going to expand the medical program and he
7 did in a very good fashion. He created more qualifying
8 conditions and we had an RFA in 2018. The State moved
9 quickly on licensing those RFA winners and the medical
10 program was expanded.

11 We were then told there'd be another RFA
12 in 2019 and there was, it was announced in July of 19th
13 and the apps were due in August of '19.
14 In November of '19, DOH disqualified 51 applicants due
15 to them failing part A of the application. DOH told
16 everyone well ahead of time, if you fail part A, if you
17 do it wrong you're disqualified. DOH in their power
18 and in their right disqualified this applicants but
19 nine of them were aggrieved and they sued the state.
20 Then the Appellate division put a stay on the grading
21 process and DOH was not allowed to do anything, then
22 COVID happened and the state sort of shut down for a
23 while. The entire time, these 2019 applicants were
24 required to still maintain their commercial real
25 estate.

1 We spent money for two years while this
2 injunction occurred. In October of 2019 -- I'm sorry.
3 in October of 2021 we are finally granted licenses.
4 Then about three weeks after that adult use passed and
5 the state in their right and power as they should have
6 begun aggressively licensing adult use companies and
7 opening this market up in a very equitable fashion and
8 I'm a very champion of that -- very much a champion of
9 that process.

10 But like I said, we've been kind of left
11 behind, and I know I'm short on time here so I'm gonna
12 start going fast. There was a fee structure imposed in
13 March of 2023 that did not exist, is not part of the
14 statute, and my company, we're a cultivation company,
15 we're required to pay \$300,000 if we wanna -- I'm
16 sorry, \$400,000 if we wanna participate in adult use.
17 That's just not obtainable for small companies that
18 burned capital for two years while the state sort of
19 did what they had to do.

20 So I'm proposing joining both adult use
21 and medical companies into a single regulatory
22 framework, increasing competition on the medical level
23 and having everyone kind of be a part of one single
24 program. We're hurt, we're not large companies, we
25 can't afford these huge fees, we don't have the upside

1 of being part of the program for multiple years like
2 the 2012 and 2018s do. We just don't know what we did
3 wrong and why we're being charged such an exorbitant
4 fee to just be included in a very good program that I
5 believe is the best program in the country basically
6 because of our social equity initiatives. We just
7 wanna be a part of it that's all. Thank you for your
8 time.

9 THE SECRETARY: Next on the list is Edward
10 Grimes.

11 MR. EDWARD GRIMES: Good evening. My name
12 is Edward Lefty Grimes. I'm with Sativacross.org,
13 we're a 51C3 here in New Jersey fighting for cannabis
14 patients' rights and the rights of the disabled. I
15 received a lot of complaints in the last few weeks from
16 wheel chair users all over New Jersey telling me that
17 they can't get into the -- some dispensaries in New
18 Jersey and I was a little shocked to hear that because
19 I thought that we had regulations in place for that.
20 For example, Commissioner Nash to her credit will not
21 give a license to anyone who's not unionized or talking
22 about unionization, I love that energy, I think that's
23 great. I think we need that same energy for
24 wheelchairs because I'd like to know, what is the CRC's
25 regulation for wheelchair accessibility for

1 dispensaries?

2 Nada. Bupkis. Ungats. There is none.
3 You may follow the ADA, but the ADA allows people to be
4 grandfathered in. There is a beautiful dispensary in
5 Maplewood that we're working with right now to help her
6 with a wheelchair access after the fact because this
7 has slipped through the cracks. We're working with
8 Madhatter (ph) to fix their accessibility issues. We
9 want to do this before a time of crisis because I've
10 talked to people in wheelchairs that wanna protest
11 every dispensary that has not wheelchair access. I
12 said wait, "Hold up, let me talk to the commission
13 first.

14 Let me see if we can work something out."
15 Because I was ignorant to a lot of things myself till I
16 wasn't; for example, I fought for four years for a
17 traffic light in Avenue C in (Inaudible), four years,
18 and a blind person reached out to me he says, "Lefty, I
19 know you got this light on Avenue C, but I know you're
20 on Broadway working on a light, can you get a light for
21 a blind person?" I said, "What's that?" He said,
22 "It's a light that goes, wait, wait, walk, walk," and I
23 was ignorant to that, I did not know that was for blind
24 people.

25 So I feel like I wasted four years on

1 Avenue C fighting for a light that was not compliant
2 for everybody, now I have to go back and get that
3 retrofitted. We don't want wheelchair war, we wanna
4 avoid that at all costs but they're mad. They're
5 upset. We got disabled vets that can't get into
6 dispensaries that are calling me up fuming, "What are
7 you gonna do about this?" Well, I'll come to the
8 commission and ask you guys for help. Follow the ADA,
9 even more.

10 What I would ask is, Commissioner Brown,
11 this is your last day in office, on your last day in
12 office will you introduce a resolution that will allow
13 disabled vets to enter every dispensary in New Jersey
14 starting now? You can't do nothing about the ones that
15 are already un-ramped, but starting now will you
16 introduce an ordinance that will help our disabled vets
17 get into every dispensary? Is that something you can
18 do today? That's what I would ask for, put the last
19 first. We're patient-focused here, let's prove it.
20 Let's prove it to the patients. Let's prove it, let's
21 show them that we are patient focused. There's a lot
22 better we can do and we don't need a wheelchair war so
23 please help us.

24 THE SECRETARY: Next person on the list is
25 Xavian Jackson. I'm just gonna go through the list of

1 everyone that didn't speak up; Margarita Tsalyuk,
2 Tiffany Pearsall, Deanna Robinson, Chris Aponte, Kevin
3 Babillonia and Xavian Jackson. Madam Chairwoman, this
4 will conclude the registered speakers we have for
5 today's meeting.

6 CHAIR: So if there are any technical
7 issues with the registration list, please connect with
8 Mr. Saeed afterwards and we'll -- we wanna make sure
9 that we give everybody an opportunity to speak but for
10 now I would invite you to -- I would invite anybody who
11 did not get a chance to speak to submit their comments
12 in writing the -- by going to our website
13 nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. Thank you to everybody who,
14 who shared their experiences and their thoughts and
15 their recommendations with the commission today. This
16 concludes the business that we -- sorry, this concludes
17 the planned business that we do have before us today.
18 Is there any new business for the commission to
19 consider? Hearing none, is there a motion to adjourn?

20 MR. BARKER: I do have one, one -- a new
21 business item to consider that I do wanna bring up if
22 that's, if that's okay, Madam Chair.

23 CHAIR: Commissioner Barker.

24 MR. BARKER: I would like to ask my fellow
25 commissioners to consider voting next meeting and, Mr.

1 Grimes, thank you, you consistently raise awareness on
2 inclusivity for all people, and that is not taken
3 lightly. And I know something that we've talked about
4 before, has come up before, virtual meetings; something
5 Mr. Grimes has brought up, a lot of people cannot make
6 it physically to our building, and then there are
7 impediments when they get to the building, so I'm
8 asking can we vote to add virtual meeting option to our
9 standard meeting protocols so that those who cannot
10 make it in person can still join us virtually?

11 CHAIR: So Commissioner Barker, I wanna
12 make sure I get the motion written accurately, could
13 you restate the motion that you are making?

14 MR. BARKER: The motion would be for us to
15 take the next few weeks before next meeting to
16 deliberate and then vote by next meeting whether to add
17 a virtual meeting option to our regular meeting
18 protocols so that those who are -- who cannot make it
19 physically due to disabilities or other reasons can
20 still join the meeting. Thank you.

21 CHAIR: So I wanna make sure I have this
22 accurate -- stated -- written accurately, so you're
23 moving that we take the next few weeks to deliberate
24 and vote at the next board meeting to have a virtual
25 meeting option, is that correct? Is that accurate?

1 MR. BARKER: Correct.

2 CHAIR: Okay. Is there a, a second to
3 this motion?

4 VICE CHAIR: I second.

5 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice-Chair Delgado, is
6 there any discussion on this motion.

7 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair?

8 CHAIR: Yes.

9 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: I have a traffic
10 (inaudible) question, do we need to vote on this type
11 of item or you as the chair can make that, you know,
12 that (inaudible).

13 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Del Cid-
14 Kosso, no, I don't believe that we need to vote as a
15 board on this item and I actually believe that we had
16 stated a while ago, admittedly has been a while that we
17 presently are not technologically set up to, to accept
18 virtual public comments when we have our in person
19 meeting, but this is not an item that I believe we --
20 that the board needs to vote on, I do believe it is
21 something that I could work directly with staff on the
22 technical logistics of our meeting to see if there are
23 ways that we can increase accessibility to our regular
24 meeting schedule.

25 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yeah, I agree. And I

1 think you and I have had sidebar conversations about
2 this before so I do thank you for that, for making this
3 a priority.

4 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there any further
5 discussion on this motion?

6 MR. BARKER: Yes. Just to clarify, I do
7 wanna stress the importance of the board because as you
8 just said, Madam Chair, it's been a long time since we
9 revisited this. It has been outstanding, admittedly
10 I've been talking about it behind the scenes and as you
11 just said, you may work with staff directly but it kind
12 of leaves out the remaining board members, and so I
13 think this gives us an opportunity for everybody to
14 resolve their questions as Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso
15 just raised and then bring it to a head next meeting
16 where we can weigh in on a vote.

17 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Barker, I
18 don't recall any conversations for -- or any comments
19 from you about this matter, but I think that this is --
20 I've got no objections to figuring it out and seeing
21 what we can do. Again, I don't believe this is an item
22 that the full board -- this is an official business
23 matter that the full board needs to weigh in on but I
24 hear you.

25 MR. BARKER: Thank you.

1 MS. NASH: I would like to make a comment.
2 I think that the idea is great; I mean we certainly
3 want everyone to be able to attend, but I do believe
4 that this is something more that we need to flesh out
5 and -- among us without having a board vote.

6 MR. BARKER: Can I just make a point of
7 clarity? What am I missing here? We're still gonna be
8 able to flesh it out. All we're doing differently is
9 instead of deciding it internally we're going to make
10 the decision publically like we do for many other
11 matters. Many other matters can be determined behind
12 the scenes but we still bring them to the floor for a
13 vote.

14 And so I would just ask staff again and
15 ask our board members to just strongly consider it and,
16 Commissioner Delgado, I thank you for seconding the
17 motion, but again, we just heard from an individual
18 pouring his heart out on behalf of others who are left
19 out. I mean this to me is a no brainer but I will just
20 defer to the vote.

21 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Barker, is
22 there any further discussion? And I want to make sure
23 I don't neglect staff who are involved in coordinating
24 logistics, is there anything that staff would like to
25 share for the board's consideration on this motion

1 relating to meeting logistics?

2 MR. BROWN: I mean, happy to work with you

3 -- well, I won't be here but, but I'm sure I'm --

4 MR. RIGGS: Happy to work with the board.

5 MR. BROWN: -- sure Executive Director

6 Riggs is happy to work with you, Madam Chair, to figure

7 out a solution.

8 CHAIR: Thank you.

9 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

10 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I have another

11 question. So are there other boards that have virtual

12 meetings here in New Jersey?

13 CHAIR: I'm sure there are, I don't know

14 the -- their logistical configurations for those

15 meetings. Off the top of my head I cannot -- I don't,

16 I don't have any information on the details there.

17 MR. BROWN: I would just note, part of the

18 consideration we're gonna have to ask legal counsel

19 about Open Public Meetings Act and then, you know,

20 what's permissible and what's not under those statutes.

21 There's different types of boards that are different

22 requirements for them. So I'm not saying that there's

23 a barrier there, but that will have to be a part of the

24 consideration is that. So you know, that -- to the

25 point of working together to see what we can do and

1 then try to operationalize it, that's, that's a piece
2 of it.

3 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown.
4 Anything further? Hearing no further discussion, Mr.
5 Saeed, on the motion to take the next few weeks to
6 deliberate and vote at the next board meeting to have a
7 virtual meeting option, can you please call a vote?

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

9 MR. BARKER: Aye.

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
11 Kosso?

12 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

14 MS. NASH: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Delgado?

16 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

18 CHAIR: For the reasons stated earlier, I
19 don't believe this is an item that we do need to vote
20 on and I believe that the -- I believe that I can work
21 with staff to -- and board members to make sure that we
22 create accessible public meetings so my vote is no.

23 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

24 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there any further
25 business -- new business for the commission to

1 consider? Hearing none, is there a motion to adjourn?

2 VICE CHAIR: I move that we adjourn, Madam
3 Chair.

4 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

5 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-
6 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion to
7 adjourn? Hearing none all those in favor of adjourning
8 say aye.

9 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

10 MS. NASH: Aye.

11 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

12 CHAIR: Aye. All those opposed say nay.

13 Any abstentions? Hearing none, the motion passes. The
14 time is 1:12 and we are adjourned. Thank you everyone.

15 (Meeting concluded)

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