



**State of New Jersey**  
**CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
P.O. BOX 216  
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0216

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

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

# New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission

## Public Meeting

December 17, 2025

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

2

3 DIANNA HOUENOU, Chair

4 KRISTA NASH, Vice Chair

5 AMELIA MAPP, Commissioner

6 DAVE TUASON, Chief Counsel

7 DANIEL SAID, Secretary

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 A P P E A R A N C E S :

2

3 CHRISTOPHER RIGGS

4 ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEW JERSEY CANNABIS

5 REGULATORY COMMISSION

6

7 WESLEY MCWHITE, III

8 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEW JERSEY

9 CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 CHAIR: Hi, can you hear me?

2 SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you.

3 CHAIR: Thank you. Mic on and we're good  
4 to go.

5 MS. AMELIA MAPP: Hello, everyone.

6 CHAIR: Hello. Good morning. I believe  
7 we have everyone here. So good morning again to this  
8 meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory  
9 Commission. The time is 10:06, and I call this meeting  
10 to order. Mr. Said, can you please read the notice of  
11 the public meeting?

12 SECRETARY: Chairwoman, this is a  
13 regularly -- this is a rescheduling of a regularly  
14 scheduled meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory  
15 Commission's 2025 annual meeting schedule. Adequate  
16 notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance  
17 with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings  
18 Act. Notice of the rescheduled meeting was provided to  
19 the Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record, Courier Post,  
20 Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 8th,  
21 2025.

22 The agenda and information regarding the  
23 virtual nature of the meeting and the ability to live  
24 stream was also posted on the CRC website. The meeting  
25 time and location has also been posted on the website

1 of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission and  
2 with the office of the Secretary of the State.

3 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. Can you  
4 please take roll call?

5 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

6 MS. MAPP: Present.

7 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

8 VICE CHAIR: Present.

9 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

10 CHAIR: Present.

11 SECRETARY: We now have a quorum. The  
12 first order of business is for the commission to go  
13 into executive session to discuss legal matters and  
14 litigation and investigation updates. These are  
15 discussions that are not shared with the public. We  
16 believe the executive session should take about two  
17 hours.

18 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there a motion to  
19 go into executive session?

20 MS. MAPP: So moved.

21 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Mapp.

22 VICE CHAIR: Second.

23 CHAIR: Is there a second? Seconded by  
24 Vice Chair Nash. Is there any discussion on this  
25 motion to go into executive session? Hearing no

1 discussion, all those in favor say aye.

2 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

3 MS. MAPP: Aye.

4 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay. Any  
5 abstentions? Motion passes. As Mr. Said noted, we  
6 expect the executive session to last approximately two  
7 hours. We will leave the live stream running during  
8 that time and so we can expect to resume the public  
9 session at about, we'll say 12:15 p.m. Thank you for  
10 your patience, everyone.

11 All right. Welcome back everyone. Good  
12 afternoon and thank you for your patience. Our  
13 executive session has ended, and so the time is 1:24  
14 and we will resume the public portion of this meeting.  
15 Mr. Said, can you please (inaudible) the next agenda  
16 item?

17 SECRETARY: The next item on the agenda is  
18 approving the minutes of both the commission's open and  
19 executive sessions held on October 1st and November  
20 17th, 2025. The minutes have been shared with the  
21 members of the commission prior to this meeting.

22 CHAIR: Thank you. If there are no  
23 requested changes, is there a motion? Commissioner  
24 Mapp, I see you're -- I see you saying something, but I  
25 can't hear you.

1 MS. MAPP: So moved.

2 CHAIR: All right. Commissioner Mapp  
3 moves to approve the meeting minutes.

4 VICE CHAIR: Second.

5 CHAIR: There's -- seconded by Vice Chair  
6 Nash. Any discussion on this motion? Hearing none,  
7 all those in favor say aye.

8 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

9 MS. MAPP: Aye.

10 CHAIR: All those opposed, say nay. Any  
11 abstentions? Hearing none, the motion passes.

12 SECRETARY: The next -- sorry.

13 CHAIR: All right. Before we move on, my  
14 apologies, I meant to do this at the top. Before we  
15 move on, just want to announce a couple of agenda  
16 changes for -- for folks watching. So there will be no  
17 chairs report for today. Also if you are looking at  
18 the website, agenda Number 8-B, a change in capacity,  
19 physical plan, or premises that has been, that was --  
20 that was struck through, but that is on the agenda for  
21 today.

22 And some of our notices of enforcement  
23 action are removed so that means we have -- one moment.  
24 All right. So the notices of enforcement action that  
25 are removed from today's agenda, INV 71 2025, INV 79

1 2025, INV 88 2025, INV 102 2025 and INV 143 2025.  
2 Those matters will be taken up at a future board  
3 meeting. So the only notice of enforcement action that  
4 will be considered today are INV 89 2025, INV 111 2025,  
5 INV 122 2025, INV 124 1 -- 2025, INV 128 2025 and INV  
6 141 2025. And I believe that is it for the agenda  
7 update. My apologies everyone for missing that  
8 earlier.

9 Mr. Said, now you can (inaudible) the next  
10 agenda item.

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

13 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, the  
14 floor is yours.

15 MR. CHRIS RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
16 And of course, we'll start with our updates on  
17 dispensary openings. We have more than 270 medical and  
18 recreational adult use dispensaries open in all 21  
19 counties. We have a list here of some new dispensaries  
20 that have opened since our last public meeting. We see  
21 some more openings in the northeastern part of our  
22 state and everywhere else so we're continuing to see  
23 more businesses come online.

24 As far as the licensing update goes, these  
25 are the total licenses approved as of November 18th of

1 2025. We have a total of 3,128 applications that were  
2 submitted as of that date, 20 -- a little bit more than  
3 2,400 of those were approved. A little over 300 are  
4 with our office of licensing. 209 of those  
5 applications are pending submission following a cure,  
6 and 175 applications are under review in the Office of  
7 Compliance and Investigations.

8           These are for our adult use licenses. A  
9 recreational license approved as of December 3rd of  
10 2025, 1,654 conditional licenses have been approved,  
11 462 conditional to annual conversion licenses, 305  
12 direct annual licenses, 84 expanded alternative  
13 treatment centers for a total of 397 total operating  
14 licenses under AU and medical permits. That was as of  
15 December 3rd. I think we're a little bit over 400  
16 right now, but we're still opening up these places, and  
17 we have a lot of licenses.

18           Today up for consideration, we will have  
19 seven conditional to annual conversion licenses, 10  
20 annual licenses, two expanded alternative treatment  
21 center certifications, 41 annual license renewals, and  
22 86 medical license permit renewals.

23           The current patient enrollment numbers as  
24 of December 15th of 2025, the total patients enrolled  
25 in the medical program are 51,776. We have 3,388

1 caregivers and 1,545 doctors enrolled in the medical  
2 program.

3           Now on to some of our quarterly seed to  
4 sale data report and update. The first slide will show  
5 you medical and recreational sales of our last four  
6 quarters. As you can see with the year over year  
7 change for quarter three from -- of 2024 to quarter  
8 three of 2025, there was a 12.3 percent increase in  
9 sales and -- and I'll get into why that's significant  
10 as the sales continue to climb and the price continues  
11 to drop for cannabis in a little bit. Next slide,  
12 please.

13           Okay. This is a new slide that we put  
14 together. This is a combined sales distribution by  
15 county. So what this shows you is 2025 year to date  
16 where the percentage of sales are. Camden County is  
17 leading the way with 12 percent of the sales.  
18 Burlington, Monmouth are tied for second, and Bergen  
19 and Essex are not far behind.

20           This is adult use sales, total sales by  
21 each month. What you're seeing here is basically a  
22 continued showing of season -- seasonality changes in  
23 our summer months and around the holidays with drop  
24 offs in February and in September, as in with previous  
25 years, but October 2024 to October 2025, we had almost

1 a 20 percent increase in sales. So sales are still  
2 climbing despite the fact that the price of cannabis is  
3 falling.

4           And that's where this slide comes into  
5 play, where we have the Adult Use Flower Price Program  
6 over the last 13 months. As you can see, it continues  
7 to fall in October of 2024, we were at \$10.98 a gram.  
8 We are now down to \$8.09, a little uptick from last  
9 month, but the year over year change from October, 2024  
10 to 2025, it's a minus 26.3 percent change. So the  
11 price of per gram continues to fall, but the sales  
12 continue to -- to go up. So even though the price is  
13 lower, our sales are higher. Next slide.

14           This is an -- a manufacturer product sold  
15 by month under the Adult Use Program slide that we put  
16 together. This includes products like vape cards,  
17 edibles, concentrates, tinctures, lotions, creams,  
18 transdermal patches, all non-flower based products. It  
19 shows a growth in consumer participation in the  
20 cannabis market, and it adds some context to the sales  
21 numbers, which are heavily impacted by the price. So  
22 the sales are going up, we're selling more products.  
23 You see in October 2025, 1,593,080 products were sold,  
24 which is up from October 2024, about 38 percent.

25           This is our medical sales. Over the last

1 13 months, as you'll see in October of 2024 we've had a  
2 -- a significant decline in medical sales. I think  
3 this can be attributed to the fact that there's more  
4 adult use stores that are been open and -- and patients  
5 are going to these adult use stores that are offering -  
6 - offering significant discounts to patients when they  
7 are -- when they are able to show that they are  
8 enrolled in the medical program. We also have seen the  
9 decline in patients so we do see a little bit of a  
10 decline in sales, but this can also be attributed, and  
11 you'll see on the next slide to the price of medical  
12 cannabis having a -- a huge dip and -- and dropping  
13 significantly.

14                   So this is our Medical Flower Price  
15 Program. In October 2024, we were \$9.83. We're now  
16 down to \$6.89 which is almost a 30 percent decrease in  
17 price for medical cannabis. So that has fallen  
18 significantly. Medical cannabis is cheaper under the  
19 medical program than it is in the adult use program.  
20 So medical patients are getting the benefit of having  
21 the opportunity to -- to buy some cheaper cannabis at a  
22 reduced cost under our program.

23                   This is our -- an adult use product mixed  
24 by category. Hasn't changed too much, bud and -- bud  
25 and flower dominate the market at 42 percent of the

1 sales. But what you -- what you do see is over half of  
2 the product so require some type of processing or value  
3 add. So, you know, there are expansion of products  
4 being available. We do see an expansion since we  
5 adopted those as edible rules and expanded what was  
6 available in products. And manufactured products do  
7 make up about a little over half of what we -- we are -  
8 - we have in the market.

9 Pounds harvested per month. So you see  
10 here, this is the -- the amount of pounds that have  
11 been harvested. In October of 2024, a 133,000 pounds  
12 of cannabis were harvested. And this is -- this is wet  
13 weight; this isn't dry weight. This is before it goes  
14 through its curing process. And then in October of  
15 2025, we see that we had 203,000 pounds and some change  
16 here. So you had a 53 percent growth in the pounds  
17 that have been harvested, which also shows that the  
18 market's healthy and continuing to grow.

19 So this slide is -- is THCA testing value  
20 averages. There was a little bit of an uptick since  
21 last October of 2024 to October of 2025, about a 1.3  
22 percent year over year which represents a 4.7 percent  
23 change from October of 2024, is one of the things we're  
24 continuing to keep an eye on. As I announced in August  
25 of this year, we do have these investigations pending

1 on some testing laboratories related to inflating THCA  
2 or any total THC values and also yeast and mold failure  
3 rates.

4           This slide -- this slide shows some of the  
5 labs. And -- and what this shows is -- is simply what  
6 we're looking at when we use the data and follow the  
7 data for our investigations. So when we have our data  
8 team pull the data and work with our Office of  
9 Compliance and Investigation, we look for trends. And  
10 -- and some of these trends you see here that we  
11 highlighted, one lab is -- is increasing these --  
12 they're increasing their THC values a little bit more  
13 than the other labs. But as you see, when we hit  
14 August of 2025, it seems as though when we made the  
15 announcement that we were looking into these things and  
16 having an investigation into these things that -- that  
17 some of the labs level set and -- and the THC values  
18 started to drop that were being reported in metric.

19           Total yeast and mold failure rates over  
20 the last three months. In October of 2024, we saw a  
21 1.38 percent failure rate. Now, we have the  
22 highlighted months in August, September, and October.  
23 And if you see in the previous months, in July, we had  
24 less than 1 percent failure rate. In June, we had a  
25 1.26 percent failure rate. And now we're seeing a

1 little bit of an uptick after we made the announcement  
2 that we were looking into these -- these things with  
3 the labs to make sure that they were reporting accurate  
4 results and doing the test appropriately.

5           You know, it -- it starts to inch up a bit  
6 after we made that announcement. So I'm happy to see  
7 that. You know mold doesn't just go away. It is gonna  
8 be present in cannabis, and we need to have accurate  
9 testing for consumer safety and so the consumers know  
10 what they're getting is a safe product.

11           And this just shows, again, some of the  
12 data that we're tracking and some of the data that  
13 we're looking at during this investigation. You see  
14 that three months in a row, we had a lab that reported  
15 no failure for total yeast and mold. They hadn't --  
16 they had no test that failed. So that's a trend that  
17 we look at that we're continuing to look at and hope  
18 and hopefully you know, getting into our investigation.  
19 But you see again in August, you're gonna see -- after  
20 August, you saw a little bit of an uptick here in total  
21 yeast to mold testing value averages by the lab.

22           And the last slide that I have to report  
23 on is showing all the labs and the number of tests  
24 performed and their failure rate. And, you know, you  
25 can see that there's a significant portion of the

1 market share dominated by a few labs that have the  
2 lowest failure rates. Again, following the data, this  
3 data shows that, you know, some labs are probably  
4 accurately reporting their results and -- and some  
5 probably aren't. And we're gonna continue along with  
6 our investigation to ensure that consumers have safe  
7 lab tested product. And, you know, I just wanted this  
8 slide to present to show that there are some good labs,  
9 some good actors out there. And the data seems to show  
10 that there may be some bad labs out there. So we're  
11 gonna continue along with our investigation and  
12 hopefully have more to report on it in the future.  
13 That concludes my Executive Director's report. I know  
14 that the Office of Diversity Inclusion, Director Wesley  
15 McWhite has some data that he would like to report out  
16 on. So I'll kick it back to you, Chair.

17 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs.  
18 Director McWhite, I'll turn it over to you.

19 MR. WESLEY MCWHITE: Thank you so much,  
20 Madam Chairwoman. Wesley McWhite here. How's  
21 everybody doing? I'm really excited to be before you,  
22 as I always am. That's just my MO, but today we're  
23 sharing just a little bit more than our data report.  
24 We'll be sharing just a quick update from the New  
25 Jersey Business Action Center and their Cannabis

1 Training Academy. Of course, we're gonna be going over  
2 our data report.

3           We're also gonna be talking about a focus  
4 group that we held in conjunction with the data team on  
5 the cost of compliance and what's gonna come out of  
6 that. And then the long awaited finally unveiled  
7 scorecard, social equity scorecard. We do want to go  
8 over sort of the parameters and the vision that we have  
9 for that, and I'm really -- really excited to get  
10 started. So let's dive right in.

11           So New Jersey Department of State Cannabis  
12 Training Academy, as we said, you can contact them here  
13 for any questions or follow ups or to register. We  
14 also have a QR code coming that will stay on that slide  
15 just for a bit so that you can follow that link as  
16 well. As always, bringing you greetings from the  
17 Lieutenant Governor, also the Secretary of State,  
18 Tahesha Way and Executive Director, Melanie Willoughby  
19 of the Business Action Center. Really appreciate their  
20 support from the very beginning on this project that  
21 continues to expand and continues to service the  
22 cannabis industry.

23           So the Cannabis Training Academy was  
24 designated or designed to address capacity gaps  
25 identified early by CRC data where -- where means and

1 access alone was not enough to ensure a successful  
2 licensure and so our operations and operations.

3           So in August 2025, CTA had approximately  
4 1600 registered students. By December, registrants  
5 have -- have exceeded 2,000 reflecting accelerating  
6 demand. This growth shows a shift in the market from  
7 applicants seeking, you know, sort of entry level  
8 information to operators seeking sustainability  
9 compliance and workforce readiness. So we're really  
10 excited about that.

11           And -- and there -- there is the QR code,  
12 again, it is 10 levels, 60 courses asynchronous, 28  
13 instructors, and everything is online at no cost.

14           The CTA course structure remains  
15 consistent since August with 10 levels and 60 plus  
16 courses, but utilization increased significant --  
17 significantly. This reflects CRC feedback that early  
18 applicants struggled less with understanding rules and  
19 more executing compliant operations. So we want to  
20 continue to recognize all the great work that they're  
21 doing. They just celebrated their one year anniversary  
22 launch. They have more than 30 recorded webinars and Q  
23 and A's have been produced. The portal is, has been  
24 and will be translated entirely in Spanish by the end  
25 of this month. We're really excited about the long-

1 term impact that the CTA is having on our industry  
2 already.

3           Since August CTA has transitioned from  
4 some strong -- from a strong pilot to a mature, fully  
5 implemented program. As we said, Spanish translation  
6 launched after August, directly responds to equity  
7 feedback raised earlier. As we first launched our CTA  
8 program, a badge training expansion aligns with CRC  
9 shift from issuing licenses to maintaining compliance  
10 and workforce accountability. And again, CTA is  
11 nationally recognized, which reinforces New Jersey's  
12 leadership and validate CRCs approach to compare to  
13 earlier less comprehensive assistance models that we've  
14 seen across the country.

15           CTA demographics. As you can see here 42  
16 percent of students identify as black, 27 as white, and  
17 19 percent as Latino. Top counties represented by  
18 students are Essex with 18 percent, Middlesex 8  
19 percent, Camden, Hudson, and Bergen, all at 8 percent.  
20 And so what these demographics show to us is that there  
21 is continuing to exceed national cannabis workforce  
22 diversity benchmarks with our metrics here. However,  
23 geographic participation has expanded since August,  
24 mirroring where new dispensaries and cultivation sites  
25 are opening. This demonstrates that CTA is not only

1 attracting diverse participants but is also aligning  
2 workforce training with real market growth across  
3 counties.

4           And as always, you can contact the  
5 executive director directly, Tauhid Chappell or anyone  
6 at the CTA with their emails and contact information  
7 here. CTA needs to hear from you how can they improve,  
8 what webinars and lessons and trainings are needed.

9           We're hearing municipal officials are  
10 signing up to get themselves educated on what it takes  
11 for an application to get submitted successfully to the  
12 CRC. And even staff members of particular businesses  
13 are signing up as well to understand what owners had to  
14 go through in order to launch their business. So we're  
15 really -- really excited about the CTAs exponential  
16 growth, and we're continuing to wish them much success.

17           And you can also contact the Business  
18 Action Center, who does always provide free of charge,  
19 confidential and quickly accurate and careful  
20 information for anyone looking to open up a business in  
21 the state of New Jersey.

22           Really excited about this. This is our  
23 project that we've done in conjunction with the Office  
24 of Data and Analytics. Special shout out to Director  
25 Lynn and his team. So we also want to thank the 30 or

1 so participants and businesses and business leaders for  
2 their input.

3           And so what we did -- what we did here is  
4 we gathered together a very informed focus group from  
5 the cannabis industry, as I said, that included  
6 business owners and business leaders. We were able to  
7 gather qualitative information to inform upcoming  
8 comprehensive survey of licensees -- licensees cited.  
9 We also partnered with New Jersey Institute of  
10 Technology to design and administer the survey and  
11 analyze the responses.

12           Licensees cited excessive cost, municipal  
13 barriers to entry, redundancies in the application and  
14 licensing process, unexpected delays along the way,  
15 inconsistent regulatory interpretations and the  
16 significant competitive disadvantage created by  
17 unregulated, illicit and gray and hemp derived market  
18 that face none of these types of barriers in the  
19 regulated space.

20           So we can say that even though these  
21 conversations sometimes are uncomfortable but necessary  
22 and continuous to improve at the CRC and they resulted  
23 in positive feedback. You know, I've been to a couple  
24 conferences and already the industry is spreading the  
25 word about the cost of compliance listening session in

1 the subsequent survey -- industry-wide survey that will  
2 go out to the entire industry. So please be on the  
3 lookout for that.

4           Please continue to dialogue with your  
5 regulators and talk to us about sort of some of the  
6 barriers that you continue to face not that you're --  
7 not that -- not that you're just -- now that you are  
8 just operating and open. So really -- really looking  
9 forward to that. And thank you Lynn, Director of Data  
10 and Analytics for all of his hard work and helping us  
11 bring this together.

12           All right. Onto the data report. As  
13 always, our full data report is available -- will be  
14 available on our website. All previous data reports  
15 are available on our website awardee application data.  
16 We are continuously tracking applicants, application  
17 data by application class and type. We're continuing  
18 to track key population data for justice of all folks'  
19 minority owned applicants and awardees. We're breaking  
20 that down by county distribution, by awardees, by type  
21 class, and persons of interest of data. All of that  
22 data we used to present many -- many moons ago is still  
23 available on our website.

24           So we pulled this slide from the report  
25 and since August over 50 new annual licensees --

1 licenses have been awarded to diversely owned  
2 businesses and social equity businesses. An additional  
3 10 social equity businesses awardees and 27 diversely  
4 owned businesses with some being designated as both.  
5 While equity participation remains strong, CRC data  
6 continues to show that the timing and access to capital  
7 and municipal readiness and participating  
8 municipalities who are not yet opted in or accepting  
9 new cannabis businesses, all remain critical factors  
10 influencing successful conversion.

11           Onto our data benchmark for December of  
12 2025. August data highlighted strong microbusiness  
13 entry into the market. December data confirms not only  
14 entry, but survival and revenue growth, which we'll  
15 talk about in just a little bit. This supports CRCs  
16 early assumption that scaled down license types could  
17 lower barriers to entry, while also reinforcing the  
18 need for continued technical and financial support as  
19 some micro businesses look to scale their operations.

20           From August to December, our diversely  
21 owned benchmark data, we have seen an increase in both  
22 minority owned and women and disabled veteran owned  
23 awardees, continuing our streak of exceeding our 15  
24 percent statutory benchmark in both categories since  
25 the very beginning of our reporting.

1           New Jersey continues to outperform  
2 national benchmarks for diversely owned cannabis  
3 businesses. It is consistent with August findings.  
4 December data adds an important layer. These  
5 businesses are not just licensed, they are generating  
6 sales and sustaining operations. Compared to August,  
7 the gap between the New Jersey and national averages  
8 has widened in a positive direction.

9           Diversity owned benchmarks. This slide  
10 includes expansions. CRC data confirms that ownership  
11 diversity is being maintained as market matures, and  
12 it's not being -- diversity is not diluted over time.

13           Businesses licensed to operate under the  
14 CREAMM Act. So this is a little different way of  
15 viewing this data. So these are folks that have a  
16 final license to operate. About 80 to 90 percent of  
17 these folks are operating. There are some that do have  
18 their license, but they're just waiting on their end to  
19 work out any kinks or last minute deadlines that they  
20 have to do, but as far as we are concerned, all of  
21 these folks have a license to operate within the  
22 industry, some of -- some of which we are waiting for  
23 their doors to open.

24           So as you can see here, growth is steady  
25 rather than explosive, signaling controlled expansion.

1 This aligns with CRC goals of balancing access,  
2 competition and regulatory oversight. We have seen an  
3 increase all across license types with significant  
4 increase of the number of business licenses to operate  
5 among -- among cultivators and manufacturers and  
6 retailers. There's been a slight increase in  
7 wholesalers, distributors and first two licensed  
8 distributors have been licensed since August and we're  
9 really excited about that.

10 We do have some more exploring to do to --  
11 to determine why more folks aren't applying for a  
12 wholesale or distributor or delivery license. We've  
13 heard anecdotal stories, but we do are looking to dive  
14 in more in depth about some of the -- the barriers that  
15 might be preventing folks from going after a  
16 distributor delivery or a laboratory license.  
17 Businesses license operated under the CREAMM Act  
18 according to their door certification through the  
19 Department of Treasury. A hundred women we can  
20 celebrate that have officially crossed business  
21 ownership in New Jersey -- cannabis business ownership  
22 in New Jersey. Not too far behind are minority owned  
23 businesses. I'm pretty sure we've exceeded both a  
24 hundred for both categories so far. There has been an  
25 increase among all veteran types. So disabled veteran

1 types jumped, I believe, from 5 to 11 between August  
2 and December. Disabled veteran and minority owned, and  
3 then the one disabled veteran minority and women owned  
4 businesses.

5           Still more work to do there. We continue  
6 to dialogue with our veterans, but we have a great  
7 relationship with our veteran community. We don't  
8 measure veterans. So that is another subset of  
9 categories that we wanna start taking a look at this  
10 year, just in case we're missing some veterans who  
11 don't identify as disabled veteran.

12           Business license to operate under the  
13 CREAMM Act, broken down by race and ethnicity, there  
14 has been an increase in business license to operate  
15 across all races and ethnicities from August to  
16 December increasing market representations. We're  
17 really -- really excited about this. These are great  
18 numbers. These aren't, you know, the -- it's not the  
19 finish line that we're all looking for, but this is a  
20 positive momentum that we are seeing in the industry to  
21 make sure that we are seeing our industry reflect the  
22 diversity of the great state of New Jersey.

23           So on to sales for open business type.  
24 Chris went into this, we're gonna give more of a  
25 breakdown of different types of license classes and

1 types. So for, as he said, from October 2024 to  
2 October '25, adult use cannabis sales increased almost  
3 20 percent. The gross growth demonstrates continued  
4 consumer demand, even as the market becomes more  
5 competitive and prices decline. Compared to earlier  
6 market phases, this period could reflect some  
7 normalization, possibly signaling a more stable and  
8 predictable -- predictable operating environment for  
9 licensed businesses. So please dive into this  
10 information and is readily -- readily available on our  
11 website as always.

12                   Micro businesses experienced a 54.4  
13 percent year over year sales growth from October 2024  
14 to October 2025, significantly outpacing overall market  
15 growth. While this reflects growth from a smaller  
16 base, it demonstrates that micro businesses are not  
17 only entering the market, but capturing consumer demand  
18 as access expands.

19                   Social equity businesses recorded at 42.3  
20 percent year over year sales growth between October  
21 2024 and October 2025. This growth rate exceeds the  
22 overall adult use market indicating that equity design  
23 businesses are increasingly competitive, contributing  
24 meaningfully to the total market activity and not just  
25 towards license counts. And also that our

1 prioritization process has been successful all the way  
2 from application inception to market participation.

3           Total sales by month for businesses with  
4 criminal -- owners with criminal history saw a 61,  
5 almost 62 percent year over year sales growth from  
6 October 2024 to '25. This strong performance  
7 reinforces CRCs early policy assumption that justice  
8 impacted ownership represents both an equity imperative  
9 and a viable business category and designation.

10           Total sales by month for EDAs,  
11 Economically Disadvantaged Areas, were 50 -- 55, a  
12 little over 55 percent year over year sales. The  
13 sustained growth suggests that market access is  
14 translating into real economic activity in communities  
15 historically harmed by cannabis prohibition supporting  
16 the long-term intent of the social equity program -- of  
17 our social equity program.

18           Diversely owned businesses grew just a  
19 little over 47 percent year over year from October 2024  
20 to '25, more than double the overall market growth  
21 rate. This indicates that ownership diversity in New  
22 Jersey's cannabis market is not diminishing as the  
23 industry matures but instead remains economically  
24 durable.

25           Disabled veteran-owned businesses

1 experienced an increase of 14 and a half percent year  
2 over year between October '24 and '25. While growth  
3 remains positive, it trails other categories signaling  
4 an opportunity for more targeted outreach, any  
5 technical assistance that might -- might be needed  
6 here, any business support strategies. We've built  
7 great relationships as we said earlier with our veteran  
8 and disabled veteran business owners and community.

9           And we'll continue to double down on that  
10 to see if there's any support that is needed or  
11 veterans that are outside of our cannabis industry that  
12 want to get into the cannabis industry and are  
13 experiencing barriers that we just don't know about  
14 just yet.

15           Minority owned businesses saw a 55.6  
16 percent year over year sales growth, nearly three times  
17 the overall market growth rate. This sustained  
18 performance demonstrates that minority ownership in New  
19 Jersey's cannabis industry is translating into real  
20 meaningful economic participation.

21           And lastly, and certainly not least, women  
22 cannabis business -- businesses recorded 44 percent  
23 year over year growth. Despite national trends showing  
24 declining women ownership in cannabis, New Jersey  
25 continues to demonstrate strong participation, revenue

1 growth and revenue growth among women owned businesses.

2           So that is the end of the data set. And  
3 now we move on to the -- my favorite part, probably the  
4 social equity scorecard. We have been talking about  
5 this for quite some time, and I'm so excited to be  
6 introducing finally to you all the scorecard. I wanna  
7 first off start by thanking all of the staff, executive  
8 director -- acting Executive Director Chris Riggs,  
9 first and foremost Madam Chair and all of the  
10 commissioners past and present who started to talk  
11 about this idea four years ago when we first started  
12 this agency.

13           And the reason it took us so long to  
14 launch this program is 'cause we wanted to make sure  
15 that the market was mature enough for us to -- to  
16 insert this sort of statewide recognition program so  
17 that we can see equitable participation across the  
18 market from businesses that are -- are open and  
19 operating. So without further ado, the Social Equity  
20 Scorecard Purpose and overview.

21           The Social Equity -- Social and Community  
22 Impact Scorecard is a statewide framework developed by  
23 the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission to  
24 evaluate, highlight, and publicly recognize the social  
25 equity, diversity, and community reinvestment efforts

1 of cannabis businesses operating in New Jersey.

2 Just to give you a quick history lesson,  
3 when we first launched the industry and expanded ATCs  
4 got moved into the market they were required to present  
5 to us social equity plans to make sure that they are  
6 adhering to the stated goals of not just the CRC, but  
7 for the industry as a whole. Then came along adult use  
8 businesses, and as a part of their application process,  
9 they had to submit it to (inaudible) community impact  
10 reports.

11 And so since then, 40 expanded ATCs, the  
12 Office of Diversity and Inclusion are -- are monitoring  
13 40 expanded ATCs with more coming on board and 213  
14 adult use businesses who have submitted social equity  
15 plans or community impact plans and submit quarterly  
16 reports to us up until this point. It's a lot of  
17 people. It's a lot of businesses; it's a lot of pages  
18 of material. And so we always knew at some point we  
19 wanted to create this recognition program using the  
20 information that businesses and industry has already  
21 provided us and amplifying the good work that they're  
22 already doing in the state of New Jersey, and sometimes  
23 even beyond.

24 So social equity and cannabis -- social  
25 equity and cannabis ensures that individuals and

1 communities disproportionately harmed by prohibition  
2 have equitable opportunities to participate and benefit  
3 from -- from the legal cannabis industry.

4           So why does the scorecard matter? The  
5 score --scorecard takes equity a step further by  
6 ensuring businesses are not only licensed, but are  
7 actively giving back through hiring, workforce  
8 development, community partnerships, and reinvestments.  
9 Public scoring also empowers consumers to support  
10 businesses that are making verified meaningful impact.  
11 So we're addressing lasting harms of cannabis  
12 prohibition and ultimately we want to empower consumers  
13 through transparency as well.

14           The -- who is evaluated and how it works.  
15 So it will be all expanded ATCs. The Office of  
16 Diversity and Inclusion is -- currently monitors, as we  
17 said 40, now over 40 expanded ATCs and has reviewed  
18 numerous social equity and community impact reports,  
19 creating a strong foundation for this level of  
20 oversight. So to ensure an equitable rollout, we will  
21 also be scoring adult use businesses that have been  
22 operating over two years, giving newer businesses an  
23 opportunity to perfect plans and to get updated reports  
24 into us.

25           And this we are also opening up to -- to

1 voluntary early participation for newer businesses. I  
2 know, in particular, social equity businesses and  
3 diversity owned businesses are very eager to  
4 participate in the scorecard, even if they haven't been  
5 open for more than two years. So importantly the  
6 scorecard is capacity based and not comparative based.

7           Now, the reason it took us so long is that  
8 we wanted to make sure that we weren't comparing the  
9 capacity of, say, an expanded ATC to a small micro  
10 business or small mom and pop shop. While we  
11 appreciate, you know, all of the funds sometimes that  
12 expanded ATCs have access to -- to do this community  
13 work, we also wanted to make sure that we recognize in  
14 an equitable way, sort of the smaller scaled events  
15 that businesses don't have the capacity to -- to see at  
16 an expanded ATC level but are still just as important.

17           So we are really -- really excited. I  
18 keep saying that, but I think it's a speech tech. But  
19 often we wanna make sure that these businesses are  
20 recognized for their contributions, who are awfully  
21 deeply ingrained into their community and centered in  
22 ways that possibly big businesses cannot. Expectations  
23 are aligned with operational scale ensuring fairness  
24 while still holding all businesses accountable.

25           The -- so we've decided to approach this

1 into a five tier recognition framework, and I'll show  
2 you a breakdown of that in the next, a visual breakdown  
3 of that in the next slide. So the scorecard uses a  
4 five tier recognition system is represented by one to  
5 five cannabis leaves. Businesses must satisfy all  
6 requirements of proceeding tiers to advance, ensuring  
7 growth is incremental and meaningful.

8 Tier one establishes baseline commitments  
9 through workforce development and a submitted social  
10 equity plan. Tier two adds community expungement and  
11 expungement support and criminal justice work. Tier  
12 three focuses on economic inclusion through diverse  
13 vendor and businesses -- business partnerships. Tier  
14 four emphasizes industry education and technical  
15 assistance for equity and justice involved individuals.  
16 And tier five recognizes long-term corporate spending  
17 and reinvestment commitments, including disclosure of  
18 annual dollar amounts.

19 And businesses may submit updated  
20 documentation to advanced tiers over time, but don't  
21 send us anything yet. We're -- we're not ready yet.  
22 Businesses are evaluated annually and will receive a  
23 formal recognition through a certificate that will live  
24 on our website on a dedicated landing page for this  
25 program.

1           Decals that will go in your store. This  
2 decal will come with a QR code. We're feeding two  
3 birds with one stone. We're using the decal for the  
4 social equity scorecard program and also as a way to  
5 verify that you are a licensed CRC business. You do  
6 that already by, you know, going to our website, but  
7 like New York and other states, we wanna make sure that  
8 that decal and QR code is right in the window or in the  
9 door for folks to know that this is an actual licensed  
10 -- new licensed business licensed by the New Jersey  
11 Cannabis Regulatory Commission. And we will be  
12 publicly listed on the New Jersey CRC website.

13           And this is just a visual breakdown for  
14 our -- our visual learners. Tier one, as we said, base  
15 -- baseline equity commitment. Tier two, your  
16 community engagement. Tier three, your expansion and  
17 implementation. Tier four, your partnerships and  
18 education support. And tier five, your long-term  
19 investment in spend.

20           And then lastly, what are the next steps?  
21 We'll be rolling this out with -- within the quarter --  
22 within quarter one of 2026 of next year. We'll be  
23 doing some preliminary scoring of participating  
24 businesses over the next couple of weeks. We will  
25 continue to solicit additional feedback from business

1 owners, leaders, and advocates. Special shout out to  
2 all of you who have given us feedback about the score  
3 count -- the scorecard every step of the way. We  
4 couldn't have gotten to this point without you.

5           We'll be uploading and launching the New  
6 Jersey CRC dedicated landing page graphics and guided  
7 documentation and informational resources. And as  
8 always, if you have any questions or you're eager to  
9 know more about the program, you can always contact the  
10 Office of Diversity and Inclusion. So with that, I  
11 will turn it over to the chair, But first, I do want to  
12 give a special shout out to Nana and Glen, who have  
13 been working very -- very hard with me on this project.

14           And we have a lot more hard work to do,  
15 but we're really -- really excited about seeing this  
16 flourish in the industry. We don't see the scorecard  
17 as being punitive, but we do see the scorecard as a  
18 measure for the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory  
19 Commission to uplift all of the great work that all of  
20 you businesses are doing across our great state. So  
21 thank you all for all of your reports. Thank you for  
22 submitting your reports.

23           We'll have some more information about  
24 some changes in our reporting at the top of the year  
25 but continue to keep up the good work, and we're gonna

1 work hard to get this launched by quarter one of next  
2 year. So with that, I'll turn that back over to you,  
3 Madam Chair.

4 CHAIR: Thank you so much, Director  
5 McWhite, and great updates on the scorecard. Thank you  
6 to you and your team for turning this idea into a -- a  
7 reality. It's not been easy especially if as we're --  
8 as new issues or questions are uncovered along the way,  
9 but I'm happy to see that this is nearing the finish  
10 line. Thank you. Are there any questions from the  
11 Board for Director Riggs or Director McWhite about the  
12 director's report? Executive director's report?  
13 Hearing none, then we will move forward.

14 SECRETARY: The next item for  
15 consideration on the agenda are the committee reports.

16 CHAIR: All right. And I believe we are  
17 first starting off -- our first committee report will  
18 be from the Public Engagement Education Committee, I  
19 think, is that right? It's on the next slide. That's  
20 right. Excellent. So I will turn it over to  
21 Commissioner Mapp to give us a committee report from  
22 that committee. Oh, Commissioner Mapp, your microphone  
23 is on mute.

24 MS. MAPP: That's better now. Let me get  
25 my slides back up. Don't know where it went. One

1 second. Okay. The Public Engagement and Education  
2 Committee, a statutory required to hold at least three  
3 hearings per year in order to solicit input from the  
4 public regarding the use of the C funds, which is a  
5 social equity excise fees.

6           These --these are specific meetings for  
7 you, the public, to have your voices heard. Upon  
8 completion of these sessions, and based solely on your  
9 suggestions, the Public Engagement and Education  
10 Committee will then compile a report to be included in  
11 the CRCs recommendations to the governor and the  
12 legislature. Your participation is essential, and in  
13 order to have your voices heard you can register to  
14 speak or submit your written comments via the link,  
15 which will be provided prior to the session. And that  
16 link is now at the bottom of -- is now posted for you.

17           This is your meeting, and we want to hear  
18 from you. We want to hear your thoughts, your ideas,  
19 and your suggestions. Your input is valuable; hence,  
20 this is your opportunity to candidly communicate with  
21 the commission and openly share your thoughts.

22           The current schedule dates for these  
23 listening sessions are Thursday, January 15th, 1:30 to  
24 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 21st, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.  
25 Thursday, January 29th, two to 3 p.m.

1           Again, I look forward to your robust  
2 participation in these sessions. Thank you. I yield  
3 back to the chair.

4           CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Mapp.  
5 Again, very excited to see the -- I hope to be a robust  
6 turnout for the -- these hearings for people to provide  
7 input on where they think monies should go. And then  
8 the commission will then turn those ideas shared to us  
9 during these three hearings into a report that is  
10 formally submitted to the governor and the New Jersey  
11 legislature, who will then carry the -- the mantle to  
12 determine how to appropriate social equity -- sorry,  
13 social equity excise fee dollars.

14           Next we have the Permitting and Licensing  
15 committee. And so I will turn the floor over to Vice  
16 Chair Nash to provide the committee report from that  
17 group.

18           VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Madam Chair. I  
19 would like to thank Director Riggs and Director McWhite  
20 for providing such robust reports, and I am very  
21 excited about the social equity scorecard. So thank  
22 you all for those efforts. I am excited on behalf of  
23 the Permitting and Licensing Committee to introduce  
24 several updates aimed at streamlining the renewal  
25 process and improving regulatory oversight. The

1 changes that I'll go through include new documentation  
2 requirements and enhanced compliance reviews.

3           Updates in connection with the medical  
4 renewals have already been implemented, and the new  
5 process for AU renewals will begin in January 2026.  
6 Going forward, in addition to the required renewal  
7 form, businesses shall submit a new entity disclosure  
8 form. However, the updates that are usually required  
9 in the EDF as to updating managers, staff members, and  
10 employees will not be required upon renewal.

11           The renewal attestation. It also reminds  
12 businesses of their duty to notify the commission of  
13 any changes and that failure to do so may result in  
14 enforcement action. For example, we've seen ownership  
15 changes occur without notification or physical plant  
16 changes. It's a simple call to your compliance  
17 officer. So please stay in the right and just notify  
18 us so we can move things forward for you.

19           At renewal, the Office of Compliance and  
20 Investigations will provide a full compliance history  
21 of businesses compliance from the past two to three  
22 years to the board. This report will contain  
23 information about serious or repeated complaints  
24 received. Notice of violations issued, and whether  
25 corrective action plans are implemented, and whether

1 the fine or the penalty issued by the commission was  
2 paid.

3 Under the CREAMM Act and the Jake Honig  
4 Act, maintaining an LPA is an ongoing condition of  
5 licensure. The commission will require an attestation  
6 at renewal that states that the business is complying  
7 with the terms of its labor peace agreement. The great  
8 state of New Jersey got it right when they implemented  
9 the labor provisions in the CREAMM Act and I will ask  
10 that those that wanna do business in New Jersey follow  
11 our laws and -- and I'll leave it at that.

12 Feedback from micro businesses has led to  
13 the committee developing cooperative purchase  
14 purchasing guidance to support affordability and  
15 sustainability. With wholesale prices being high,  
16 ability to collaborate with other businesses to buy  
17 cannabis products in bulk would help reduce financial  
18 strain, particularly for many locally owned businesses.  
19 As such, we will be issuing guidance for co-op  
20 purchasing agreements in the beginning of the new year.

21 These continued efforts reflect the  
22 commission's commitment to transparency,  
23 accountability, and continuous improvement in licensing  
24 practices. Madam Chair, I yield the floor back to you.

25 CHAIR: Thank you, Vice Chair Nash. And

1 thank you to both committees, the Permitting and  
2 Licensing Committee, and the Public Engagement and  
3 Education Committee for their work on these -- on these  
4 very -- these various topics and projects to make sure  
5 that information -- accurate information is both  
6 collected from the industry and from the public. And  
7 then we can provide great useful feedback to  
8 incorporate in our operations and how to make New  
9 Jersey's cannabis market a better place for everyone.  
10 If there are no questions for either committee, then we  
11 will move on to the next agenda item.

12                   SECRETARY: Next item up for consideration  
13 on the agenda are the public notices and publications.

14                   CHAIR: We'll first start with the  
15 schedule of regular meetings of the commission for  
16 calendar year 2026. Nope, back. All right.

17                   So the commission has put together a list  
18 of dates for 2026, which would be for, there we go,  
19 which will be the dates for our regular board meetings  
20 moving forward. Those dates are listed on the screen  
21 you have before you.

22                   Those meetings or those dates that have an  
23 asterisk will be limited to new license applications  
24 and annual license renewals just as we did this year.  
25 If there are no questions or proposed edits to the

1 regular meeting schedule, I'll ask for a motion to  
2 adopt the 2026 regular meeting schedule.

3 MS. MAPP: I make the motion that we adopt  
4 the schedule as presented.

5 VICE CHAIR: I will second that.

6 CHAIR: Motion seconded. Is there any  
7 discussion on this motion to adopt the 2026 regular  
8 meeting schedule? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can  
9 you please call the vote?

10 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

11 MS. MAPP: Yes.

12 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

13 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

14 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

15 CHAIR: Yes.

16 SECRETARY: Motion passes.

17 CHAIR: Next we have the adjustment for  
18 the social equity excise fee. This is an adjustment  
19 that is done each year pursuant to statute. So I will  
20 turn the floor over to Director Riggs to provide a  
21 brief summary of the data is used to -- to inform our  
22 adjustment of the fee.

23 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. And  
24 as you noted under CRC regulations and under the  
25 enabling legislation, the CREAMM Act, the commission

1 may adjust the social equity excise fee annually by  
2 publishing a notice in the New Jersey Registrar. The  
3 social equity -- the social equity excise fee is based  
4 off the statewide average retail price of one ounce of  
5 usable cannabis. The price here that we would be using  
6 based upon the data is \$251.06 per ounce.

7 Under CRC rules that when the price is  
8 between 350 and \$250, the rules require that the fee be  
9 set at \$30. However, the CREAMM Act gives the  
10 commission the discretion to set the social equity  
11 excise fee at up to \$30 per ounce if the average retail  
12 price falls within that range. Since the average price  
13 usable -- usable cannabis is \$251.06, the commission  
14 may set that social equity fee -- exercise fee up to  
15 \$30. And it is recommended that the commission take  
16 action to set the fee up to \$30 at this time.

17 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
18 there any questions from the board? Hearing no  
19 questions -- oh, actually, I do have a question.  
20 Director Riggs, do we have the -- the total -- what is  
21 the current average (inaudible) cannabis?

22 MR. RIGGS: \$251.06 per ounce.

23 CHAIR: \$251.06. Okay. Thank you very  
24 much. Is there a motion on this matter?

25 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to amend

1 the underlying motion so that the underlying motion  
2 becomes to waive N.J.A.C. 17:30-3.4C, keep the social  
3 equity excise fee at 250 unusable and unusable  
4 cannabis, and to rescind the waiver of N.J.A.C. 17:30-  
5 3.4D, specific to the November 1st deadline.

6 CHAIR: Okay. Vice chair, there is no  
7 underlying motion. So I presume that you're -- this is  
8 the -- the original motion that you're presenting here?

9 VICE CHAIR: Yes, that -- that would be  
10 the original motion, correct.

11 CHAIR: All right. Great. So your motion  
12 is to waive rule N.J.A.C. -- sorry, N.J.A.C. 17:30-  
13 3.4(c), to keep the social equity excise fee at a rate  
14 of \$2.50 for calendar year 2026. And the last part was  
15 to rescind the commission's waiver of JC 17:30-3.4(d)

16 VICE CHAIR: Right. So I don't -- I -- I  
17 don't want to, we obviously haven't set the deadline at  
18 November 1st, so I don't want to -- I want to  
19 (inaudible).

20 CHAIR: Okay. All right. And I believe  
21 that -- that waiver was issued pursuant to resolution  
22 2025-10-01-01. Okay. Is -- that is the motion  
23 presently before us again, that is to waive 3.4C and  
24 keep the social equity excise fee at \$2.50 per calendar  
25 year 2026 to rescind the prior waiver of Rule 3.4D. Is

1 there a second on this motion?

2 MS. MAPP: I second it.

3 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp.

4 Any discussion on this motion? Hearing no discussion,  
5 Mr. Said on the motion to waive Rule 3.4C and keep  
6 social equity excise fee at \$2.50 for the calendar year  
7 2026 and to rescind the waiver of -- the commission's  
8 prior waiver of Rule 3.4D, can you please call the  
9 vote?

10 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

11 MS. MAPP: Yes.

12 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

13 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

14 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

15 CHAIR: Yes.

16 SECRETARY: The motion passes.

17 CHAIR: And our final public notice and  
18 publication. It concerns certification of testing  
19 capacity. And so with our product safety packaging and  
20 labeling committee will be presenting this item. So I  
21 will turn the floor over to, I believe it's  
22 Commissioner Mapp who is presenting this item.  
23 Commissioner, the floor is yours.

24 MS. MAPP: Thank you, Madam Chair. August  
25 of 2022, the Board of Commissioners adopted regulations

1 that implemented the Cannabis Regulatory Enforcement  
2 Assistance and Marketplace Modernization Act. Reifying  
3 and amending the relevant portions of the act with an  
4 effective date of March 6th, 2023.

5           These regulations established a testing  
6 laboratory and a testing requirements transition period  
7 during which -- during which time the New Jersey  
8 Cannabis Regulatory Commission established requirements  
9 receive and review applications and issue licenses for  
10 cannabis testing laboratories to operate in the state.

11           During this period of time, the -- the  
12 relevant portions of N.J.A.C. 1730 -- N.J.A.C. 17:30-  
13 19.2 through 19.7 would remain ineffective. And those  
14 relevant portions are testing every batch and lot,  
15 testing laboratory samples, collections, chain and  
16 custody, testing laboratory procedures and specifics  
17 and specifications for testing -- for testing usable  
18 cannabis and cannabis products, retention samples and  
19 stability testing, written reports and testing  
20 laboratory record keeping.

21           The first collection of testing  
22 laboratories was voted by the board for licensure on  
23 May 24th, 2022, establishing the first four adult use  
24 cannabis laboratories testing in the state of New  
25 Jersey. Since that time, an additional four

1 laboratories have met the requirements pursuant to  
2 N.J.S.A 24:6I-35, and all that follows and are now  
3 licensed and have begun operations.

4           The testing laboratories are based out of  
5 the different areas. Mount Laurel and Burlington  
6 County, Hamilton and Mercer County, East Hanover and  
7 Morris County, Belmar and Camden County, Riverdale and  
8 Morris County and Irvington in Middlesex in Essex  
9 County. Adding the opportunity for licensees to  
10 utilize testing laboratories in north -- in the north,  
11 central and southern portions of the state.

12           The Cannabis Commission Office of  
13 Compliance and Investigations has confirmed that the  
14 eight licensed adult use cannabis testing laboratories  
15 have not exceeded their capacity to perform the -- the  
16 requisite test in a prompt manner as required by  
17 N.J.A.C. 17:30-19 8(a). Even though the commission  
18 certifies that insufficient labs currently is not  
19 preclude us issuing new licenses in the future, I yield  
20 back to the floor here. I'm sorry.

21           CHAIR: That's all right. Thank you,  
22 Commissioner Mapp. Are there any questions for the  
23 Product Safety Packaging and Labeling Committee  
24 regarding the recommendation to certify a sufficient  
25 number of cannabis -- I'm sorry, to certify sufficient

1 cannabis testing capacity in the state? Hearing none,  
2 is there a motion on this matter?

3 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to  
4 approve the resolution certifying the number of  
5 cannabis businesses are sufficient -- I'm sorry, the  
6 number of testing labs are sufficient.

7 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Nash. Is  
8 there a second?

9 MS. MAPP: Second.

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

13 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

14 MS. MAPP: Yes.

15 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

16 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

17 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

18 CHAIR: Yes.

19 SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next item  
20 up for consideration on the agenda are applications for  
21 canopy changes.

22 CHAIR: So Director Riggs, I turn the  
23 floor over you.

24 MR. RIGGS: Thank you Madam Chair. And if  
25 we could go to the next slide please. We have one

1 request here for canopy increase by Atlantic  
2 Cultivators LLC physical plan change. They're  
3 requesting to modify their canopy in their cultivation  
4 tier from tier one, which can't exceed 10,000 square  
5 feet to tier six canopy that's can't exceed 150,000  
6 square feet. They've submitted the required  
7 documentation and have satisfied all the regulatory  
8 criteria.

9                   Therefore, staff is recommending that  
10 Atlantic Cultivators be approved to increase their tier  
11 canopy for their cultivation grow. Madam Chair.

12                   CHAIR: Director Riggs, are there any  
13 questions from the board for Director Riggs? Hearing  
14 no questions, is there a motion on this matter?

15                   VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to  
16 approve the modification of a cultivation canopy for  
17 Atlantic Cultivators.

18                   CHAIR: Is there a second?

19                   MS. MAPP: I second.

20                   CHAIR: Any discussion on this motion?  
21 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call  
22 the vote?

23                   SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

24                   MS. MAPP: Yes.

25                   SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

1 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

2 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

3 CHAIR: Yes.

4 SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next item  
5 up for consideration on the agenda are micro to  
6 standard conversion applications.

7 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, the  
8 floor is yours.

9 MR. RIGGS: Madam Chair, there are two  
10 business conversion applications to go from a micro to  
11 a standard business. Both of these businesses have  
12 been operational for at least a year as required of the  
13 regulations. Neptune's Garden LLC and Plantopia, LLC.  
14 They submitted their applications through the portal  
15 that were reviewed by our Office of Licensing and the  
16 Office of Compliance and Investigations. Their  
17 business activity from the last 180 days has been  
18 reviewed. Their site plans and business plans have  
19 been reviewed, and they've submitted a labor peace  
20 agreement. Therefore, staff is recommending that these  
21 applications be approved by the board today. Thank  
22 you.

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

1                   VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to  
2 approve the resolution to consider the applications to  
3 convert from micro business to standard cannabis  
4 business.

5                   CHAIR: Second?

6                   MS. MAPP: Second.

7                   CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is  
8 there any discussion on this motion to approve the  
9 resolution approving the business conversions? Hearing  
10 no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

11                   SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

12                   MS. MAPP: Yes.

13                   SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

14                   VICE CHAIR: Yes.

15                   SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

16                   CHAIR: Yes.

17                   SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next item  
18 up for consideration on the agenda are ownership change  
19 applications.

20                   CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, the  
21 floor is yours.

22                   MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair. We have 13  
23 ownership changes that are up for consideration before  
24 the board today. We'll -- we'll go pretty slow through  
25 the slides here. We do appreciate all the businesses

1 patients and when the cures and things go back and  
2 forth and the responsiveness to staff members because,  
3 you know, changing ownership and -- and the ability --  
4 the regulatory requirements to make sure that any new  
5 owner is vetted and if they're approved and they meet  
6 the statutory and regulatory standards to be part of  
7 the cannabis industry it takes time and a lot of  
8 effort. So I do appreciate everything that the Office  
9 of Compliance and Investigations and our legal team  
10 does to get these things ready to go before the board.  
11 It's no easy task.

12                   But under the law and regulations, the  
13 sale and transfer equity in the business requires board  
14 approval. We need to make sure that all regulatory  
15 requirements are met and that anybody that needs to be  
16 vetted is vetted and -- and that's done in the Office  
17 of Compliance and Investigation by our investigators.  
18 Each of the entities that -- that 13 entities that are  
19 before you today have satisfied the regulatory  
20 requirements for an ownership change. All of the  
21 owners and individuals that were required to be vetted  
22 were done by the Office of Compliance and  
23 Investigations, and these individuals have been deemed  
24 qualified to enter into the (inaudible) market.  
25 Therefore, we are recommending approval of these 13

1 ownership transfer applications today. Thank you.

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

5 MS. MAPP: Madam Chair, I move to approve  
6 the request for transfer of ownership.

7 VICE CHAIR: Second.

8 CHAIR: By Vice Chair Nash, seconded by  
9 Commissioner Mapp. Any discussion on this motion?  
10 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call  
11 the vote?

12 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

13 MS. MAPP: Yes.

14 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

15 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

16 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

17 CHAIR: Yes.

18 SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next item  
19 up for consideration on the agenda is the adult use  
20 cannabis business conversion license applications.

21 CHAIR: Director Riggs, turn over to the  
22 (inaudible) of business conversions.

23 MR. RIGGS: (Inaudible) We're doing a  
24 conversion.

25 CHAIR: Yes, we're doing converting the

1 end. Yes, conditional to annual once applicant.

2 MR. RIGGS: And we have seven of those  
3 today, Madam Chair.

4 CHAIR: Yes.

5 MR. RIGGS: Conditional manual conversion  
6 applications, we have seven, two cultivators, one  
7 manufacturer, one retailer and -- and three delivery.  
8 These -- all these licenses have followed the process  
9 and the licensing process established by submitting in  
10 the portal where a priority assignment -- assignment  
11 was confirmed. So that each application is assigned to  
12 the appropriate review level that we've established.

13 Priority was then verified to make sure  
14 that the document -- the documentation that was  
15 submitted actually supports the priority that they  
16 identified. Our office of licensing then conducts a  
17 completeness review to confirm that all the required  
18 documents are submitted, and all the documents are  
19 filled out, and all the required information is on  
20 those documents that's necessary to get a license.  
21 These applications are then scored.

22 And then there's a qualification review  
23 conducted in our Office of Compliance and Investigation  
24 where individuals, financial sources and any other  
25 agreements are reviewed for regulatory compliance.

1 This is where background checks are conducted to ensure  
2 that owners and persons of interest are actually  
3 qualified on statute and regulations to enter into the  
4 adult use marketplace.

5 And then we conduct a quality control  
6 process with our licensing team, the Office of  
7 Compliance and Investigations, and our legal team to  
8 ensure that everything that -- that is required by law,  
9 it has been submitted and has been reviewed. We -- we  
10 are recommending that these seven applications be  
11 approved by the board today. Thank you.

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

15 MS. MAPP: Sure, I move that we approve  
16 the conditional to annual licenses as presented.

17 CHAIR: Discussion on this motion?  
18 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call  
19 the vote?

20 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

21 MS. MAPP: Yes.

22 SECRETARY: Chair Nash?

23 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

24 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

25 CHAIR: Yes.

1                   SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next item  
2 on the agenda is the consideration of adult use  
3 cannabis business annual license applications.

4                   CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is  
5 yours.

6                   MR. RIGGS: Madam Chair and we're flying  
7 at 30,000 feet with a bit of tailwind here. So we've  
8 got 10 annual licenses one cultivator, four  
9 manufacturers, four retailers, and one wholesaler up  
10 before the board today for an annual license. They  
11 followed the same process that I just articulated for a  
12 business conversion to an annual license. And  
13 therefore these 10 applications for an annual license  
14 that we will have up on the screen are recommended to  
15 the board today for approval. Thank you.

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

19                  MS. MAPP: I move that we accept the  
20 consideration of the annual licenses for the  
21 applications as presented.

22                  VICE CHAIR: Second.

23                  CHAIR: Any discussion on this motion?  
24 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call  
25 the vote?

1 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

2 MS. MAPP: Yes.

3 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

4 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

5 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

6 CHAIR: Yes.

7 SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next item  
8 up for consideration on the agenda is the EC expansion  
9 applications.

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

12 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We  
13 have two alternative treatment centers that are medical  
14 (inaudible) that are looking to expand into the adult  
15 use marketplace. Toke Lane Cannabis Dispensary, Class  
16 5 Retailer here in Trenton, Noble Valley Harvest  
17 Company, a Class 1 Cultivator in Ewing. We have  
18 requested and received zoning and municipal approvals.  
19 We've ensured that the labor requirements are met with  
20 having an LPA.

21 And as required by law, both of these  
22 businesses have certified that they have sufficient  
23 quantities of medical cannabis and medical cannabis  
24 products available to meet the reasonably anticipated  
25 needs of registered qualifying patients. Therefore, it

1 is recommended that both of these entities are approved  
2 to expand into the adult use marketplace. Thank you.

3 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs, are  
4 there any questions from the board? Hearing no  
5 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

6 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to  
7 approve the certification for both ATCs to expand  
8 operations to the adult personal use cannabis market.

9 MS. MAPP: I second.

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

13 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

14 MS. MAPP: Yes.

15 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

16 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

17 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

18 CHAIR: Yes.

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

23 CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is  
24 yours.

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

1 have 41 annual renewals that are before the board  
2 today. They follow the same licensing process that we  
3 articulated earlier for the new applications. These  
4 licenses are effective one year from the date of  
5 issuance and are required to be reviewed annually. All  
6 of these entities have required the proper  
7 documentation for renewal, including the certification  
8 that we've -- we've updated and -- and have required to  
9 be submitted.

10 This documentation was reviewed and  
11 approved by the Office of Compliance and  
12 Investigations. Therefore, it is recommended that  
13 these 41 licenses be renewed for an additional year of  
14 licensure in the adult use marketplace. Thank you.

15 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any  
16 questions from the board for Director Riggs? Hearing  
17 none, is there a motion on this matter?

18 MS. MAPP: Madam Chair, I move that we  
19 approve the annual licensees -- the annual license  
20 renewals as they were presented?

21 VICE CHAIR: Second.

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

25 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

1 MS. MAPP: Yes.

2 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

3 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

4 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

5 CHAIR: Yes.

6 SECRETARY: The motion passes. The next  
7 item up for consideration on the agenda are the medical  
8 permit renewal applications.

9 CHAIR: Director Riggs, I turn the floor  
10 over to you.

11 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 Medical permit renewals are a little bit different. We  
13 have 84 permit renewals up for consideration before the  
14 board today, 18 cultivators, 12 manufacturers and 54  
15 retailers. The medical permits are valid on the  
16 calendar year, so January 1st to December 31st each  
17 year. That's why we have renewals every -- every  
18 December.

19 We've been coming back and doing this same  
20 thing for the last four years with -- with the chair  
21 and other commissioners. All the renewal  
22 documentation, including the required certification,  
23 has been submitted and reviewed by the Office of  
24 Compliance and Investigation. Staff is recommending  
25 that these medical permit renewals, these 84 permit

1 renewals be approved by the board today. Thank you.

2 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any  
3 questions from the board?

4 VICE CHAIR: Yes, are we considering any  
5 other medical renewal separately?

6 CHAIR: Yes.

7 VICE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

8 CHAIR: This is the -- for the group of 39  
9 companies representing 84 total locations.

10 VICE CHAIR: Thank you.

11 CHAIR: Hearing no additional questions,  
12 is there a motion on this matter?

13 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to  
14 approve the renewal applications for medicinal cannabis  
15 permits for these alternative treatment centers  
16 presented today.

17 MS. MAPP: I second.

18 CHAIR: Moved and seconded. Is there --  
19 is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no  
20 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

21 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

22 MS. MAPP: Yes.

23 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

24 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

25 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

1 CHAIR: Yes.

2 SECRETARY: The -- the motion passes. The  
3 item up for consideration is the last group of medical  
4 permit renewals.

5 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, the  
6 floor is yours.

7 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
8 Curaleaf medical permit renewals. They have six two  
9 cultivation permits, one manufacturer permit, three  
10 dispensary permits permit. Given that there is  
11 litigation surrounding some of the requirements to  
12 maintain a medical permit it is recommended by staff  
13 that Curaleaf be granted an administrative extension on  
14 these permits until such time that the board deems it's  
15 appropriate to take action on these licenses.

16 So that's the recommendation from -- from  
17 staff. So I will turn it back over to you, Madam  
18 Chair.

19 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
20 there any questions from the board? All right. I will  
21 go ahead and make the motion here. I move to  
22 administratively extend the permits for Curaleaf and  
23 there's six permits. There's six medical permits,  
24 until March 31st by which time, the commission can then  
25 reassess whether additional extension is needed or

1 render a decision on the medical permit renewals. Is  
2 there a second?

3 MS. MAPP: I second.

4 CHAIR: Any discussion on this motion?  
5 Hearing no discussion on the motion to administratively  
6 extend the medical permits for Curaleaf until March  
7 31st. Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

8 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

9 MS. MAPP: Yes.

10 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

11 VICE CHAIR: In my opinion, the CREAMM Act  
12 was built on the principle of people over profits.  
13 These labor peace seeking agreements provide a fair  
14 environment for workers to exercise the right to  
15 organize without fear or intimidation or retaliation.  
16 In 2025, these protections have already resulted in  
17 landmark contracts for New Jersey cannabis workers  
18 delivering industry leading wages and employer paid  
19 health benefits.

20 The challenge of this mandate is a direct  
21 attempt to erode these gains and return to a model that  
22 favors corporate interests over the wellbeing of New  
23 Jersey's workforce, New Jersey's residents. It is  
24 extremely frustrating to me to consider an  
25 administrative approval to allow them to continue to

1 operate until the matter is adjudicated when this  
2 company is in clear violation of New Jersey's law.  
3 However, at the advice of counsel and staff and only  
4 because of that, my vote is a very reluctant yes.

5 SECRETARY: The motion passes.

6 CHAIR: Thank you. We've got one more  
7 roll call.

8 SECRETARY: Oh.

9 CHAIR: One more person.

10 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

11 CHAIR: I -- thank you, Mr. Said. I thank  
12 Vice Chair Nash for her comments. I agree that the  
13 commission does emphasize the adherence to the law.  
14 And I will -- I look forward to March 31st, 2026, at  
15 which time we can make final determination on the  
16 substance of these renewal applications for -- for the  
17 medical permits. With that, my answer is yes. My vote  
18 is yes.

19 SECRETARY: So now the motion passes. I  
20 know. I'm sorry about that.

21 CHAIR: That's all right.

22 SECRETARY: The next item up for  
23 consideration on the agenda are determinations of  
24 rehabilitation.

25 CHAIR: I believe is it, Chief Counsel

1 Tuason who will be providing summary remarks on these?

2 MR. RIGGS: Chief Tuason, the co-pilot is  
3 -- is taking the lead here.

4 CHAIR: Sounds good. Chief Counsel, the  
5 floor is yours.

6 MR. TUASON: Sure. Thank you, Madam  
7 Chair. So today we have five applications for  
8 rehabilitation. Each of these individuals receive  
9 notice that a criminal history check would be a  
10 disqualifying conviction. Each of these individuals  
11 were given the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of  
12 the criminal history results or apply for  
13 rehabilitation. All five have applied for rehab and  
14 have met the criteria under the regs and the statute.

15 And we all, we recommend all five to be  
16 approved today. And with that, I turn it back over to  
17 you, Madam Chair.

18 CHAIR: Thank you Chief Counsel. And do  
19 we have the identifying case numbers available for  
20 public to see? I guess not, so what we will do then is  
21 for any request for determination of rehabilitation  
22 that is approved today, those individuals will be  
23 notified via directly from the commission by email.  
24 With that said, are there any questions from the board  
25 for Chief Counsel Tuason about the request for

1 determination of rehabilitation?

2           Hearing no questions from the board, is  
3 there a motion on this matter?

4           VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to  
5 approve the request for determination presented today.  
6 The request.

7           MS. MAPP: I second.

8           CHAIR: Moved and seconded. Is there any  
9 discussion on this motion? Hearing no discussion is --  
10 my apologies. Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you  
11 please call the vote?

12           SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

13           MS. MAPP: Yes.

14           SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

15           VICE CHAIR: Yes.

16           SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

17           CHAIR: Yes.

18           SECRETARY: The motion passes. The next  
19 item up for consideration on the agenda are requests  
20 for rule waivers.

21           CHAIR: We have four rule waiver requests,  
22 first considered for today. So I'll turn the floor  
23 over to Chief Counsel Tuason to provide a summary of  
24 those requests received.

25           MR. DAVID TUASON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 So the -- the -- these four entities requested waivers  
2 of some of our regulations. The commission has the  
3 authority to waive regulations pursuant to N.J.A.C.  
4 17:30-3.7(A) in the AU side and N.J.A.C. 17:30(A)-7.11  
5 on the medical side. And they have to meet the three  
6 factors under those regulations in order for the -- the  
7 commission to waive a regulation. The three factors  
8 are that the waiver is necessary to achieve the  
9 purposes of the Act. Two, is necessary to provide  
10 access to cannabis items to consumers or patients. And  
11 three, does not create a danger to the public health,  
12 safety or welfare.

13 So next slide please. The first waiver  
14 that the board will be considering today is WR036. The  
15 entity name is The Other Side Dispensary and there are  
16 requesting a waiver of a statutory requirement,  
17 N.J.S.A. 24:6I-44(j)(13) to reduce the required amount  
18 of liability insurance for cannabis delivery vehicles.  
19 And the statute requires a million dollar liability  
20 requirement, liability insurance requirement.

21 And just -- just to note that the  
22 commission cannot waive statutory requirements in  
23 CREAMM, in the CREAMM Act, we can only waive our  
24 regulatory -- our regulations. And with that, I turn  
25 it back over to you, Madam Chair.

1           CHAIR: Thank you Chief Counsel. Are  
2 there any questions from the board? Hearing no  
3 questions, is there a motion on this matter? I'll move  
4 to deny this waiver request. I believe that as Chief  
5 Counsel Tuason noted, we don't have the authority to  
6 waive a statutory provision. Only the legislature can  
7 amend statute. And I will also note that the insurance  
8 requirement that is written into the law, the  
9 commission does allow for that insurance requirement to  
10 be met with a supplemental umbrella coverage business  
11 that is having difficulty meeting that \$1 million  
12 threshold for insurance liability coverage.

13           They can meet that threshold by  
14 supplementing any existing policy with umbrella  
15 coverage to meet that \$1 million minimum requirement  
16 under the law. So the commission does allow for that.  
17 But here, unfortunately, we would not have the  
18 authority to waive the support requirement. So I move  
19 to deny this waiver request.

20           VICE CHAIR: Back. Madam Chair, we cannot  
21 waive a statute. I'm going to second that.

22           CHAIR: Motion on this motion to deny the  
23 waiver request? Oh, I do want to note that the denial  
24 based on the language of the request the (inaudible)  
25 transportation, the vehicle that is being -- that the

1 dispensary seeks to use can be an appropriate approved  
2 vehicle, but we just have to -- it has to meet other  
3 requirements.

4           So for The Other Side Dispensary LLC, I  
5 encourage them to work with their assigned compliance  
6 officer so that they can get the appropriate insurance  
7 coverage for that vehicle and get the approvals  
8 necessary so that they can use the vehicle. Any  
9 additional discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you  
10 please call the vote?

11           SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

12           MS. MAPP: Yes.

13           SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

14           VICE CHAIR: Yes.

15           SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

16           CHAIR: Yes.

17           SECRETARY: The motion passes.

18           MR. TUASON: The next waiver request is  
19 WR040 from Design 710 LLC. They are requesting a  
20 waiver of N.J.A.C. 17:30A-7.10(a)(1) requiring ATCs to  
21 pay a \$20,000 annual permit renewal fee. With that I  
22 turn it back over to you, Madam Chair.

23           CHAIR: Thank you Chief Counsel. Are  
24 there any questions from the board regarding this  
25 waiver request?

1                   VICE CHAIR: Yes, I have a question. And  
2 I think this has come up before, so if we cannot waive  
3 a regulation and then, then supplement in this case  
4 another fee in lieu this \$20,000, is that accurate?

5                   MR. TUASON: We did not advise that the  
6 board waive a regulation and then impose a new  
7 requirements such as a new fee without going through  
8 the formal rulemaking process.

9                   VICE CHAIR: Thank you.

10                  CHAIR: Any additional questions? Hearing  
11 no additional questions, is there a motion on this  
12 matter?

13                  VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, based on the  
14 information that Chief Counsel Tuason provided, I'm  
15 going to deny this waiver request.

16                  CHAIR: Vice Chair Nash moves to deny the  
17 waiver request. Is there a second?

18                  MS. MAPP: I second.

19                  CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp.  
20 Any discussion on this motion? Hearing none, Mr. Said,  
21 can you please call the vote?

22                  SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

23                  MS. MAPP: Yes.

24                  SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

25                  VICE CHAIR: Yes.

1 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

2 CHAIR: Yes.

3 SECRETARY: The motion passes.

4 MR. TUASON: The next waiver request is  
5 WR041 and is from Restore NJ LLC, as the same request  
6 to waive 17:30A-7.10(a)(1) requiring ATCs pay that  
7 \$20,000 annual permit renewal fee and the same  
8 recommendation applies here. And with that I turn it  
9 back over to you, Madam Chair.

10 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief. Are there any  
11 questions from the board? Hearing no questions, is  
12 there a motion on this matter? I move to deny the  
13 waiver request. Is there a second?

14 MS. MAPP: I second it based on the same  
15 information we just had.

16 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is  
17 there any discussion on this motion to deny the waiver  
18 request? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you  
19 please call the vote?

20 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

21 MS. MAPP: Yes.

22 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

23 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

24 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

25 CHAIR: Yes.

1                   SECRETARY:    The motion passes.

2                   MR. TUASON:    And the final waiver request  
3 today is WR042 from Hamilton Farms LLC.  They are  
4 requesting a waiver of several provisions, some of  
5 which are statutory provisions, N.J.S.A. 24:6I-46b(1),  
6 N.J.S.A. 24:6I-36a, and N.J.A.C. 17:30-6.8(e).

7                   Effectively they're requesting so that  
8 they can co-locate its new manufacturing operations  
9 within its cultivation facility using shared entrances  
10 and security and parking spaces.  You know, these cited  
11 regulations have been interpreted by staff to mean that  
12 even though that these licenses are owned by the same  
13 business, they are separate licenses and require  
14 separation of entrances.

15                   And any employees that would go into these  
16 entities would need two separate cannabis ID cards in  
17 order to ensure that they are separate.  So with that I  
18 turn it back over to you, Madam Chair.

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

22                   VICE CHAIR:  Madam Chair, I move to deny  
23 this waiver request from Hamilton Farms based on the  
24 comments provided by Chief Counsel Tuason today.

25                   CHAIR:    Is there a second?

1 MS. MAPP: I second.

2 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is  
3 there any discussion on this motion to deny the waiver  
4 request? I'll just note that co-locating as a general  
5 matter -- co-location for our businesses is  
6 permissible, but our Office of Compliance and  
7 Investigations can advise or can instruct and guide  
8 businesses on how co-location needs to be structured in  
9 order to be permissible.

10 And I believe that here the business is  
11 not to the guidance and the instruction from the Office  
12 of Compliance and Investigations for a permissible co-  
13 location. So that would be why I am supportive of  
14 denying the waiver request. The way that co-location  
15 can be allowed, is reasonable.

16 We have other businesses that do it  
17 without any problems and so I'm supportive of denying  
18 the waiver request as submitted by Hamilton Farms LLC.  
19 Is there any further discussion on this motion to deny  
20 the waiver request? Hearing no further discussion, Mr.  
21 Said, can you please call the vote.

22 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

23 MS. MAPP: Yes.

24 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

25 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

1 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

2 CHAIR: Yes.

3 SECRETARY: The motion passes. The next  
4 item on the agenda up for consideration are notices of  
5 enforcement actions.

6 CHAIR: We will first start with INV-89-  
7 2025. Chief Counsel Tuason, the floor is yours to  
8 provide summary remarks on this notice of violation.

9 MR. TUASON: Thank you, Madam Chair, a  
10 notice of violation was issued to Hashery LLC for  
11 failure to adhere to the law and regulations by  
12 verifying the ages of attendees during this event.  
13 They also were cited for having an unapproved RV that  
14 displayed the business's name on that RV.

15 With that, I turn it back over to you,  
16 Madam Chair for -- apologies. You know, based on these  
17 violations, we also staff recommends an enforcement  
18 action. And with that, I turn it back over to you,  
19 Madam Chair.

20 CHAIR: Thank you, chief Counsel, are  
21 there any questions from the board?

22 VICE CHAIR: I do have a question, so  
23 there was no age -- it says no visible age verification  
24 taking place, so was that verified? Just wanted to  
25 double check on that.

1 MR. TUASON: We didn't observe. Our  
2 compliance team did not observe that taking place.

3 VICE CHAIR: Okay.

4 CHAIR: Any additional questions? Hearing  
5 no further questions, is there a motion on this matter?

6 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to impose  
7 a \$1,000 fine based on the violations presented today.

8 CHAIR: Is there a second?

9 MS. MAPP: I second.

10 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp.  
11 Thank you. Any discussion on this motion? I want to  
12 note that based on the evidence provided, the tent that  
13 was set up in the parking lot just wide open for anyone  
14 to walk into and I want to note though that the  
15 business does claim that they had been with their  
16 attorney prior to the -- well it's not clear whether it  
17 happened prior to or after this event was held.

18 But if businesses have any question about  
19 whether or not the event that they want to host or the  
20 activity that they want to conduct is permissible,  
21 contact your compliance officer. Your compliance  
22 officer will let you know and will guide you  
23 appropriately so that you don't end up with a violation  
24 such as this.

25 So I'm a little perplexed as to why the

1 business thought it would be okay to have just a wide  
2 open tent set up in a parking lot for consumption. I'm  
3 supportive of the motion, and I really hope that  
4 businesses take note.

5 This is not the first on-site consumption  
6 violation that we've been presented with, nor is it the  
7 first-time age verification has been lacking. So  
8 businesses really should be taking note and making sure  
9 that they are in compliance. Any additional  
10 discussion? Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Said,  
11 can you please call the vote?

12 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

13 MS. MAPP: Yes.

14 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

15 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

16 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

17 CHAIR: Yes.

18 SECRETARY: The motion passes.

19 MR. TUASON: The next enforcement action  
20 is INV-111-2025. A notice of violation was issued to  
21 Bud It Up LLC for failure to adhere to the regulations  
22 and provide -- they did have an advertisement. They  
23 did not provide reliable evidence that at least 71.6  
24 percent of the audience was 21 or older.

25 And based on facts and circumstances,

1 staff does recommend that an enforcement action be  
2 taken. And with that, I turn it back over to you,  
3 Madam Chair.

4 CHAIR: Thank you. Chief Counsel, I  
5 believe this also involved -- the NOV here also  
6 involved a violation of the provisions -- the  
7 restrictions against operating as a --

8 MR. TUASON: Retail food.

9 CHAIR: -- Retail food establishment.  
10 Okay. Great. Thank you. Any question? And other  
11 questions for chief Counsel? Hearing none, is there a  
12 motion on this matter?

13 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to impose  
14 a penalty of \$500 for N.J.A.C. 17:30-17(2)(a) and  
15 \$1,000 for N.J.A.C. 17:30-9.5(b) totaling \$1,500.

16 CHAIR: Is there a second?

17 MS. MAPP: I second.

18 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this  
19 motion? So I want to note that the evidence here  
20 clearly shows that the advertise were at best  
21 concealing the fact that a different business would be  
22 conducting the food sales rather the ads strongly  
23 suggest that the business was paying for and selling  
24 the food that was involved in this instance.

25 So I'm supportive of this motion. Again,

1 for businesses make sure that you're using advertising  
2 methods that are sure to have those statutory  
3 requirements for advertising and make sure that you're  
4 not operating as a food and retail establishment, which  
5 includes not just selling, but also can include giving  
6 away food as well.

7           So if you have questions about what that  
8 means, if you have questions about how food can be used  
9 or integrated into your operations, contact your  
10 compliance officer for guidance. They will help you  
11 out. In short, anybody that does not have a  
12 consumption area really shouldn't be having food on the  
13 premises but cannot sell or give away food as a  
14 licensed cannabis business.

15           I am supportive of the motion. Any  
16 additional discussion? Hearing no further discussion,  
17 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

18           SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

19           MS. MAPP: Yes.

20           SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

21           VICE CHAIR: Yes.

22           SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

23           CHAIR: Yes.

24           SECRETARY: The motion passes.

25           MR. TUASON: The next enforcement action

1 for consideration today is INV-122-2025. The entity  
2 name is Zen Leaf Mount Holly, and a notice of violation  
3 was issued for failure to adhere to the regulations by  
4 permitting consumers to enter the dispensary without  
5 the age verification process.

6 Based on the circumstances, staff does  
7 recommend that an enforcement action be taken and that  
8 we turn it back over to you, Madam Chair.

9 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are  
10 there any questions from the board or Chief Counsel?  
11 Hearing no questions, is there a motion on this matter?

12 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, since we got  
13 some more information yesterday, I would like to impose  
14 a penalty for 17:30-4.3(a) of \$1,000 and N.J.A.C.  
15 17:30-14.3(c) \$1,000. And so that would be \$2,000.

16 CHAIR: Is there a second on this motion?

17 MS. MAPP: I second.

18 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this  
19 motion? I want to note that there's no excuse for  
20 this. But that there's violation, you know, video  
21 evidence clearly shows that there was somebody  
22 available at the front door who could have just as  
23 easily checked IDs for age verification, but the  
24 business decided not to.

25 So I'm supportive of the motion here

1 today. Any further discussion? Hearing no further  
2 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

3 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

4 MS. MAPP: Yes.

5 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

6 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

7 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

8 CHAIR: Yes.

9 SECRETARY: The motion passes.

10 MR. TUASON: The next enforcement action  
11 that we would consider today is INV-124-2025, High  
12 Rollers Dispensary, LLC. We issued notice of violation  
13 to this further consumption area for failure to adhere  
14 to the regulations by selling beverages including  
15 mocktails and coffee and beverages dispensed from a  
16 soda gun to consumers at its consumption lounge.

17 And the other violation was operation of a  
18 retail food establishment as well. With that and based  
19 on the facts and circumstances, we do recommend that an  
20 enforcement action be taken. And with that, I turn it  
21 back over to you, Madam Chair, for a board vote.

22 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Any  
23 questions from the board? Hearing no questions, is  
24 there a motion on this matter?

25 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I think everyone

1 knows in this industry that businesses and especially  
2 consumption lounges are not permitted to serve food or  
3 beverages. And that is the law. It's not optimal, but  
4 everybody came in with their eyes wide open. We've had  
5 numerous public comments about this, and until the law  
6 is changed, we have to uphold the rules and regs.

7           This business appeared to have a soda  
8 fountain in it and they were serving beverages. So I'm  
9 going to make a motion to impose a penalty for 17:30-  
10 1112(a)(1) for \$2,500 and N.J.A.C., 17:30-6.5(a)(1)  
11 would be zero, N.J.A.C 17:30-11.3(e) would be \$1,000.

12           CHAIR: So that would be a total of  
13 \$4,000, is that correct?

14           VICE CHAIR: That is correct.

15           CHAIR: Thank you. Is there any  
16 discussion on this motion? Hearing no --

17           MS. MAPP: I do.

18           CHAIR: Commissioner.

19           MS. MAPP: Yeah, I do agree with  
20 Commissioner Nash that these businesses come out, and  
21 they know what is expected of them but yet they try to  
22 break the rules and circumvent the process.

23           CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Mapp. And  
24 I realize that I forgot, so we have a motion on the  
25 floor that has been presented by Vice Chair Nash for a

1 total of \$4,000 fine. Is there a second on this  
2 motion?

3 MS. MAPP: Yes, I second. I meant --

4 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp.  
5 It's all right. Is there any discussion, additional  
6 discussion on this motion? Hearing no further  
7 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

8 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

9 MS. MAPP: Yes.

10 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

11 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

12 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

13 CHAIR: Yes.

14 SECRETARY: The motion passes.

15 MR. TUASON: Next enforcement action INV-  
16 128-2025. Notice of violation was issued to CannaBoy  
17 Treehouse, LLC for failure to adhere to the law and  
18 regulations by permitting cannabis items to be  
19 available for sampling at no charge. And based on  
20 facts and circumstances staff does recommend that  
21 enforcement action be taken. And with that, I turn it  
22 back over to you, Madam Chair for a board vote.

23 CHAIR: Thank you Chief Counsel. Any  
24 questions from the board? Hearing no questions is  
25 there a motion on this matter?

1                   VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to issue  
2 a monetary penalty of \$500. And this is based on  
3 precedence.

4                   CHAIR: Is there a second?

5                   MS. MAPP: Madam Chair, I will second but  
6 I think that the businesses need to understand that our  
7 rules and regs has no sampling. So I would second  
8 based on that.

9                   CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Mapp. Is  
10 there any discussion on this motion to impose the  
11 monetary penalty of \$500? Hearing no discussion, Mr.  
12 Said, can you please call the vote?

13                   SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

14                   MS. MAPP: Yes.

15                   SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

16                   VICE CHAIR: Yes.

17                   SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

18                   CHAIR: Yes.

19                   SECRETARY: The motion passes.

20                   MR. TUASON: And the last enforcement  
21 action for consideration today is INV-141-2025. Notice  
22 of violation was issued to The Social Leaf for failure  
23 to adhere to the regulations and they had an  
24 advertisement on the boardwalk and they failed to  
25 provide reliable evidence that at least 71.6 percent of

1 the audience was 21 or older.

2 Based on the facts and circumstances, we  
3 do recommend that an enforcement action be taken. And  
4 with that, we turn it back over to you, Madam Chair for  
5 a vote.

6 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Any  
7 questions from the board? Hearing no questions, is  
8 there a motion on this matter?

9 MS. MAPP: Madam Chair, Social Leaf has  
10 explained that they did not put the sign, they did not  
11 move the sign, but that is hard for us to decipher.  
12 And the fact that they cannot prove to us what  
13 percentage of the population was above the legal age  
14 and who would've seen that sign, I think that we should  
15 impose a fine for a \$500.

16 VICE CHAIR: And I'll second that. I did  
17 see a photograph that was provided to the board of the  
18 sign, and it wasn't something that was temporarily put  
19 up on a chain link fence. I mean, I think it would  
20 actually require some tools to put that sign up.

21 So you know whether it was an accident or  
22 a mistake or deliberate, we'll never know, but it was  
23 certainly put up to withstand maybe a Hurricane Sandy.  
24 So I second that.

25 CHAIR: All right. Thank you. Moved and

1 seconded. Is there any discussion on this motion? I  
2 think it is very clear that this sign, this  
3 advertisement was intended to be on the chain link  
4 fence where it was found which was right to a pretzel  
5 shop on the boardwalk. The fence on which the  
6 advertisement was secured was actually the fence around  
7 a basketball court.

8                   So I think the facts here are very clear.  
9 I don't buy the response from the business here that  
10 somebody else took what looks like it could be like a  
11 six or seven, maybe eight-foot sign and just randomly  
12 walked off with it and decided on their own volition to  
13 put it up on this chain link fence.

14                   And so our businesses really need to do  
15 better. Be smarter about this, like you can advertise,  
16 we allow advertisement, but you have to adhere to the  
17 statutory rules. This is written in the law. This is  
18 not something that's created by CRC. This is written  
19 into the CREAMM Act.

20                   Any advertisement has to come with some  
21 assurances that the audience is going to be of legal  
22 age. Sticking this up next to a basketball court --  
23 between a basketball court and a pretzel shop on the  
24 boardwalk, on a beach boardwalk, doesn't cut it. Any  
25 additional discussion on this motion? Hearing no

1 further discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the  
2 vote?

3 SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

4 MS. MAPP: Yes.

5 SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

6 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

7 SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

8 CHAIR: I'm going to vote yes. I think  
9 the penalty should actually be a little higher given  
10 the proximity to the surroundings that the  
11 advertisement was in. But I'm going to support this  
12 motion and vote yes.

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

16 CHAIR: All right. So as we open the  
17 floor for public comment. Just want to remind folks  
18 that you can submit written comments to the commission  
19 by going to our website [nj.gov/cannabis/meetings](http://nj.gov/cannabis/meetings). The  
20 deadline for submitting written comments for today's  
21 meeting is 5:00 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, December 18th.

22 Written comments will be shared with the  
23 commission members, and they will be made public. I  
24 believe we've got one person; we've got somebody  
25 joining us by phone. So Mr. Said will call on the

1 folks who had registered to speak. When you hear your  
2 name called use the raise your hand function in the  
3 Zoom platform so that our staff can identify you and  
4 unmute you for you to then share your comments.

5           If you're dialing by phone, when you hear  
6 your name called, press \*9 to raise your hand and then  
7 you will press \*6 to unmute yourself. All right. So  
8 for those folks joining us by phone, it's \*9 to raise  
9 your hand and \*6 to unmute yourself once you've been  
10 given the green light from our staff.

11           As always our speakers will be limited to  
12 three minutes. When you see your time is up, please  
13 wrap up your comments and so that everyone can have an  
14 opportunity to be heard. With that, Mr. Said, can you  
15 please call on our first speakers.

16           SECRETARY: Thank you, Chairwoman. As a  
17 reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's  
18 public comment period will be limited to three minutes.  
19 Please be respectful and concise during your comments.  
20 I will also give a 30 second warning just to give you a  
21 heads up of your time.

22           The first person I have on the list is  
23 Matha Figaro. Last four of their telephone number is  
24 9238. If you're in the room, please raise your hand.  
25 Matha Figaro, 9238 is the last four. I don't see that

1 person.

2           The next person on the list is Thomas  
3 Norcia. Last four of the telephone number is 2406. If  
4 you're in the room, please raise your hand. Thomas  
5 Norcia, 2406 is the telephone number. I don't see that  
6 person.

7           The next person is Jesse Villars. If  
8 you're in the room, please your hand. All right. I  
9 see you, Jessica. Jessica the floor is yours.

10           MS. JESSE MARIE VILLARS: Can you hear me?

11           SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you.

12           MS. VILLARS: Thank you. Good afternoon.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'm  
14 Jesse Marie Villars, owner and CEO of Baked by the  
15 River Dispensary in Lambertville, New Jersey. I'm  
16 going to keep my comment to one topic today. I would  
17 like to request that the CRC reimplement the  
18 provisional badging process for employee badges. I  
19 don't know what the reasoning was for getting rid of  
20 this process, but it's caused considerable hardship to  
21 my micro business.

22           Micro businesses are restricted by the CRC  
23 on how many employees we're allowed to employ. So our  
24 teams are by mandate smaller. Not being able to  
25 replace employees when they need to leave suddenly

1 disproportionately hurts a small team who then need to  
2 all work extra to cover.

3 I'm not in support of the level of  
4 fingerprinting and background checks required for  
5 cannabis employee badges in general. It prevents good,  
6 hardworking folks, some of whom are cannabis experts,  
7 from being able to work in the industry. I understand  
8 that requirement is not going to change but you could  
9 make changes to bring back the provisional badging  
10 process.

11 It should be up to the employer if they  
12 are willing to take the presumed 'risk' of letting an  
13 employee start before getting their clearances back.  
14 My small business hired new staff early in October and  
15 we were able to schedule their fingerprinting for mid-  
16 October. We didn't get their clearance back until the  
17 first week of December, nearly seven weeks later.

18 That was extra hands we desperately could  
19 have used for Halloween, Green Wednesday, and the busy  
20 season in general. With delays that can last close to  
21 two months, we're putting new hires in the difficult  
22 and sometimes impossible situation of giving notice at  
23 a prior job but then needing to wait possibly month or  
24 more without pay before starting a new position.

25 This, even if unintentional, creates

1 inequitable access to employment in the cannabis  
2 industry. By in addition to requiring a background  
3 check, setting up a system that only works for new  
4 hires who are able to financially wait an unspecified  
5 amount of weeks before starting their new job. Not  
6 everyone can afford that wait.

7           And it's not just my business that's had  
8 to deal with this problem. I've had delayed deliveries  
9 and even entirely missed orders because of operators  
10 who I work with who are short staffed and unable to  
11 hire new employees in a reasonable timeframe.

12           There is a general delay in fingerprinting  
13 and background check process on the state level and  
14 considering that's the situation, I ask that the CRC do  
15 what you can for the cannabis licensees. Please bring  
16 back the provisional badging process even if you may  
17 need to make adjustments to it. There needs to be the  
18 option just to keep an employee clearance workable for  
19 businesses and employees in order to maintain a well-  
20 functioning cannabis industry. Thank you so much --

21           SECRETARY: Thirty seconds more.

22           MS. VILLARS: -- for your time today. I  
23 appreciate you.

24           SECRETARY: Thank you, Jessica. The next  
25 person on the list is John Giovannitti. Last four of

1 the telephone number is 4624. John Giovannitti, I  
2 don't see that person. The next person on the list is  
3 Kelly Gatto, last four is 4129. If you're in the room,  
4 please raise your hand. Kelly Gatto, 4129 of the last  
5 four of the telephone number. I don't see that person.

6 The next person on the list is Andrea  
7 Raible, last four of the telephone number is 0229.  
8 Andrea Raible, last four is 0229. I don't see that  
9 person. The next person on the list is Madique Tusaac,  
10 last four of the telephone number is 9504. Madique  
11 Tusaac, last four, 9504. If you're in the room, please  
12 raise your hand. I don't see that person.

13 The next person on the list is Ramon  
14 Azcuidiaz, excuse me please. Ramon Azcuidiaz, last  
15 four is 9427. All right. I see you Ramon. Ramon you  
16 have the floor. If you are trying to speak to unmute  
17 yourself is \*6.

18 MR. RAMON AZCUIDIAZ: Hello?

19 SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you now.

20 MR. AZCUIDIAZ: Thank you. I just wanted  
21 to start by saying I was in favor of what Jessica from  
22 Baked by the River had said. She made some very good  
23 points, and I just wanted to point that out.

24 Secondly, I just want to thank the  
25 committee for their time, and I'd also like to request

1 that if it was just possible to get some more  
2 information regarding the breakdown in the increase in  
3 sales. I guess, just breakdown on the numbers in  
4 general based on the actual licenses.

5 I know that they were requesting to  
6 increase the SEEF tax, I believe it was up to \$30. I  
7 think that's like a 1,100 percent increase which as we  
8 know raise prices for the consumers possibly creating a  
9 death spiral situation where taxes continue to go up.  
10 I'm sorry if I maybe am a little uneducated about how  
11 that process works, but I was just looking to see if we  
12 can get more information as to how -- where the actual  
13 sales increase is coming from as well as the price  
14 decrease the actual average price that we get.

15 Is that a price decrease coming from  
16 distributors? Is that from retailers, consumers,  
17 wholesalers? Like if we can get more information just  
18 based off that and do some research there maybe the  
19 public would be able to better help out in giving an  
20 opinion on what we think about the SEEF taxes being as  
21 we're hoping that the taxes get spent in the most  
22 efficient way to benefit those who were maybe  
23 negatively impacted by previous marijuana laws as well  
24 as maybe just overall better helping the community who  
25 is mostly affected in these areas.

1 I'd also like to just make the suggestion  
2 that if we can distribute some of that money -- I'm  
3 sure there's been prior conversations. This is my  
4 first time actually in one of these meetings, so again,  
5 thank you.

6 But yeah, if we could spend some of that  
7 more money towards affordable housing, I feel like that  
8 would definitely be like overall just great use of the  
9 money to help everyone who's been affected just by  
10 helping to lower housing prices. I do understand that  
11 that may come with certain difficulty or pushback as  
12 far as --

13 SECRETARY: Thirty seconds.

14 MR. AZCUIDIAZ: -- if that's actually  
15 helpful, but if that money could be, you know, given to  
16 the affordable housing trust fund and we see that it's  
17 not just benefiting developers but actually benefiting  
18 the communities effective, that would be awesome.  
19 Thank you so much.

20 SECRETARY: Thank you, Ramon. The next  
21 person on the list is Elliott McClendon, last four is  
22 0984. Elliot McClendon, 0984. All right. I see you,  
23 Elliott. You have the floor Elliott.

24 MR. ELLIOTT MCCLENDON: Good afternoon  
25 Counsel. I wanted to say thank you for this. I just

1 have a quick question. We were awarded our annual  
2 license today and we want to know what are the next  
3 steps. We haven't received any emails or notifications  
4 yet.

5 CHAIR: Mr. McClendon, the commission will  
6 provide for any business that had their license  
7 application approved today. During today's board  
8 meeting, the commission will follow up via email with a  
9 written correspondence notifying the business of the  
10 next steps and what it means going forward.

11 From there businesses are typically  
12 contacted by the Office of Compliance and  
13 Investigations letting you know who your assigned  
14 compliance officer will be for the next steps. That'll  
15 be the person who is going to be your main point of  
16 contact to know how you actually get from today to  
17 getting the license issued to you so you can be up and  
18 get operational.

19 So next steps for any business that has  
20 gotten their application approved today will be getting  
21 written correspondence from the commission documenting  
22 the approval and explaining what your next steps are.

23 MR. MCCLENDON: Thank you. I appreciate  
24 that and happy holidays.

25 CHAIR: Thank you.

1                   SECRETARY: The next person on the list is  
2 Michael Palmieri, last four of the telephone number is  
3 5077. Michael Palmieri, 5077. All right. I see you  
4 Michael. Michael you have the floor. To unmute  
5 yourself it's \*6.

6                   MR. MICHAEL PALMIERI: Hello?

7                   SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you.

8                   MR. PALMIERI: Okay. Perfect. Good  
9 afternoon, Chair and Commissioners. My name is Michael  
10 Palmier. I'm a Cannabis Complaints and Regulatory  
11 Counsel who works closely with social equity and early  
12 stage operators as they move through build outs, first  
13 operations and renewal. I'm not opposing digital  
14 equity XIC, I support its statutory purpose.

15                   My comment is focused on implementation,  
16 timing, and structure. In practice the first renewal  
17 cycle is the point of peak financial and compliance  
18 pressure for social equity operators. At that stage,  
19 operators are simultaneously managing renewal  
20 disclosures, retrospective compliance review,  
21 outstanding remediation, and ongoing operating costs.

22                   If a flat or accelerated fee adjustment is  
23 applied at that moment without phase in or renewal  
24 stage relief, it can unintentionally create liquidity  
25 stress that does not improve compliance outcomes.

1 Instead, it risks delayed remediation, short-term  
2 workarounds or market exit by otherwise compliant  
3 operators.

4 My suggestion is not to change the policy  
5 goal, but to consider whether implementation, timing or  
6 staging could better align with renewal realities and  
7 support long-term compliance and market stability.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to share these  
9 observations and that's it.

10 SECRETARY: Thank you, Michael. I am  
11 going to go over the list of those that haven't spoken  
12 that registered to speak and haven't had a chance to  
13 speak. Matha Figaro, last four of the telephone number  
14 is 9238, if you're in the room, Matha Figaro last four  
15 is 9238.

16 Thomas Norcia, last four of the telephone  
17 number 2406, Thomas Norcia, 2406. John Giovannitti,  
18 last four is 4624, John Giovannitti. Kelly Gatto, last  
19 four of the telephone number is 4129. Kelly Gatto,  
20 4129. Andrea Raible, last four of the telephone is  
21 0229. All right. I see you Andrea. Andrea you have  
22 the floor, and to unmute yourself it's \*6 when you're  
23 calling in.

24 MS. ANDREA RAIBLE: Hello, can you hear  
25 me?

1                   SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you.

2                   MS. RAIBLE: Okay. Perfect. My name is  
3 Andrea Raible. I'll keep my comments brief today. I  
4 just wanted to say thank you for sharing more  
5 information about the lab investigation. I know a lot  
6 goes on behind the scenes, but it really means a lot  
7 that you're taking the time to update the public.

8                   As we've seen from the data that Director  
9 Riggs shared, even having these conversations publicly  
10 can have a positive impact on safety. I would love to  
11 see more data roll out and look forward to hopefully  
12 seeing more metric data and things like that released  
13 in the coming year. I am hopeful that as we continue  
14 to look into the data, we'll see ways where we can  
15 improve the program and improve safety rather than just  
16 be left with a lot of question marks.

17                   I also appreciate that you took the time  
18 for the certification of sufficient testing capacity.  
19 Our state does have a number of licensed labs than they  
20 are able to handle the workload. I hopefully see the  
21 market develop in this way as we go into 2026. We can  
22 look to revisit the testing batch size. If we have  
23 sufficient testing capacity, let's try to use it in the  
24 most effective way. A hundred pound batch size is not  
25 necessarily representative and that could be part of

1 the reason we're seeing such confusing data when it  
2 comes to total yeast and mold counts or potency  
3 inflation. If we are able to address the batch size  
4 and bring it closer towards the national average, we  
5 might also see an improvement in our data.

6 I -- again, just can't say thank you  
7 enough for actually taking this issue seriously and  
8 looking into it and continuing. I know it's been a  
9 tough year without full commission, but I believe you  
10 guys have covered a lot of ground and laid a lot of  
11 groundwork for the coming year.

12 I hope to see more patient and consumer  
13 involvement. I know you are working towards some town  
14 halls and round tables and things like that. I would  
15 love to see a focus in 2026 on the medical program  
16 again. Safety affects the entire industry, but our  
17 medical program is dwindling. We're down to what  
18 51,000 patients now. (Inaudible) our market is  
19 ensuring and I am sure our medical program does too.

20 Thank you for all you're doing to work on  
21 safety and to move the needle forward. I look forward  
22 to what you accomplish in 2026. Have a great day.  
23 Happy holidays.

24 SECRETARY: Thank you, Andrea. The next  
25 person is Madique Tusaac. Madique Tusaac, last four of

1 the telephone number is 9504. I don't see that person.  
2 Chairwoman Houenou, this will conclude the registered  
3 speakers we have for today's public meeting.

4 CHAIR: Thank you Mr. Said. And thank you  
5 to everyone who joined us to share their experiences  
6 and their ideas for the commission. This concludes the  
7 business before us today. And with that I move that we  
8 adjourn. Is there a second?

9 VICE CHAIR: Second.

10 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Nash. Any  
11 discussion on this motion to adjourn? Hearing none,  
12 all those in favor of adjourning say, aye.

13 MS. MAPP: Aye.

14 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

15 CHAIR: All those opposing say, nay. Any  
16 abstentions? The motion passes. So the time is 3:42  
17 and we are adjourned for today. Thank you again  
18 everyone. Happy holidays and happy New Year and we  
19 will see you in 2026. Take care everyone.

20 MS. MAPP: Thank you.

21 (Meeting concluded)

22

23

24

25