



**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*

NEW JERSEY CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION  
PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Thursday, September 19, 2024

Commencing at 11:00 a.m.

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

2

3 DIANA HOUENOU, Chair Woman

4 SAM DELGADO, Vice Chair

5 CHARLES BARKER

6 MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO

7 KRISTA NASH

8 CHRISTOPHER RIGGS

9 DANIEL SAID

1 CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. The time  
2 is 11:09. Call is needed to order. Mr. Saeed, please  
3 read the notice of the public meeting.

4 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman, this is a  
5 regularly scheduled meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis  
6 Regulatory Commission's 2024 Annual Meeting Schedule.  
7 Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in  
8 accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer. Open Public  
9 Meetings Act.

10 Notice of the meeting was provided to the  
11 Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record, Courier-Post, Star-  
12 Ledger, and the Trenton Times on December 12, 2023.  
13 The agenda and information regarding the in-person  
14 meeting and the ability to live stream was also posted  
15 on the CRC website.

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

20 CHAIR: Thank you. Okay. Please state  
21 the quorum?

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

23 MR. CHARLES BARKER: Present.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
25 Kosso.

1 MS. MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO: Present.

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

3 MS. KRISTA NASH: Present.

4 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado.

5 VICE CHAIR: Present.

6 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou.

7 CHAIR: Present.

8 THE SECRETARY: We now have a quorum. The  
9 first order of business is for the commission to go  
10 into executive session to discuss legal matters and  
11 litigation updates. These are discussions that are not  
12 shared with the public. We believe the executive  
13 session should take about 90 minutes.

14 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there a motion to  
15 go to executive session?

16 THE SECRETARY: Madam Chairman, I am going  
17 to second.

18 VICE CHAIR: Second.

19 CHAIR: Commissioner Barker, is there any  
20 discussion on the motion to go to the executive  
21 session?

22 MR. BARKER: None.

23 CHAIR: Hearing none. All those in favor  
24 to go to the executive session, say 'Aye'.

25 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

1 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

2 CHAIR: All those opposed, say 'Nay'. Any  
3 abstentions? Motion passes. So again, we expect the  
4 executive session to last 90 minutes, for today.  
5 Sorry, we had to last minute and so we needed to extend  
6 the executive session a little bit longer than what's  
7 noted on the website. Apologies for that, but we can  
8 expect to resume the public session at, let say 12:45.  
9 Thank you, everyone.

10 CHAIR: Good afternoon, and we are back.  
11 The time is 1:03 and we are -- we will resume the  
12 public portion of this meeting. I do want to note a  
13 couple of agenda changes. So first, there is one item  
14 that is being removed from the agenda that is  
15 consideration of enforcement action, item number 1044-  
16 24.

17 And then one item that we will be adding  
18 to the agenda at the -- towards the end of the board  
19 meeting. And that will be a consideration for the Safe  
20 -- related to the Safe Use Public Information Campaign.

21 And so at that time, the Public Engagement  
22 Education Committee will provide some insights there.  
23 Believe those are all the agenda changes. Director  
24 Riggs, is that accurate?

25 MR. CHRISTOPHER RIGGS: That is accurate,

1 ma'am.

2 CHAIR: Okay, great. Excellent. So with  
3 that, then we will move on.

4 THE SECRETARY: Next up on the agenda is  
5 approving the minutes of both the commissions open and  
6 executive sessions held on July 18th. The minutes have  
7 been shared with the members of the commission prior to  
8 this meeting.

9 CHAIR: Thank you. If there are no  
10 further edits to the minutes, I'll ask for a motion.

11 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
12 we accept the approval of the prior minutes from the  
13 18th.

14 CHAIR: Vice Chair Delgado moves to  
15 approve the meeting minutes of July 18th. Is there a  
16 second?

17 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

18 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-  
19 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion to  
20 approve the minutes? Hearing none. All those in favor  
21 say aye?

22 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

23 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

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

1                   THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
2 agenda is the chair's report.

3                   CHAIR: So couple of things that I wanted  
4 to note for everyone today. First and foremost, happy  
5 Hispanic Heritage Month. And I also then want to start  
6 off by addressing last week's news impacting the  
7 cannabis and hemp industries.

8                   On September 12th, Governor Murphy signed  
9 into law legislation regulating the sale and  
10 distribution of hemp derived intoxicating products.  
11 The Cannabis Regulatory Commission has long been  
12 concerned about the wide availability of potentially  
13 unsafe hemp derived products with intoxicating amounts  
14 of THC in places operating outside the state's cannabis  
15 regulation.

16                   The legislation addresses the  
17 proliferation of these untested, unregulated,  
18 intoxicating THC products in the market. Such products  
19 are being sold at gas stations, convenience stores, and  
20 smoke shops outside of the monitoring of any state or  
21 federal agency. And these sales are not age gated and  
22 are often packaged to be appealing to children.

23                   I recognize that there is a lot of  
24 interest in hearing about the commission's next steps.  
25 As Governor Murphy noted, some late amendments to the

1 bill do present challenges in its implementation and  
2 enforcement, but we believe that the danger to public  
3 health will be significantly curtailed with this bill.

4           We at the commission are working closely  
5 with our state partners on implementation and  
6 regulations governing the sale of intoxicating hemp  
7 derived products will be developed in the future. Rest  
8 assured that as chair, I will continue to emphasize the  
9 importance of transparency and properly managing  
10 expectations when it comes to implementation of this  
11 new law. That means the commission will make every  
12 effort to provide ample notice to the public before  
13 changes are implemented.

14           Now, I wanna turn to the cannabis business  
15 license applications that we do have. The commission  
16 does still have a lot of inactive applications sitting  
17 in our application portal and unable to advance through  
18 the application process because businesses aren't  
19 responding to NJCRC staff when they try to reach out to  
20 fixed deficiencies in these applications.

21           So please ensure that your contact  
22 information is up to date and correctly listed in your  
23 application. Check your spam folders, check your  
24 voicemail and contact the Office of Diversity and  
25 Inclusion, Office of Licensing or your assigned



1 investigator if you have questions about how to fix a  
2 deficiency in your application.

3           This is going to be my -- my last warning  
4 that in order to avoid issues in the future and allow  
5 business owners to submit new applications, we will  
6 start -- we will need to start removing these  
7 applications from our system.

8           Next slide. Now on some brighter news,  
9 thanks to our Office of Diversity and Inclusion and our  
10 patient and customer service team current and  
11 prospective patients and caregivers can get onsite  
12 assistance with enrollment in the medical cannabis  
13 program at any of our MCP registration clinics.

14           Services include first time -- you know,  
15 assistance with first time registration, renewing your  
16 registration, or updating your parent -- sorry,  
17 updating your patient or caregiver information in the  
18 registry. We have three clinics that are gonna be held  
19 over the next two weeks followed by even more clinics  
20 later in the fall.

21           So on September 24th, our team will be in  
22 Newark. On September 26th, the clinic will be held in  
23 Trenton and October 1st in Atlantic City. Great thing  
24 is that you do not need to sign up for these clinics  
25 beforehand. Just gather your required documents and

1 walk right in. Details on the clinic locations and  
2 what to bring to with you are on our website. If you  
3 go to nj.gov/cannabis in the navigation bar on the  
4 resources tab, and click on MCP registration clinics.

5 Lastly, as noted at -- during our July  
6 board meeting, we do now provide an option for  
7 telephone public comments. So those who are delivering  
8 their comments in person will be asked to share their  
9 remarks first.

10 For anyone who is delivering comments  
11 virtually, you will need to dial into the Zoom platform  
12 by the beginning of the public comment portion so that  
13 we can ensure you are ready to speak when your name is  
14 called. To ensure clear audio quality, please use  
15 headphones, call from a quiet place and silence all  
16 other nearby devices to avoid background noise  
17 interruptions and electrical feedback.

18 Folks in the room, we ask that you silence  
19 your devices, and if you need to speak to another  
20 person, please keep it to a whisper so that we can  
21 ensure that everyone is able to hear those who are  
22 joining us by telephone. So that concludes today's  
23 chair's report. Are there any questions from the  
24 board? Hearing none, Mr. Saeed, we will move on.

25 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the

1 agenda is the Executive Director's report.

2 CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is  
3 yours.

4 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I  
5 -- I do want to echo the comments and concerns that you  
6 raised regarding the intoxicating hemp products. You  
7 know, we're happy to see efforts being made to close  
8 the regulatory loophole here that allowed these  
9 products to be sold in convenience stores and sold to  
10 children. I think it's a step in the right direction  
11 towards making sure that safety, like it is one of our  
12 priorities and one of the pillars that we stand on.

13 I think it is -- it is something that is  
14 good to see and we're going in the right direction.  
15 I'm gonna give a dispensary opening update, so I'm not  
16 gonna read all the dispensaries, but we'll leave this  
17 slide up. There have been multiple dispensaries that  
18 have opened in the recreational space, adult use space,  
19 and there's been one medical only dispensary that have  
20 opened. There's 19 adult use dispensaries, so there's  
21 20 total that have opened since last meeting.

22 Also gonna give a licensing update. So as  
23 of today, or as of September 4th, 2024 there's been a  
24 total of 2,689 applications submitted. A little over  
25 2000 of them have been approved. There's 134

1 applications that are pending review with the Office of  
2 Licensing. 314 applications that are pending  
3 resubmission following a cure as you stated. They're  
4 gonna be cleaning some of those out hopefully soon.  
5 But we want these folks to cure these applications.

6 And then there's 124 applications that are  
7 under review in the Office of Compliance and  
8 Investigations. This is total recreational licenses  
9 approved as of September 4th of 2024. You know, a  
10 little less than 1500 conditionals, 316 -- 6 -- 367  
11 conditional to annual conversions, almost 200 annual  
12 licenses, 78 expanded HCS. So there's a total of 291  
13 operating licenses under AU and medical permits that  
14 have been issued.

15 Applications up for consideration today.  
16 Today we have recommended to the board 32 conditional  
17 applications, 20 conditional annual conversion  
18 applications, 19 annual applications, one expanded ATC  
19 and 28 annual renewal applications. And as always,  
20 we'll give a patient update and a medical update.

21 For the medical program as of September  
22 15th, 2024, there's a total of 72,336 patients, a  
23 little less than 5,000 caregivers, and a little more  
24 than 1500 doctors enrolled in the medical program.  
25 That is my update as the executive director, and I'll

1 turn the floor back to you, Madam Chair.

2 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
3 there any questions from the board regarding Director  
4 Riggs report? Hearing none, we will move forward.

5 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
6 agenda are the committee reports.

7 CHAIR: So we will hear from our Product  
8 Safety Packaging and Labeling committee.

9 MS. NASH: Good afternoon everyone. The  
10 Product Safety Packaging and Labeling committee held a  
11 round table on September 5th. The committee is co-  
12 chaired by myself and Vice Chair Delgado. And the  
13 round table topic was to reach out to medical patients  
14 and healthcare providers to solicit feedback on monthly  
15 allotments and also pricing.

16 We're very transparent about our process,  
17 and we do care about who is at the table to -- to weigh  
18 in. And so communications led by Director Blake had  
19 put out a memo that invited patients and healthcare  
20 providers to be a part of this round table. We had  
21 over 500 responses, people that were interested in  
22 weighing in, so we do appreciate that.

23 In addition to the email, there was a  
24 survey that included questions that will be up on the  
25 next slide. And we received about 86 responses, which

1 were extremely helpful to us. However, even though we  
2 had 500 respondents, we asked people to confirm their  
3 attendance, and we ended up with four people.

4           So just for future, we are having round  
5 tables with other committees. There's one next week  
6 with the peak committee, and if you do sign up, we want  
7 to hear from you, but please make sure you're able to  
8 attend otherwise, we're going down the list to pick the  
9 next person so we can have these robust discussions.

10           So again, we received responses to the  
11 email survey questions and next slide. And so I  
12 thought this was interesting and helpful. If anyone  
13 would like to take a look at the questions and the  
14 responses, we could leave it up for a minute here. And  
15 so this conversation is about improving the patient  
16 experience, understanding you know, what's working in  
17 the medical program and how -- how we can make it  
18 better for people.

19           So your input matters, doctor's input  
20 matters, and also stakeholders. That's good. So what  
21 we do with this information now is we're going to  
22 review and assess the -- all of the feedback that we  
23 received. Vice Chair Delgado and I plan to have some  
24 more conversations very soon with more healthcare  
25 providers to weigh in on, you know, what is the right

1 allotment amount and also to get some stakeholder  
2 input, whether it's advocacy groups as well, to help  
3 inform our medicinal policy.

4 That is all I have. Vice Chair Delgado,  
5 is there anything else you would like to add?

6 MR. RIGGS: No, I don't have anything to  
7 add. Thank you very much, commissioner.

8 MS. NASH: You're welcome. All right, and  
9 thank you.

10 CHAIR: Thank you Commissioner Nash. Are  
11 there any questions from the board? No. Thank you  
12 again for for -- for hosting that round table. I'm  
13 really glad that there was still some robust  
14 conversations, even if the turnout was less than  
15 expected. And I'm -- I do encourage people to  
16 participate in these round tables. They help us, the  
17 board shape the rules and the regulations that are  
18 forthcoming for updating our medicinal cannabis  
19 regulations.

20 So we want your input, your voice matters,  
21 and it helps us determine what our rules should be as  
22 we move forward. So with that we'll move -- we will  
23 move forward.

24 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
25 agenda is the consideration of public notices and

1 publications.

2 CHAIR: Director Riggs, floor is yours.

3 MR. RIGGS: I believe the edible rule  
4 adoption recommendation is first. So I'm gonna kick it  
5 over to Chief Counsel Dave Tuason.

6 MR. DAVE TUASON: So last year, the  
7 commission waived several regulations to allow for  
8 additional edible forms and on a parallel path, we  
9 proposed our rules on additional edible forms. They  
10 were proposed in the New Jersey Register on October  
11 16th, 2023. The 60 day comment -- public comment  
12 period ended on December 15th of 2023. So the -- the  
13 new rules expands the type of edible cannabis products  
14 allows for shelf stable or non TCS products such as  
15 chocolates, baked goods, butters, and single served  
16 beverages.

17 Beverages are -- are limited to five  
18 milligrams of THC or single serve. These products are  
19 required to be made by class two manufacturers, and  
20 they prohibit any product that would require further  
21 cooking preparation by the consumer. The next step is  
22 that the notice will be filed with the Office of  
23 Administrative Law pending board approval.

24 Just one note to the industry as well on  
25 the edible forms. During the public comment period, we



1 did receive a lot of comments for us to allow more  
2 edible forms and more types of products. You know, in  
3 a regulation it would be impossible to, and we -- we  
4 acknowledge that there, you know, it is ever evolving  
5 industry.

6           There are new products that come out every  
7 day so we do encourage manufacturers to submit any new  
8 product forms as long as they do meet are not  
9 prohibited by our regulations, you know, our, and  
10 submit 'em to our office of in compliance you know,  
11 they would be in consideration for approval.

12           So just because it's not specifically  
13 called out in our regulations as approved, as long as -  
14 - as long as that new product type meets or complies  
15 with our regulations, then it would be in consideration  
16 for approval as well. And that's all. I'll turn --  
17 turn it back over to the vote on this one. Yeah.

18           CHAIR: Thank you -- thank you very much,  
19 Chief Counsel. Are there any questions from the Board  
20 for Chief Council Tuason? If there are no questions,  
21 is there a motion on this matter?

22           MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, I move to  
23 adopt this resolution concerning the approval of notice  
24 of adoption for additional edible forms of cannabis.

25           CHAIR: Is there a second?

1 MR. BARKER: Second.

2 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Barker.

3 Is there any discussion on this motion to adopt the  
4 resolution? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you  
5 please call the vote?

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

7 MR. BARKER: Aye.

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
9 Kosso?

10 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

12 MS. 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 CHAIR: Next, have a couple other items  
19 for publication. We've got medicinal cannabis reports.  
20 So I will turn it over to Director Riggs to provide a  
21 summary of the annual reports for medicinal cannabis.

22 MR. RIGGS: Thank you Madam Chairs.  
23 Similar to the last public meeting, we continue to  
24 catch up on the reports that are required by statute to  
25 be submitted to the governor and the legislator.

1 Before the board today, there are two reports from --  
2 for -- of related to medical cannabis '22 and 2023.

3 These reports summarize the regulatory and  
4 operational activities for medical cannabis during the  
5 years '22 and '23. And we are recommending that these  
6 reports be approved as they meet all statutory  
7 requirements and adequately summarize medical cannabis  
8 activities for those years.

9 CHAIR: Thank you very much, Director  
10 Riggs. And a huge kudos to our Director of Data and  
11 Business Analytics for -- for getting all of this  
12 information and data put together for us. Are there  
13 any questions from the board regarding the medicinal  
14 cannabis reports for 2022 and 23? All right. Hearing  
15 none, is there a motion?

16 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve  
17 the medicinal reports for '22 and '23.

18 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash. Is  
19 there a second?

20 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

21 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-  
22 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion?  
23 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you please call  
24 the vote?

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

1 MR. BARKER: Sustained.

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
3 Kosso?

4 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

6 MS. 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 CHAIR: Now very quick -- thank you. Very  
13 quickly, before we move on to the next item, I believe  
14 we need to update our slides for the -- the live  
15 stream. So Director McWhite just give me a heads up  
16 when - gimme a sign when you're ready. Fantastic.  
17 Thank you so much. All right, so now we'll continue.  
18 Mr. Saeed?

19 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
20 agenda is the consideration of applications for  
21 ownership changes.

22 CHAIR: Director Riggs, floor is yours to  
23 discuss the ownership change requests received by the  
24 commission.

25 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. There

1 are five total ownership change requests that were  
2 submitted and reviewed by the Office of Compliance and  
3 Investigations to ensure that they satisfy the  
4 regulations and the law. Cure Wellness, New Jersey,  
5 LLC, Flower and Flame, LLC, GDBS distribution, LLC are  
6 all adding new owners. Lucky Buds, LLC, TCG New Jersey  
7 is changing their ownership structure.

8 Each of these entities has satisfied the  
9 regulatory requirements for an ownership change. All  
10 owners and individuals that were required to be vetted  
11 were done so by the Office of Compliance and  
12 Investigation, and these individuals were deemed  
13 qualified to enter into the adult use market and  
14 therefore, we are recommending approval of all five  
15 ownership changes. Thank you.

16 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
17 there any questions from the board regarding the  
18 ownership change applications? Hearing no questions  
19 from the board, is there a motion on this matter?

20 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
21 we approved the request for transfer of ownership  
22 changes to the five applications listed by Executive  
23 Director Riggs.

24 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is  
25 there a second?

1 MS. NASH: Second.

2 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is  
3 there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no  
4 discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you please call the vote?

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

6 MR. BARKER: Sustained.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
8 Kosso?

9 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

11 MS. NASH: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

13 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

15 CHAIR: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
17 next item up for consideration are the adult use  
18 cannabis business conditional license applications.

19 CHAIR: Director Riggs, floor is yours to  
20 discuss the -- to provide a summary of the conditional  
21 license applications received.

22 MR. RIGGS: Thank you. So today we have  
23 32 conditional licenses, four cultivators, five  
24 manufacturers, 20 retailers, and three delivery license  
25 that are recommended for approval by the board.

1 Director McWhite is over there putting the slides up on  
2 the screen so that everybody can see their business  
3 name.

4                   So we'll take a pause there as I go  
5 through the licensing process. Just leave those slides  
6 up. Let's take a look. These are -- all of these  
7 conditional applications have followed the licensing  
8 process. They were given a priority assignment. It  
9 was confirmed that each application was assigned to the  
10 appropriate review priority.

11                   We're looking at diversely owned business  
12 status taxes, New Jersey residency if required. Cares  
13 are sent if needed. That priority was then verified by  
14 staff. We confirmed that the appropriate documentation  
15 was submitted to support the priority status that each  
16 entity is given. Cares are sent. If they do not meet  
17 that -- the standard, completeness review was  
18 conducted.

19                   It was confirmed that all required  
20 documents were submitted, the application was complete,  
21 and we confirmed that those documents were actually  
22 filled out. And all the required information was  
23 provided on those documents that were submitted. The -  
24 - the applications are then scored. So the documents  
25 are reviewed to ensure that the applicant submitted the

1 information to satisfy each requirement that is in  
2 regulation, including standard operating procedures and  
3 the like.

4           Qualification review is not conducted for  
5 the conditional awards, but I will go over it because  
6 we are gonna move on to other license types.

7 Qualification review is when we look at the individuals  
8 in our Office of Compliance and Investigation to  
9 determine if they are qualified. And we'll also look  
10 at the financial source and any other agreements,  
11 vendor contractor agreements, management services  
12 agreements to make sure that they meet regulatory  
13 standards.

14           Background checks are conducted of all  
15 persons of interest that are required to have  
16 background checks conducted. And then finally, we do a  
17 quality control with our licensing team, our Office of  
18 Compliance and Investigation and our legal department  
19 to make sure that that license is indeed regulatory  
20 compliance so that we can recommend approval to the  
21 board. And then comes the recommendation to the board.  
22 So for now, we are recommending that these 32  
23 conditional licenses be approved. Thank you.

24           CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
25 there any questions from the board regarding the



1 conditional license applications received? Hearing no  
2 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

3 MR. BARKER: Madam Chair.

4 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Go ahead.

5 MR. BARKER: No, no, please. I'll second.

6 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: I move to adopt the  
7 resolution considering the conditional license  
8 applications for class one, class two, class four,  
9 class five, and class six licenses.

10 CHAIR: Moved by commissioner Del Cid-  
11 Kosso.

12 MR. BARKER: Second that.

13 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Barker.  
14 Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing none,  
15 Mr. Saeed, can you please call the vote?

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

17 MR. BARKER: Aye.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
19 Kosso?

20 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

22 MS. NASH: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

24 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

1 CHAIR: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
3 next item up for consideration are the adult use  
4 cannabis business conversion license applications.

5 CHAIR: Director Riggs, I turn it back  
6 over to you.

7 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. And  
8 briefly, the -- these applications have followed the  
9 similar process that I went over during the conditional  
10 licenses. Today we have 20 conditional to annual  
11 conversion licenses, three cultivators, one  
12 manufacturer, and 16 retailers. They were -- there was  
13 a qualification review done for these conditional  
14 annual conversion licenses.

15 The individual's financial sources and  
16 other agreements were vetted for regulatory compliance  
17 and it is now recommended to the board that these  
18 licenses be approved. Thank you.

19 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
20 there any questions from the board regarding the  
21 applications to convert from a conditional license to  
22 an annual license? No questions from the board, is  
23 there a motion on this matter?

24 MR. BARKER: Madam Chair, I move that we  
25 approve the conversion licenses up for recommendation

1 today.

2 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Barker. Is  
3 there a second?

4 MS. NASH: Second.

5 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is  
6 there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no  
7 discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you please call the vote?

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

9 MR. BARKER: Aye.

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
11 Kosso?

12 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

14 MS. NASH: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

16 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

18 CHAIR: Yes.

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

22 CHAIR: Director Riggs, floor is yours.

23 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. These  
24 licenses have followed the exact same process as our  
25 conversion -- conversion license to an annual license.

1 Today we have 19 annual licenses, three cultivators,  
2 seven manufacturers, eight retailers, and one testing  
3 lab.

4 Up for approval all of these licenses have  
5 followed the licensing process. They have deemed --  
6 they've been deemed qualified to hold a license and we  
7 are recommending that these licenses be approved.  
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. I'm  
10 glad to see that we've got a testing lab that we are  
11 gonna add to the books. Are there any questions from  
12 the board? No questions from the board. Is there a  
13 motion on this matter?

14 MR. BARKER: Madam Chair, I move that we  
15 approve the annual license applications up for  
16 recommendation today.

17 CHAIR: Commissioner Barker moves to  
18 approve the annual license applications. Is there a  
19 second?

20 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

21 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-  
22 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion?  
23 Hearing none, Mr. Saeed, can you please call the vote?

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

25 MR. BARKER: Aye.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
2 Kosso?

3 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

5 MS. NASH: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

7 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

9 CHAIR: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
11 next item up for consideration are the expanded  
12 alternative treatment center certifications.

13 CHAIR: Director Riggs, I turn it -- turn  
14 the floor back over to you to describe the expanded ATC  
15 application for certification.

16 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We  
17 have one expanded ATC that is -- has certified and is  
18 seeking to enter into the adult use market. It is  
19 Niche LLC. They want to expand their class one  
20 cultivation operations. They are a 2019 medical  
21 cultivation awardee. They are in North Bergen, New  
22 Jersey.

23 We have received zoning and the municipal  
24 approvals required. The labor requirements have been  
25 deemed met under the regulations and as required by the

1 law, they have certified that they have sufficient  
2 quantities of medical cannabis and medical cannabis  
3 products available to meet the reasonably anticipated  
4 needs of registered qualifying patients.

5 And therefore, we are recommending that  
6 Niche LLC be approved to expand into the adult use  
7 market. Thank you.

8 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
9 there any questions from the board? Hearing no  
10 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

11 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, I move to  
12 approve the resolution for the expansion of Niche LLC  
13 to the AU cannabis market.

14 CHAIR: Is there a second?

15 MR. BARKER: I second.

16 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this  
17 motion? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you  
18 please call the vote? Although it sounds like we've  
19 got a young one that wants to chime in on the debate.  
20 I love -- I love to see the early engagement in civic -  
21 - civic activity. Mr. Saeed, can you please call the  
22 vote?

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

24 MR. BARKER: Aye.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-

1 Kosso?

2 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

4 MS. NASH: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

6 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

8 CHAIR: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
10 next item up for consideration are the adult use  
11 cannabis business annual license renewal applications.

12 CHAIR: All right. So here we've got  
13 quite -- quite a few. Director Riggs, floor is yours.

14 MR. RIGGS: So today we have 28 licenses  
15 up for renewal. It's pretty much the same as the  
16 licensing process. These entities have submitted to  
17 the licensing process. They were deemed qualified  
18 originally. Our Office of Compliance and  
19 Investigations is always looking to make sure that the  
20 regulations are followed. So these entities have  
21 provided the required documentation from renewal. The  
22 documentation has been reviewed and approved by the  
23 Office of Compliance and Investigation.

24 I want to make another note here to ensure  
25 that all entities follow our regulations and submit

1 material changes to the commission during the course of  
2 a year, not on renewal. So if you have an ownership  
3 change or you have some kind of change to your business  
4 that needs to happen during the course of a year,  
5 please do not wait to renewal to submit those changes.  
6 The regulations require them to be submitted  
7 immediately and they should be submitted immediately.

8 MR. RIGGS: So if you have an ownership  
9 change or you have some kind of change to your business  
10 that needs to happen during the course of a year,  
11 please do not wait till renewal to submit those  
12 changes. The regulations require them to be submitted  
13 immediately and they should be submitted immediately.  
14 But with that said, I am recommending that all the  
15 renewals be approved and Wesley will keep them up on  
16 the screen.

17 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
18 there any -- are we good?

19 VICE CHAIR: Too low? Oh, talking too  
20 low.

21 CHAIR: Are there any questions from the  
22 Board? Great, I wanna underscore what Director Riggs  
23 said, please, for our businesses, if you've got a  
24 change, if you're reporting a change, please -- well,  
25 if you have a change, report it and then don't wait



1 'till the end of your licensure year to report that  
2 it's gonna hold things up. So best to keep everything  
3 updated. Keep your file and your account updated  
4 rather than wait till the end of the year to try to  
5 reconcile changes that have occurred beforehand. If  
6 there are no questions from the board, is there a  
7 motion on this matter?

8 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
9 we approve the renewal of the 28 adult use cannabis  
10 business licenses and expand alternative treatment  
11 centers.

12 CHAIR: Move by Vice Chair Delgado. Is  
13 there a second?

14 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

15 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-  
16 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion?  
17 Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you  
18 please call the vote?

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

20 MR. BARKER: Abstain.

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
22 Kosso?

23 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

25 MS. NASH: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

2 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

4 CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Motion passes. The next  
6 item on the agenda, we have cases, claims and  
7 petitions.

8 CHAIR: Director Riggs, please provide us  
9 a summary of the petitions submitted to the Commission.

10 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So  
11 our alternative treatment center identification cards,  
12 and also our AU Cannabis business identification cards  
13 are at play here. These are recommendations for  
14 rehabilitation for employees. We have three ATC  
15 employees and one adult-use employee. They've received  
16 notice that their criminal history check revealed a  
17 disqualifying conviction under each relevant standard.

18 The employee was then given an opportunity  
19 to challenge the accuracy of that criminal conviction  
20 and or requested determination of rehabilitation. All  
21 four of these individuals have requested a  
22 determination that they'd be deemed rehabilitated, and  
23 they have shown through clear and convincing evidence  
24 that they're rehabilitated and able to work in the  
25 cannabis industry. And therefore, we are recommending

1 approval of all four of these individuals.

2 CHAIR: Thank you. Now, I believe we have  
3 -- we're taking these in turn, starting with the  
4 employee identifications for the ATC employees. So  
5 we'll start first with the ATC employees. I believe  
6 that we've got three, three individuals subject there.  
7 Are there any questions from the Board for Director  
8 Brown -- I'm sorry, Director Riggs? A serious lapse in  
9 memory. All right. If there are no questions for  
10 Director Riggs, is there a motion as it pertains to the  
11 three ATC individuals applying for an ID card?

12 MR. RIGGS: Madam Chair, I move that we  
13 approve the request for determination of  
14 rehabilitation.

15 CHAIR: Is there a second?

16 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

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

19 Hearing none, Mr. Saeed, with respect to the three ATC  
20 identification cards, could you please call the vote?

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

22 MR. BARKER: Aye.

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
24 Kosso?

25 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

2 MS. 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 CHAIR: All right. Now, we turn to the  
9 adult-use Cannabis Business Identification card. So we  
10 have one individual that falls into that bucket. Are  
11 there any questions from the board for Director Riggs  
12 with respect to this individual? Hearing no questions,  
13 is there a motion?

14 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve  
15 the request for determination of rehabilitation for an  
16 AU cannabis business employee/applicant.

17 MR. BARKER: Seconded.

18 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Barker.  
19 Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing none,  
20 Mr. Saeed, with respect to the Cannabis Business  
21 Identification Card, you please call the vote.

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

23 MR. BARKER: Aye.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
25 Kosso?

1 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

3 MS. 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. The  
9 next item up on the agenda, we have consideration of  
10 enforcement actions.

11 CHAIR: So here these, we will take one by  
12 one. All right. So Director Riggs, I'll turn the  
13 floor over to you for our first item. That's in I-N-V-  
14 6-7-2-4.

15 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
16 Before we get into the individual's facts on each of  
17 these cases, we have all of these enforcement actions  
18 listed on two slides. Next slide, please. Okay. So  
19 this is a notice of a violation issued to Curaleaf NJ,  
20 it was a failure to adhere to record keeping and  
21 tracking of cannabis products. Metric-C, the sale  
22 tracking audit by our Office of Compliance and  
23 Investigation was conducted and it was determined that  
24 not all of the transactions were in metric as required  
25 by our regulations.

1           Corrective action plan was timely  
2 submitted. The reasoning for failure were related to  
3 the metric rollout and training. Their corrective  
4 action plan indicated that they've taken measures  
5 related to training personnel and hiring additional  
6 personnel to monitor the tracking system. However,  
7 these are violations of the regulations and therefore  
8 an enforcement action is recommended to the board.  
9 Thank you.

10           CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
11 there any questions from the Board? Hearing no  
12 questions, is there a motion with respect to Curaleaf?  
13 If none, I move that the Commission impose a fine of  
14 \$5,000 in response to the violations cited. Is there a  
15 second?

16           MS. NASH: Second.

17           CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is  
18 there any discussion on this motion? I will note that  
19 under our regulations in the subChapter 20, the  
20 Commission has a starting point that it considers for  
21 these violations. Under Rule 20.7, the Commission --  
22 for a Category 5 violation for first time that the  
23 business is cited for that violation, the commission  
24 has to at least consider starting point of \$5,000.

25           Now, under Rule 20.6, there are the

1 commission does have the authority, has the sole  
2 discretion to consider additional factors to determine  
3 the penalty for each violation. And here, in this  
4 case, I believe a mitigating factor was that the  
5 business leadership for Curaleaf, did seem pretty  
6 genuine to take the issue seriously and to take the  
7 time to correct all of the errors.

8           However, they -- this isn't just a record-  
9 keeping violation. They were cited not just for record  
10 keeping issues, they also failed to have metric tags  
11 even in the building as required, which then resulted  
12 in more work for our staff to make sure that all  
13 products were accounted for as opposed to being  
14 diverted in outside of our regulated market. And as to  
15 the purported claim -- I'm sorry, the response,  
16 Curaleaf's response that they had a poor rollout.  
17 Failure to train your staff is a problem of your own  
18 doing.

19           So with that, I believe that \$5,000 is an  
20 appropriate penalty. I do concur with staff that it is  
21 a Category 5. But we need our business leaders to take  
22 the rules seriously. If you're a business owner, or  
23 manager of a cannabis business, it is your  
24 responsibility to make sure that your team is aware of  
25 and properly trained and equipped to operate the

1 business in accordance with the regulations.

2 Here simple training, simple communication  
3 with their staff could have avoided this huge issue  
4 that then took them -- that took Curaleaf about two  
5 weeks it seems to undo. And so I believe that a penalty  
6 of \$5,000 is warranted and supported by the facts. Is  
7 there any other discussion on this motion? Hearing no  
8 further discussion, Mr. Saeed, on the motion to impose  
9 a penalty of \$5,000, can you please call the vote?

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

11 MR. BARKER: Aye.

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
13 Kosso?

14 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

16 MS. 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. The  
22 next item on the agenda, we have consideration of  
23 enforcement action for Leaf House LLC. Commissioner  
24 Del Cid-Kosso has recused herself from this enforcement  
25 action for Leaf House due to an ongoing professional



1 relationship. On account of her recusal, she will step  
2 out of the room while the board considers this  
3 particular application. Afterward, Commissioner Del  
4 Cid-Kosso will come back in and will take up the next  
5 order of business.

6 CHAIR: Thank you. Now, that Commissioner  
7 Del Cid-Kosso has stepped outta the room, I'll turn the  
8 floor over to Director Riggs to describe the violations  
9 at issue.

10 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. An  
11 NOV was issued the Leaf House for failing to adhere to  
12 the proper record keeping and for distributing cannabis  
13 and cannabis products to employees without remuneration  
14 as required under the law and regulations. They were  
15 gifting cannabis, some possibly expired cannabis to  
16 their employees. There are no free samples allowed  
17 under the law and regulations, and therefore there's a  
18 regulatory violation there.

19 They have since submitted a corrective  
20 action plan. They addressed our commission's concerns  
21 by updating their standard operating procedures to  
22 confirm that no expired product will ever be sold or  
23 sampled out. And that sampled out product must be  
24 recorded as a sale in their inventory and their  
25 inventory tracking immediately.

1                   And even though they have submitted a  
2                   sufficient corrective action plan, it is still a  
3                   violation of our regulations and therefore an  
4                   enforcement action is recommended to the Board. Thank  
5                   you.

6                   CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
7                   there any questions from the board? Hearing no  
8                   questions, is there a motion on this matter as it  
9                   relates to Leaf House?

10                  MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to impose a  
11                  fine of \$5,000 for the violations, the two violations.

12                  CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash. Is  
13                  there a second? I will second the motion. Is there  
14                  any discussion on this motion to impose a penalty of  
15                  \$5,000? I for one want to note that while I agree with  
16                  staff that the appropriate category for this violation  
17                  is Category 5. And I think what is particularly  
18                  damning here is that even by their own admission, the  
19                  business was giving products away, it is recorded in  
20                  their inventory log and that some of those products,  
21                  some products that they had given to their staff was  
22                  expired even by their admission.

23                  And I want to also note for other  
24                  businesses, not business advice, but simply a  
25                  consideration. Consider whether to reject a delivery

1 rather than accept it, if you are being delivered  
2 products by a supplier that is simply too unattractive  
3 to sell to customers, you may wanna consider rejecting  
4 that delivery rather than accepting it, and then facing  
5 -- having to face decisions on what to do with these  
6 products that you feel like you cannot sell to your  
7 customers. But I think the Leaf-house employees have  
8 spoken for them, the evidence speaks for itself.

9           The records within their inventory logs  
10 make it very clear that they were giving away products  
11 in violation of the rules, and that even some of the  
12 products that they were giving to their staff had been  
13 expired.

14           Any further discussion on this motion to  
15 impose a penalty of \$5,000? Hearing no further  
16 discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you please call the vote?

17           THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

18           MR. BARKER: Aye.

19           THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso  
20 was recused. Commissioner Nash?

21           MS. NASH: Yes.

22           THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

23           VICE CHAIR: Yes.

24           THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

25           CHAIR: Yes.

1                   THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
2 next item on the agenda, we have enforcement actions  
3 for Green Medicine.

4                   CHAIR: Director Riggs, you can please  
5 provide a summary of the violations cited here.

6                   MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. This  
7 notice of violation relates to a failure to properly  
8 store cannabis, to properly provide video surveillance  
9 to our office of compliance and investigation and to  
10 the physical premises, and also to the rooms and to  
11 establish proper inventory controls. Green medicine  
12 was storing cannabis in their designated vault room,  
13 which was not approved as a storage location for  
14 cannabis and not in compliance with our regulations.

15                   They had a failure to tag plants with  
16 metric tags. A corrective action plan was submitted,  
17 and storage and inventory controls have been since  
18 corrected. However, this went on for some time and  
19 even after being told by the compliance officer that  
20 they could no longer store cannabis in the room that  
21 they were storing it in, they continued to store  
22 cannabis in that room that was not approved by the  
23 commission. And therefore, there is a violation of the  
24 regulations and we are recommending an enforcement  
25 action to the Board. Thank you.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Any  
2 questions from the Board regarding the information  
3 provided?

4 VICE CHAIR: Director Riggs, what was the  
5 length of time?

6 MR. RIGGS: I have to look at my notes,  
7 but I believe it was several weeks.

8 VICE CHAIR: Yeah, I think it was a month.  
9 Thank you, Director Riggs?

10 MR. RIGGS: Yes.

11 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Director Riggs.

12 MR. RIGGS: Sure.

13 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Did they have plants  
14 growing for adult use in their facility?

15 MR. RIGGS: They have been approved to  
16 expand, so I imagine they do have adult use cannabis  
17 products growing in there.

18 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: The license?

19 MR. RIGGS: At the time of this violation,  
20 I'd have to look back at my notes.

21 CHAIR: I believe no. Director Riggs, I  
22 wanna give you a moment to check your records as well.  
23 But my understanding is that at the time of the -- at  
24 the time of the visit from the compliance officer to  
25 this facility, this was in early May, and the business

1 had not yet been issued a license to have adult use  
2 cannabis plants on site. And I don't even know if they  
3 had -- I don't recall if they had even been approved by  
4 the commission at that point to expand into the adult  
5 use market. But they were not issued a license at the  
6 time that the compliance officer visited the facility.  
7 That is my understanding,

8 MR. RIGGS: Yes. And Madam Chair, you're  
9 correct in your understanding.

10 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: So they were growing  
11 the plants for AU without a license?

12 MR. RIGGS: No, no. They were growing  
13 medical cannabis.

14 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Medical cannabis only?

15 MR. RIGGS: Yes. At the time of the  
16 violation.

17 CHAIR: They were authorized for med --  
18 they were only authorized to have medical cannabis.

19 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Okay.

20 CHAIR: Yeah, it seems that they had  
21 claimed -- so the compliance officer observed that  
22 nearly 80% of their plants were not tagged properly  
23 under the medical -- I'm sorry, as a medical cannabis  
24 plants. But they had claimed that they were holding  
25 onto these plants in the hope of expanding into the

1 adult-use market. But at that time, they had not been  
2 approved to operate or have any cannabis plants for the  
3 adult-use market. Any other questions for Director  
4 Riggs? Hearing none, is there a motion related to this  
5 matter?

6 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
7 we approve for the sanctions.

8 CHAIR: I'm sorry, could you repeat that?

9 VICE CHAIR: I move that we approve the  
10 imposition of the sanctions.

11 CHAIR: Sanctions in the amount of how  
12 much?

13 VICE CHAIR: \$5,000.

14 CHAIR: \$5,000, is there a second? Is  
15 there a second on the motion to impose sanctions in the  
16 amount of \$5,000?

17 MS. NASH: Second.

18 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is  
19 there any discussion on this motion to impose \$5,000  
20 fine?

21 MS. NASH: Yes.

22 CHAIR: Commissioner Nash. Oh, sorry.  
23 Folks, if you could please keep it down. Thank you.  
24 Keep it to a whisper. All right, Commissioner Nash.

25 MS. NASH: I just want to say that I had

1 some hesitancy here in the number that Commissioner  
2 Delgado imposed because I see that the violations were  
3 brought to the attention of the business, but they were  
4 brought on more than one occasion. So it's almost as  
5 if they were ignoring our investigator and so just a  
6 warning that, we wanna make sure that we're here for  
7 you, we want to help support you, but you need to  
8 follow the Regs and listen to the investigator. So,  
9 Madam Chair.

10 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Nash. I  
11 think to that point I actually believe that the  
12 willfulness and deliberateness of the violation is all  
13 the more egregious in this case, and warrants -- and  
14 justifies a higher penalty. Here as we had -- as we  
15 have indicated they had plants on hand that they wanted  
16 to use for a purpose that they were not even authorized  
17 to use at the time.

18 Also as Vice-Chair Delgado elicited, even  
19 after this business was notified and was informed that  
20 they were using a room unauthorized for the storage of  
21 cannabis, they continued to use that room for an  
22 unauthorized use for more than a month. And cherry on  
23 top, this business requested in 2023, requested a  
24 waiver to use a vault room that did not meet the  
25 medical regulations. Staff, I think rightly denied the



1 waiver and instructed them to adhere to the medical  
2 regulations to which they are subject.

3           And even after requesting and being denied  
4 a waiver, this business decided to use a room  
5 unauthorized anyways, I think that really slaps of  
6 complete disregard for the commission and this invest  
7 the compliance officer's directives. I will not stand  
8 for businesses to take advantage of or try to pull one  
9 over on our Office of Compliance and Investigations.  
10 And I think the willful and deliberateness of these  
11 actions warrants a higher penalty. So I believe that a  
12 \$10,000 fine is more appropriate to account for the  
13 facts and circumstances of this particular violation,  
14 because the likelihood of recurrence of the violation,  
15 I think, has already been established, given the facts  
16 here, the business was informed immediately on hand, or  
17 at the time that the compliance officer was at the  
18 facility, was instructed and notified that they were in  
19 violation of the rules and for a month, they continued  
20 to violate the rules.

21           So with that, I want to move that we amend  
22 the underlying motion, so such that we impose a  
23 sanction of \$10,000 on this business. So I have moved  
24 to amend the motion from Vice Chair Delgado, such that  
25 the motion becomes to impose sanctions in the amount of

1 \$10,000.

2 VICE CHAIR: You have to vote (inaudible).

3 CHAIR: No. So is there a second on this  
4 motion to amend the underlying motion such that we  
5 impose a sanction of \$10,000.

6 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

7 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-  
8 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion to  
9 amend? Hearing none, Mr. Saeed, with respect to the  
10 motion to amend the underlying motion from Vice Chair  
11 Delgado, such that we impose a sanction of \$10,000, can  
12 you please call the vote?

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

14 MR. BARKER: Aye.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
16 Kosso?

17 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

19 MS. NASH: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

21 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

23 CHAIR: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

25 CHAIR: So now that the motion has been

1 amended, the motion presently on the floor for the  
2 Board is to impose sanction an amount of \$10,000. Is  
3 there any discussion on this motion as amended to  
4 impose \$10,000 fine? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Saeed,  
5 with respect to the motion to impose a fine of \$10,000  
6 on Green Medicine, can you please call the vote?

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

8 MR. BARKER: Aye.

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
10 Kosso?

11 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

13 MS. 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. The  
19 next application that we're considering for an  
20 enforcement action is Botera Union.

21 CHAIR: Director Riggs, floor is yours.

22 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. This  
23 notice of violation stems from an event that was held  
24 at a classified retailer Botera Union, LLC. During  
25 that event, there were social media posts and there was

1 evidence that there was consumption of cannabis or  
2 cannabis products, tobacco or nicotine products on the  
3 premises, which is a violation of the regulations, a  
4 violation of law, and a violation of their own standard  
5 operating procedures. Since there is a violations of  
6 the regulations, we are recommending that enforcement  
7 action be taken by the Board. Thank you.

8 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
9 there any questions from the Board regarding Botera  
10 Union? There are no questions, is there a motion on  
11 this matter?

12 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to impose a  
13 sanction of \$5,000 for up and paint event. They are  
14 not a consumption -- they don't have a consumption  
15 endorsement. As direct -- as Acting Executive Director  
16 Riggs stated, they violated their own SOP, and I turn  
17 it back to you.

18 CHAIR: Thank you. So Commissioner Nash  
19 has moved to impose a fine of \$5,000 on Botera Union.  
20 Is there a second?

21 VICE CHAIR: Second.

22 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.  
23 Is there any discussion on this motion? I will note  
24 that I am supportive of the motion here. I do wanna  
25 underscore though that our staff have determined that

1 this is a Category 5 violation and though I do agree  
2 with staff that it does constitute a Category 5  
3 violation because it doesn't meet the definition of any  
4 of the other categories. I do want to note, though,  
5 that allowing people to smoke indoors without being  
6 verified to have the proper ventilation systems in  
7 place as required by state law, does pose a risk of  
8 harm to the health of others, right?

9 We have consumption areas that are  
10 authorized by statute. The Commission has adopted  
11 rules for that. We are in the process of getting ready  
12 to accept applications for cannabis consumption areas.  
13 However, this business does not have a cannabis  
14 consumption area endorsement. They knew they did not.  
15 And the law requires a cannabis consumption area  
16 endorsement, in order to let people, consume cannabis  
17 on site. So I think the actions here definitely seemed  
18 willful, according to the investigation report and the  
19 images provided, seemed pretty willful given that  
20 smoking was happening right in front of event staff  
21 members. And with that, I do support the motion on the  
22 floor. Is there any further discussion?

23 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Just one point.

24 CHAIR: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

25 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Thank you. I do have

1 to agree with you Madam Chair, and I know you and I had  
2 this discussion that yes, you did stated that very  
3 eloquently that in fact this event posed a risk to the  
4 health, not only of the personnel, but also the  
5 consumers and the general public that was there. So  
6 again, just going back to your point that, we'll be  
7 opening applications soon for consumption lounges, but  
8 this entity decided to host an event that was against  
9 our regulations. Thank you.

10 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Del Cid-  
11 Kosso. Any further discussion on this motion to impose  
12 a sanction of \$5,000? With no further discussion, Mr.  
13 Saeed, can you please call the vote?

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

15 MR. BARKER: Aye.

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
17 Kosso?

18 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

20 MS. NASH: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

22 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

24 CHAIR: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The

1 next item on the agenda, we have consideration of  
2 enforcement actions against Green Analytics.

3 CHAIR: Mr. Riggs, floor is yours.

4 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Green  
5 Analytics New Jersey is a testing lab. The Notice of  
6 violation relates to their failure to properly test  
7 cannabis and cannabis items as required by the  
8 interim's testing standards that this board adopted  
9 from Maryland. Under those testing standards, Etoflam  
10 is a pesticide that is required to be tested for. They  
11 were not testing for that pesticide. I do want to note  
12 that it was through the quality control process and  
13 because of the samples that are required to be  
14 maintained by the laboratory, the batches and lot  
15 numbers for the cannabis items that were not tested for  
16 the pesticide or in fact tested after the fact.

17 So there was no public safety concern with  
18 this violation because we were able to confirm with  
19 staff that the pesticide was in fact not present in the  
20 cannabis items, that they were not testing for that  
21 pesticide.

22 However, with that said, this is still a  
23 violation of our regulations in the interim testing  
24 standards, and therefore an enforcement action is  
25 recommended to the Board.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
2 there any questions from the Board? Hearing no  
3 questions, is there a motion as it relates to Green  
4 Analytics? I will make the motion. I move to impose  
5 penalty of \$10,000 in response to this violation. Is  
6 there a second?

7 MS. NASH: Second.

8 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is  
9 there any discussion on this motion?

10 MS. NASH: Yes, Madam Chair.

11 CHAIR: Commissioner Nash.

12 MS. NASH: Thank you. So just to note  
13 that all of the testing labs at the time were notified  
14 that there was a change in the testing guidance and  
15 they received notification on November 1st to go back  
16 to the original guidance which was the Maryland  
17 guidance. And all of the other testing labs did follow  
18 Maryland's guidelines except for this one. And  
19 everyone did receive notice that they were to go back  
20 to the Maryland Testing Lab guidance.

21 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Nash?  
22 Yes, I note that as well. And I believe that to be  
23 very, very much falling into the line of Rule 20.6,  
24 that allows us to consider some of these other factors  
25 here. Given that we know that all of the businesses



1 were notified of this change, we have a record that  
2 Green Analytics was a recipient of the message  
3 directing all labs to test products under the Maryland  
4 standards.

5           So Green Analytics knew or should have  
6 known since November, 2022, that they were required to  
7 follow those Maryland testing standards. And I do  
8 agree with staff that the categorization for this  
9 violation also should be a Category 5.

10           However, I do wanna underscore that  
11 failure to properly test cannabis products does  
12 inherently pose a risk to the health of our consumers.  
13 Testing labs carry a big responsibility. They are a  
14 principle line of defense against contaminated  
15 products. And so, we need our testing labs to make  
16 sure that they are testing products according to the  
17 rules, and properly documenting the test results so  
18 that our consumers can have some confidence in the  
19 regulated market that we are establishing.

20           So I believe that, that the fact that this  
21 is a testing lab in particular it carries far more  
22 weight here. And for me, that is how I considered the  
23 seriousness and deliberate nature of the violation at  
24 hand. Is there any further discussion on this motion  
25 to impose a sanction of \$10,000? Hearing none, Mr.

1 Saeed, can you please call the vote?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

3 MR. BARKER: Aye.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
5 Kosso?

6 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

8 MS. NASH: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

10 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

12 CHAIR: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: Motion passes. The next  
14 item on the agenda, we have consideration of  
15 enforcement actions for the Social Leaf.

16 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, floor  
17 is yours.

18 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. This  
19 sort of goes back to my comments that were with the  
20 renewal. You know, ownership changes or material  
21 changes that need to be submitted when they happen, and  
22 they need to be approved by the Board, prior to  
23 effectuating that ownership change. For the Social  
24 Leaf, they failed to adhere to those requirements.  
25 They effectuated an ownership change prior to Board

1 approval. They transferred one of the owner's entire  
2 states to existing members. However, we do have  
3 evidence through financial documentation that the  
4 ownership structure had indeed changed and they did not  
5 have board approval prior to that change. And because  
6 this is a violation of regulations, we are recommending  
7 an enforcement action. Thank you.

8 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
9 there any questions from the Board? Hearing none, is  
10 there a motion on this matter? I will move to impose a  
11 fine of \$3,000 in response to this violation.

12 MS. NASH: Second.

13 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this  
14 motion? I believe that when it comes to the transfer  
15 of ownership, our rules are very clear, and our rules  
16 are meant to protect the true owners' interest in their  
17 businesses, in their dreams. And while we do want to  
18 offer, we want to let people make business decisions,  
19 and for valid reason, a business may want to sell or  
20 transfer their ownership to another individual.

21 However, you need to notify us of that  
22 beforehand, you need to request approval to make that  
23 transfer here -- to make that transfer. And here, what  
24 I considered a mitigating factor that pulled me away a  
25 little bit lower than our standard starting point of

1 \$5,000 was the fact that this was a relatively small --  
2 small amount of equity in the business that is in  
3 question that was transferred. Had this been a larger  
4 portion of the business equity interest, I would've  
5 found that far more concerning because part of the  
6 reason why we require approval ahead of time is to make  
7 sure that the individuals who are receiving a cannabis  
8 business ownership meet the standards that are in the  
9 law and in our regulations.

10 And so, we wanna make sure that the true  
11 owners do have management and control over the business  
12 operations. Again, we wanna protect people's business  
13 dreams while still giving people the flexibility to  
14 make their business decisions as they see fit.

15 So here, because it was a fairly small  
16 percentage of equity that was being transferred, it was  
17 about 4%. I found that to be a mitigating factor. And  
18 also all the individuals who were involved had already  
19 been vetted by the CRC as opposed to new owners who we  
20 don't know anything about and haven't gone through the  
21 background checks. I found that to be another  
22 mitigating factor that led me to \$3,000.

23 Is there any further discussion? Hearing  
24 no further discussion with respect to the motion to  
25 impose a fine of \$3,000 against the Social Leaf, Mr.

1 Saeed, can you please call the vote?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

3 MR. BARKER: Aye.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
5 Kosso?

6 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

8 MS. NASH: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

10 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

12 CHAIR: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
14 next item that we have on the agenda, we have  
15 consideration of extension of the Safe Use Campaign.

16 CHAIR: Thank you. This is the item that  
17 I noted earlier. We're adding at the last minute to  
18 the agenda here. Our Public Engagement and Education  
19 Committee has led the work to find a vendor to conduct  
20 our Safe Use Public Information Campaign. That  
21 committee has been most intimately involved with the  
22 results and the work that is coming out of that Safe  
23 Use campaign. So I want to turn the floor over to our  
24 Public Engagement and Education Committee to provide  
25 their recommendation for the continuation of the Safe

1 Use Campaign.

2 THE SECRETARY: Thank you for that, Madam  
3 Chair. Just very briefly before the Board, before the  
4 public is a motion to approve an extension to our  
5 current Safe Use Campaign that we've had underway for  
6 the past year. It's set to expire at the end of the  
7 month, and so this extension will allow us to continue  
8 to provide the public with safe use information and  
9 updates. Thank you. And Commissioner Nash, if you  
10 have anything to add, please feel free.

11 MS. NASH: No, I don't have anything more  
12 to add.

13 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any  
14 questions from the Board for the committee members?  
15 No. Okay. If no, there are no questions. Is there a  
16 motion related to this recommendation to extend the  
17 public use -- I'm sorry, the Safe Use Campaign?

18 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
19 we approve the Staff Evaluation Committee  
20 recommendation to extend the contract to Princeton  
21 Partners for Public Information Safe Use Campaign.

22 MS. NASH: Second.

23 CHAIR: All right. We have a motion and a  
24 second. Is there any discussion on this motion? I  
25 believe that in order to properly extend the Safe Use

1 Campaign, I am supportive of the extension. And I want  
2 to know, we did -- in 2023, we issued a resolution  
3 awarding the contract -- a contract to Princeton  
4 Partners for this Public Information Safe Use Campaign.  
5 I think the provisions of that resolution are important  
6 here for us. However, I think as I understand our  
7 counsels in the Attorney General's office advise as  
8 that we need to issue an order of precedence in order  
9 to effectuate that extension.

10 So I believe that we should empower the  
11 Public Engagement Education Committee to issue and  
12 effectuate an order of precedents to properly and  
13 efficiently extend the contract. That I believe we  
14 also should be giving the committee the authority to  
15 spend additional funds as needed to adequately support  
16 the campaign, the extended Public Information Campaign,  
17 and also determine the amount of time that is needed to  
18 extend this campaign.

19 So those are a few things that I believe  
20 are needed here, and that is why I am supportive of  
21 this resolution. Is there any further discussion, any  
22 other comments from the Committee members? All right.  
23 On the motion to extend the Safe Use Campaign, Mr.  
24 Saeed, can you please call the vote?

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

1 MR. BARKER: Aye.

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-  
3 Kosso?

4 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

6 MS. 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. The  
12 next item we have on the agenda is the open public  
13 comment period.

14 CHAIR: All right. So as we prepare for  
15 public comments, I want to note as we do at every Board  
16 meeting, that members of the public can submit comments  
17 during or after this meeting in writing via our  
18 website, [nj.gov/cannabis/meetings](http://nj.gov/cannabis/meetings). The deadline for  
19 submitting written comments for today's meeting is 5  
20 o'clock Friday, September 20th. Written comments will  
21 be shared with the commission members and they will be  
22 made public.

23 As I mentioned earlier, we now provide an  
24 option for telephonic public comments. We will first  
25 hear from those individuals who are joining us in



1 person, and then we'll open up the floor to members of  
2 the public joining us by phone. For those delivering  
3 comments virtually, remember to dial into the Zoom  
4 platform using the phone number with which you  
5 registered to speak. Our team will not be able to give  
6 you access to speak if you are using a different or an  
7 unrecognized phone number.

8 Please ensure that you're using headphones  
9 and calling from a quiet place, silence all other  
10 nearby devices and speak clearly when giving your  
11 comment.

12 Speakers will be limited to  
13 three minutes. And I want to also underscore that  
14 while individuals are free to critique the Commission's  
15 decisions or the effects of the Commission's decisions,  
16 personal attacks and threats against CRC personnel will  
17 not be tolerated. So anyone who uses their comment to  
18 make any such attacks to threaten or intimidate  
19 Commission staff or Board members will be removed from  
20 the Board meeting.

21 With that, Mr. Saeed will call out the  
22 names of our speakers. Again, we are starting with the  
23 folks who have registered to speak and are here with us  
24 in person. When you hear your name called, please come  
25 forward and sit at the microphone. Please, you'll see  
a button on the microphone. Press that button until

1 you see the green light and then you may proceed with  
2 your comments. With that, Mr. Saeed, please call on  
3 our first speakers.

4 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Chairwoman. As  
5 a reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's  
6 public comment period will be limited to three minutes.  
7 Please be respectful and concise during your comments.  
8 The first person that I'm going to call is Dr. Alyza  
9 Brevard-Rodriguez.

10 MS. ALYZA BREVARD-RODRIGUEZ: Not today.  
11 Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is Dr. Alyza  
12 Brevard-Rodriguez. Am I saying more? We good? Okay.  
13 Hello Commissioners, it's nice to see you again. We've  
14 obviously met under similar circumstances, but  
15 unfortunately I've never actually had a single  
16 conversation with any of you. That's because despite  
17 being a story on your data set monthly as a success  
18 story, everyone telling me how grateful they are that  
19 I'm in this industry and using my voice to strengthen  
20 it, and even lending my free time and energy to do a  
21 panel for you all to help grow this industry, yet no  
22 one replies to my e-mail. People avoid me like the  
23 plague, and I'm like the veteran that's just disposed  
24 right after being kicked out of the Navy.

25 You know, I went on this journey because I

1 was ending my 10-year military career that I thought  
2 was gonna be for 20 years. I'm a disabled veteran. I  
3 spent 10 years as a military police officer. And on my  
4 last tour during COVID, I was injured, and I was faced  
5 with a new challenge of am I gonna go into a new  
6 industry or am I gonna fight to stay here and complete  
7 my other 20 years? And with the hope and the  
8 opportunity that you all presented, I decided that I  
9 was gonna try to jump over to the other side.

10 See, because during my first tour, I  
11 missed that little one that you're talking about there.  
12 Well, the other one that I have that's five years old,  
13 I missed a lot of her life because I was doing a lot of  
14 tours during COVID. Everybody started dropping. You  
15 can imagine the same thing that was happening and  
16 society was also happening overseas. And of course, to  
17 keep democracy free and everyone here to be able to do  
18 what they need to do, well, I had to leave my home and  
19 my child to go do that work.

20 Now, after being -- seen as though I  
21 wasn't worthy to stay in the military because of my  
22 injuries, I then led myself to a life of cannabis and  
23 decided to do this as a business endeavor. And I  
24 really, really feel like this State has failed me. You  
25 know, when I sit here in the audience, and I hear

1 Commissioners say that, "We wanna help you and we wanna  
2 hear from you." You have all been hearing from me.  
3 I'm very boisterous. I make sure -- and it is through  
4 constructive and supportive and compassion and empathy  
5 that I want us to build this industry together. But we  
6 need to speak to each other. We need to work together.  
7 And the fact that you had four people show up is very  
8 shameful. And everyone else needs to understand that  
9 that's an issue too. We need to be supporting each  
10 other.

11 I already shared the status that my  
12 company is in, and I will not sit up here as a voice  
13 any further if obviously we cannot get to the finish  
14 line because I will not be a part of this industry. I  
15 hope that that's not the story that this is gonna end  
16 with because we are in real danger. And the fact that  
17 it has taken 30 months for us to get through this  
18 process. I'm sitting on a beautiful, beautiful  
19 dispensary that's ready to serve my community. It's  
20 wellness oriented. It's luxury. It costs \$1.3 million  
21 of black and brown only dollars. I really hope that in  
22 2025 we're able to turn a new leaf because I'm so upset  
23 by the outcome.

24 THE SECRETARY: The next person on the  
25 list Kat Peoples (ph), next person after that is

1 Matthew Lewis (ph). Next person, Damon Hanchel (ph).

2 MR. DAMON HANCHEL: Good afternoon. How  
3 are you guys doing? I can't believe I'm meeting y'all,  
4 you guys in person. I've seen y'all from my start of  
5 this journey three years ago. I don't want to -- you  
6 guys have taken it to a whole another level. You did a  
7 beautiful job, Ms. Houenou, Ms. Nash, especially you,  
8 Mr. Barker. My problem, especially you to us. All  
9 right. Look my problem is now, like the lady just said  
10 with social equity and diversity, all this, you were  
11 supposed to be the first on the list to turn around our  
12 life, but it is now going on almost three years. Mr.  
13 Barker talked about these three meetings ago. So like,  
14 you know, with as much as you guys have going on, we  
15 still have a long way to go.

16 I appreciate you guys. I'm not gonna use  
17 my whole three minutes. Thank you guys for this  
18 opportunity to speak to you guys, but with social  
19 equity, people like me, myself, it's taking too long.  
20 It's taking too long. Me, and we talked about it. I  
21 know I had a glitch, you know, but three years, come  
22 on. My son now is graduating college. He started  
23 college when I started this process, so maybe I should  
24 have went to college. Thank you. You guys have a nice  
25 day. It's beautiful meeting you guys. Mr. Delgado.

1                   THE SECRETARY: The next person on the  
2 list is Michael Odenwald (ph). Next person after that  
3 is Deanna Robinson (ph). Next person after that is  
4 Thomas Norcia.

5                   MR. THOMAS NORCIA: How you doing? I'm  
6 Thomas Norcia. I'm from Grow Works. I'm here to talk  
7 about the psychoactive hemp ban. I spoke virtually 90  
8 days ago. I was here 60 days ago. I'm in the middle  
9 of harvesting my crops right now. Now, what are we  
10 supposed to do? We need a gateway for the hemp growers  
11 to get into this program. You know, there's no talk.  
12 I speak with the USDA every day. I spoke to them 10:30  
13 this morning. There's talks about a meeting, but  
14 there's no talk about what we're gonna do. I have a  
15 box of stuff right here. All my products, all USDA,  
16 all compliant lab tested, ready for your market.

17                   Wake up, smell the flowers. These are not  
18 psychoactive. There's 38 -- less than 38 businesses in  
19 the hemp program right now operating that are now  
20 getting screwed because of this. I don't have a source  
21 of income in 20 days. What are we supposed to do?  
22 I've been here for five years. I was here before this  
23 program, and what are we just gonna talk and people are  
24 gonna stare. There has to be something on this.  
25 Anybody with a license through the USDA hemp program

1 should not be dealing with repercussions of this. We  
2 have 30 days to stop. What about our inventory? I  
3 understand smoke shops, they claim they were the  
4 industry. We're the industry. We were licensed, we're  
5 regulated. We're not selling psychoactive stuff. And  
6 yet, in 20 days, I gotta shut my business. I was here  
7 before you guys, a year and a half before you guys.

8           Regardless of what my town says, we should  
9 be getting grandfathered in, manufacturer license, some  
10 kind of a gateway so our products could be in your  
11 market. We're here. Pie charts. Last time I was here  
12 and all these products, you corporate people love pie  
13 charts. I have products right here to put in. Let's  
14 get them approved. There's less than 38 licenses in  
15 the USDA hemp program. Anything else, manufacturers,  
16 anything else that should be, put it to the side. Get  
17 us in. We were here first. We're not doing anything  
18 wrong. What do I do for income in 20 days?

19           Should I sit here in silence for the rest  
20 of the time? I mean, come on guys. You guys gotta  
21 act. It's been 90 days since I brought this up. I  
22 communicate with the USDA weekly, daily, 10:30 this  
23 morning. They have nothing from you guys. Yes,  
24 there's talks about a meeting, but when? What are we  
25 doing here? It would be nice if something came soon.

1 It would be nice if by next week you guys speak to John  
2 Carra (ph) we can figure something out. I'll leave  
3 these here so you guys can wake up and smell the  
4 flowers a little bit.

5 CHAIR: Sir, if you could please, if you  
6 could please, I don't want you to -- please, you'll  
7 need to reclaim your property. Thank you.

8 MR. NORCIA: I have spoken to all you  
9 guys. I don't wanna hear no one has my name, no one  
10 has my phone number, my e-mail address. I'm leaving  
11 them there.

12 CHAIR: Thank you.

13 THE SECRETARY: The next person on the  
14 list is Michael Reed. Next person is Elias Mako.

15 MR. ELIAS MAKO: My name is Elias Mako.  
16 I'm here -- and I thank you for the opportunity to  
17 discuss one I think is important energy use in cannabis  
18 industry. It's estimated that the industry uses about  
19 1% of the country's electricity now expected to go up  
20 to 3% by 2035. And I just want to make you aware of a  
21 normal new process that uses a lot less energy to make  
22 cannabis oil, and it can make superior actually better  
23 than they have now. Carts also used for edibles and  
24 make cured resin. Anyway, it uses the gas in this.  
25 This is the inhaler. It's R-134a. It's actually



1 refrigerants in everybody's automobile. One Jira  
2 conditioning and it's very specific for polling  
3 cannabinoids. It pulls terpenes and cannabinoids about  
4 97% efficient. And the cost to run using this type of  
5 machinery can run maybe \$5 per liter of cannabis oil  
6 and that's very significant. Anyway, so if you wanna  
7 check it out any further, you can go to well, I  
8 represent Pure5extraction.com, and you can find out  
9 more about it there. Thank you.

10 THE SECRETARY: The next person on the  
11 list is Chief Vincent Mann.

12 MR. VINCENT MANN: I'll do my best to  
13 stick to the three minutes. My name is Chief Vincent  
14 Mann, how are you all? I find in a kind of odd  
15 predicament here because we're also like TJ from  
16 Groworks (ph) are hemp farmers. We rely on our CBD  
17 store that we do not sell alcohol in, that we do not  
18 sell cigarettes in, that we do not sell nicotine vape  
19 pens in to support our family. To support paying for  
20 \$100,000 worth of tractors, to support employing,  
21 employing people to actually work.

22 I would say that this bill that is put  
23 forward to the people of the state of New Jersey is a  
24 benefit, right? To be able to make sure that our  
25 products that we grow in the hemp industry as well as

1 what is grown in the cannabis industry are on par with  
2 each other. But the fact that businesses like the 38  
3 hemp licensed -- you know, hemp farmers and producers  
4 and manufacturers that we, we should not be sitting at  
5 the end of the range, like the smoke shops, right, like  
6 the gas stations right down the street from our store.  
7 And if we are going to be rolled into the CRC we need  
8 to actually be the people as 38 businesses, who are  
9 sitting there helping you all to create the regulation  
10 that we need to be put into the metric system.

11                   There would be nothing greater than us  
12 being a part of the metric system, right? With our  
13 turpines and our other cannabinoids. As it is right  
14 now, all of the people who are manufacturers in the  
15 state of New Jersey, we look at that law that was  
16 created and that law basically says that those people  
17 have to source all of that hemp from inside the state  
18 of New Jersey. As it is right now with 38 hemp farmers  
19 who can't even put our product into the metric system,  
20 we have a problem. Munsee Three Sisters right now had  
21 taken on another 104 acre farm and we're looking at  
22 another 380 acre farm to grow hemp products. What are  
23 we to do with that, right? We would be the largest  
24 hemp farmers in the state of New Jersey as far as I  
25 know.                   We need to be able to come together

1 and work with the 38 businesses who are licensed within  
2 the state of New Jersey who are following the federal  
3 government's law and as a matter of fact just as a, as  
4 a living thing that as long as our hemp gets tested,  
5 which it does, right? And that's at three percent, it  
6 could be a little bit up or a little bit down, but  
7 after that, when we are holding on to that material, it  
8 has been decided by the fourth Circuit Court that all  
9 the derivatives from hemp is federally legal, to  
10 include THCO and Delta 8 and Delta 9, even if there is  
11 a loophole, people can call it a loophole, right?  
12 We, we also have the fact that we should not be put  
13 behind the liquor industry getting a plenerary license,  
14 that should come to us. Thank you.

15 THE SECRETARY: The next person on the  
16 list is Oscar Carrillo (ph).

17 MR. OSCAR CARRILLO: Hey, how are you  
18 doing, everybody? Oscar Carrillo, Magic Garden  
19 Botanicals. I was here 60 days ago, I was hoping -- I  
20 just checked my e-mails just now, hopefully I could  
21 just say, thank you, you guys, but that's not the case.  
22 Here I am still. I need to know when I can hire  
23 people. I need to know when I can run a business. I  
24 have had my final inspection. Everything's gone up to  
25 -- according to my compliance officer, on August 29th,

1 everything's been kicked up to licensing for whatever  
2 that means, to receive my operational permit.

3           So now I'm like 60K in, looking at my lab,  
4 about -- I'm actually about 1.5 million looking at  
5 equipment, and I don't know how to run the business  
6 because if I can't hire employees, if I can't get  
7 contracts to buy biomass, I can't make products. I'm a  
8 minority-owned business, everybody talks legacy to  
9 legal. I am the poster card to take legacy to legal.  
10 I got legacy people right now I'm trying to bring into  
11 the market, but you know, I -- I don't know what else  
12 to do.

13           Like seriously, what do you guys -- there  
14 is nothing in place. This is worse than getting a  
15 mortgage, seriously. At least with a mortgage, you  
16 know, there's like -- it's almost like whoever is in  
17 charge of giving the operating license is like the  
18 underwriter, you can't talk to them, they don't exist,  
19 and you got to try to -- I don't even know what to do  
20 anymore.

21           But this is the position that I find  
22 myself in. You know, I launched in New York before I  
23 launched in New Jersey, I'm from Jersey. That doesn't  
24 even make any sense, that I got product in the New  
25 York, in the New York legal market on shelves. I'm

1 like 15 dispensaries in New York, and I can't operate  
2 in my own state where I'm, I'm already licensed. So I  
3 mean, I -- the last thing that I was told, like I said,  
4 that on August 29th it went up to -- for licensing.  
5 Like I said, that to me doesn't mean much. That means  
6 it went to somebody's desk. I just wanna know  
7 whoever's desk that went to, somebody's been looking at  
8 it.

9                   Because if I passed, if I passed  
10 everything, I checked -- you know, I dotted all the  
11 I's, crossed all the T's, where's the -- what's up?  
12 Talk to me, you know what I mean, like what's the  
13 issue? I mean, if I ran my business like this, I'd be  
14 out of business. I mean, I understand government is  
15 not business, that's really obvious, but you guys are  
16 strangling us, man, this is real money. Like you know  
17 what I mean, it's not theoretic. This is real, this is  
18 real money. Like to start a real business, a real  
19 cannabis business takes real money. It's not  
20 theoretic. You know, everybody likes to talk about  
21 theoretics and everybody likes to talk about legacy to  
22 legal, NBE and all this other good stuff, here you go,  
23 I'm your poster child, and I'm still stuck. So, thank  
24 you very much.

25                   THE SECRETARY: The next person on the

1 list is Carlos Almanzar (ph). Next person after that  
2 is Hugh Giordano.

3 MR. HUGH GIORDANO: Hello. Hugh Giordano  
4 of the UFCW, official cannabis labor union on the  
5 AFLCIO. I wanna to say, hello, good afternoon, to  
6 everybody on the commission. A lot of stuff going on.  
7 So I'm here for two reasons; two things that we're  
8 seeing in the industry. You know, the one thing with  
9 us is we're always on the ground. You know, union --  
10 labor is always on the ground talking to the workers as  
11 it should be, that's my job, that's my dedication. And  
12 there's a major issue that I'm seeing in the  
13 cultivation and manufacturing sites and we're hearing  
14 from workers. What's happening is their hiring temps  
15 in these -- in the back of the house.

16 Now why is this a problem? They hire  
17 temps and then they recycle them. They get rid of  
18 them, they lay them off, they fire them, it's becoming  
19 an issue. You know, workers are coming on with the  
20 hope to have a career, to be here and most of these  
21 workers that are temps, that are being used and abused  
22 in the back of the house are immigrant migrant workers,  
23 okay? And that is not equity when we take advantage of  
24 workers that come from another country, make them temps  
25 and give them minimum wage. Don't offer them the right

1 to have benefits, vacation time, sick time, that's not  
2 equity, that's against everything we stand for in this  
3 state and it's something that we have to look into,  
4 because we're running into a problem even in enforcing  
5 labor-peace agreements now.

6           Because every time we talk to workers and  
7 they get on board, they get rid of them because they're  
8 temps. And it's becoming an issue and it's attacking  
9 workers rights. And I just wanted to bring it up to  
10 you, it's happening now, I'd rather talk about it now  
11 instead of three years from now when it's a major  
12 issue.

13           The second thing I want to talk about is  
14 the hemp bill. And I know that the CRC has a certain  
15 amount of days to make rules and regs. I am proud and  
16 the UFCW is proud during those hearings to stand up for  
17 the industry to make sure that hemp is manufactured,  
18 cultivated, processed, packaged and tested here in New  
19 Jersey, and I know that there's a lot of talk about  
20 cleaning up language, but I wanna protect the industry  
21 here. I wanna make sure that people here that apply  
22 for licenses in cannabis can -- that put hundreds of  
23 thousands, millions of dollars won't be undercut and  
24 outsourced because most of these companies are gonna go  
25 down south, they're gonna go to Oklahoma, they're gonna

1 go to Kentucky, they're gonna go to Carolina and Texas  
2 and their labor laws are horrendous down there.

3 And they're gonna have everything  
4 cultivated, manufactured and imported up here in New  
5 Jersey, and the only people that are gonna touch that  
6 are the testing labs and the dispensary. The back of a  
7 house is gonna be destroyed, jobs are gonna be lost.  
8 It's concerning to me. I think that we should grow and  
9 make sure that we have regulations and rules that give  
10 priority to people in the state to cultivate  
11 manufacture, process, package and then dispense. We  
12 need to protect the industry here, we have a hemp  
13 program here which we heard from some of the employers,  
14 I think it's the right thing to do; protect workers,  
15 protect the industry and small business owners. Thank  
16 you.

17 THE SECRETARY: Next person on the list is  
18 Ken Nelson. Next person is Kristen Goedde (ph).

19 MS. KRISTEN GOEDDE: Hi, my name is  
20 Kristen Goedde, I'm the founder of Tricome Analytical  
21 (ph), a DEA registered and CRC licensed cannabis  
22 testing facility. We've also been licensed in the New  
23 Jersey hemp program for over four years and today I'm  
24 testifying on behalf of hemp licensees regarding the  
25 impacts of the recently passed Bill S32, 35. As I



1 expressed to the legislature, this bill mistakenly  
2 classifies federally legal products like CBD flower and  
3 full spectrum CBD products as intoxicating. Despite  
4 these concerns, the bill passed unchanged in that  
5 aspect and now we face its consequences. One of the  
6 many issues that this legislation had was that it  
7 applied a 0.3 percent total THC limit post harvest and  
8 arbitrarily low milligram limits for other product  
9 types without consideration of the naturally occurring  
10 cannabinoid ratios. Under the USCA program total THC  
11 limits are enforced 30 days before harvest. At  
12 harvest, CBD flower may contain up to one percent total  
13 THC, and any significant amount that does not cause  
14 intoxication.

15               Similarly, full spectrum CBD extracts  
16 retain a small amount of naturally occurring THC which  
17 are well below intoxicating limits, but exceed the new  
18 limits set by this bill. I have COAs for products such  
19 as lotion, pet tinctures and gummies, all produced  
20 legally in the New Jersey, in the New Jersey hemp  
21 program. These products are not intoxicating by any  
22 means yet they're now restricted for sale solely in  
23 dispensaries under the new classification.

24               In just 23 days, licensed hemp cultivators  
25 and processors will be unable to sell their products if

1 nothing is done. I propose that the commission  
2 immediately establishes a permit for the 38 licensed  
3 hemp growers and processors to continue selling their  
4 federally compliant products in New Jersey. This  
5 permit would allow the products that are already  
6 approved within the New Jersey Department of  
7 Agriculture Hemp Program to be sold by those  
8 businesses, offering protection and assurance to  
9 existing hemp licensees while providing the time needed  
10 to develop comprehensive regulation for sales within  
11 classified retailers.

12               You may hear from others, lobbyists for  
13 liquor stores, smoke shops and gas stations selling  
14 synthetic cannabinoids who claim to represent the hemp  
15 industry, however, the hemp industry in New Jersey  
16 consists of just 38 licensed businesses, please do not  
17 let the voices of those who took advantage of loopholes  
18 overshadow the few who have complied with the federal  
19 and state laws from the start. Thank you.

20               THE SECRETARY: The next person on the  
21 list is Sheralli Patel (ph).

22               MS. SHERALLI PATEL: Good afternoon.  
23 Sheralli Patel. Good to see you guys. Thanks for  
24 adding the virtual option, definitely appreciate that.  
25 I'm here just to talk about two issues; one is the

1 rehabilitation process for employees. As you guys  
2 know, not only as a lawyer, do I work with social  
3 equity individuals, but the expungement clinics I hold  
4 throughout the state I've encounter thousands of people  
5 who are looking to clear their records so that they can  
6 get jobs and particularly in the industry.

7           And it's always amazing when I get e-mails  
8 from somebody that says, "Hey, I got a job, I'm so  
9 happy, things are going great," and then a couple  
10 months later I get an e-mail from them saying, "I got  
11 let go because of my background check." And this is  
12 the part where I think it's fixable from a practical  
13 solution, people should not be getting their cannabis  
14 badges or even let into these premises before the whole  
15 background check process has cleared and they've had  
16 the opportunity to prove rehabilitation, because what  
17 happens is these individuals are relocating, they're  
18 incurring expenses and now when they're let go they  
19 have these expenses that they don't know what to do  
20 except for potentially going back into the streets and  
21 making mistakes.

22 It really does increase positivism in a way that's not  
23 intended by the act. So I really encourage you to  
24 reconsider the way that you've been issuing these IDs  
25 and the rehabilitation process and importantly, people

1 shouldn't have to wait for a public meeting to get  
2 reinstated, there should be something more streamlined  
3 and as well as the forms, if you want them to submit  
4 their paperwork, there should be something that they  
5 can do online that's easy, requiring them to get  
6 documentation from probation officers. If you've dealt  
7 with POs, every PO is different. Getting that type of  
8 paperwork can take over 30 days. Right now you guys  
9 are only giving folks 30 days to do that appeal it's  
10 not sufficient time for a lot of people.

11 And then separately, the micro businesses,  
12 I highly encourage you to come and talk or set a round  
13 table up to talk to micro licensees, 100 percent New  
14 Jersey owned residency, right? These individuals, the  
15 rules that are in place, they're preventing them from  
16 scaling. You're preventing -- not you, but the CREAM  
17 Act has prevented them from getting out of state  
18 investors, and it's really -- it's troublesome because  
19 a lot of them can't get up and running because the need  
20 additional funds. Even once they've been granted their  
21 annual licenses, they can add on these out of state  
22 entities. And then the waiver request. A

22 entities. And then the waiver request. A  
23 lot of the rules are clear but there's also ambiguities  
24 in the rules particularly with the waiver process. So  
25 if you guys can clarify how do you request your waiver

1 to the regulations? What does the time look like  
2 because there's real life implications, millions of  
3 dollars on the line, people's livelihoods to be able to  
4 move forward, so I respectfully request you guys to  
5 just reconsider the waiver process, streamline  
6 rehabilitation and really revisit the micro license  
7 rules because these are the small businesses that are  
8 local that need your help. Thank you.

9 THE SECRETARY: Next person on the list is  
10 Kyle Page.

11 MR. KYLE PAGE: How're you doing,  
12 everybody? My name is Kyle Page. I'm a national  
13 advocate speaker, I'm also a cultivator. I was a  
14 cultivator with Ascend Wellness Holdings. I just got  
15 off parole in March. I did six years in prison for  
16 cannabis, and the time before that I did two and a half  
17 years in State of New Jersey for cannabis. It was a  
18 blessing for me to get into the industry, and get my  
19 badge, and be able to work, but a year into being a  
20 cultivator at Ascend Wellness Holdings, moving up to  
21 supervisor, I was kicked out by the CRC regulations.  
22 That hurt me. I come out of prison, I don't have any  
23 money.

24 So when you kick me out of my job you  
25 increase the rate of me maybe going back and doing

1 something illegal. Trust me I called California again  
2 to see if I can go ahead and traffic. It wasn't in the  
3 card because God didn't want it that way, so I fought  
4 my way back into this industry again. But how many  
5 people are dealing with this? How many people are not  
6 going to go the positive route that I went? How many  
7 people have not started reading programs in prison like  
8 I did? How many people didn't start history programs  
9 in prison like I did? I also helped with the GED  
10 program because I'm college educated. But how many  
11 people don't have that education?

12                   So when you take somebody like myself  
13 who's fighting to get into this legal industry that  
14 came out of the illegal industry and you take my badge  
15 away after I've been an upstanding citizen, you're  
16 hurting us. You're putting us back in that lane to go  
17 back into the black market again, and that's not fair.  
18 I have faith that each one of you looking at me today  
19 don't want me to go back into the, the illegal  
20 industry. You want me to be a part of this industry.  
21 I have so much to bring into this industry and I have  
22 so much fuel to fight for people who are still locked  
23 up for cannabis in this country, period.  
24 I've been a part of Last Prisoner Project, Blaze  
25 Responsibly, Freedom Grow, I'm with Ascend Wellness

1 Holdings, I'm now building my own brand and my own  
2 dispensary, and I hope that maybe you'll talk to people  
3 like me again because I would love to be a part of the  
4 process. I would love to be a part to let you know  
5 what's going on out here on the ground level, with  
6 people who are getting out of prison, getting off of  
7 parole and getting the jobs into this industry. You  
8 know, it's not fair that we, we come in and we work  
9 hard, we get promotions, then all of a sudden now then  
10 we're kicked out in the sense like, I don't know what  
11 to tell you, it's the CRC.

12               So I'm here right now talking to the CRC  
13 and you're looking at Kyle Page, and Kyle Page is  
14 somebody who's fighting for positivity, I'm fighting to  
15 get into this industry. Please don't do this to  
16 anybody that sells -- that's coming in behind me.  
17 Please understand that what happens is maybe people  
18 don't have the same backing that I had. Maybe people  
19 don't have the same -- you know, the people that are  
20 gonna surround them and lift them up positively. Some  
21 people go back to Patterson, Trenton, Camden, New  
22 Jersey City and they go back to the streets. Let's not  
23 push them back there. I'm here to help. I wanna be a  
24 part of what you guys are doing and I want people to  
25 not go back down that road, and that's pretty much all

1 I have to say. Thank you.

2 THE SECRETARY: Next person on the list is  
3 Reginald Green.

4 MR. REGINALD GREEN: Good afternoon,  
5 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Reginald Green and  
6 I'm a former employee at Ascend Wellness Holdings, and  
7 my job was a cultivation technician and here's my  
8 story. On Sunday July 30th, 2023, I attended an  
9 expungement/hiring event sponsored by Ascend Wellness,  
10 Blaze Responsibly and I had the pleasure of meeting  
11 Kyle Page who ultimately interviewed me and became a  
12 great friend. While at the expungement event in July  
13 23', I also met with Sherralli Patel, a phenomenal  
14 human being with a heart of gold and I nicknamed her  
15 the angel of law because all of her expungment events  
16 costs and fees are always 3.99 for everyone.

17 Attorney Sherralli Patel started the  
18 process with a great passion to help me get my criminal  
19 record expunged. During the expungement event I was  
20 able to obtain information about employment with Ascend  
21 Wellness about the cultivation technician position. So  
22 I applied for the cultivation technician position  
23 around early August, it took me approximately nine  
24 months to get my badge approved from the CRC to enter  
25 the cultivation facility located in Franklin. I



1 started working at Franklin New Jersey Ascend Wellness  
2 around March of 2024, however, the career path and  
3 learning how to cultivate cannabis was abruptly  
4 terminated when Ascend Wellness Human Resources  
5 department received an e-mail from the CRC stating that  
6 my employee badges was to be taken because Mr. Green  
7 has been terminated due to prior convictions on his  
8 record. I had two prior convictions on my record out  
9 of Jersey City which was Hudson County, which was --  
10 one was 1990, 34 years-old ago, and the other one was  
11 1994 which is 30 years-old which is probably older than  
12 people in this room, my convictions.

13 I also had an unfortunate experience when I was  
14 arrested for conspiracy to commit bank fraud in United  
15 States District Court in the western district of  
16 Kentucky. I served a two-year sentence in a federal  
17 prison, Brooklyn MDC as a cadre inmate camp status and  
18 three years federal probation after that which that is  
19 12 years-old and I always thank God I don't look like  
20 what I've been through.

21               Since my untimely release from Ascend  
22 Wellness Holdings in June 24 for the findings on my  
23 criminal background history, I've attended many  
24 cannabis events, been vocal in supporting expungements  
25 in the state of New Jersey and Pennsylvania and

1 networking with some of the most brilliant minds in New  
2 Jersey in the cannabis industry.

3 In my closing and finishing up on my three  
4 minutes, I'm hoping and praying that all my concerns  
5 are resolved and are properly addressed in a timely  
6 manner. I'm also respectfully requesting that the  
7 Cannabis Regulatory Committee give me the opportunity  
8 to be the recipient of the promise, the promise of  
9 social equity and inclusion, the promise of the  
10 opportunity to show that I am worthy and indeed my  
11 rehabilitation has been a remarkable milestone  
12 achievement and an absolutely genuine experience. So  
13 can you please give me the chance to provide the  
14 documentation timeline of my rehabilitation and my  
15 willingness to not (inaudible) and cancel out the great  
16 accomplishments that I have made? Again, that's why  
17 I'm here. Thank you very much and have a great day.

18 THE SECRETARY: Next person on the list  
19 Xavion Jackson (ph).

20 MR. XAVION JACKSON: Xavion Jackson, Taste  
21 of Earth. I wanna say thank you to the commission and  
22 Governor Murphy for not only awarding us our final  
23 license, but for opening up this whole industry to  
24 myself and others. Before this journey, the only  
25 accomplishment I've done was graduate high school.

1 This has been a long journey, a hard journey. This  
2 industry has turned me into a man I dreamt about. Most  
3 of the things I have accomplished in this journey, I've  
4 dreamt about. To anyone that's watching that might  
5 share an interest in this industry, it's a lot of work  
6 and stress, but to feel this accomplishment is  
7 unmatched, and I just wanna let you know that you can  
8 do it too, and just wanna say, thank you. Thank you,  
9 guys, and I won't disappoint you guys. Thank you.

10 THE SECRETARY: Next person on the list is  
11 Jim Schone (ph).

12 MR. JIM SCHONE: Hello. My name is Jim  
13 Schone, I'm a licensed hemp farmer in the state of New  
14 Jersey. My son and I have a family-owned business. We  
15 were licensed to grow and process and sell hemp  
16 products through the Department of Agriculture. This  
17 is a program that everybody was so proud of as being  
18 one of the first states to have their program approved  
19 by the USDA, I guess so much for that.

20 I agree that the intoxicating hemp  
21 products should not be sold on the shelves of our  
22 stores for children to buy and use, but as I said when  
23 speaking to the legislature two months ago, this law  
24 not only threw the baby out with the bath water, but it  
25 also threw the tub out and hurt those who could benefit

1 from the hemp products that we produce. We followed  
2 all the laws, we did all the testing and labeling and  
3 bottling of our products, and now the state is gonna  
4 shut us down giving us 30 days to comply.

5           How can an organization like the CRC get  
6 180 days to come up with a program that lets us sell  
7 hemp in New Jersey and only gives us 30 days, which by  
8 the way, we probably have 18 days now to do anything  
9 with our products. What this is gonna do is gonna make  
10 us lose income, there are so many of us who will not  
11 just survive. Unlike many other participants in the  
12 cannabis industry and dispensaries, most of us financed  
13 our business with our own money, no grants, no public  
14 assistance. Just for expediency and political  
15 pressure, the governor of the Garden State signed the  
16 bill that even he said was far from perfect. We are  
17 the hemp farmers of this Garden State. If we and the  
18 hemp program of New Jersey are going to survive we need  
19 some type of relief from the leaders of the Garden  
20 State.

21           An extension of the 30 days to six months  
22 or a year, maybe that could be done by the CRC or maybe  
23 we can come up with something like that because if they  
24 come up with a fair and equitable program they have six  
25 months to -- you guys have six months to do it, and we

1 have 30 days. You guys have a lot more people to help  
2 you out and get things going than we do. Last point is  
3 where did the legislature come up with the percentages  
4 of 0.5 milligrams per servings and 2.5 milligrams per  
5 container? Is it based on scientific studies? If this  
6 is going to be the case all of our full spectrum hemp  
7 will not be able to be sold. This is like telling the  
8 breweries and liquor stores they can only sell beer if  
9 it is not intoxicating or near beer. If New Jersey is  
10 so proud of its medical marijuana program they should  
11 look at the scientific studies of the beneficial  
12 effects of hemp and products on a plethora of illnesses  
13 and physical ailments.

14 Does the legislature even know what the  
15 endocannabinoid system is and how it interacts with our  
16 bodies? Or just like big pharma, are they only  
17 interested in covering up the symptoms with drugs and,  
18 and their elevated THC in cannabis? As a small hemp  
19 farmer of New Jersey we're just asking for some relief.  
20 We understand that you guys have a big job ahead of  
21 you, but like I said, we're just asking for some relief  
22 and we would really appreciate anything that we can do.  
23 We'd like to talk back and forth, open discussion just  
24 like everybody else has said, and thank you for your  
25 time and --

1                   THE SECRETARY: Next on the List, we have  
2 Devon McCardel (ph). Chair Houenou, that's everyone in  
3 person, I'm just gonna go over the list that didn't  
4 speak: Katt Peoples (ph), Matthew Lewis, Michael  
5 Odenwald (ph), Deanna Robinson, Michael Reed, Carlos  
6 Almanzar, Ken Nelson and Devon McCardel. I will switch  
7 -- I will now switch to the, the people that are on the  
8 phone. Give me one second. The first person appearing  
9 on the list virtually is James Schone. The number is -  
10 - the last four of the number is 8012. Oh, okay, got  
11 it. Because you were under Jim as well. The next  
12 person is Justin Santos. If, if you're online, on the  
13 Zoom meeting, please raise your hand so I can allow you  
14 to speak. The next person is Shamarri Morten (ph).  
15 Next person is Justin Miner. Next person is Rajul  
16 Vayas (ph), if, if any of these people are in the room,  
17 please raise your hands. Next person virtually is  
18 Darpan Shah (ph). Next person is Joseph Patrone (ph),  
19 if you're in the room, please raise your hands -- in  
20 the virtual room, please raise your hands. Next person  
21 is Raul Patel. Next person Samuel Reichbart, if you're  
22 in the room, please raise your hand so that I know to -  
23 - I do see someone, but if you can just please change  
24 your name to the actual name that you signed up with so  
25 I know that it's actually you, please do so.

1                   That's -- that's for Samuel, if that's --  
2 please sign up with the same name that you signed up on  
3 the list for and I can call you to allow you to speak.  
4 The next person is Shakir Phillip. If you're in the  
5 room, please raise your hands. Next person is  
6 Christine Ashley. Next person is Timothy Stevens.  
7 Next person is Todd Johnson. If you're in the room --  
8 actually I -- please raise your hands, last code of the  
9 number is 9308. Next person is Fillmore Charles (ph),  
10 if you're in the room, please raise your hands. The  
11 next person is Anat Patel. If you're in the virtual  
12 room, please raise your hand so I know to allow you to  
13 speak. The next person is Dan Watkins, and -- Kenny  
14 Nelson, I see you have your hand raised so I will just  
15 give you a -- allow you to speak. Please stick to the  
16 three minutes. Mr. Kenny Nelson, you have the floor.  
17 Mr. Nelson?

18                   MR. KENNY NELSON: Yes, can you hear me?

19                   THE SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you.

20                   MR. NELSON: So I wanted to speak to the  
21 new changes to the farm bill. We started Cannabis  
22 Botanicals in 2019 and we have diligently followed all  
23 the rules and regulations. In the five years of  
24 operation, we have not received a single strike on our  
25 license. We have always prioritized compliance and

1 consistency, pulling products from our shelves to  
2 ensure we meet the evolving regulation standards.  
3 However during this time many unlicensed businesses  
4 such as smoke shops and gas stations continue to sell  
5 these products without any -- without facing any of the  
6 same repercussions. This discrepancy has significantly  
7 affected the 38 licensed businesses in the hemp  
8 industry including ours that operates under the farm  
9 bill. While we follow the rules, unregulated retailers  
10 continue to profit without consequences putting  
11 compliant businesses like ours out of -- at a  
12 competitive disadvantage. Now with the new bill we  
13 face the risk of losing everything we've worked for the  
14 past five years.

15               My father and I built cannabis in a city  
16 that was initially hesitant to allow us to open.  
17 Today, we have become a vital part of community helping  
18 surrounding businesses thrive by bringing in new  
19 customers to the area. We serve a diverse group of  
20 regular customers from the elderly to law enforcement  
21 officers, all who rely on our safe and compliant  
22 products. If we are forced to close, these individuals  
23 will be left without access to licensed providers as  
24 there is no other licensed dispensaries in our area.  
25 It is deeply frustrating to be lumped together with



1 unlicensed smoke shops and gas stations when  
2 compliance, information and quality have always been at  
3 the core of our business.

4 Under this new bill we will no longer be  
5 able to sell 99 percent of our products including  
6 essential items like our pain creams and oils which  
7 have been compliant until now. The proposed 30-day  
8 window to sell our remaining inventory is simply not  
9 enough time. We deserve a longer period to transition  
10 as we will be left with over hundreds of thousands of  
11 dollars in unsellable products and materials.

12 THE SECRETARY: One minute.

13 MR. NELSON: We are also in the process of  
14 obtaining our medical marijuana license which was  
15 funded entirely through our success of our CBD company.  
16 If changes are made to accommodate these 38 hemp  
17 businesses already in operation, we won't be able to  
18 grow our company and move forward to the next stage.  
19 More critically, I will be left in a position where I  
20 might not know how to support my family. This new bill  
21 is undoubtedly -- will undoubtedly destroy the  
22 businesses we have built over the past five years and  
23 place an enormous burden on our -- on all of our  
24 families. The New Jersey hemp industry is not  
25 represented by smoke shops and gas stations, it is the

1 37, 38 compliant businesses that have operated  
2 responsibly and professionally.

3           For these reasons, I strongly urge that  
4 the bill be adjusted for businesses currently licensed  
5 today allowing us to continue selling the products we  
6 have sold for the past five years. Moving forward, any  
7 new business should be subject to the current bill.  
8 The existing businesses must be given a path to  
9 transition without being forced out of the market.  
10 Thank you for your time and consideration.

11           THE SECRETARY: That was the last person,  
12 Chairwoman Houenou. Do you want me to go over the  
13 list? Justin Santos, Shamarri Morten, Justin Miner,  
14 Rajul Vayas, Darpan Shah, Joseph Patrone, Raul Patel,  
15 Samuel Reichbart, Shakir Phillip, Christine Ashley,  
16 Timothy Stevens, Todd Johnson. I do see Todd Johnson.  
17 Mr. Johnson, you have the floor. Mr. Johnson? Mr.  
18 Johnson, if you're able to speak into the microphone or  
19 if you have a microphone that you can speak into or --

20           CHAIR: If he's -- and if you are --  
21 happened to have muted your own personal phone unmute  
22 that, or your own personal device, please make sure  
23 that that is unmuted. Okay. So then Mr. Johnson, we  
24 would invite you to submit written comment, our  
25 apologies for the technical issues that are getting in

1 the way for -- of your testimony here today, but please  
2 feel free to submit comments in writing.

3 THE SECRETARY: I do see Samuel Reichbart,  
4 he changed his name.

5 MR. SAMUEL REICHBART: Hi, obviously you  
6 guys know I have a lot of things to talk to you guys  
7 about, but today I'm gonna keep it fairly brief. The  
8 first thing actually, it's just your instructions were  
9 very clear that we needed to call from our own numbers  
10 that -- like the number that our registration ended  
11 with, so that's probably the reason why a lot of your  
12 digital comments aren't here to raise their hand  
13 because they called from their personal phones instead  
14 of joining the Zoom room because that was the  
15 instructions that you guys gave on your website. So I  
16 would just maybe go back there and see if you can  
17 figure out how to let those phone numbers in possibly  
18 because there might be people that still want to speak  
19 today that didn't -- like it clicks to me to join the  
20 Zoom room, so I -- that was where some of my own  
21 technical issues came into play there.

22 So maybe we can get a little bit clearer  
23 instructions or you guys can go back to the room go  
24 down the list of phone numbers and see if you can find  
25 the numbers that people registered with because that

1 was how you told us to join this call. What I mostly  
2 came here to speak about today was the Hemp Act. This  
3 is going to really put patients in a really tough  
4 place. We all know how the standards in this industry  
5 are not great and we also know how expensive it is, the  
6 hemp is truly supplemental medicine for patients. They  
7 can -- they simply cannot wait six months for you guys  
8 to come up with regulations, they -- because their  
9 products have to be used as medicine everyday to get by  
10 to make sure they're okay. What, what are they  
11 supposed to do? And what are these businesses supposed  
12 to do that just are either in the middle of harvesting  
13 products if not about to start. It's -- they've  
14 invested significantly into making sure that the  
15 patients can have the products and now they are just  
16 pushed to the side because a bunch of greedy industry  
17 members got together and decided that Delta 8 was too  
18 big of a risk that they had to take out everything in  
19 this state and take out hemp.

20 THE SECRETARY: One minute, Sam.

21 MR. REICHBART: Thank you. It's, it's  
22 really -- it's -- honestly it's nauseating, upsetting,  
23 infuriating and just completely disheartening to watch  
24 patients being thrown to the side at every step of the  
25 way in the name of money. I, I don't know what to do

1 or say anymore, it's, it's so upsetting. And if anyone  
2 sees Delta 8 as a competitor, I understand regulating  
3 it so that way children can't access it, but to anyone  
4 that sees that as competition, you should be looking at  
5 your market. You should be looking at the piss poor  
6 quality products that have been put on the market  
7 because there's no reason that Delta 8's distillate  
8 sprayed hemp flower should be competitive with anything  
9 that we sell in our stores, and it's depressing to  
10 think that it kind of is. That's everything I have to  
11 say for today. Please prioritize licensing hemp farms  
12 because patients need their medicine.

13 THE SECRETARY: Next person is Fillmore  
14 Charles, 1171, last four, if you're in the room. The  
15 next person is Anat Patel, 6274, if you're in the room,  
16 please raise your hand. Next person is Dan Watkins,  
17 5044, that's the last four. Chairwoman Houenou, this  
18 will conclude the registered speakers we have for  
19 today's public meeting.

20 CHAIR: Thank you. And thank you too, to  
21 everyone who spoke before us today, shared their  
22 thoughts, subject their recommendations and their  
23 personal experiences. We do, we do take it to heart,  
24 so thank you. This concludes the business that we have  
25 before us today, and with that I move that we adjourn.

1 VICE CHAIR: (Inaudible).

2 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice-chair Delgado.

3 Is there any discussion on this motion to adjourn?

4 Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. Aye.

5 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

6 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

7 MR. BARKER: Aye.

8 CHAIR: All those opposed? Excuse me,  
9 excuse me, the meeting has not ended quite yet, please.

10 Thank you. All those in favor of adjourning, say aye.

11 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

12 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

13 CHAIR: All those opposed, say nay.

14 Any abstentions? Motion passes. Time is 3:25 and we  
15 are adjourned for the day. Thank you, everyone.

16 (Meeting concluded)

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