



State of New Jersey
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Governor

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Lt. Governor

DIANNA HOUEYOU, *Chair*
KRISTA NASH, *Vice Chair*
AMELIA MAPP, *Commissioner*
CHRIS RIGGS, *Acting Executive Director*

**NJ CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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3 DIANA HOUENOU, Chair

4 KRISTA NASH, Vice Chair

5 AMELIA MAPP

6 CHRISTOPHER RIGGS

7 DANIEL SAID, Secretary

8

9 REGISTERED PUBLIC SPEAKERS PRESENT:

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11 ALYZA BREVARD-RODRIGUEZ

12 LERONE JONES

13 ANDREA RAIBLE

14 SCHERIL MURRAY POWELL

15 TODD JOHNSON

16 JAMES BEASLEY

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1 CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. We're
2 just trying to work out some technical -- some
3 technical things, so bear with us for, for a little --
4 for a moment before we get started.

5 All right. And we are ready to, to rock
6 and roll. The time is 11:12 a.m. on this fine
7 Wednesday, September 9th (sic) and we'll go ahead and
8 get started with the meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis
9 Regulatory Commission. Yes, the time is 11:12 and I
10 call this meeting to order. Mr. Said, can you please
11 read the notice of the public meeting?

12 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman, this is a
13 regularly scheduled meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis
14 Regulatory Commissions 2025 annual meeting schedule.
15 Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in
16 accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public
17 Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was provided to
18 the Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record, Courier-Post,
19 Star-Ledger and The Trenton Times on December 12th,
20 2024.

21 The agenda and information regarding the
22 virtual nature of the meeting and the ability to
23 livestream was also posted on the CRC website. The
24 meeting time and location has also been posted on the
25 website of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory

1 Commission and with the office of the Secretary of the
2 State.

3 CHAIR: Thank you. Can you please do roll
4 call?

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?
6 Commissioner Mapp?

7 CHAIR: We're having some technical issues
8 here. All right. One moment and I'll go see if we can
9 troubleshoot some of the, the technology here that just
10 isn't wanting to cooperate with us today. One moment,
11 please. Okay. All right. Just to...

12 MS. AMELIA MAPP: I'm here. Can you hear
13 me?

14 THE SECRETARY: Yes. Yes, Commissioner,
15 we can hear you.

16 MS. MAPP: Oh, okay.

17 THE SECRETARY: I'm just gonna go through
18 the, the names again, just so we have a clear record?

19 MS. MAPP: Okay.

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

21 MS. MAPP: Here.

22 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

23 VICE CHAIR: Present.

24 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

25 CHAIR: Present.

1 THE SECRETARY: We now have a quorum. The
2 first order of business is for the Commission to go
3 into executive session to, to discuss legal matters and
4 litigation and investigation updates. These are
5 discussions that are not shared with the public. We
6 believe the executive session should take about 60
7 minutes.

8 CHAIR: Thank you. I will move that we
9 enter executive session to discuss litigation updates,
10 investigation matters and other matters appropriate for
11 executive session. Is there a second?

12 MS. MAPP: Second.

13 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is
14 there any discussion on this motion to go into
15 executive session? Hearing no discussion, all those in
16 favor say aye.

17 THE COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

18 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay. Any
19 abstentions? Motion passes. So as Mr. Said mentioned
20 we expect the executive session to last approximately
21 one hour. We will leave the live stream running during
22 that time. And so we can expect to resume the public
23 session, say, at 12:20 p.m. Thank you for your
24 patience everyone.

25 [MOVED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 00:12:56]

1 [RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION AT 01:15:15]

2 CHAIR: All right. And we are back. The
3 time is 12:20 and we will resume the public portion of
4 this meeting. Mr. Said, can you please announce the
5 next agenda item?

6 THE SECRETARY: Next up on the agenda is
7 approving the minutes of both the commission's open and
8 executive sessions held on July 15th and August 7th,
9 2025. The minutes have been shared with the members of
10 the Commission prior to this meeting.

11 CHAIR: Thank you. If there are no edits
12 or corrections needed to -- of the meeting minutes, is
13 there a motion on the matter?

14 MS. MAPP: Madam Chair, I make a motion
15 that we approve the minutes as presented.

16 VICE CHAIR: I second.

17 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Mapp and
18 seconded by Vice Chair Nash. Is there any discussion
19 on this motion to approve the minutes? Hearing no
20 discussion, all those in favor say aye.

21 THE COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

22 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay. Any
23 abstentions? The motion passes.

24 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the
25 agenda is the consideration of adult-use Cannabis

1 Business Conversion License Applications.

2 CHAIR: I will turn the floor over to
3 Executive Director Riggs to share a summary of the
4 applications received.

5 MR. CHRISTOPHER RIGGS: Thank you, Madam
6 Chair. We have five conditional-to annual conversion
7 applications that are currently recommended to the
8 board. There are five annual applications. We have
9 two additional cannabis consumption area endorsements
10 and 16 annual licensing renewals.

11 I believe the first item that we have up
12 for consideration is the conversion applications. As I
13 stated, there are five of those. All of these licenses
14 applicants have applied and been approved for a
15 conditional license through our process. They have
16 followed the priority assignment where we've confirmed
17 that each application is assigned to its appropriate
18 review level. We look for diversely owned business
19 status, taxes, residency acquired, and cures are sent
20 out if we need additional information.

21 Then there is a priority verification
22 where that priority is confirmed not only based upon
23 them checking the box, but that the appropriate
24 documentation, documentation was submitted to support
25 the priority, priority review that they requested. If

1 we need additional information, cures are sent at that
2 step as well.

3 Then licensing completes what we call
4 completeness review, where we confirm that all the
5 required documents are submitted. Again, we confirm
6 that not just the document was submitted, but all the
7 information is filled out on that document and then we
8 deem that the application is complete.

9 Next, these licenses are -- these license
10 applications are scored, where the documents are
11 reviewed to ensure that the applicant submitted the
12 required information to satisfy all the regulatory
13 requirements and the notice of application acceptance.
14 At that point, a qualification review is conducted by
15 our Office of Compliance and Investigations, where
16 individuals, financial sources, and any other
17 agreements are reviewed for regulatory compliance.

18 Background checks are conducted at this
19 stage for folks that need to be background-checked to
20 ensure that their owners and any persons of interest
21 are qualified to work in the cannabis space. And then
22 there's a quality control process where licensing, OCI
23 and legal get together and ensure that the application
24 checks all the boxes and they're ready to go and be
25 licensed. Now we are at the step where we are

1 recommending that these applications be approved by the
2 board. Thank you.

3 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
4 there any questions from the board regarding these five
5 conversion applications? Hearing no questions, is
6 there a motion on this matter?

7 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to
8 approve the five conversion applications to convert
9 from conditional to annual.

10 CHAIR: Moved by --

11 MS. MAPP: I second.

12 CHAIR: -- moved by Vice Chair Nash and
13 seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is there any discussion
14 on this motion to approve the five applications?
15 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call
16 the vote?

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

18 MS. MAPP: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

20 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

22 CHAIR: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
24 next item up on the agenda is the consideration of
25 adult use cannabis business annual license

1 applications.

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

4 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
5 have five annual applications up for consideration
6 today; two manufacturers and three retailers. The same
7 process that I just articulated for the conversion
8 applications was followed. There was priority
9 assignment, that priority was then verified,
10 completeness review was conducted, the applications
11 were scored. There was a qualification review, quality
12 control process and now we are recommending that these
13 five applications for an annual license be approved by
14 the board.

15 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
16 there any questions from the board for Director Riggs?
17 Hearing no questions, is there a motion on this matter?

18 MS. MAPP: Madam Chair, I move that we
19 accept these applications as presented today.

20 VICE CHAIR: And I will second.

21 CHAIR: Moved by, by, by Commissioner Mapp
22 to accept or approve the applications and seconded by
23 Vice Chair Nash. Is there any discussion on this
24 motion? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you
25 please call the vote?

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

2 MS. MAPP: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

4 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

6 CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
8 next item on the agenda is the consideration of the
9 cannabis consumption area endorsements.

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

12 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
13 have two consumption area endorsements before the board
14 today. Everest Dispensary LLC, which is in Atlantic
15 City and then Molly Ann Farms, which is in Haledon.
16 Both of these applications are diversely owned
17 businesses. As a reminder, this is an endorsement, and
18 the consumption area must be associated with a Class 5
19 retailer license and with -- and be located on the
20 brick and mortar premises of that Class 5 cannabis
21 retailer license.

22 The site plan and municipal approvals were
23 submitted and reviewed by the Office of Compliance and
24 Investigations. Standard operating procedures were
25 also reviewed. We have determined that they are in

1 good standing with the CRC and that they comply.
2 Therefore, we are recommending that these two
3 applications for a consumption area endorsement be
4 approved by the board today. Thank you.

5 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
6 there any questions from the board for Director Riggs?
7 Hearing no questions, is there a motion on this matter?

8 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to
9 approve the two cannabis consumption area endorsements
10 presented today.

11 MS. MAPP: I second.

12 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Nash, seconded
13 by Commissioner Mapp. Is there any discussion on this
14 motion to approve the applications? Hearing no
15 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

17 MS. MAPP: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

19 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

21 CHAIR: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
23 next item on the agenda is the consideration of adult-
24 use cannabis business annual license renewal
25 applications.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. Director
2 Riggs, the floor is yours.

3 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
4 have 16 renewals before the board today. I'll let the
5 slides go through so that they can be listed. All of
6 these applications have followed our licensing process.
7 Licenses are effective and valid for one year for
8 issuance and are -- and are required to be renewed
9 annually in the adult use space.

10 These, these licenses are set to expire in
11 the short term and all of these entities have provided
12 the required documentation that need -- that we need
13 for renewal. That documentation has been reviewed by
14 our Office of Compliance and Investigation. They are
15 recommending that we approve the 16 licenses renewals.
16 Therefore, there is a recommendation to the board to
17 approve all 16 licenses that they be renewed for an
18 additional year of licensure. Thank you.

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

22 MS. MAPP: Madam Chair, I move that we
23 approve the 16 annual licenses as they were presented
24 today.

25 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Mapp. Is

1 there a second?

2 VICE CHAIR: Second.

3 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Nash. Is
4 there any discussion on this motion to approve the 16
5 license renewals? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can
6 you please call the vote?

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

8 MS. MAPP: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

10 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

12 CHAIR: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
14 next item on the agenda, we have the open public
15 comment period.

16 CHAIR: As we -- as I do at every board
17 meeting, as we open the public comment period, I want
18 to remind folks that you can submit written comments to
19 the Commission, either during or after this meeting via
20 our website, nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. And the
21 deadline for submitting written comments for today's
22 public meeting is 5 O'clock p.m. tomorrow, Thursday,
23 September 11th.

24 Written comments will be shared with the
25 commission members and will be made public. Speakers

1 will be limited to three minutes, so please be mindful
2 of the time. Mr. Said will call out the names of our
3 registered speakers. For our virtual callers, press
4 star 9 to raise your hand, if you're dialing by phone,
5 and then press star 6 when Mr. Said asks you to unmute
6 yourself.

7 For those joining on the Zoom platform,
8 use the raise hand function and then Mr. Said will let
9 you know when you are free to begin your comments.
10 With that, Mr. Said, please call on our first
11 registered speakers.

12 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Chairwoman. As
13 a reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's
14 public comment period will be limited to three minutes.
15 I will also give a 30-second reminder when, when you
16 have 30 seconds left. Please be respectful and concise
17 during your comments.

18 Okay. The first person on the list is
19 Mayor Albert Kelly. If you're in the room, please
20 raise your hand. The last four of the telephone number
21 is 8377, okay. I don't see that person. The next
22 person on the list is Thomas Norcia. Last four is
23 2406. I don't see that person. The next person is
24 Scheril Murray Powell, if you're in the room please
25 raise your hand. Last four is 4678. All right. I see

1 you. Scheril, you have the, the floor.

2 MS. SCHERIL MURRAY POWELL: Yes.

3 Greetings, everyone. This is Scheril Murray Powell
4 Esq., Cannabis Agricultural Dietary Supplement Trade
5 and Regulatory attorney. I just wanted to say thank
6 you to the CRC for allowing me this opportunity to
7 comment. I just wanna congratulate everyone for
8 building a robust and diverse market. We're seeing new
9 dispensaries open in different municipalities across
10 the state, which is what we expected, but it just took
11 longer than, than we thought it would.

12 In honor of the Ethiopian New Year, which
13 is tomorrow on September 11th, I just wanna also
14 recognize the CRC for their engagement with the
15 Rastafari community of New Jersey. This has been a
16 very proactive approach and I hope to see it replicated
17 across the country and other jurisdictions.

18 But with that outreach, we have had
19 increased interest from our Rastafarian community as
20 well as Pan-African community that were part of our
21 legacy operator community, express interest in applying
22 for licenses and transitioning from the illicit market
23 into the legal market where people who were formerly
24 part of the illicit market becoming a part of this new
25 emerging industry.

1 We are expecting significant economic
2 growth, job creation, and we just want to thank you for
3 being steadfast, being fair and equitable with the
4 inclusion of these often underserved communities. With
5 that said, thank you and enjoy the Ethiopian New Year
6 tomorrow. Give thanks.

7 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Scheril. The
8 next person on the list is Paul Qassis. If you're in
9 the room, please raise your hand. Last four is 1144.
10 Paul Qassis? I don't see that person. The next person
11 is Dr. Alyza Brevard-Rodriguez. If you're in the room
12 please raise your hand. All right. I see you. Dr.
13 Alyza, you have the floor.

14 MS. ALYZA BREVARD-RODRIGUEZ: Hi Daniel,
15 can you hear me?

16 THE SECRETARY: Yes, I can hear you.

17 MS. BREVARD-RODRIGUEZ: Okay, great. Good
18 afternoon commissioners and all on this meeting. My
19 name is Dr. Alyza Brevard-Rodriguez. Thank you for our
20 renewal. Outside of that I'd love to check in more but
21 apparently I left the military and my time in war there
22 to join a new war here, except I never asked in my life
23 to join another war. This is my second meeting today
24 to offer advocacy when I should be actually running a
25 store.

1 By finding healing in the use of this
2 plant, I thought it would be a great military
3 transition after being medically released from an
4 injury overseas. And since the state of New Jersey was
5 actively recruiting disabled veterans and other
6 disadvantaged businesses types alike to come join the
7 cannabis industry, it sounded like the perfect
8 transition.

9 Well, after fighting for my life to open
10 my doors after almost three years of being in this
11 process, I'm now 11 months into operating. And I'm
12 here to say what apparently no one else in this
13 industry wants to tell you all, which is that it's
14 collapsing right before your eyes.

15 The waiting times at both the municipal
16 and state level have forced small operators like myself
17 into crushing debt. The hype sold about this market
18 has not matched the outcomes and it's clear these
19 expectations were anticipated on a -- were not
20 anticipated on a governmental level, but the fees that
21 we pay are so high and they wanted so many
22 dispensaries.

23 For example, we were just paying 10k for a
24 license in Jersey City and now the fee went up 50
25 percent to \$15,000. They don't even have a board. How

1 do they justify increasing their fee \$5,000? That's an
2 insane jump in one year, but of course, they're making
3 millions, so for their very uninformed selves those
4 fees are justified.

5 Many of us are just tired of the state
6 patting itself on the back nationally and putting out
7 press releases about money that they still haven't
8 provided. The NJEDA boasting about grants in May that
9 we're still yet to see in this rapidly moving industry.
10 I was just there today for their annual meeting and
11 honestly had I not went there and shared my journey, I
12 don't think that the new grant that they're trying to
13 put out would have garnered any interest. And it
14 doesn't even have anything to do with me. I'm a
15 retailer. This was like cultivation and manufacturing.

16 But again we need the industry to come out
17 so that they understand the importance and what we are
18 offering; billions. This is not in theory. AI is in
19 theory. AI is innovation. Film is a long time to get
20 ROI. We are actively contributing and making money and
21 supporting this state and the economic drive of this
22 state. So just know that this is not business as
23 usual. This rollout was a disaster and the equity push
24 was a setup for failure. And to be honest, instead of
25 --

1 THE SECRETARY: Thirty seconds, please.

2 MS. BREVARD-RODRIGUEZ: -- instead of
3 generational wealth, many of us are looking at
4 generational debt. Operators like myself are the ones
5 building this industry, employing thousands and
6 circulating millions in revenue. So we really need the
7 state to understand that this is the garden state with
8 no gardens. Make this make sense.

9 We need more support. We understand that
10 you're tied by the legislation, but please, everyone
11 needs to work together so that we don't look like the
12 laughingstock of the rest of the United States. Thank
13 you so much for your time.

14 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Dr. Alyza. The
15 next person on the list is Donald Campbell. If you're
16 in the room, please raise your hand. Last four is
17 9605. Donald Campbell? All right. I don't see that
18 person. The next person on the list is Chris Ziegler.
19 If you're in the room, please raise your hand. The
20 last four is 3634. Chris Ziegler? I don't see that
21 person. The next person is Alan Trzuskoski. Last four
22 is 0202. Alan Trzuskoski? I don't see that person.
23 The next person is Bill Comerford. Last four is 9661.
24 Bill Comerford? I don't see that person. The next
25 person is Jarid Turner. If you're in the room, please

1 raise your hand. Last four is 4939. Jarid Turner? I
2 don't see that person. The next person is Todd
3 Johnson. If you're in the room, please raise your
4 hand. Last four is 93 -- all right. I see you, 9308.
5 Todd, you have the floor. Todd?

6 MR. TODD JOHNSON: Hi, can you hear me?

7 THE SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Good afternoon,
9 Chair Houenou, Commissioners Nash and Mapp and CRC
10 staff. My name is Todd Johnson, and I am the Executive
11 Director of the New Jersey Cannabis Trade Association.
12 Our membership is comprised exclusively of CRC-licensed
13 businesses.

14 I speak today on behalf of New Jersey's
15 licensed cannabis operators, businesses who desperately
16 want to succeed in this young and quickly evolving
17 marketplace. The legal cannabis industry in New Jersey
18 has made real progress since legalization three years
19 ago. We have lower prices, increasing access, and
20 responsible operations. However, uncertainty and
21 delays in regulatory action are putting many operators
22 at risk, as Dr. Alyza just mentioned previously.

23 Last month, the board denied five waiver
24 requests including the NJCTA's request to extend the
25 six-month expiration period for usable cannabis to 12

1 months. Extending the expiration period to 12 months
2 would provide licensed operators with desperately
3 needed flexibility to manage inventory, reduce
4 unnecessary product waste, and ensure consistent
5 consumer access, all while maintaining public safety
6 and product integrity.

7 While the board acknowledged the
8 industry's pleas and the need for this change, it
9 deferred action to the rulemaking process with no clear
10 timeline for implementation. This type of uncertainty
11 leaves businesses in limbo and reflects broader
12 industry challenges in working with the Commission.
13 Our rapidly evolving industry needs a regulator that
14 can respond thoughtfully and quickly. We need more
15 regulatory flexibility, more delegated authority, and
16 the will to change or waive rules that no longer serve
17 any useful purpose. And there are many of these out
18 there.

19 These issues are not overly complex. They
20 do not require years of delay. They require
21 responsiveness and a commitment to problem solving. We
22 urge the Commission to lean into greater regulatory
23 flexibility, not in a manner that decreases consumer
24 safety, but rather promotes it while simultaneously
25 supporting businesses' needs. Allow for more

1 delegation of authority to staff who are better
2 situated to decide issues in a timely manner and reduce
3 bureaucratic red tape that only hinders the very same
4 businesses that the legislature and governor have
5 sought to empower.

6 Almost eight years ago, Governor Murphy
7 prioritized a similar call to action by signing
8 Executive Order 6 at the onset of his first term. That
9 order directed a review of the rules governing cannabis
10 businesses, focusing on removing unnecessary barriers,
11 and identifying ways to expedite the needs of
12 individual businesses.

13 THE SECRETARY: Twenty seconds.

14 MR. JOHNSON: At the time, this effort --
15 thank you. At the time, this effort was critical.
16 Today, with several hundred licensed businesses
17 navigating a complex regulatory landscape, the need to
18 streamline the agency's operations is even more urgent.
19 At the end of the day, we all share the same goal, a
20 healthy and safe legal cannabis market. By utilizing
21 waivers and the -- and delegating certain authority to
22 staff, the Commission can respond to timely needs of
23 operators while retaining oversight. Let's move with
24 urgency to implement the positive change this industry
25 needs. We can only achieve that if we act together and

1 we must act now. Thank you.

2 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Todd. The next
3 person on the list is Alan Ao. Last four is 2437.

4 Alan Ao? I don't see that person. The next person is
5 Lerone Jones. Last four is 9816. All right. I see
6 you, Lerone. Lerone, you have the floor. Just unmute
7 yourself. To unmute, it's star 6, if you can hear me.

8 MR. LERONE JONES: Hi, can you hear me?

9 THE SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you.

10 MR. JONES: All righty. Well, just wanna
11 step in and say, I just wanna thank NECANN, the entire
12 New Jersey Cannabis Community. We saw over 600 vendors
13 come to our table last week at the conference, but what
14 warmed my heart most was seeing Vice Chair Nash come
15 out and help see the cannabis community that you all
16 helped create.

17 And, you know, it was just very inspiring,
18 you know, again this was just to go out and show the
19 work we put in, the love that we receive, and it was
20 received very well. So I just wanna thank the
21 commissioner -- I'm sorry, the Vice Chair for coming
22 out, taking time to stop at our booth as there were
23 hundreds of booth, booths there, and sharing the
24 positive sentiments that were shared.

25 The interest was so high that we've had

1 over 20 vendors reach out to us. Everyone wanted to
2 come toward the store, come see what it looks like and
3 today, instead of, you know, scheduling them separately
4 with everyone, I hosted a vendor day to day. I have
5 some of New Jersey's top brands here in the store right
6 now.

7 And again, we just wanted to call in and
8 show our love, and if everyone -- and I even have my
9 parents here today. So if everyone wants to just say
10 hello to this -- the wonderful CRC, we appreciate it.

11 MALE VOICE: Hello, CRC, we love you.

12 MR. JONES: But I appreciate it, and
13 again, I'm just overly filled with joy. Everyone
14 continues to ask how my energy is so high and
15 contagious despite the bump in the road and I tell them
16 it's faith. So thank you.

17 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Lerone. The
18 next person on the list is James Beasley. If you're in
19 the room -- I see you, James. James, you have the
20 floor.

21 MR. JAMES BEASLEY: Hi, can everybody hear
22 me?

23 THE SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you.

24 MR. BEASLEY: Excellent. Good afternoon.
25 My name is Jim Beasley. I'm the director of Integrated

1 Analytical Solutions, a new licensed cannabis testing
2 laboratory located in Hamilton, New Jersey.

3 I'd like to speak today about the cannabis
4 testing in New Jersey. At the last CRC board meeting,
5 data presented by Christopher Riggs raised important
6 concerns showing unusual trends, trends in both the THC
7 and the microbial testing results. Unfortunately, this
8 data is not a surprise; these types of issues have been
9 seen in multiple states. This underscores the need for
10 timely action here in New Jersey. I respectfully urge
11 the commission to expedite its investigation and
12 implement solutions because further delays only
13 increase the risk to consumers and medical patients,
14 the very people the CRC is charged with protecting.

15 When we were establishing IAS as a
16 cannabis testing lab, one of the most surprising
17 discoveries was that New Jersey does not yet have its
18 own testing regulations, despite the adult use cannabis
19 being legalized over three years ago. Instead, the
20 state still relies on the old Maryland guidelines from
21 2020, developed back in the height of the COVID
22 pandemic. Since then, even Maryland has moved forward
23 and updated their standards twice. New Jersey deserves
24 regulations that reflect our own market needs, as well
25 as the latest science.

1 Finally, I encourage the Commission to
2 strengthen the communication with the testing
3 laboratories. IAS submitted a proposal to the CRC
4 several months ago but received only a brief
5 acknowledgement with no further engagement. Greater
6 collaboration between the CRC and the licensed labs is
7 essential to solving these challenges facing our state.
8 Our team, and I'm sure others in the state, are ready
9 to provide technical expertise and support. Together,
10 we can build a solution that will protect the consumers
11 and strengthen the industry. Thank you for your time
12 and your opportunity to speak.

13 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, James. The
14 next person on the list is Andrea Raible. If you're in
15 the room, please raise your hand. Andrea Raible? Last
16 four is 216 -- all right. I see you, Andrea. Andrea,
17 you have the floor.

18 MS. ANDREA RAIBLE: Hello, can you hear
19 me?

20 THE SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you.

21 MS. RAIBLE: I'm sorry, I'll keep my
22 comments brief today, as my health is not quite
23 cooperative.

24 I did wanna say thank you to the CRC. I
25 appreciate that I was able to see Vice Chair Nash at

1 NECANN as well. It's nice to see the commissioners
2 outreaching and trying to connect with more of the
3 community and have a first-hand look at what's going on
4 in the market. A lot of times what we see in
5 regulation and legislation can be a far cry from what
6 the reality is for both patients and operators.

7 We've heard from a number of people today
8 that we need to streamline business interests and we
9 need to prioritize the economy, the industry, but I
10 appreciate that the CRC is the one branch in New Jersey
11 right now that has a commitment to also prioritize
12 patients.

13 We hear time and time again that finances
14 are your only responsibility and I appreciate the CRC's
15 caution at times with going forward with waivers when
16 we don't have adequate data. I appreciate that you're
17 taking the time to look into more data like the potency
18 and the microbials and hiring more staff with more
19 expertise in those fields.

20 I think as we go forward with more experts
21 involved and with more data collected, we'll be able to
22 see that there might be some good compromises for the
23 industry and for patients. Maybe we can extend shelf
24 life safely. If the data backs that, fantastic, but I
25 think everyone is been saying we do need more

1 collaboration from different angles.

2 If the CRC is willing to work with the
3 experts in the industry, we might be able to have more
4 responsive feedback on this, if we're able to host town
5 halls and listening sessions. It might not have to be
6 an on the spot decision about a waiver. You might be
7 able to hear broader industry feedback and still use
8 the waiver process to make more timely -- there might
9 be a middle ground between long-term regulation and
10 each individual business making their own requests.

11 I would love to see you work more with the
12 labs as -- to see if we are going forward with round-
13 robin testing. And we will now be testing with six of
14 the labs, so hopefully we'll be eager to share that
15 data with you and help you make any informed decisions
16 that you can to keep providing for both the safety of
17 our license holders and the safety of the consumers
18 that really truly depend on you.

19 We've see it across the state, I mean,
20 even our senate president today acknowledged that Home
21 Grow is maybe, eventually, it may be a pilot program
22 for specific patients and only one plant for each of
23 those patients.

24 THE SECRETARY: Twenty seconds.

25 MS. RAIBLE: It can be disheartening in

1 New Jersey. And I know the CRC is under a lot of
2 stress and a lot of pressure but I really hope you can
3 be our point of optimism going forward. Thank you.

4 THE SECRETARY: Thank you. Thank you,
5 Andrea. The next person on the list is Lyndsey Shaw.
6 Last four is 4434. Lyndsey Shaw? I don't see that
7 person on the list. I'm gonna go over the list again,
8 of those who were called but didn't appear. Mayor
9 Albert Kelly? Last four is 8377. Mayor Albert Kelly?
10 Thomas Norcia? Last four is 2406. Thomas Norcia? I
11 don't see that person. Paul Qassis? Last four is
12 1144. Paul Qassis? I don't see that person. Donald
13 Campbell? Last four is 9605. Donald Campbell? I
14 don't see that person.

15 Chris Ziegler? Last four is 3634. Chris
16 Ziegler? The next person is Alan Trzuskoski. Last
17 four is 0202. Alan Trzuskoski? Bill Comerford? Last
18 four is 9661. Bill Comerford? Jarid Turner? Last
19 four is 4939. Jarid Turner? The next person is Alan
20 Ao. Last four is 2437. Alan Ao? Lyndsey Shaw? Last
21 four is 4434. Lyndsey Shaw? I don't see those people.

22 Chairwoman, this will conclude the
23 registered speakers we have for today's public meeting.

24 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. And thank
25 you to all those who shared their, their thoughts,

1 their experiences and their ideas for the commission to
2 consider. As a reminder, individuals can submit
3 written comments to the Commission by going to our
4 website nj.gov/cannabis/meetings.

5 The deadline for submitting written
6 comments for today's meeting is 5 O'clock, tomorrow,
7 September 11th. Those written comments will be shared
8 with the commission members and they will be made
9 public. So this concludes the business that we have
10 before us today. And with that, I move that we
11 adjourn. Is there a second?

12 VICE CHAIR: Second.

13 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Nash. Is
14 there any discussion on this motion to adjourn?
15 Hearing no discussion, all those in favor say aye.

16 THE COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

17 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay. Any
18 abstentions? The motion passes. So the time is 12:55
19 and we are adjourned. The next board meeting will be
20 on Wednesday, October 1st at 11 a.m. It is not going
21 to be Thursday, October 2nd. It will be Wednesday
22 October 1st. So we look forward to having you all join
23 us for that. Thank you so much and have a great rest
24 of the day.

25 (Meeting concluded)