



**State of New Jersey**  
**CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION**

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

P.O. BOX 216  
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0216

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

DIANNA HOUEYOU, *Chair*  
KRISTA NASH, *Commissioner*  
MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, *Commissioner*  
SAMUEL DELGADO, *Commissioner*  
CHARLES BARKER, *Commissioner*  
CHRIS RIGGS, *Acting Executive*  
*Director*

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20

NEW JERSEY  
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

Date: Thursday, July 18, 2024  
Commencing at 11:00 a.m.

1 COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

2

3 DIANNA HOUEYOU, Chair

4 SAMUEL DELGADO, Vice Chair

5 CHARLES BARKER, Commissioner

6 KRISTA G. NASH, Commissioner

7 MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, Commissioner

8 DANIEL SAID, Board Secretary

9

10 ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS PRESENT:

11

12 CHRISTOPHER RIGGS, Chief Counsel

13 DAVE TUASON, Deputy Counsel

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. Thank you  
2 for joining us. The time is 11:07. I call this  
3 meeting to order.

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

6 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman, this is a  
7 regularly scheduled meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis  
8 Regulatory Commission's 2024 annual meeting schedule.

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

17 The meeting time and location has also  
18 been posted on the website of the New Jersey Cannabis  
19 Regulatory Commission and with the office of the  
20 Secretary of the State.

21 CHAIR: Thank you. Can you please take  
22 roll call?

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

24 COMMISSIONER CHARLES BARKER: Present.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-

1 Kosso?

2 COMMISSIONER MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO:

3 Present.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

5 COMMISSIONER KRISTA G. NASH: Present.

6 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

7 VICE CHAIR SAMUEL DELGADO: Present.

8 THE SECRETARY: 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 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that

20 we go into executive session.

21 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Second.

22 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Barker.

23 Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing none.

24 All those in favor of going into executive session say

25 aye?

1 (Board responds aye.)

2 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay. Any  
3 abstentions? Motion passes.

4 As Mr. Said said, we expect the executive  
5 session to last approximately 45 minutes. We will  
6 leave the livestream running during that time for any  
7 individuals in the room. Our staff will not be able to  
8 answer questions about the items up for consideration  
9 today, and we can expect to resume the public session  
10 we'll say -- we'll go at the, the top of the hour at 12  
11 o'clock. Thank you.

12 (Board adjourns to executive session.)

13 (Silence 00:10:28-01:15:26)

14 FEMALE VOICE: Mic check. Mic check. It's  
15 there.

16 (Silence 01:15:27-01:17:58)

17 FEMALE VOICE: The UC levels, yes?

18 (Silence 01:17:59-01:31:47)

19 FEMALE VOICE: Hello? Hello?

20 (Silence 01:31:49-01:45:40)

21 CHAIR: All right. I don't know what  
22 you're saying. Sorry, one moment please.

23 All right. So the time is 12:45 and we  
24 will resume the public portion of this meeting.

25 Apologies for the extended executive session time. We

1 try our best to estimate accurately how much time we'll  
2 need for executive session, but sometimes we need a  
3 little bit longer and our predictions are a little bit  
4 off. So I thank everybody for their patience.

5 Now, I do want to note, we are -- we have  
6 experienced a few technical difficulties this morning,  
7 so bear with us. If any of those technical  
8 difficulties get in the way, we may just take a pause  
9 to, to work things out as needed.

10 With that said, Mr. Said, can you please  
11 announce the next agenda item?

12 THE SECRETARY: Next up on the agenda is  
13 approving the minutes of both the commissions open and  
14 executive sessions held on June 17th. The minutes have  
15 been shared with the members of the commission prior to  
16 this meeting.

17 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there -- if there  
18 are no edits or changes to the meeting minutes, I'll  
19 ask for a motion.

20 VICE CHAIR: Ma'am Chairwoman, I move that  
21 we accept the June 17 minutes.

22 CHAIR: Is there a second?

23 FEMALE VOICE: Second.

24 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this  
25 motion to accept the meeting minutes? Hearing no

1 discussion, all those in favor, say aye.

2 (Board responds aye.)

3 CHAIR: All those opposed, say nay. Any  
4 abstentions? Motion passes.

5 THE SECRETARY: The next item upon the  
6 agenda is the chair's report.

7 CHAIR: All right. So I have a few  
8 updates to share with -- share with the board and the  
9 public. You can move to the first slide. So the  
10 first, I want to note that the commission still has  
11 quite a few inactive applications just sitting in our  
12 application portal and these applications are unable to  
13 move forward and advance through our approval process  
14 because businesses are not responding to NJCRC staff  
15 when reaching out to fix the application deficiencies.

16 So please, please, please ensure that your  
17 contact information is up to date and correctly listed  
18 in your application. Check your spam folders and your  
19 voicemail for, for contact from the CRC. And you can  
20 also contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the  
21 Office of Licensing, or your assigned investigator if  
22 you have any questions about how to fix a deficiency in  
23 your application.

24 In order to avoid issues in the future and  
25 allow business and business owners to submit new

1 applications, we will need to begin removing some of  
2 these old, stale applications from our application  
3 system.

4               Next slide, please. Later on this summer,  
5 the Commission will host a series of round tables with  
6 stakeholders to discuss issues such as patient purchase  
7 limits, institutional caregivers, and ATC availability.  
8 So please be on the lookout for the details for those  
9 stakeholder meetings and round tables as those details  
10 get firmed up.

11               And we are now -- I'm excited to, to share  
12 that we are providing an option for telephone -- I'm  
13 sorry, telephonic public comments. So those who are  
14 delivering comments in-person today will share their  
15 testimony first, and for those delivering comments,  
16 virtually, you will need to dial into Zoom by the  
17 beginning of the public comment portion of the meeting  
18 to ensure that you are ready to speak when your name is  
19 called.

20               So please be sure to -- I'm sorry. To  
21 ensure clear audio quality, please follow these  
22 suggestions. Use headphones and call from a quiet  
23 place when phoning in to give your statement. Silence  
24 all other nearby devices to avoid background noises,  
25 interruptions, and feedback. Speak clearly when giving



1 your statement. And folks in the room, if you could,  
2 please, silence your devices to make sure that we can  
3 all hear the, the folks joining by phone. And if you  
4 absolutely need to speak with somebody that -- somebody  
5 in the room, we ask that you keep your voice to a  
6 whisper.

7               Next slide, please. I also -- I lastly  
8 want to give a few updates on our priorities for the  
9 year. So the ad hoc committee on the bylaws has been  
10 established. Thank you to Vice Chair Delgado and  
11 Commissioner Nash for offering to serve on that  
12 committee. And that committee is expected to provide  
13 recommendations to the board by December on any changes  
14 to the agency's bylaws.

15              The Permitting and Licensing Committee  
16 gave a readout on -- in June on its successful  
17 listening session on the application and licensing  
18 process. And the board is, is still in progress for  
19 getting caught up on its annual reports. Two reports  
20 were adopted on the, the state's medical cannabis  
21 activities already. We are slated to adopt or consider  
22 two more reports today, so we are well on our way of  
23 getting caught up there.

24              Next slide, please. As I noted earlier,  
25 the, the board will be holding stakeholder and round

1 tables together for input and ideas on certain issues  
2 related to medical cannabis, so we are in progress  
3 there. And we have updated our internal process to  
4 access -- to ensure that we are assessing our  
5 regulatory and fiscal impacts ahead of certain policy  
6 changes to make sure that we have the adequate  
7 resources that we need to carry out our duties  
8 effectively. Thank you, Director Riggs and Chief of  
9 Staff Alcazar for their, their efforts there.

10 And the audit committee is, is in the  
11 process of reviewing its submissions for a potential  
12 university study of the agency. And so the committee  
13 does anticipate presenting a recommendation to the full  
14 board on this item by the next board meeting in  
15 September.

16 And next slide, thank you. Lastly, coming  
17 up down the end here, improvements to the annual  
18 renewal process for the adult-use licenses and medical  
19 permits are currently under review by staff and the  
20 Permitting and Licensing Committee. So we will -- we  
21 do expect to see recommendations from the Permitting  
22 and Licensing Committee over the next few months.

23 And then lastly, we have -- thanks to  
24 recent additional training for our Office of Compliance  
25 and Investigations team, we're seeing more proactive

1 review of businesses, and the team is catching  
2 violations swiftly. So I want to thank Director Urbish  
3 and the Office of Compliance and Investigation Unit for  
4 their dedication to giving meaning to our rules.

5 So it's a lot of updates, but I felt it  
6 important to make sure that the board and the public  
7 know the progress that we are making on these important  
8 issues. So that concludes my chair's report for today.  
9 Are there any questions from the board?

10 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Madam Chair,  
11 I don't have a question, but I do have a statement.

12 CHAIR: Yes, Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

13 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Thank you.

14 Thank you for that very thorough update and, and  
15 review. I do like to commend you and Director Riggs  
16 for speaking about the roundtables of medical cannabis  
17 issues. I think you and I have had several  
18 conversations around that topic for quite some months  
19 now. So I, again, thank you for putting this as a  
20 priority of -- on the list of priorities for the next  
21 couple of months that we have or are remaining in the -  
22 - in the year.

23 You know, we wouldn't be here if it wasn't  
24 for the medical program, the medical patients, so I  
25 think that these are important discussions that we need

1 to have before we put them to paper on the -- any  
2 amendments for the medical rules. So again, I thank  
3 you both for your work on this. Thank you.

4 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Del Cid-  
5 Kosso. And thank you for being a staunch advocate for  
6 the patient community and making sure that we are -- we  
7 get the stakeholder roundtables on the books. If there  
8 are no other questions, we'll move forward on the  
9 agenda.

10 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
11 agenda is the executive director's report.

12 CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is  
13 yours.

14 DIRECTOR RIGGS: Thank you, Chairwoman,  
15 and thank you, commissioners.

16 The first slide we'll go over is updates  
17 on dispensary openings. You know, we're still opening  
18 dispensaries. There's more than 150 medical and  
19 recreational dispenses -- dispensaries in the state of  
20 New Jersey and there's a dispensary open in all 21  
21 counties. There's a list here of the new recreational-  
22 only dispensaries. We have 77 Main Street in Bound  
23 Brook, Bleachers in Somerset, Brotherly Bud in Mount  
24 Ephraim, City Roots in Kingston, Emerald Tea Supply in  
25 Bloomfield, Nature's Motivation in Irvington, NJ Pure

1 in Edgewater Park and Scarlet Reserve Room in  
2 Englishtown.

3           So for a licensing update, these are the  
4 total licenses that have been approved as of June 26th,  
5 2024. We have about 2,600 applications that have been  
6 submitted: a little under 2,000 of them have been  
7 approved, 122 of those applications are still on review  
8 in our Office of Licensing, 309 applications are  
9 pending resubmission following a cure, and 136  
10 applications are under review in the Office of  
11 Compliance and Investigations.

12           Next slide shows the total recreational  
13 licenses that have been approved as of June 26th, 2024:  
14 1,444 conditionals, 350 conditional to annual  
15 conversions, 182 annuals, 78 expanded ATCs, which gives  
16 us a grand total of 277 total operating licenses in AU  
17 and medical.

18           Today, the applications are up for  
19 consideration. We have 32 conditional applications  
20 that are before the board, 17 conditional to annual  
21 conversion applications, 12 annual applications, and 15  
22 annual renewal applications.

23           And sort of to piggyback on Commissioner  
24 Del Cid-Kosso's comments, we always give a patient  
25 update. As of July 15th, 2024, total patients are

1 75,414, caregivers are a little under 5,000, and we  
2 have a little over 1,500 doctors enrolled in the  
3 program.

4 And as part of my executive director's  
5 report, I'm now going to turn the floor over with the  
6 Chair's permission to Chief Counsel Dave Tuason  
7 to talk about some of the additional ingestible forms  
8 and products that are available in our market.

9 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: So just I wanted  
10 to, to give an update on the availability of additional  
11 edibles products in the marketplace.

12 Now, on September 8th, 2023, last year,  
13 the commission waived several regulations to allow the  
14 production and dispensing of additional edible forms.  
15 On a parallel path, we proposed our rules on edible  
16 forms, which was published in a New Jersey Register on  
17 October 7th, 2023. That 60-day comment period ended  
18 and we're currently working on responses to those  
19 comments, as well as our Notice of Adoption.

20 So both the rule proposal and our waiver  
21 authorized the -- these following forms. They  
22 authorized dried form, topical formulations, oil  
23 formulations, syrups, single-serve beverages which are  
24 a 5 mg limit, pills, capsules, oral suspensions, and  
25 then non-TCS which are, you know, shelf-stable items

1 such as chocolate, gummies, baked goods, butters, jams  
2 and jellies, products that don't require time or  
3 temperature control. So those are all of the products  
4 that we authorized to waive -- that the commission  
5 authorized to waive.

6           Next slide, please. So looking at the  
7 forms that are currently out in the marketplace after  
8 our waiver and our rule proposal, we currently have  
9 some chocolates in the market, caramels and caramel  
10 chews, lollipops, cookies and brownies. And in, in  
11 conducting research in other states, we are aware that  
12 there are more product types, such as beverages, that  
13 are available and, you know, we continue to encourage  
14 manufacturers to produce additional types to provide  
15 more options to consumers and patients that are  
16 regulatorily compliant.

17           That ends the, the update there on  
18 additional edible forms. I'll turn it back to you,  
19 Director Riggs.

20           DIRECTOR RIGGS: Thank you, Chief Counsel.  
21 Now, we are going to move into our sales and pricing  
22 update. Since this is our quarterly report, you're  
23 going to hear from me on sales and pricing and things  
24 like that, and then I'll turn the floor over to our  
25 Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion,

1 Wesley McWhite, to talk about some of the demographics  
2 and data points.

3           The first slide you'll see is the last  
4 four quarters in medical and recreational sales. As  
5 you'll see, recreational sales continue to grow among -  
6 - quarter over quarter. The sales just continue to  
7 grow, and our medical sales, obviously, continue to  
8 drop. But since our recreational sales are outpacing,  
9 you know, the drop in medical sales, we're seeing a  
10 total increase in sales across the board if you combine  
11 them together.

12           Next slide, please. This is -- this is  
13 the previous 12 months, so this is just broken down a  
14 little more for, for dollar sales over the months.  
15 This is -- this is just adult-use sales only. So  
16 you'll see that the, you know, there is some seasonal  
17 dip from December to January, lot of folks are spending  
18 money in December and then, you know, in January,  
19 they're not spending as much money. So we do see  
20 seasonal dips and that's why it is good to look at the  
21 year over year and quarter over quarter data to kind of  
22 get a sense of where the market is.

23           Next slide. This is a slide that shows  
24 the price per gram of flour by month in the adult-use  
25 market. You can see the trend. It continues to go



1 down. Last July, it was at its high point at \$13.06  
2 and now, in this month of June in 2024, we're at  
3 \$11.80.

4 The next slide shows the mix of -- by  
5 product and category for the last 12 months, what --  
6 what's being sold. Bud and flour remain to be the  
7 highest. It continues to hover around 41 percent, 40  
8 percent, give or take, vape carts are second at 29  
9 percent, and edibles are at 14 percent.

10 And the final slide is something important  
11 because gram sold is really a good metric. And this  
12 chart, you know, shows that while the prices continue  
13 to drop and, and that's affecting top line sales  
14 numbers, participation in the legal cannabis market by  
15 consumers is growing at a more robust rate than retail  
16 sales alone would suggest. So you see 94 percent  
17 increase in sales, but gram over gram when we look at  
18 the grams and that big gap in between the yellow and  
19 the blue line, shows that you're, you're seeing more  
20 grams sold and the prices continuing to drop.

21 And that is all I have on sales and  
22 pricing data. And I'm going to turn the floor over,  
23 with the Chair's permission, to Director McWhite to  
24 talk about our quarterly data report.

25 DIRECTOR WESLEY MCWHITE: It's afternoon,

1 right? Good afternoon. Thank you, Director Riggs.  
2 Thank you, Chairwoman Houenou, for the opportunity to  
3 share, once again, our quarterly data report as we do  
4 every quarter. All the data in this report is as of  
5 July 12, 2024.

6 But as always, we want to thank the staff  
7 for their hard work in ensuring we move businesses from  
8 application submission all the way to recommendation  
9 for board approval, and to the board as well for their  
10 hard work in this process as well. A huge thank you to  
11 our Director of Data Analytics, Lynn Terranova, and his  
12 team, who puts all of our data together, as well as our  
13 Director of Communications, Toni-Anne Blake, who  
14 ensures that we're -- we are communicating this data  
15 effectively and efficiently. And as always, the full  
16 data report will be available online soon after this  
17 meeting.

18 So as always, we start with awardee  
19 application data. Between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2,  
20 we've seen an increase in the number of approved  
21 annuals, conversion to annuals, and approved  
22 conditionals across the board from multiple classes,  
23 and that includes cultivators, manufacturers,  
24 retailers. And last quarter, the board has approved  
25 its first annual distributor license and an additional

1 distributor conditional awardee as well.

2           An additional 7 social equity business  
3 awardees, and an additional 39 diversity-owned  
4 businesses were awarded. An increase from 337 to 376,  
5 as you can see here, and an increase from 79 social  
6 equity awardees to 86 social equity awardees between  
7 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, and percentages for diversity-  
8 owned businesses and for social equity businesses  
9 remain relatively the same at 17 and 16 percent. When  
10 you break down the race of individuals, social equity  
11 awardee individuals, 33 percent are Black or African  
12 American, 23 percent are White, 18 are listed as other,  
13 and 19 percent are of -- Hispanic or Latino.

14           We show this data chart to ensure that  
15 licensees and key populations are being approved at or  
16 around the same time or the same rate as they are  
17 applying. And so in this chart, we see that this data  
18 is consistent in -- within a pretty narrow margin. And  
19 if these, these margins start to widen, we would do  
20 some investigation to see where some of the stop caps  
21 and hurdles are.

22           Awards by social equity status. So  
23 approved social equity straight to annuals remain the  
24 same at four and that yes column -- excuse me --  
25 approved social equity conversion to annuals increase

1 between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, and increasing our  
2 total social equity awardees so far from 444 last  
3 quarter of our quarterly report to 468.

4           Between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, an  
5 additional 18 awardees with prior marijuana convictions  
6 were awarded. For diversity-owned businesses, awardees  
7 -- between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, there have been an  
8 additional 89 diversity-owned businesses awarded,  
9 seeing an increase across the board in approved  
10 annuals, conversion to annuals, and approved  
11 conditionals.

12           Among our impact zone businesses, we've  
13 seen an increase from 762 to 849. That is an increase  
14 of an additional 87 Impact Zone awardees across  
15 approved annuals, conversion to annuals, and again,  
16 approved conditionals.

17           Vice Chair Delgado's favorite slides, the  
18 top three annual license awardees by county are  
19 Burlington, Atlantic, and Union, with Union knocking  
20 Camden out of the top three from Quarter 1 to Quarter  
21 2. In conditional to annual conversions, our top three  
22 here are Atlantic, Essex, and Hudson County.

23           So the meat of the matter, the quarterly  
24 data benchmarks. No surprise here, we are continuing  
25 to see surpassing our statutory benchmarks of making

1 sure that we are awarding at least 15 percent of our  
2 annual licenses to minority-owned businesses and 15  
3 percent of our licenses to women or disabled-owned  
4 businesses. So those benchmarks, as you can see, are  
5 well over -- we're outperforming those benchmarks by  
6 well over 30 percent in both categories, with an  
7 additional 147 minority-owned awardees, an additional  
8 26 women or disabled vet-owned businesses. In  
9 addition, over one-third of our license awardees,  
10 that's about 35 percent, are micro-businesses. It's  
11 another statutory requirement benchmark set at 25  
12 percent, so overall surpassing that micro-business  
13 benchmark by 10 percent.

14               Here you can see our diversity-owned  
15 certification data. We continue to monitor  
16 certification data that we receive through the, the  
17 applicants and owner's certification with treasury.  
18 We've seen an increase in diverse -- to disabled  
19 veteran-owned businesses with a couple more conversions  
20 there and another annual, really all the -- all the way  
21 down to minority business enterprises and an additional  
22 diversely -- disabled veteran-owned business and an  
23 additional minority-owned business, women-owned  
24 business, and diverse -- disabled veteran-owned  
25 business. I'm reminding business owners that you can

1 certify for multiple certifications.

2           So again, according to MJ Biz Daily's  
3 annual DEI report, the -- their latest report, the  
4 national average of majority minority-owned cannabis  
5 businesses has seen a 4 percent decrease, and a  
6 majority women-owned cannabis business nationally has  
7 seen a 6 percent decrease, while New Jersey has seen an  
8 increase in its diversity and the stabilizing for  
9 minority-owned businesses at 37 percent and 41 percent  
10 women-owned businesses. So while the state of  
11 diversity nationally is experiencing a, a decrease in  
12 both of these areas, we are starting to see  
13 stabilization and an increase in ours.

14           Our benchmarks, as you can see, including  
15 expansions because we want to make sure that we're  
16 providing all of the accurate data. When you include  
17 expansions, we continue to exceed that benchmark that  
18 should be 15 percent. 40 percent of our licenses,  
19 including expansions, have been awarded to minority-  
20 owned businesses, and 49 percent of our licenses,  
21 including expansions, have been awarded to women or  
22 disabled veteran-owned businesses.

23           So majority owner's race and ethnicity for  
24 annual awardees, we -- as the number of awardees  
25 continue to grow, which is a good thing, potential dual

1 identifications have increased, and so this is a more  
2 accurate way or methodology that we will be  
3 communicating going forward -- we'll be communicating  
4 this data going forward.

5               So just for an example, the -- for Black  
6 or African American, there are 85 individuals who have  
7 self-identified or self-reported the race and ethnicity  
8 as Black or African American, but as you can see, there  
9 is someone who is also identified as Black or African  
10 American, American Indian or Alaska Native, or Black or  
11 African American, others or not listed.

12              And so it was important for us, Chair and  
13 the public, to make sure that we are representing these  
14 numbers accurately and representing these very real  
15 numbers with the way folks are self-reporting according  
16 to our licensing system. And all the way at the  
17 bottom, 59 percent -- 59 of our awardees are Hispanic  
18 or Latino majority-owned, which is now a percent of  
19 awardees, and last quarter, that percentage was just 6  
20 percent. So between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, we've  
21 seen a significant increase in Hispanic or Latino  
22 majority ownership awardees.

23              Operational businesses, which is always  
24 very important for us to report out that operational  
25 business is licensed under the CREAMM Act. So 13 of

1 those are, are cultivators that has increased, the  
2 number of manufacturers has increased, the number of  
3 retailers -- operational retailers have increased as  
4 well. New this quarter, 15 new impact zone businesses,  
5 17 new women-owned businesses, 6 majority owners with  
6 previous marijuana convictions, and 25 new open,  
7 diversely owned businesses.

8 Out of those operational businesses, 32  
9 percent are women business enterprises, 18 are minority  
10 business enterprises, 17 percent are minority and women  
11 business enterprises, and almost 3 percent, which is an  
12 increase from last quarter with an additional  
13 diversity-owned business opening from Quarter 1 to  
14 Quarter 2. So new majority ownership this quarter is  
15 five black or African American businesses, 17 women-  
16 owned businesses, five Hispanic or Latino-owned  
17 businesses, and two disabled veteran-owned businesses.

18 And so that is it for me. And I turn this  
19 back over to executive director or the chair.

20 CHAIR: Okay. Thank you so much all of  
21 you for the wealth of information. I have a question  
22 actually for Chief Counsel Tuason with respect to the  
23 impact of the resolution that the board adopted in  
24 September opening up the pathway for more edible  
25 products. Approximately, how many businesses are



1 actually taking advantage of these new opportunities to  
2 offer more products? Is it -- are staff seeing that a  
3 majority of our businesses are actually leaning into  
4 this space, or do we see fewer than expected businesses  
5 actually taking advantage of this opportunity?

6 DIRECTOR RIGGS: If you don't mind, Madam  
7 Chair, I will take that question from chief counsel. I  
8 would say that it's not a majority of the businesses  
9 taking advantage of this opportunity. We would like to  
10 see more businesses take advantage of the opportunity  
11 of these waivers to make more products available to  
12 both patients and consumers.

13 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs.

14 Now, I would emphasize that the -- a large  
15 driving factor, a large drive -- one of our biggest  
16 drivers that push the board to actually take this  
17 action was desire from patients and consumers to see  
18 more -- a wider variety of product. And also from the  
19 businesses that wanted to take advantage of this. So I  
20 would hope that those businesses that did -- that were  
21 pining for this opportunity are taking advantage of it  
22 now that it's been up and running for almost a year.

23 Are there any other questions from the  
24 board for the -- our staff?

25 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: No questions,

1 Madam Chair. Just a quick statement if that's okay.

2 CHAIR: Yes, Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

3 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Thank you.

4 Just a one request for Acting Director Riggs. On the  
5 pricing update that you just gave us, it just has adult  
6 use. Could you provide at a next board meeting what  
7 that pricing looks like for medical cannabis?

8 And then on the update that was given by  
9 Director McWhite, thank you so much for that update. I  
10 just want to commend you and your team for all of the  
11 work that you guys are doing to promote more  
12 applications especially for minority-owned businesses.  
13 I'm very happy with the number that it was almost -- it  
14 almost doubled since our last report for Latino numbers  
15 of awards -- annual awards by Hispanic or Latino  
16 majority, which is great.

17 And I do commend you -- you and your team  
18 for being out there in the community and being  
19 advocates, and also including me in -- in part of those  
20 conversations.

21 So thank you. And I'm very happy to see  
22 that those numbers are increasing as we get more  
23 applications through the -- through the line -- through  
24 this system. Thank you.

25 CHAIR: All right. Thank you,

1 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

2 Any other questions from the Board? All  
3 right. Hearing none, we will move on.

4 And before we move on though, I forgot to  
5 note when we came back and resumed public session, that  
6 there is a change on the agenda. So Item Number 12,  
7 the enforcement action for NOV7724, that is being  
8 removed from consideration and will be presented for  
9 consideration at a future board meeting. That's the  
10 only agenda change being made for on the public facing  
11 agenda. So forgot -- apologies for not noting that  
12 sooner. I wanted to make sure I got that in.

13 All right. Mr. Said, we'll move on to the  
14 next agenda item.

15 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
16 agenda are the committee reports.

17 CHAIR: Great. So today we have a  
18 committee report from the audit committee, and I will  
19 actually be providing this committee report.

20 So now that the Annual Appropriations Act  
21 has -- has been enacted, wanted to share out the budget  
22 for the Cannabis Regulatory Commission. For fiscal  
23 year 2025, the agency's budget is at \$18.28 million.  
24 It's broken down here into four -- four general  
25 categories. As you see, the staffing and staff-related

1 costs are -- are the -- the bulk of the expenditures  
2 for this year. We are currently operating with 70-  
3 some-odd personnel.

4           So -- and we are still planning for  
5 continued growth, right? As the regulated industry  
6 continues to grow, so does the agencies need to make  
7 sure that we have the staff and the resources able to -  
8 - to keep up with that growth.

9           Next slide, please.

10           And then the committee -- the audit  
11 committees -- one of the audit committees' priorities  
12 as I mentioned earlier, was to get caught up on all of  
13 our statutorily required annual reports. And so two of  
14 the six medical -- medical reports have already been  
15 adopted by the board, two are being considered today.  
16 And data for the adult use annual report is already  
17 being compiled. So I want to thank the Office of Data  
18 and Business Analytics for their work getting all of  
19 this -- these numbers together.

20           And so it looks like we are on track for  
21 getting all of our annual reports completed and adopt -  
22 - and before the board for full -- sorry. Before the  
23 full board for consideration and adoption by the end of  
24 this year.

25           That's all that the -- that's it for the

1 audit committee's report. Are there any questions from  
2 the board? Hearing none, and we'll move on.

3 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
4 agenda is the consideration of public notices and  
5 publications.

6 CHAIR: All right. So with this, I will  
7 turn it over to Chief Counsel Tuason.

8 CHIEF COUNSEL TWAYSON: Hello. Our  
9 clinical registrant rule proposal was published in the  
10 New Jersey Register on August 7th, 2023. Today we're -  
11 - we're -- the board is deciding whether to approve to  
12 adopt that rule for filing for the Office of  
13 Administrative Law.

14 So when we proposed it on August 7th, we  
15 had a 60-day public comment period, which ended on  
16 October 6th, 2023.

17 So the proposed rules, they establish a  
18 process for clinical registrant applications and that  
19 application process aligns closely with our personal  
20 use rules and require a similar application submission  
21 process and documentation.

22 It allows -- just a piece of  
23 clarification, it allows, like, new ATC permit holders  
24 that clinical registrants are a subset of an ATC. So  
25 those ATCs, the clinical registrants, that apply and --

1 and obtain a clinical registering permit would be able  
2 to engage in clinical research -- clinical medical  
3 research.

4 It must be associated with a regional  
5 academic medical center to conduct research, to  
6 cultivate, manufacture and dispense medicinal --  
7 medicinal cannabis products and cannabis products.

8 And the next step, if the board approves  
9 this adoption -- notice of adoption, it'll be filed  
10 with the Office of Administrative Law and then they  
11 will go ahead and move forward with publishing that  
12 adoption in the future as well as if the -- if the  
13 board approves the notice of adoption, then the next  
14 step after that -- after it's published would be to  
15 adopt a notice of application acceptance, which would  
16 detail the application process. And that would be  
17 sometime in the future as well.

18 Okay. I turn it over for the board vote.

19 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel Tuason.  
20 And I want to thank all of the commenters that provided  
21 feedback on this important permit type. And so I'm  
22 excited that -- with your feedback, we were able to  
23 incorporate some ideas that were brought forward by  
24 members of the public.

25 Are there any questions from the board

1 regarding the information Counsel Tuason shared?

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

3 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Madam Chair,  
4 I move to adopt the approval of notice of adoption with  
5 amendments and new rules for clinical register and  
6 permits?

7 CHAIR: Is there a second?

8 VICE CHAIR: I second.

9 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this  
10 motion?

11 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes, Madam Chair.

12 CHAIR: Commissioner Nash.

13 COMMISSIONER NASH: I am really interested  
14 to learn what research comes out of the partnership  
15 between these clinical registrants and academic medical  
16 centers here in New Jersey. Especially, if it expands  
17 on more currently accepted medical uses of cannabis.

18 Additionally, as an animal rights  
19 advocate, I am thrilled that we have included language  
20 in the proposed clinical registered rules that  
21 prohibits animal testing in our nonclinical research.  
22 I am proud that New Jersey has banned this cruel and  
23 unnecessary practice in the cosmetic industry, and I'm  
24 hopeful we will do the same in the cannabis industry as  
25 it relates to research.

1                   Madam Chair?

2                   CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Nash. Any  
3 other discussion on this motion? All right. Hearing  
4 no further discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call  
5 the vote?

6                   THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

7                   COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

8                   THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
9 Kosso.

10                  COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Yes.

11                  THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

12                  COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

13                  THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

14                  VICE CHAIR: Yes.

15                  THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

16                  CHAIR: Yes.

17                  THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

18                  The next item as part of the public  
19 notices and publications is the report on medicinal  
20 cannabis activities.

21                  CHAIR: Thank you.

22                  I'll turn it over to Director Riggs.

23                  DIRECTOR RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

24                  We have two reports. These are the  
25 reports that you had mentioned briefly in your chair's



1 remarks for medicinal cannabis activities 2020 and  
2 2021. These simply summarize the regulatory and  
3 operational activities that were related to medical  
4 cannabis during the years of 2020 through 2021. A big  
5 shout out to director of Data and Business Analytics,  
6 Len Terranova for helping to put together the data  
7 for these reports and all the data for this public  
8 meeting.

9                   These reports are required to go to the  
10 governor, and if the board approves them, they will.  
11 And they also are required to go to the legislature.  
12 So as soon as the board votes on them and they are  
13 approved, we'll make sure that they end up on the --  
14 with the legislature and with the governor.

15                   The reports are -- there is no personally  
16 identifying information contained in the reports. It's  
17 all anonymous data. But it does give a sense of the  
18 activities that were performed during those years, and  
19 we are recommending that these reports be approved by  
20 the board. Thank you.

21                   CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs.

22                   Are there any questions from the board  
23 regarding the medicinal cannabis reports? Hearing no  
24 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

25                   VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that

1 we accept the motion on the medical (inaudible).

2 CHAIR: To approve the medical reports?

3 VICE CHAIR: To approve them. Thank you.

4 CHAIR: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

6 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this  
7 motion to approve the medical reports? Hearing no  
8 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

10 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
12 Kosso?

13 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

15 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

17 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

19 CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

21 The next item on the agenda is the  
22 consideration of the delegation of authority.

23 CHAIR: Thank you. I'll turn it back over  
24 to you, Director Riggs, to provide a summary of these  
25 authorities to be delegated.

1                   DIRECTOR RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2                   And there are two authorities that we are  
3 requesting as staff be delegated. It is a failure to  
4 pay required fees on a license application, fees and  
5 invoices are provided by our director of licensing to  
6 applicants. Applicants are provided with various  
7 opportunities to -- to pay those invoices. They're  
8 given multiple notices to pay those invoices, and some  
9 are just failing to pay. So we're requesting to be  
10 able to deny them after the process is followed and  
11 they're given that -- that notice.

12                  And we are also requesting delegated  
13 authority to be more efficient with name changes. Many  
14 name changes come into the -- our office and there's no  
15 fees associated with that. And we were requesting to  
16 make that process more efficient that both of those  
17 authorities be delegated to staff. Thank you.

18                  CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any  
19 questions from the board? I do want to note for the  
20 public, and this will be stipulated in the resolution  
21 that is posted online, that the -- should the board  
22 vote to -- in the affirmative, to delegate authority to  
23 staff to take action on name changes, that does not  
24 affect, or any way impact the requirements and  
25 restrictions on how business names are used pursuant to

1 our regulations.

2 So I just want to make sure that the  
3 public knows that. That will be reflected in the  
4 resolution that is posted online. Okay.

5 There's no -- if there are no questions  
6 and no other comments on this item, is there a motion  
7 on this item?

8 COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chair, I move to  
9 approve the resolution to delegate authority to act on  
10 a failure to pay requisite fees.

11 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Second.

12 CHAIR: I'm sorry. Commissioner Nash,  
13 could you -- could you restate your -- your motion? My  
14 apologies. It was to approve the resolution --

15 COMMISSIONER NASH: I'm sorry. The name  
16 change -- approve the resolution for the name changes.

17 VICE CHAIR: I second.

18 CHAIR: So to be -- to be clear, this --  
19 your motion is to approve the resolution to delegate  
20 authority to act on failure to pay requisite fees and  
21 on applications for name changes?

22 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes, that's correct.

23 CHAIR: Okay. Thank you for that  
24 clarification. All right. So Commissioner Nash moves  
25 to approve the resolution with respect to delegated

1 authority for both failure to pay requisite fees and  
2 applications for name changes. Is there a second on  
3 this motion?

4 VICE CHAIR: I second.

5 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.  
6 Thank you.

7 Is there any discussion on this motion?  
8 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call  
9 the vote?

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

11 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Nay.

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
13 Kosso?

14 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

16 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

18 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

20 CHAIR: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

22 The next item on the agenda is the  
23 consideration of applications for ownership changes.

24 CHAIR: Director Riggs, I'll turn it over  
25 to you to describe the submitted applications for an

1 ownership change.

2 DIRECTOR RIGGS: Thank you, Chairwoman.

3 We have today for the board's  
4 consideration, three ownership changes Illicit Gardens  
5 NJ LLC is adding a new owner, Phasal LLC is changing  
6 their ownership structure and Holistic Re-Leaf is  
7 changing their ownership structure. All of these  
8 changes were submitted and reviewed by the Office of  
9 Compliance and Investigation. Each of these entities  
10 has satisfied the regulatory requirements for an  
11 ownership change.

12 All of the owners and individuals that are  
13 required to be vetted for the -- for these ownership  
14 changes were vetted, and that was done by the Office of  
15 Compliance and Investigation. And the office is  
16 satisfied that these folks are qualified to enter into  
17 the cannabis space. Therefore, we are recommending  
18 that these ownership changes be approved. Thank you.

19 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs.

20 Are there any questions from the board  
21 regarding these three ownership change applications?  
22 Hearing no questions from the board, is there a motion  
23 on this matter?

24 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
25 (inaudible).

1 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is  
2 there a second?

3 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Second.

4 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-  
5 Kosso.

6 Is there any discussion on this motion?  
7 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call  
8 the vote?

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

10 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
12 Kosso?

13 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

15 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

17 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

19 CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Motion passes.

21 The next item as part of the applications  
22 for permit or license changes is the location changes.

23 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, the  
24 floor is yours to describe those businesses that want  
25 to change location.

1                   DIRECTOR RIGGS: Thank you. We have two  
2 businesses that have submitted requests to change their  
3 location. Columbia Care, New Jersey is trying to  
4 change their location and moving up the street on the  
5 Black Horse Pike in Mays landing. Acreage CCF is  
6 moving from Atlantic City to Collingswood.

7                   These were requested and submitted to the  
8 Office of Compliance and Investigation. These are  
9 medical permits. Both have been -- have submitted  
10 documentation of site control and municipal approvals.  
11 An onsite inspection of these new locations is required  
12 before the commencement of operations. That will  
13 happen if and when the board approves these location  
14 changes.

15                   We are recommending that these location  
16 changes be approved. Thank you.

17                   CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs.

18                   Are there any questions from the board?  
19 Hearing none. Is there a motion on this matter -- with  
20 respect to -- sorry. With respect to Columbia Care.  
21 We're taking these in turn. So with respect to  
22 Columbia Care, New Jersey is their motion change.

23                   VICE CHAIR: One at a time?

24                   CHAIR: Yes.

25                   VICE CHAIR: Okay. Madam Chairwoman, I



1 move that we accept the resolution (inaudible) Columbia  
2 Care (inaudible).

3 CHAIR: Thank you, Vice Chair Delgado.

4 Is there a second?

5 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Second.

6 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-  
7 Kosso.

8 Is there any discussion on this motion  
9 with respect to Columbia Care, New Jersey? Hearing no  
10 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

12 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
14 Kosso?

15 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

17 COMMISSIONER 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.

23 CHAIR: All right. Now, we'll turn to  
24 Acreage CCF, New Jersey. Is there a motion as it  
25 relates to Acreage?

1                   VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
2 we accept the resolution consideration of application  
3 for location change for Acreage CCF, New Jersey from  
4 1301 Broadwalk Atlantic City to 35 Crescent Boulevard,  
5 Collingswood, New Jersey.

6                   CHAIR: Is there a second?

7                   COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

8                   CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash.

9                   Is there any discussion on this motion as  
10 it relates to Acreage CCF, New Jersey?

11                  COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Madam Chair,  
12 it's not a question, but a statement if I may.

13                  CHAIR: Yes, Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

14                  COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: So it doesn't  
15 pertain specifically to -- specific to any application  
16 that we are seeing right now, but just a general  
17 statement.

18                  When it comes to approving changes of  
19 location or reviewing these type of requests that we  
20 get, I do would like to point out and would appreciate  
21 if licensees and awardees have discussions with their  
22 employees about these requests that they're making to  
23 the CRC. These are people's livelihoods that we're  
24 discussing here. All right? Folks would probably have  
25 to take a bus to their job -- to their new location now

1 or the location of their -- of the new site might be an  
2 hour away now or 30 minutes.

3 So I do find this very concerning  
4 sometimes. And when I review these, I look at the  
5 distance of the original location and the new location  
6 being proposed. So I just want to ask the -- the  
7 awardees that they have this discussions with their --  
8 with their staff and -- and their employees beforehand.

9 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Del Cid-  
10 Kosso.

11 Is there any further discussion on this  
12 motion as it relates to Acreage CCF, New Jersey.  
13 Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Said, can you please  
14 call the vote?

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

16 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
18 Kosso?

19 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

21 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

23 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

25 CHAIR: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Motion passes.

2 The next item up for consideration are the  
3 adult use cannabis business conditional license  
4 applications.

5 CHAIR: Sorry. Director Riggs, the floor  
6 is yours to provide us a summary of the conditional  
7 license applications received.

8 DIRECTOR RIGGS: Thank you, Chairwoman.

9 Today before the board, we have 32  
10 conditional licenses, six cultivators, two  
11 manufacturers, four wholesalers, one distributor, 11  
12 retailers, and eight delivery licenses. And Director  
13 McWhite, just pause briefly on all these sides so folks  
14 can see if their business is up there and before the  
15 board for approval.

16 All these conditional licenses have  
17 followed the licensing process. They've been given a  
18 priority assignment. It's been confirmed that each  
19 application is assigned to appropriate priority review  
20 level. We look for diversely owned business status,  
21 taxes, residency if required, and then cures are sent  
22 out. If those items aren't met, that priority is then  
23 verified where additional cures can be sent if needed.

24 They've undergone completeness review.  
25 It's been confirmed by our Office of Licensing that all

1 required documents were submitted, and the application  
2 is deemed complete. And then they're scored and  
3 recommended for approval.

4 So right now we have 32 licenses in the --  
5 32 conditional licenses that are before the board for  
6 approval. Thank you.

7 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs.

8 Are there any questions from the board?  
9 Hearing no questions from the board, is there a motion  
10 on this matter?

11 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I move  
12 that we approve the conditional licenses up for  
13 consideration.

14 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Barker. Is  
15 there a second?

16 VICE CHAIR: I second.

17 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.

18 Is there any discussion on this motion to  
19 approve the conditional license applications? Hearing  
20 no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

22 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
24 Kosso?

25 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

2 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

4 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

6 CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

8 Next item up for consideration are the  
9 adult use cannabis business conversion license  
10 applications.

11 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, floor  
12 is yours.

13 DIRECTOR RIGGS: Thank you. Today we have  
14 17 conditional annual conversion licenses. There's  
15 five cultivators, three manufacturers, and nine  
16 retailers. We are going to place some slides up on the  
17 screen that includes all of the businesses that are  
18 recommended for approval.

19 They follow the same process that I just  
20 mentioned for conditionals. They've been scored, but  
21 they've also followed the annual process. So they've  
22 also gone through a qualification review, where the  
23 individual's, financial sources and any other  
24 agreements like management services contracts are  
25 reviewed for regulatory compliance.

1                   Background checks are completed on all  
2 owners and persons of interest to make sure that  
3 they're deemed qualified to be in the cannabis space.  
4 And there's a quality control component done by our  
5 Offices of Licensing and our Office of Diversity or our  
6 Office of Compliance and Investigations and our legal  
7 office. And then we make our recommendation to the  
8 board.

9                   So 17 licenses are up that are from the  
10 conditional conversion phase and we're recommending  
11 that they be approved. Thank you.

12                  CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs.

13                  Are there any questions from the board?  
14 Hearing no questions from the board, is there a motion  
15 on this matter?

16                  COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I move  
17 that we approve the conversion applications up for  
18 consideration today.

19                  CHAIR: Is there a second?

20                  VICE CHAIR: I second.

21                  CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.

22                  Is there any discussion on this motion?  
23 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call  
24 the vote?

25                  THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

1 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
3 Kosso?

4 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

6 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

8 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

10 CHAIR: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

12 The next item up for consideration is the  
13 adult use cannabis business annual license  
14 applications?

15 CHAIR: Yes, Director Riggs, floor is  
16 yours --

17 DIRECTOR RIGGS: Thank you.

18 CHAIR: -- to share an update on a summary  
19 of the -- annual license applications received. But I  
20 believe we are taking this in -- yes, I'm sorry. I  
21 believe we're taking this on all-in-one swoop.

22 DIRECTOR RIGGS: We are. We're taking it  
23 all in one swoop.

24 So we have annual licenses up for renewal,  
25 three manufacturers, one wholesale, one distributor,



1 five retailers, one delivery. We're going to put them  
2 all up on the board.

3 These licenses all follow the similar  
4 process that I outlined in my previous remarks for  
5 conditional licenses and conditional conversion  
6 licenses. And therefore we are recommending approval.

7 CHAIR: Okay. I believe there is one less  
8 -- one of these applications actually is not under --  
9 under consideration for today.

10 DIRECTOR RIGGS: That's -- that's correct.  
11 There's 11 licenses up for renewal, one retailer. It  
12 is 2893, Atlantic License Development, LLC, is not  
13 recommended for approval and is being sent back to our  
14 Office of Compliance and Investigation for further  
15 investigation.

16 CHAIR: Thank you.

17 DIRECTOR RIGGS: Apologies for the error  
18 on the slides.

19 CHAIR: That is all right. We are all  
20 human.

21 Okay. So this is a set of 11 annual  
22 license applications then that have been presented.  
23 Are there any questions from the board regarding the 11  
24 license applications?

25 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Yeah, can you just

1 repeat the user ID again?

2 DIRECTOR RIGGS: Yes. Atlantic License  
3 Development. It's not on the slides in my deck in  
4 front of me. It's one of the retailers that is up  
5 there, 2893.

6 COMMISSIONER BARKER: I see it.

7 DIRECTOR RIGGS: That's being removed from  
8 the list of recommendations, and we are not  
9 recommending that at this time for approval.

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

13 COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chair, I move to  
14 approve the resolution for consideration of annual  
15 license applications.

16 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash. Is  
17 there a second?

18 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Second.

19 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-  
20 Kosso.

21 Is there any discussion on this motion?  
22 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call  
23 the vote?

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

25 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
2 Kosso?

3 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

5 COMMISSIONER 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.

11 The next item up for consideration are the  
12 adult use cannabis business annual license renewal  
13 applications.

14 CHAIR: Thank you. And this is the one  
15 that we're taking in two turns. So Director Riggs, I  
16 will turn the floor over to you to describe our first  
17 set of annual license renewal applications.

18 DIRECTOR RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

19 The first set is going to include 14  
20 annual license renewals. And the reason we have these  
21 broken out is because expanded ATCs in their first year  
22 of operations are required to submit a new municipal  
23 support letter. So we have them listed. They've all  
24 submitted the required documentation under the  
25 regulations and statute. They've submitted the

1 required documentation that we require for renewals,  
2 and we are recommending that these 14 be approved for  
3 renewal for their operations. Thank you.

4 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any  
5 questions from the board regarding this set of 14  
6 annual license renewal applications? Hearing none, is  
7 there a motion on this matter?

8 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
9 we accept the resolution (inaudible).

10 CHAIR: Sorry. Could you repeat that? I  
11 believe the microphone may have cut out.

12 VICE CHAIR: Okay. Fine. I'll repeat it.

13 CHAIR: Thank you.

14 VICE CHAIR: So everybody hear me okay?

15 CHAIR: Yes. Yeah.

16 VICE CHAIR: Thank you. So Madam  
17 Chairwoman, I move that we approve the resolution for  
18 consideration of the 14 adult use annual renewal  
19 application.

20 CHAIR: Thank you, Vice Chair Delgado. I  
21 don't want to give our OIT staff a heart attack on  
22 sound issues.

23 Is there a second on this motion?

24 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Second.

25 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-

1 Kosso.

2 Is there any discussion on this motion as  
3 it pertains to this set of 14?

4 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Just a brief  
5 discussion, Madam Chair.

6 CHAIR: Commissioner Barker.

7 COMMISSIONER BARKER: I just want to ask  
8 to the industry and to the entities up for  
9 consideration and those that will be up for  
10 consideration, please I can't stress this enough,  
11 adhere to our reporter -- adhere to our reporting  
12 requirements for the renewal process. You are to  
13 submit timely, detailed, complete information to our  
14 respective directors. And if you have any questions,  
15 the team is very helpful. They can be supportive in  
16 that. So I please stress that and ask you to -- to  
17 adhere to that. Thank you.

18 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Barker.

19 Is there any further discussion on this  
20 motion? Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Said, can  
21 you please call the vote?

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

23 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
25 Kosso?

1 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

3 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

5 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou.

7 CHAIR: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

9 The next item up for consideration is the  
10 annual license renewal application for Brute's Roots,  
11 LLC. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso has recused herself  
12 from this renewal application from Brute's Roots due to  
13 an ongoing professional relationship. On account of  
14 her recusal, she'll step out of the room while the  
15 board considers this particular application.

16 Afterward, Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso will  
17 come back in and we'll take up the next order of  
18 business.

19 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said.

20 Director Riggs, the floor is yours to  
21 describe the annual license renewal for Brute's Roots.

22 DIRECTOR RIGGS: We have Brute's Roots up  
23 and Brute's Roots follow the same process as all the  
24 other renewals, but I do want to make a mention, and  
25 this does not technically pertain to Brute's Roots. It

1 says it pertains to every single licensee that is going  
2 to renew their adult use license. "Please ensure that  
3 all material changes are reported to the commission as  
4 soon as they happen. Do not wait until your renewal  
5 and think that the board is going to approve an  
6 ownership change."

7                   And as a second request that is an  
8 additional request, just because the board votes on a  
9 renewal or approves a renewal does not mean that  
10 they've approved any ownership change or any other  
11 material change to the business. But we are  
12 recommending that Brute's Roots is approved on its  
13 annual renewal. Thank you.

14                   CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs for that  
15 clarification. I think it is -- I would echo that and  
16 underscore the importance of making -- making it very -  
17 - that we make it very clear that this particular item  
18 up for consideration is just for the annual license  
19 renewal and the board will consider each item that it  
20 has to act on, in turn.

21                   Are there any questions from the board  
22 regarding the information provided? Hearing none, are  
23 there -- is there a motion on this matter as it  
24 pertains to Brute's Roots?

25                   COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chair, I move to

1 approve the renewal for Brute's Roots.

2 CHAIR: Is there a second?

3 VICE CHAIR: I second.

4 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.

5 Is there any discussion on this motion?

6 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call  
7 the vote as it pertains to the annual license renewal  
8 for Brute's Roots?

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

10 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso  
12 is recused. Commissioner Nash?

13 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

15 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

17 CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

19 The next item up for consideration are the  
20 cases, claims and petitions.

21 CHAIR: So here we begin with our ATC  
22 Identification Cards. Director Riggs, I will turn the  
23 floor over to you.

24 DIRECTOR RIGGS: Thank you, Chairwoman.  
25 Today before the board, we have seven alternative



1 treatment center employees that are requesting that  
2 they be deemed rehabilitated by the board. There's a  
3 statutory requirement and a regulatory requirement that  
4 background checks be conducted. And there are certain  
5 disqualifying convictions that prevent these folks from  
6 working in the cannabis space, in the medical space.

7           So we -- we have reviewed these. These  
8 individuals have requested that they be shown to be  
9 rehabilitated. They've been given that opportunity to  
10 challenge the accuracy of the criminal history results.  
11 And they're now requesting that they be deemed  
12 rehabilitated by the clear and convincing evidence that  
13 they've provided to staff. And we are recommending  
14 that these individuals be reinstated and allowed to  
15 work in the medical cannabis space. Thank you.

16           CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs.

17           Is there any -- are there any questions  
18 from the board regarding the information provided?  
19 Hearing none, is there a motion on this matter?

20           COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I move  
21 that we approve the request for rehabilitation.

22           CHAIR: Is there a second?

23           VICE CHAIR: I second.

24           CHAIR: Is there any -- so seconded by  
25 Vice Chair Delgado.

1                   Is there any discussion on this motion to  
2 approve the request for rehabilitation?

3                   COMMISSIONER BARKER: Brief discussion,  
4 Madam Chair, very brief. Just wanted to thank the  
5 staff. Can't thank you enough. I think reading some  
6 of the individual testimonies, and I won't disclose  
7 them, but it's -- it shakes you to the core. It really  
8 does. And the ability to give somebody a second chance  
9 for somebody to pour out all of their feelings, all of  
10 their -- their life story and their history and the  
11 things that they went through and to really be so  
12 humble to be requesting a job, man, it's just -- it  
13 breaks you.

14                   And to think in cannabis especially, we  
15 are reading real stories from people impacted by the  
16 war on drugs, and they went through so much for decades  
17 and now they have this job opportunity and they're  
18 looking to keep it. They're looking to stay on the  
19 right path.

20                   And so I think since we started this, and  
21 since staff has -- has brought this, since the chair  
22 has led it, I think we're close to 30 people. And  
23 they're -- they're telling us, hey, this is the  
24 difference between life and death. This is the  
25 difference between being able to provide for my family

1 or being -- considering recidivism and going back into  
2 the old ways.

3 And so just -- just really want to thank  
4 staff, I want to thank my fellow Commissioners, and  
5 thank the CRC for really putting this forward. I do  
6 think it is -- it is making real, real drastic  
7 improvements on people's lives in an exponential  
8 fashion. And so thank you.

9 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Barker.

10 Is there any further discussion on this  
11 motion to approve the request for rehabilitation?  
12 Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

14 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
16 Kosso?

17 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

19 COMMISSIONER 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.

25 The next item on the agenda, we -- is the

1 open public comment period.

2 CHAIR: All right. So as we open the  
3 floor -- as we open the floor for public comment, I  
4 want to remind everyone that members of the public can  
5 submit their comment to the commission during or after  
6 this meeting in writing via our website,  
7 nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. The deadline for submitting  
8 written comments for today's meeting is 5 o'clock  
9 tomorrow, Friday, July 19th. Written comments will be  
10 shared with the commission members, and they will be  
11 made public.

12 As I mentioned earlier, we are also  
13 accepting comments -- public comments virtually now.  
14 We will first hear from those individuals who are  
15 joining us in person and have registered to speak.  
16 We'll then open up the floor to members of the phone --  
17 I'm sorry. Members of the public joining us by phone.

18 For those delivering comments virtually,  
19 again, I want to remind you of a few things to help us  
20 ensure that we can hear you. Use headphones and call  
21 us from a quiet place, when phoning in to give your  
22 statement, please silence all other nearby devices to  
23 avoid background noises, interruptions, and electronic  
24 feedback. And please speak clearly when giving your  
25 statement.

1           When we do get to the -- the telephonic  
2 statements, I want to ask my -- the folks who are  
3 joining us in person to please silence your devices and  
4 make sure that you are keeping any communication to a  
5 whisper so that we can make sure that we are hearing  
6 our folks who are joining us virtually.

7           Speakers -- as always, speakers will be  
8 limited to three minutes. If you do not use -- I'm  
9 sorry. If you are not able to finish all of your  
10 comments in that three-minute period, I do invite you  
11 to submit your comments in writing where there is no  
12 such limitation on length.

13           Now, I must emphasize that while  
14 individuals are free to critique the commission and its  
15 decisions or the effects of the commission's decisions,  
16 personal attacks and threats against NJCRC personnel  
17 will not be tolerated. Anyone who uses their comment  
18 to make any such attacks or threaten commission staff  
19 or board members will be considered disruptive of the  
20 board meeting and will be removed from the board  
21 meeting.

22           That said, Mr. Said will call out the  
23 names of our speakers. Again, we are starting with  
24 those individuals who are joining us in person. When  
25 it is your turn to speak, please come to the front, tap

1 the button on the microphone until you see the green  
2 light. Please make sure that the green light is lit  
3 before you give your comments. And state your name  
4 very clearly for the record and for our stenographer  
5 who is transcribing the meeting.

6 Mr. Said, please call on our first set of  
7 speakers.

8 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Chairwoman.

9 As a reminder, public speakers during this  
10 afternoon's public comment period will be limited to  
11 three minutes. Please be respectful and concise during  
12 your comments.

13 So the first name that we have on the list  
14 in person is Margarita Tsalyuk. All right. I don't  
15 see that. Next person is Jason Roussell. I don't  
16 see that person. David Feder. All right. Next person  
17 is Lisa Hamlet. Okay. Next is Joseph Simmons.  
18 Next is Gaetano Lardieri. Next is Linda Solana. Next  
19 is Damon Hanchell. Next on the list is Christopher  
20 Aponte. Next on the list is Manelle Martino.  
21 Next is Haider Rizvi. Next on the list is  
22 Anthony Campbell Jr. Next is Tahir Johnson. Next is  
23 Kristen Haas. Next person is Thomas Norcia.

24 MR. THOMAS NORCIA: So I'm Thomas Norcia.  
25 I'm the owner operator of Grow Works, a small

1 cannabis business in Sussex County.

2 Is it on? It's on? All right.

3 I'm licensed through the USDA since May of  
4 2020. I have dispensaries looking to sell my products,  
5 but your inspectors are telling them that I need to be  
6 a metric. All my products are lab tested in compliance  
7 to the USDA Farm Bill.

8 I do not sell psychoactive products.  
9 Right now there's a psychoactive hemp ban bill on  
10 Murphy's desk waiting for a signature. This bill  
11 includes full spectrum CBD products. My products will  
12 no longer be compliant under that bill. Smoke shops  
13 will shut down and I'll have no website.

14 This is my fifth grow season. I have  
15 plants in the ground. I plan on harvesting mid-  
16 September to mid-October. I plan on making full  
17 spectrum products with my harvest. I need to access  
18 metric to keep my business running.

19 I was operating before the CRC was even  
20 thought of and before there was a recreational program.  
21 There are less than 40 businesses operating in the hemp  
22 program. We are licensed, did things the right way.  
23 We are not operating under a loophole like smoke shops  
24 and gas stations. Now, we are the casualties of this  
25 hemp ban and we need access.

1                   In the Farm Bill, liquor stores will be  
2 getting licenses to sell beverages. Now, towns that  
3 opted out of cannabis businesses will be selling  
4 cannabis beverages.

5                   My town opted out not because they're  
6 against cannabis, but because they were uneducated at  
7 the time. My town has three liquor stores. Now, they  
8 sell beverages, and I can't sell a CBD full spectrum  
9 tincture? It doesn't make sense.

10                  I was operating in my town before there  
11 was opt out date. If liquor stores get a license to  
12 sell beverages in a town that opted out, anyone  
13 operating in the hemp program since day one should get  
14 access to a license in the rec market.

15                  State had four years to merge the hemp  
16 program and the rec market, and they chose not to  
17 recognize us. Now, this is a forced issue between the  
18 USDA and the CRC.

19                  You -- you guys need to sit down with the  
20 hemp program as soon as possible to figure this out  
21 right away. Keep in mind, there's people in this  
22 program that have plants in the ground. They have to  
23 come out at one point.

24                  New Jersey basically just changed the  
25 definition of hemp. How does that just happen



1 overnight? Now, there's stores all over that sell full  
2 spectrum CBD products, especially for pets. Vets all  
3 over the state want my full spectrum tincture for pets.  
4 PetSmart, Tractor Supply, Petco, nutrition shops,  
5 vitamin shops are just some of these places that sell  
6 full spectrum tinctures.

7                   Pretty much that's the end right now. I  
8 just think between USDA and CRC, we need better  
9 education. There's not enough education. Uneducated  
10 people are making decisions for people that are  
11 educated and it doesn't seem to make sense. So I'm  
12 just hoping sooner than later you guys could speak with  
13 John Kerr from USDA and get us access to (inaudible).  
14 Thank you.

15                   THE SECRETARY: The next person on the  
16 list is Ronald Sykes.

17                   MR. RONALD SYKES: Good afternoon. Hi,  
18 I'm Ronald Sykes. Can you hear me now? Okay. I'm  
19 Ronald Sykes.

20                   First, I'm going to say good afternoon and  
21 you guys are doing a great job. Have to take my hat  
22 off to you. Name of my company is Veteran Dispensary.  
23 I spent time overseas in Iraq and I just got  
24 information from the VA where we educating Veterans to  
25 be able to get approved to have weed -- medical weed

1 license and to go with my business as Veteran  
2 Dispensary.

3           This is my son. Part of our goal is to  
4 get a food truck, which could bring economic growth to  
5 the low income in our community. With this benefit by  
6 the grace of G-d, once we get the money, I order food  
7 trailer where we want to educate young kids in our  
8 community to become food business owners and teach  
9 them. And for me, it's the knowledge to get to know  
10 about this marijuana business and education.

11           So with your support, hopefully we get our  
12 license. We could get this ball rolling to where we  
13 can educate people in our community, bring some  
14 economic growth to the low income and again, most  
15 important, educate our young youth or the young people,  
16 the good and the bad behind this marijuana because it's  
17 new to me.

18           But in closing, I want to thank you guys  
19 for your hard work. Hopefully I get my license so we  
20 could spread this out and give knowledge to the youth  
21 and bring business to our black community. And this is  
22 my goal.

23           Being a veteran, I did two years overseas.  
24 I was first responder. I'm lucky. I came back alive.  
25 I got hit with suicide bomber, so I made a promise, if

1 G-d get me out of this, I'm giving back to the  
2 community, but I need your support to get my license  
3 where we can get this going.

4 On that note, I want to thank you for  
5 everything and keep up the good work. Thank you.

6 THE SECRETARY: The next person on the  
7 list is -- on the list is Oscar Carrillo.

8 MR. OSCAR CARRILLO: Oscar Carrillo, Magic  
9 Garden Botanicals.

10 First of all, I want to thank you guys for  
11 giving me an opportunity to have a cannabis business.  
12 I am a convicted felon. I check all the boxes, MBE,  
13 minority business owned, Hispanic, and thank you  
14 because I did get my all annuals. I got my -- my --  
15 I'm a small vertical.

16 And the issues that I'm having now is that  
17 aside from getting my annuals granted to me, there is  
18 no -- there's no clarity in the process. I can't hire  
19 employees. I don't know when I can hire them because I  
20 don't know when I can operate. And there's just no way  
21 -- apparently there's nobody that can give me an answer  
22 to that.

23 I made -- I made a bunch of calls trying  
24 to find out what's the process? I was told that it was  
25 like a -- maybe after I passed my finals, it was a 30-

1 day wait. But then I was told that there's no such  
2 thing as a 30-day wait. And then when I asked my  
3 compliance officer, I was told that it's going to take  
4 the time it takes. And that's kind of hard to run a  
5 business when you have -- when you're told timelines  
6 that it's going to take the time it takes. I mean,  
7 when can I hire people? I pass my final.

8 I want to put new products into the  
9 market. I have a sugar and a honey I want to put into  
10 the market. I'm a manufacturer. I put in for a waiver  
11 for my -- for my processing because we use a unique --  
12 we use a unique extraction process that I needed a  
13 waiver for that got put in, in June 11th. I don't know  
14 where it's at. That's kind of in limbo.

15 So it's just kind of hard to really -- for  
16 a minority business-owned person. Everybody wants to  
17 speak about minority-owned businesses and stuff like  
18 that, but we need the help. So where's the help at?  
19 Like, I can't run a business like that.

20 And I run a business. I'm a union  
21 contractor. I give back to the community. Most of my  
22 guys that work for me now, I got them into the union,  
23 they're all convicted felons. I always -- I'm a true  
24 believer in second chance because I've been given that  
25 second chance. But it's real hard to give other people

1 second chances when I don't know when I can open my  
2 doors. And I'm, like, \$4 million into my project. So  
3 it's like things are getting real tight real fast.

4 So the -- I mean, I guess I'm just asking  
5 for help at this point. Where do I turn to at this  
6 point? Because if I passed all my finals, I given all  
7 my information to get my waiver approved, what else?  
8 If there's something I need to do, please tell me.  
9 I'll do it. I'll jump. I've jumped through every hoop  
10 I -- they've been giving me, but at this point it seems  
11 like I don't even know how to run a business at this  
12 point because I -- I can't -- how am I hiring  
13 employees?

14 Are you going to tell me I can operate?  
15 Okay, but that means I can't even -- I don't even have  
16 a license number, so I can't even order packaging.  
17 Packaging from China takes 60 days. So even after you  
18 guys give me the green light, that means I still got to  
19 wait another 60 days before I can put a product on the  
20 shelf. That means that's two more months of rent, but  
21 thank you.

22 THE SECRETARY: The next person on the  
23 list is Carlos Almanzar.

24 MR. CARLOS ALMANZAR: Carlos Almanzar. I  
25 want to start by saying congratulations guys. I know

1 it's -- you guys have been doing a lot of work. I've  
2 been putting attention to all the work that you guys  
3 been doing.

4 I am coming in front of you guys because I  
5 see all the minority, I see all my friends that are  
6 getting the licenses and stuff and all businesses, but  
7 I see Ocean County, the county that I'm from, who's  
8 getting the businesses? Who's getting the licenses?  
9 Who's getting approved? I still haven't seen one of my  
10 own.

11 The building that -- I would love to send  
12 my application that I submitted to the town to you guys  
13 so you guys can compare every application that got  
14 approved to my application and tell me if mine is the  
15 worst, because I still haven't seen an application  
16 where any of -- a university inside of it to educate  
17 our community. None of them are helping the VA. None  
18 of them are helping the youth. None of them are  
19 helping the senior citizen of my community.

20 We need to do a background of who we are  
21 approving on the corporate level and on the financial  
22 level because a lot of the people, African and Spanish,  
23 they're not coming up because they don't feel  
24 comfortable. And it's not because of you guys. It's  
25 the towns. I keep begging.

1                   Now, I'm going to submit an application to  
2 you guys directly. Hopefully, I could get approved and  
3 then I could go shopping for a town because I'm tired  
4 of waiting and really, my capital is just going down.

5                   I had to sue a town I had -- I've been  
6 going through, and I don't want to say a word, but --  
7 and nothing is getting done. I don't know who -- who  
8 to call.

9                   So I'm going to submit an application  
10 directly so then I could go shopping for a town because  
11 it's the only way I'm going to get into the cannabis  
12 business if I want to, because I've been trying for a  
13 year and -- a year and eight months right now. And I  
14 wasted all my money. My construction company went down  
15 and everything because I was trying to concentrate on  
16 this.

17                   So I'm just begging, look into the  
18 township that you guys are approving and look who you  
19 guys are approving. I know it's hard, but we got to  
20 open a special department to look into that because  
21 it's not fair.

22                   I don't -- I don't want to play that  
23 racist card. That's not me. I came to this country to  
24 work hard and to get what I deserve and most  
25 importantly, the legacy that I'm leaving in this

1 country. I'm not taking this money for my family. I'm  
2 putting this money into my community. So that's why it  
3 hurt me so much of what's going on in my hometown.

4 THE SECRETARY: Next person on the list is  
5 Michael Reid. No.

6 MR. DOMINIQUE LANDRY: (Inaudible).

7 CHAIR: Okay. That's fine. Thank you.  
8 Appreciate. Thank you for the clarity.

9 MR. LANDRY: (Inaudible). Good afternoon.  
10 Thank you for having us. My name is Dominique Landry.  
11 I'm speaking on behalf of Michael E. Reid. We  
12 represent Reservoir Partners. We're a nonprofit that  
13 helps small diversely owned businesses in the cannabis  
14 space here in New Jersey. I want to thank you guys at  
15 CRC for having such open doors to have comments.

16 So one of our clients is -- was the first  
17 African American veteran-owned dispensary in Atlantic  
18 City. They also served the first legally baked good  
19 back in April from another African American-owned  
20 company. So as you can see, the program is working  
21 that you guys have put into place, the CRC.

22 Some of the things that we've noticed in  
23 the legislation that kind of prohibits or conflicts  
24 with the small business owner happens to be in the way  
25 that they can market and the way that they can get to



1 the consumer is very tough as some of -- as you've  
2 heard from some of the people here. When they start,  
3 the capital may not be as long or the expertise may not  
4 be there, but what we try to do is try to carve out  
5 market share.

6                   So when the CRC NJAC 1730-172, the general  
7 advertising requirements and prohibitions, I would love  
8 to put on the table the potential to discuss how we can  
9 tweak those a little bit so smaller businesses,  
10 diversely owned businesses could have a more equitable  
11 chance to gain market share in their -- in their  
12 communities.

13                   Some of the people that we represented in  
14 Atlantic County -- as we saw earlier, Atlantic County  
15 is one of the most densely populated when it comes to  
16 open businesses, especially in Atlantic City. So it's  
17 very tough to get the messaging out and get those  
18 consumers that -- that can keep the business going.

19                   A lot of people put a lot of money, a lot  
20 of time into their businesses, and as you've heard,  
21 some life savings.

22                   So from us, no question, just more so want  
23 to propose the -- the ability -- ability to converse  
24 about maybe tweaking NJAC 1730-172.

25                   And then also the ability for public

1 events. We had a potential public event in July that  
2 basically was approved by Atlantic City, approved by  
3 the people down there, but ran into some conflicts with  
4 legislation with the CRC, which had to postpone that  
5 event. Again, it could have been a great way to build  
6 market share, create some sustainability in the market  
7 that's highly competitive in Atlantic City. But also  
8 across the state, everybody's really eager to get in.

9 So you guys have done a great job. We  
10 think that people on the ground can assist with  
11 tweaking some of the legislation to help smaller  
12 businesses kind of carve their niche. Thank you.

13 THE SECRETARY: The next person on the  
14 list is Xavian Jackson.

15 MR. XAVIAN JACKSON: Good afternoon.  
16 Xavian Jackson, Taste of Earth LLC. I'm the founder of  
17 Taste of Earth LLC. We are a minority disabled veteran  
18 micro dispensary, conditional licensee awardee awaiting  
19 our conversion. We're also in the impact zone.

20 It's been a crazy ride from the start  
21 being that we are not on this agenda. I can't seem to  
22 understand why not.

23 In the beginning of May of 2024, we  
24 received an e-mail from the CRC stating for us to go  
25 schedule our fingerprints. That was a great feeling.

1 Finally -- finally, we felt we were getting somewhere.  
2 A month goes by, we didn't hear anything. I reached  
3 back out to the CRC in the beginning of June asking for  
4 updates. You guys said our application still had to go  
5 through municipal zoning and legal review. I wasn't  
6 sure what that meant by that. I e-mailed back and  
7 stated that we were assigned to schedule our  
8 fingerprints in May and -- and asked the next step.  
9 Then I received an e-mail from our investigator within  
10 the next hour. Okay. We are getting somewhere.

11               We completed our phone interviews in two  
12 days. Great news. We sat back and waited again before  
13 again, we reached back out. All of this while hoping  
14 we made -- we make the summer agenda since, you know,  
15 we know you guys are taking off in August. We then  
16 reached back out. I received the same message from  
17 before our -- our investigator who was assigned.

18               At this point, we are confused. After  
19 talking to fellow industry members, they said we are on  
20 the right track, but from your guys' e-mails, it just  
21 doesn't give us -- give much hope.

22               By not having a meeting in August, this  
23 means we now have to wait till September. That's two  
24 months of rent on a fully complete building that is  
25 ready to operate. We even received our CEO this past

1 Tuesday. Three months of rent till we can possibly  
2 open. That's \$15,000 we have to put out because we are  
3 lacking on additional meeting in August.

4 I'm not -- I'm not working at the moment.  
5 Living off a fixed income for a year because there's  
6 literally not enough time in a day and you know, I'm  
7 running this whole thing. I don't seem to understand  
8 why a very important department of the state needs to  
9 take off a month and not have a meeting that happens  
10 every month. I appreciate all the hard work you guys  
11 have done, but this is very unfortunate for a lot of us  
12 in this industry waiting on a license.

13 Hopefully you guys can make a special  
14 meeting for August. I can -- I can almost beg you guys  
15 right now. Our municipality has been very helpful and  
16 very eager for us to start bringing them the -- the tax  
17 revenue and benefits of us opening.

18 Thank you for your time.

19 THE SECRETARY: The next person on the  
20 list is Gabriella Wilday.

21 MS. GABRIELLA WILDAY: Hello, Gabriella  
22 Wilday. I'm the CEO of Molly Ann Farms, a retailer  
23 operating in Haledon, New Jersey. I'm here today to  
24 speak about expiration dates as defined in a  
25 legislative statute.

1                   Expiration dates have a ripple effect.  
2 They have a profound impact on market supply and job  
3 creation.

4                   First, I'd like to talk about the  
5 expiration dates based on harvest versus cultivation  
6 date. Many independent suppliers were recently  
7 notified over the last two weeks that expiration dates  
8 were incorrectly calculated, and that cultivation date  
9 means harvest date. Section 173011.8 states, "The  
10 expiration date shall be determined from the date  
11 usable cannabis is cultivated." Keywords are usable  
12 and cultivated.

13                   It goes on to say, "For usable cannabis,  
14 the expiration date shall not be later than six months  
15 from the manufacturer cultivation date." Again, usable  
16 and cultivated.

17                   Both usable and cultivated are defined in  
18 Sections 1.2. Usable cannabis as the dried flower and  
19 leaves of the matured cannabis plant and cultivate as,  
20 propagation, germination, planting, growing,  
21 harvesting, drying, curing, and processing of cannabis.

22                   Based on the language in Sections 11.8 and  
23 1.2, statute indicates an initial expiration date of  
24 six months from the date on which usable cannabis is  
25 fully dry, not on the harvest date when it's wet and

1 considered unusable.

2           Second, these expiration dates can be  
3 extended an additional six to 12 months according to  
4 NGAC Section 173011.8C, which states, "Only in the  
5 absence of civility testing information pursuant to  
6 173019.5, the max expiration date shall be no later  
7 than six months." But it goes on to state, "Stability  
8 testing provides data for extending expiration dates  
9 beyond the additional six."

10           It specifically talks to stability  
11 testing, a, store the retention sample from each batch  
12 or lot. At six and 12 months after release of that  
13 batch, the sample is sent to a testing lab. The lab  
14 tests the retention sample for potency, purity and to  
15 support or debunk the listed expiration date. And if  
16 the stability test debunks the listed expiration date  
17 of the batch or lot, the cannabis business can amend  
18 its SOPs and choose an expiration date.

19           So in summary, the initial expiration date  
20 should be based on the cultivation date as it's defined  
21 in the statute as dried flower. And two, stability  
22 testing of retention samples should be conducted at six  
23 and 12 months after the batch release and can be  
24 debunked.

25           Thank you so much for your time and

1 attention. I appreciate it.

2 THE SECRETARY: The next person on the  
3 list is Caitlin Orantes. Next person is Karlos Paul.  
4 Next person is Mike Burry. Next person is  
5 Samuel Reichbart.

6 MR. SAMUEL REICHBART: Hi, my name is  
7 Samuel Reichbart. With all due respect, what do you  
8 people do around here?

9 This entire Commission needs to prioritize  
10 better and prove to the public that they truly care.  
11 No one here seems to care about anything related to  
12 their job they're here to do. Not about patients or  
13 the medical side. It must just be because adult use  
14 makes up for the drop in revenue as we saw from the  
15 charts earlier.

16 You don't care about the safety of  
17 consumers or else you would fix the various issues and  
18 regulations that have been brought to your attention  
19 that could be harmful to consumers.

20 How long have we been asking you about the  
21 100-pound test batch size? How long have I been trying  
22 to work with you guys to fix RSO products? Products  
23 that could kill people in this state because of your  
24 failures and ignorance. And now we are being willfully  
25 negligent in denying any opportunity to work with you

1 to amend those issues. I hope no one has died because  
2 of your failures.

3           You don't care about patients or else you  
4 would work on real changes to the program that could  
5 actually help people or communicating with us so you  
6 can work on the changes that would most help us.

7           I do want to acknowledge that you brought  
8 up those roundtables, but we asked you for those months  
9 and months ago. You promised us more involvement  
10 months ago, and you promised involvement directly with  
11 the patients.

12           Stakeholders, mean businesses to you  
13 people. They don't mean the patients. So yeah, you're  
14 going to get a bunch of people up here like you did  
15 last month that aren't patients to try and tell you  
16 what you should change instead of asking us. It does  
17 not go over our heads that you keep ignoring us even  
18 while trying to show the public that you care. Show us  
19 that you care. You're so blinded by your care for  
20 money that everything else falls the wayside.

21           You don't even realize that every product  
22 that I can't buy legally is money that you're losing.  
23 That's why you're missing revenue. It's not because  
24 patients aren't buying. It's because you guys haven't  
25 licensed the cultivators, the businesses that make us



1 want to shop legally. It's because you haven't  
2 approved products that I could have been able to buy  
3 for years now.

4 Why would we shop legally? There's, in  
5 most cases, not a legal option for me to give my money  
6 if I wanted to give my money to one of these piss-poor  
7 options that passes for medical cannabis in this state.

8 With all due respect, prove that you're  
9 not another worthless government agency. Prove that  
10 you care. Now is the time to care for people. Now is  
11 the time to get your priorities straight and work  
12 towards changes that the sick people need and that this  
13 entire industry needs.

14 THE SECRETARY: Madam Chair, that --  
15 that's the list of speakers for in person. Do you want  
16 me to switch over to the phone?

17 CHAIR: Before we do that, if you don't  
18 mind going through the -- the list of in person  
19 speakers one more time --

20 THE SECRETARY: Sure.

21 CHAIR: -- in case anybody had stepped out  
22 at the time that their name was initially called?

23 THE SECRETARY: Yeah. Since it's a long  
24 list, I'm going to call three at a time. Margarita  
25 Tsalyuk, Jason Russell and David Feder. Lisa Hamlet,

1 Joseph Simmons, Gaetano Lardieri. Linda Solana, Damon  
2 Hanchell, Christopher Aponte. Manelle Martino, Haider  
3 Rizvi, Anthony Campbell Jr. Tahir Johnson, Kristen  
4 Haas, Caitlin Orantes. Karlos Paul and Mike Burry.  
5 Yeah. So that's it for the in person.

6 CHAIR: Thank you. Now we can turn --

7 THE SECRETARY: Yes.

8 CHAIR: -- to anybody who is joining us by  
9 -- by phone.

10 THE SECRETARY: Yes. So please bear with  
11 us during our technology experiments.

12 So the first person I'm going to call on  
13 during -- for phone comments is Andrea Raible. All  
14 right. So I see you, Andrea Raible. I'm just going to  
15 allow you to talk. Please listen for the prompt that  
16 you're going to hear on your phone, and please mute  
17 everything else in your -- in -- in your vicinity.  
18 Andrea, can you --

19 MS. ANDREA RAIBLE: Hello?

20 THE SECRETARY: -- hear us?

21 MS. RAIBLE: I can hear you. Can you hear  
22 me?

23 THE SECRETARY: Yes.

24 MS. RAIBLE: Okay.

25 THE SECRETARY: Just one -- one thing. I

1 -- I -- because I'm not sure if you have access to the  
2 -- the clock, but I'll just give a warning at one  
3 minute if that's okay?

4 MS. RAIBLE: That'd be great. Thank you.

5 THE SECRETARY: Sure. All right. The  
6 floor is yours.

7 MS. RAIBLE: I'm guessing we'll just start  
8 the -- okay.

9 Hi, my name is Andrea Raible. I'd like to  
10 start by saying thank you for allowing some form of  
11 remote testimony. As a patient, it can be not only  
12 difficult but detrimental at points to physically  
13 attend meetings. It's a long overdue step, but a much  
14 appreciated one. I'll admit I was skeptical I would  
15 even see this change.

16 Since the creation of adult use programs,  
17 patients have fallen down the priority list and heard a  
18 lot of empty assurances. I had a meeting with CRC  
19 staff months ago regarding various concerns for  
20 patients. We were assured an interest in  
21 collaboration, but for months have had nothing to show  
22 for it beyond delays and silence until today.  
23 Hopefully you do move forward with the stakeholder  
24 roundtables on medical issues because patients need  
25 your help, especially being faced with losing full

1 spectrum CBD now.

2 I started speaking publicly on the unsafe  
3 100-pound testing batch size in January. In March,  
4 Commissioner Barker made a motion about the batch size  
5 and some of you voted no, specifically because the  
6 director publicly assured you, you would have  
7 information soon. When Commissioner Nash even asked to  
8 clarify what soon meant, it was implied prior to the  
9 next meeting.

10 I understand the delay in the overall  
11 testing guidance as the CRC should hire scientific  
12 experts before proceeding, but the batch size was  
13 intended to be a temporary measure and is no longer in  
14 the best interest of the people or even some of your  
15 license holders. Two years ago, you temporarily  
16 changed the limit from a reasonable 10 pounds to 100  
17 pounds, the largest in the country by far.

18 You have the -- you've had time to review  
19 internally, you have the ethical responsibility to  
20 lower it and the ability to do so with a single motion  
21 and vote. You also have the ability to require that  
22 COAs are posted online, and solvents are labeled on  
23 packages just as easily with a motion and vote.

24 This public transparency does not impact  
25 your ability to regulate. So it might not seem worth

1 your time as a commission, but you have a  
2 responsibility to the public. And for patients, these  
3 changes are crucial to finding safe and effective  
4 medicine for their individual needs.

5 Please respect the medicine you regulate.  
6 I withheld my comments from the last meeting in the  
7 hopes you would actually focus on the invited experts  
8 because they echo the voices of the patients.

9 THE SECRETARY: One minute.

10 MS. RAIBLE: We need -- thank you. We  
11 need education. We need disability access. We need  
12 scientific and medical advisors on staff. We need  
13 doctor discretion over qualifying conditions.

14 We currently support 17 conditions with  
15 the medical program, and that's like saying the  
16 pharmacy or hospital only serves patients with 17  
17 conditions. Asking which one should we add next is --  
18 to anyone who deals with this from a patient or  
19 caretaker perspective is an absurd question. If you as  
20 a commission are only able to add conditions  
21 individually, then it is your duty to fight to change  
22 that legislation for the good of the state you are  
23 appointed to regulate.

24 Patients are asking for follow through on  
25 old promises and basic changes. Solvents labeled on

1 packaging, requiring COAs to be posted online, safe  
2 testing limits. We are not being antagonistic. We are  
3 asking you to protect us and our families. We see that  
4 you've been making steps. Please, please keep fighting  
5 for patient needs. Thank you.

6 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Andrea. The  
7 next person on the phone list is Daniel. Just gimme  
8 one second to find you. I don't see Daniel on the  
9 phone list, so I'm going to move to the next person,  
10 James DelGuercio. I see you. So I'm going to  
11 allow you to talk. Please listen for the prompt on  
12 your phone.

13 MR. JAMES DELGUERCIO: Hey, sorry about  
14 that.

15 THE SECRETARY: No worries. You have  
16 three -- the floor is yours. I'm just going to give a  
17 reminder at one minute. Okay?

18 MR. DELGUERCIO: No problem. Thank you.

19 THE SECRETARY: Sure.

20 MR. DELGUERCIO: Okay. Thank you for  
21 allowing remote testimony. It is a step in the right  
22 direction, though I hope we can consistently include  
23 video testimonies in the future for more comprehensive  
24 discussions.

25 I'm not a patient myself, but my family

1 relies heavily on medical cannabis. Today I'm here to  
2 voice some critical concerns and propose much needed  
3 changes to the current medical cannabis program.

4 First and foremost, we need to add  
5 scientists and doctors to the CRC. The expertise of  
6 medical professionals is essential to ensure that  
7 medical cannabis is treated as the medicine it is.  
8 Right now, it feels like the needs of the patients have  
9 been sidelined in favor of profit.

10 This industry was originally built on the  
11 medical needs of patients. However as soon as it  
12 became clear how much money could be made, the focus  
13 shifted to recreational use. Greed has taken over and  
14 the patient-centric approach that started this industry  
15 has been lost.

16 We must empower doctors to decide which  
17 conditions qualify for medical cannabis. The current  
18 restrictions are too rigid and leave many suffering  
19 patients without access to potential relief.

20 Additionally, transparency in what we're  
21 purchasing from the dispensary is crucial. We need  
22 clear labeling of solvents used in production of  
23 cannabis products. Right now, buying a -- from a  
24 dispensary is like going to a pharmacy for Xanax and  
25 being given Adderall. It's unacceptable.

1           Another issue is hospital access. The  
2 (inaudible) law, which allows patients to use their  
3 medicine at hospitals has already been passed, but it's  
4 not being enforced. This oversight compromises patient  
5 care and must be addressed immediately.

6           Moreover, the recent intoxicating hemp law  
7 is yet another example of greed overtaking patient's  
8 needs. This law is removing access to life-saving CBD  
9 products for many individuals who rely on them for  
10 their health and wellbeing.

11           We must prioritize patient need because  
12 this entire industry exists due to the -- their demand  
13 for alternative treatments. Their wellbeing should be  
14 at the forefront of every decision you guys make.

15           Lastly, since home cultivation is not an  
16 option, it's the state's responsibility to ensure that  
17 the medical cannabis industry is safe and reliable for  
18 patients. Every effort must be made to maintain high  
19 standards of safety and quality.

20           THE SECRETARY: One minute.

21           MR. DELGUERCIO: Thank you for your time  
22 and -- thank you for your time and consideration. We  
23 must act now to fix these issues and truly serve the  
24 needs of the patients who depend on this program.  
25 That's all.



1           THE SECRETARY: Thank you. The next  
2 person on the list -- that's actually the last person  
3 on the list.

4           CHAIR: Thank you. And thank you to  
5 everyone who spoke, both in person and telephonically.  
6 I'm glad we were able to find -- to get all of the  
7 technological machinations working. So thank you to  
8 our staff for making that happen. And so yes, so thank  
9 you to everybody for sharing their thoughts and their  
10 experiences.

11           We do -- we do take your public comments  
12 seriously and we take a note of issues that are being  
13 raised to the commission so that we can take those back  
14 internally and work out problems, identify solutions,  
15 and act on them appropriately.

16           This concludes the business that we have  
17 before us today. So with that, I move that we adjourn.

18           COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Second.

19           CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-  
20 Kosso.

21           Is there any discussion on this motion to  
22 adjourn? All right. Hearing none, all those in favor  
23 of adjourning say aye.

24           COMMISSIONER NASH: Aye.

25           COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: Aye.

1                   CHAIR: All those opposed, say nay. Any  
2       abstentions? All right. Motion passes. The time is  
3 - I don't know what time it is.

4                   COMMISSIONER DEL CID-ROSSO: 2:30.

5                   CHAIR: 2:30. Thank you. All right.

6                   VICE CHAIR: 2:30.

7                   CHAIR: The time is 2:30 p.m. and we are  
8       adjourned. Thank you everyone, and have a great rest  
9 of the day.

10                   (Meeting is adjourned at 2:30 p.m.)

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

