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JACQUELINE FERRARO, *Vice Chair*
AMELIA MAPP, *Commissioner*
KRISTA NASH, *Commissioner*
CHRIS RIGGS, *Acting Executive Director*

NEW JERSEY
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, May 14, 2026

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NEW JERSEY CANNABIS
REGULATORY COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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3 HARRIS LAUFER, Chair

4 JACQUELINE FERRARO, Vice Chair

5 AMELIA MAPP

6 KRISTA NASH

7 CHRISTOPHER RIGGS

8 WESLEY MCWHITE

9 DAVE TUASON

10 DANIEL SAID, Secretary

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1 VICE CHAIR: Hey, hey, hey. Can you hear
2 me? Hello, hello? Check, check, check.

3 CHAIR: Yeah. No problem. Are we good?
4 All right.

5 Welcome to the May 14th meeting of the
6 Cannabis Regulatory Commission.

7 Mr. Said, can you please read the
8 statement of compliance?

9 THE SECRETARY: Chairman, this is a
10 regularly scheduled meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis
11 Regulatory Commission's 2026 annual meeting schedule.
12 Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in
13 accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public
14 Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was provided to
15 the Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record, Courier-Post,
16 Star-Ledger, and the Trenton Times on December 8th
17 2025. The agenda and information regarding the in-
18 person meeting and the ability to live stream was also
19 posted on the CRC website. The meeting time and
20 location has also been posted on the website of the New
21 Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission and with the
22 Office of the Secretary of the State.

23 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said.

24 Rise for the pledge of allegiance, and
25 then we'll go into closed session.

1 I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the
2 United States of America, and to the Republic for which
3 it stands, one nation under G-d, indivisible, with
4 liberty and justice for all.

5 Is there a motion to go into closed
6 session?

7 Mr. Said, please call the roll.

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

9 MS. AMELIA MAPP: Present.

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

11 MS. KRISTA NASH: Present.

12 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

13 VICE CHAIR: Present.

14 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer.

15 CHAIR: Present.

16 THE SECRETARY: We now have a quorum.

17 CHAIR: Awesome.

18 Is there a motion to go into closed
19 session?

20 MS. MAPP: So moved.

21 CHAIR: Is there a second?

22 VICE CHAIR: Second.

23 CHAIR: All in favor? Closed session
24 should take about one hour.

25 MS. MAPP: Aye.

1 MS. NASH: Aye.

2 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

3 CHAIR: I was just about to say all in
4 favor. All in favor?

5 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

6 MS. NASH: Aye.

7 MS. MAPP: Aye.

8 CHAIR: We're in closed.

9 We are -- we are good to go. So the next
10 order of business is approval of the prior meeting's
11 minutes. Is there a motion to approve the prior
12 meeting minutes?

13 MS. MAPP: So moved.

14 MS. NASH: Second.

15 CHAIR: All in favor?

16 MS. MAPP: Aye.

17 MS. NASH: Aye.

18 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

19 CHAIR: So I'll -- I'm going to be quick
20 in terms of a chair's report. So we've -- we've
21 reorganized the committee structure for the Cannabis
22 Regulatory Commission, and we've done this with the
23 idea of being a better partner to the industry, a
24 better partner to the social justice community, and a
25 better partner to the agricultural community and to

1 state government.

2 So the -- the full list of committees will
3 be posted on the website, but I just want to say that
4 we're -- we're in the midst of -- of trying to improve
5 on where we've been, and Dianna left us in a really
6 good place, and we thank her, but we're -- we're moving
7 to the next chapter.

8 And in that vein, I want to announce two
9 new initiatives. We're gonna be starting a social
10 justice roundtable with -- which is gonna be led by
11 Commissioner Mapp and myself. We're gonna hit -- we're
12 gonna go on the road with Director McWhite, and we're
13 also gonna have a business community roundtable, which
14 is gonna -- which is gonna hit all of the types of
15 businesses in the state, whether it's MSOs, whether
16 it's small businesses and micro businesses, whether
17 it's, you know, independent dispensaries or grow houses
18 or manufacturers. And that's gonna be led by Vice
19 Chair Ferraro.

20 Another thing that we're gonna be doing is
21 we're gonna be highlighting, you know, what -- what the
22 labor movement in the cannabis space is going to look
23 like, and that's gonna be led by Commissioner Nash, and
24 she's gonna chair our labor committee, as I see members
25 of organized labor in the back. Good to see you. And

1 we're gonna -- we're gonna try and see how we can be a
2 better partner to the labor movement.

3 Finally, we're gonna start -- we're gonna
4 start our 2026 look at the social equity excise fee.
5 We're gonna do that, and we're gonna try and be more
6 deliberate about it to see how we can make a bigger
7 impact without -- without raising prices on consumers
8 in a big way.

9 And I did -- I did miss -- one final thing
10 is we're -- we're getting very close on our -- our cost
11 of regulatory compliance survey, which is being --
12 which is being championed by Director Riggs, the rest
13 of the staff, and -- and we look forward to seeing how
14 we take the results of that survey and adapting it to
15 more erudite, more -- you know, both safety, equity and
16 business-friendly regulations.

17 So that's -- you know, and it wouldn't be
18 a chair's report without saying, listen to your
19 compliance officer. So please listen to your
20 compliance officer.

21 And that concludes my chair's report.

22 Director Riggs.

23 MR. CHRISTOPHER RIGGS: Thank you, chair.
24 We're gonna have a quarterly data report for you today,
25 so both myself and Director McWhite will be reporting

1 out on some data as we do every quarter related to the
2 market, the demographics in the market, and the like.
3 So if I could get the next slide, please.

4 So updates on dispensary openings, we have
5 four new dispensaries open since we met last at the end
6 of April. We have more than 300 dispensaries open in
7 all 21 counties currently.

8 Licensing update, license is approved as
9 of May 4th of 2026. A little over 3,000 applications
10 have been submitted into our licensing portal. Kudos
11 to our licensing team for getting through all those
12 applications. 2,500 of them have been approved. 408
13 applications are still under the review in the Office
14 of Licensing, with 136 pending resubmission following
15 something wrong with the application, so they got a
16 cure letter. 147 of those applications remain under
17 investigation in our Office of Compliance and
18 Investigation.

19 Total licenses approved today -- as of May
20 4th 2026, 1,681 conditionals, 495, close to 500
21 conditional to annual conversions, 344 annual licenses
22 with 90 expanded alternative treatment centers.

23 Up today for consideration, we have nine
24 ownership changes. Apologies for the slide. The slide
25 needs to be amended. We have nine ownership changes,

1 one site modification, one conditional to annual
2 conversion, five annual licenses. That slide needs to
3 be updated as well. 12 annual license renewals that
4 are going for administrative extension.

5 Current patient enrollment numbers, as of
6 May 8th of 2026, we have 46,000 patients -- a little
7 more than 46,000 patients enrolled in our medical
8 program, a little more than 3,000 caregivers, with
9 1,500 doctors enrolled in the program.

10 And getting to the cost of regulatory
11 compliance survey that the chair recently mentioned, we
12 are getting to the end of that survey. So this is our
13 last ditch effort to ask the industry to ask our
14 licensees to please, please, please participate in that
15 survey. In partnership with NJIT, we put out this
16 survey to go through some of the topics that are major
17 cost drivers for licensees, the licensing process
18 costs, technologically -- technology systems reporting,
19 workforce training, testing and quality insurance, and
20 how -- how do you really feel about the CRC and what
21 kind of job we're doing.

22 NJIT is offering an incentive to
23 licensees. You'll be entered into a drawing to get a
24 \$500 incentive. So please check your e-mail, look for
25 that e-mail and participate in that survey.

1 And now to the data. For 2025, these are
2 our certified sales over the calendar year, so almost
3 \$1.2 billion in total adult use sales. Year-over-year
4 change is almost 12 percent. We're up almost 12
5 percent from last year in the calendar year of 2024.
6 We are seeing our medical sales decline. They are --
7 they are down about 45 percent.

8 The revenue, based upon those sales, you
9 see the revenue. These are all certified by the
10 Department of Treasury. Again, it's up just like the
11 sales, about -- about 11 percent, 11 and a-half
12 percent. Under sales and use tax, we're close to \$68
13 million, and then we're social equity excise fees
14 around \$11 million for the calendar year of 2025.

15 This slide's important because it shows
16 change in sales, transaction, and price over time, so I
17 think it -- it really gives a good picture of the
18 health and the growth of the New Jersey cannabis
19 market. Since January of 2023, our transactions are up
20 74 percent. So that means there's more people buying.
21 The transactions are up. The prices declined about 48
22 percent. So the price is getting lower, transactions
23 are going up, and sales are also going up. Sales are
24 up 52 percent, but transactions are outpacing -- are
25 outpacing the sales figures, the dollar numbers,

1 because the price is down. So this kind of gives you
2 that snapshot of the health of the cannabis market.

3 This is distribution by county for our
4 sales. So Camden County is in the lead with 10 and a-
5 half percent of our sales. You do see some deserts in
6 the southern part of the state and in the northwest
7 part of the state, but this will just give you a
8 distribution of where the sales are and where -- where
9 people are buying cannabis in New Jersey.

10 Here's a -- here's a snapshot from April
11 2025 to April 2026 of total sales by month. Of note
12 here, in April 2026, 108 million, almost 109 million.
13 That is a record number for -- for the Cannabis
14 Regulatory Commission since its existence. So even
15 though our price -- and I'll get to that in the next
16 few slides. Even though the price is falling, we're
17 still seeing a significant increase in sales, up 20
18 percent from April of 2025.

19 CHAIR: Christmas is also very popular.

20 MR. RIGGS: Yeah. You got it, chair.

21 Here's the adult use flower price program.
22 As you see, it drops. It dropped significantly. Last
23 year in April of 2025, we were closer to \$9. We were
24 at \$8 and \$0.86 per gram. Now we're at \$6 and \$0.80
25 per gram. So the price is significantly dropping, and

1 it's a -- it's a good thing for the market.

2 Medical program sales, this is just giving
3 you a snapshot of the total sales from April 25 to
4 2026. We're down about 42 and a-half percent. I
5 attribute this to more people buying the adult use
6 cannabis over the counter, right? We've entered into
7 adult use program. We've made dispensaries available
8 in all 21 counties, and people are gonna go buy
9 cannabis where cannabis is available. And I feel that
10 some patients are now turning to over-the-counter
11 medicine or over-the-counter medicinal use, but we are
12 still seeing medical program sales drop.

13 And this is -- this is, again medical
14 flower price program. Year-over-year change, less --
15 you know, a little bit more than the adult use program,
16 but it's still under \$7 per gram currently, and it's
17 dropped from \$8 and \$0.41 from last April of 2025.

18 Here's an adult use product mix by
19 category. You can see that button flower is still
20 around 40 percent -- 41 percent of our -- of our -- of
21 our market, but you're seeing that some of these
22 manufacturing products are really getting a hold of the
23 market a little bit here. You have vape carts,
24 edibles, concentrates. They're starting to get a
25 little bit of hold of the -- of the market in New

1 Jersey.

2 Pounds harvested by month, you're seeing
3 here all the pounds of wet weight flower that were
4 harvested by month. You'll see we had a huge increase
5 in March of 2026 with 240,000, almost 241,000 pounds.
6 So this is another data point that we like to look at
7 to see the health of the market, the trends in the
8 market, and those types of things.

9 These are THCA testing value averages over
10 the last 13 months, and I think it's significant to
11 show that it's up 1.2 percent from April 2025. So
12 what's being reported on packaging and labeling, the
13 average is up 1.2 percent, which is a year-over-year
14 change and 4.2% percent.

15 We're keeping a -- we're looking at this
16 data. We do have our lab scientist now on board at the
17 CRC. She's been out to these laboratories, and there's
18 some positive changes, and you'll see that in the next
19 few slides related to total yeast and mold.

20 These are the average testing values by
21 lab over the last 13 months. You'll see that we have -
22 - if you watch at that green line, the reason it's
23 circled there, and you look at the green line, it's
24 starting to get down into the median, and it's
25 significant because that's about the time that we

1 started to have our lab scientists go out and look --
2 and be at the labs and look how they're doing the
3 testing. And we had boots on the ground. So you're
4 gonna -- you're seeing everything start to kind of come
5 down, come to the median, and hopefully that's a good
6 sign for the future.

7 Total yeast and mold failure rates, you'll
8 see we're up 307 percent from April 25 till April 26,
9 which is great. The increase is significant. You're
10 seeing 3.41 percent fail. National average is
11 somewhere around 5 percent. Some of the labs -- most
12 of the labs are there and -- and looking and -- and
13 reaching that national average. And again, that's
14 attributed to having a lab scientist, having the
15 expertise, having somebody out there to look at these
16 things to make sure they're doing the test properly.

17 And this is -- this is the total yeast and
18 mold testing rates for the last 13 months. You'll see
19 Lab A did 540 tests in April 2025. In April 2026, they
20 did 621. While in April 25, they had zero failure
21 rates for total yeast and mold. Now they're up to 4
22 percent, which is close to the 5 percent national
23 average. So that's attributed to not only issuing NOV's
24 to these labs to make sure they're doing the test
25 appropriately within the Maryland guidance, but also

1 because we have the lab scientists expertise and we
2 have that individual making sure that her unit is
3 focused on ensuring that we have safe cannabis that
4 gets to the consumers.

5 And that concludes my portion of the data
6 report, so I am going to turn it over to Wesley
7 McWhite, our Director of the Office of Diversity and
8 Inclusion, to give some data on the demographics within
9 our market.

10 MR. WESLEY MCWHITE: Thank you, Executive
11 Director Riggs.

12 We are having some technical difficulties
13 with some of the imaging with our slides, so I think,
14 chair, if we could just pause for maybe five minutes
15 until we -- until we --

16 CHAIR: Take five.

17 MR. MCWHITE: -- get everything situated.
18 Thank you so much.

19 And we're back. Okay. Apologies for the
20 delay. As always, our full unedited report will be on
21 our website and also the full slide deck will be on our
22 website shortly after our meeting.

23 So good afternoon -- is it afternoon?
24 Yes. Good afternoon, everyone. We're gonna quickly go
25 over our diversity and inclusion quarterly data update.

1 Remember, this is only a smaller abbreviated version.
2 The full deck will be on our website.

3 So starting off always with our benchmark
4 data. Again, for the maybe third or fourth year in a
5 row we continue to exceed all of our benchmarks.
6 First, starting with our microbusiness benchmark. Of
7 our 824 licensed businesses, 34 percent of those are
8 micro-small businesses, surpassing that 25 percent
9 benchmark by 9 percent. We have 479 microbusiness
10 retailers, 198 cultivators, which is really great to
11 hear and see, and 114 manufacturers, 26 delivery, 5
12 wholesalers, and 2 distributors.

13 Our diversely owned benchmark, we continue
14 to beat our streak here for the third or fourth year in
15 a row with minority and women or disabled veteran-owned
16 businesses. According to the benchmark and statute,
17 we're seeing 47 percent of our licenses have been
18 awarded to minority-owned businesses, surpassing our 15
19 percent benchmark by 32 percent. 43 percent of our
20 awarded licenses, issued licenses, have been awarded to
21 women or disabled veteran-owned businesses, passing
22 that statutory benchmark by 28 percent.

23 Diversely owned businesses, of the 800 --
24 diversely owned and social equity businesses, of the
25 805 annual license awardees, 143 of those, 18 percent,

1 are social equity businesses, and 539 are diversely
2 owned businesses, 67 percent. And these are still some
3 of the most highest diversity -- diversely owned
4 businesses and social equity-owned businesses in the
5 country. And this next slide continues to prove that
6 point.

7 We continue to look for external partners
8 with data that try to capture as much as -- of -- of
9 the licensure at the national level. Because
10 licensures are measured differently in different
11 states, we find that this methodology and this report
12 from the Minority Cannabis Business Association is most
13 accurate, and we are seeing 47 percent of our minority-
14 owned licenses have been awarded. The national average
15 is under 20 percent at 19. 40 percent of our licenses
16 are women-owned businesses, and the national average is
17 16 percent, which is a major victory here in New Jersey
18 that we want to continue to build on.

19 Our benchmarks excluding expansions, we
20 want to make sure that we are continuing to monitor
21 this over -- over the years. We haven't seen much dip
22 or change. If we take out expansions, we're still
23 seeing good representation from independent New Jersey
24 homegrown, no pun intended, operating businesses. 47
25 percent of those are still minority-owned, and 43

1 percent of those are still women or disabled veteran-
2 owned.

3 Continuing to monitor, we continue to hear
4 your feedback from the industry about sort of what data
5 points you want to hear. And these were one of our
6 data points we've added over the last couple of years
7 of operational business licenses. We have 564 current
8 operating licenses. 323 of those are retailers. 76 of
9 those are manufacturers. 57 of those are medical
10 dispensaries. 61 are cultivators. And as you can see
11 there, we're continuing to see an increase of folks
12 getting open and operating.

13 Special shout out to our licensing team,
14 to our compliance and investigations team in ushering
15 people in from submitting their application all the way
16 to open and operating.

17 Business key categories we're monitoring
18 that are open and operating, so 47 percent of operating
19 businesses are impact zone businesses. 12 percent of
20 our operating businesses are owned by someone with a
21 previous marijuana conviction. 31 percent of those our
22 owned and operating are microbusinesses. 16 percent of
23 our owned and operating businesses are social equity,
24 and 68 percent, a majority of our licensed -- our
25 operating businesses are diversely owned.

1 Licensed to operate under the CREAMM Act,
2 according to our DORES certification, 133 of those are
3 -- have no certification, 101 are minority-owned, 95
4 are women-owned, 65 are minority and women-owned, 15
5 are disabled veteran-owned, four are disabled veteran
6 and minority-owned, and one is disabled veteran
7 minority and women-owned.

8 Want to go over our adult use sales total
9 by month and then break those down by category. So as
10 you can see, we have seen a year-over-year change from
11 April 2025 to April 2026 of a 20 percent increase year-
12 over-year in sales. We've seen a major jump just above
13 \$3 billion from March 2026 to April 2026, still as
14 Executive Director Riggs said pointing to the health
15 and growth of our market.

16 Our total sales by month by social equity
17 individuals from April 2025 to April 2026 have -- has
18 also increased year over year. We've seen a net
19 increase in just about all of our key categories that
20 we're watching. From April 2025, 9.8 million sales of
21 our total sales were by social equity-owned and
22 operated businesses, jumping up to 11.7 million of open
23 and operating businesses by social equity folks, which
24 is a great increase that we want to continue to monitor
25 and -- and see more participation from -- from these

1 businesses.

2 Those with -- so this slide needs to be
3 updated. The margins on the left say October, but they
4 are still April 2025 to April 2026. As you can see,
5 those with criminal history businesses have seen an
6 increase from 4.1 million to 6.8 -- 6.6 million year
7 over year, with a significant increase from April --
8 March 2026 to April 2026.

9 Our economically disadvantaged areas, the
10 other part of that social equity definition, those that
11 live and -- or operate in economically disadvantaged
12 areas have seen a 60.2 percent increase in total number
13 of sales, which is amazing. From April 2025, we've
14 seen 3.7 percent of total sales from economically
15 disadvantaged areas, increasing all the way up to just
16 over 6 million in economically disadvantaged areas.

17 Our diversely owned businesses have seen
18 maybe the majority of that increase, the most jump in
19 increase, 40.7 million total sales in April 2025, up to
20 almost 56.9, almost 57 million in April 2026.

21 And disabled veteran-owned businesses, so
22 this one would be the only one that has seen just a
23 slight dip in total sales. April 2025, we've seen 1.7.
24 They had 1.7 million in sales, and it dipped just
25 slightly to -- to 1.4 million. This is not uncommon.

1 In other categories, particularly for diversely owned
2 businesses, they've seen a major dip last year in
3 sales. So we anticipate that this will continue to
4 grow. As an effort to make sure it does, we'll
5 continue to check in as the Office of Diversity and
6 Inclusion with our diversely owned businesses, being
7 that only 15 of them are open and operating. This is
8 still an incredible feat for those disabled veteran-
9 owned businesses, and we want to continue to make sure
10 that we're -- we're monitoring their -- their progress
11 as well.

12 Minority-owned businesses have also seen
13 one of the largest increases year over year in sales.
14 Last year, it was 23.6 million and has increased to
15 34.3 million.

16 And then lastly, women-owned businesses
17 have also seen a significant increase in sales. Last
18 year, it was 28.2, jumping all the way up to 38, just
19 under \$10 million and increase in sales.

20 And we want to continue to provide this
21 sort of data, and with the new initiatives, incoming
22 committees of this board and the collaborative work
23 that we are all getting ready to embark on, we want to
24 make sure that these sales numbers translate to what's
25 actually happening on the ground and seeing real impact

1 for our licensees and for our business owners.

2 And then lastly, we do have one new slide.
3 We want to continue to solicit feedback from the
4 industry. Glenn (ph), Nana (ph), and I, the team, have
5 been on the road a bit in these last couple of weeks,
6 so we've been soliciting feedback from folks about what
7 sorts of data points that we are able to provide to the
8 public that will help folks make better business
9 decisions and also support the health of the industry,
10 would also attract investors, renewed effort to attract
11 investors, new investors to New Jersey.

12 So as you can see, every category has seen
13 an increase in the number of pounds of weight they have
14 harvested, with the most increase, 262 percent year-
15 over-year change for microbusinesses, which is
16 incredible, which is amazing that more of our
17 cultivators are getting online. And this is something
18 that we'll continue to monitor and continue to pay
19 attention to.

20 And just before I turn it back over to the
21 chair, I just want to continue to remind folks to fill
22 out that survey. We worked really, really hard with
23 the Office of Data and Analytics in bringing leaders
24 together to make sure that we crafted -- helped NJIT
25 craft that survey. So we definitely want to see more

1 participation so that we can again, translate those
2 into lowering the cost of compliance.

3 And so just before we get started, I'll
4 turn it over to the chair. We are gonna pause for a
5 second to make sure that all of our -- the rest of our
6 slides are good to go. And thank you so much for --
7 for this opportunity to share the data slides.

8 CHAIR: Thank you. Impressive. I'm going
9 to vamp for like 30 seconds until you guys -- make sure
10 you guys are on the same page. But yeah, I mean, those
11 -- those numbers are -- those numbers are really,
12 really encouraging. And that's due to no small part to
13 your staff, to Commissioner Mapp, who's been out
14 everywhere in the community, so I give her a ton of
15 credit. And now you're gonna have to take us with you.

16 So remember just two at a time. We don't
17 wanna --

18 MS. MAPP: Got you.

19 CHAIR: We don't wanna give -- don't --
20 don't wanna give Dava a heart attack. But it says it's
21 on. Well, yeah.

22 MS. MAPP: (Inaudible).

23 CHAIR: How about now?

24 MS. MAPP: (Inaudible).

25 CHAIR: No, it is on. I promise you, it's

1 on. Do you want to do a switch since we're in the
2 middle of another time? It was on before. Yeah, no.

3 VICE CHAIR: It doesn't stay. The light
4 goes off.

5 CHAIR: I just turned that one off.

6 VICE CHAIR: That's what I mean, the
7 light.

8 MS. NASH: Yeah. (Inaudible).

9 CHAIR: That's -- that's better. That's
10 better. It's the same. Is this better just -- since
11 we're still vamping? Yeah. Okay. Good. Good to go?
12 There we go.

13 Applications for permit or license
14 changes. Director Riggs?

15 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, chair.

16 We have -- first, we have nine ownership
17 changes up for consideration today. There are nine
18 businesses that are proposing a transfer of ownership
19 or equity in their business. Each of these entities
20 has satisfied the regulatory requirements for an
21 ownership change. All the owners, the individuals
22 involved with the business that were required to be
23 vetted have been vetted by our Office of Compliance and
24 Investigations and they've been deemed qualified to
25 enter into the adult use market. And therefore, we're

1 recommending that the board approve these nine
2 ownerships in front of us today.

3 CHAIR: Okay. Are there any questions
4 from the board in terms of these ownership changes?
5 Seeing none, is there a motion to approve?

6 MS. MAPP: I make the motion that we
7 approve these ownership changes applications as
8 presented by Director Riggs.

9 CHAIR: Is there a second?

10 MS. NASH: Second.

11 CHAIR: Mr. Said, please call the roll.

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

13 MS. MAPP: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

15 MS. NASH: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

17 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

19 CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

21 The -- the next item we have up --

22 CHAIR: Yeah.

23 THE SECRETARY: -- for consideration?

24 CHAIR: Is site modifications.

25 Director Riggs, site modifications?

1 MR. RIGGS: Yes.

2 We have one site modification or change to
3 physical plan or canopy capacity before the board
4 today. It's actually a decrease to canopy capacity for
5 wellness. They're requesting to modify their canopy
6 capacity down from tier six to tier one, which cannot
7 exceed 10,000 square feet. Their site plans, standard
8 operating procedures, and every other document was
9 reviewed and deemed satisfactory by the Office of
10 Compliance and Investigation. And therefore, we are
11 recommending that the board approve this decrease in
12 cultivation canopy tier for Ayr Wellness. Thank you.

13 CHAIR: Okay.

14 THE SECRETARY: On this agenda item, Vice
15 Chair Ferraro has recused herself from this -- from
16 this modification change for Ayr Wellness due to an
17 ongoing professional relationship. On account of her
18 recusal, she will step out of the room while the board
19 considers this particular application. Afterward, Vice
20 Chair Ferraro will come back in and we'll take up the
21 next order of business.

22 CHAIR: All right. Are there any
23 questions on the Ayr Wellness application for a site
24 modification? Seeing none, is there a move to -- is
25 there a motion to approve?

1 MS. NASH: Chair, I move to approve the
2 site modification for Ayr Wellness.

3 MS. MAPP: I second.

4 CHAIR: Mr. Said?

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

6 MS. MAPP: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

8 MS. NASH: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro is
10 recused. Chair Laufer?

11 CHAIR: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

13 CHAIR: And now, Jackie, you can come back
14 in. It was very contentious without you. Very
15 contentious.

16 Director Riggs?

17 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, chair, and welcome
18 back, Commissioner Ferraro.

19 Today, we have conditional to annual
20 licenses. We have one conditional to annual conversion
21 license, which is a retailer, and then we have five
22 annual licenses up for consideration.

23 We'll take the conditional to annual
24 license conversion application first. This license
25 followed our licensing process. There was priority

1 assignment. That priority was verified. Completeness
2 review was conducted by our Office of Licensing. That
3 application was then scored. There was a qualification
4 review that's been conducted by our Office of
5 Compliance and Investigation, where background checks
6 and the like are conducted to determine if the
7 individuals can be in the cannabis industry. That
8 qualification review was done. Then there was quality
9 controller check. And we are recommending now that
10 this application be approved by the board today. Thank
11 you.

12 CHAIR: Okay. Are there any questions on
13 the consideration of the annual license application?
14 Seeing none, is there a motion to approve it?

15 MS. NASH: Move.

16 CHAIR: I'll second the motion.

17 Mr. Said?

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

19 MS. MAPP: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

21 MS. NASH: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

23 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

25 CHAIR: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

2 CHAIR: Moving on for a vote for --

3 MR. RIGGS: Five annuals.

4 CHAIR: -- five annuals. Director Riggs?

5 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, chair.

6 We have five annual licenses up for
7 consideration today, three cultivators, one
8 manufacturer, one retailer. Again, these followed the
9 licensing process and they've been reviewed by our
10 Office of Licensing and Office of Compliance, and we
11 are recommending that these five licenses be approved
12 today. Thank you.

13 CHAIR: All right. Are there any
14 questions on the -- on these applications? Seeing
15 none, is there a motion to approve these five?

16 MS. NASH: I move to approve the annual
17 license applications.

18 CHAIR: Is there a second?

19 MS. MAPP: I second.

20 CHAIR: Mr. Said?

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

22 MS. MAPP: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

24 MS. NASH: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

1 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

3 CHAIR: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

5 CHAIR: Annual renewals, administrative
6 extensions.

7 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, chair.

8 We have one licensee that holds a total of
9 12 licenses and permits in the medical industry
10 combined. Given that we're in an ongoing litigation
11 with this entity regarding a licensing requirement, we
12 are recommending that an administrative extension be
13 granted until August 1st of 2026 so that they are all
14 on the same path and that we can continue to monitor
15 the litigation and handle these licenses when it's --
16 when it's necessary. Therefore, that's the
17 recommendation.

18 CHAIR: All right. Are there any
19 questions on behalf of the board? Seeing none, I'll
20 make a motion to approve the administrative extensions.

21 MS. MAPP: I second.

22 CHAIR: Mr. Said.

23 Again, these are going to be extended
24 until August 1st of this year.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

1 MS. MAPP: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

3 MS. NASH: Only at the recommendation of
4 legal counsel will I say yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

6 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

8 CHAIR: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

10 CHAIR: So I'm gonna turn it over to Chief
11 Counsel Tuason for a -- an announcement of litigation
12 matter settlement.

13 MR. DAVE TUASON: Thank you, chair.

14 So we -- so we -- staff issued a notice of
15 violation to Green Medicine, which was INV-74-25. The
16 board subsequently imposed a penalty to that entity.
17 The board is now voting to act consistent with the
18 discussion it had in exec session to resolve and settle
19 the matter for this. And I turn it back over to you,
20 chair to vote on this matter.

21 CHAIR: Thank you, chief counsel.

22 Are there any questions that you'd like to
23 make public on the -- on the settlement? If not, I
24 would move to approve the settlement.

25 VICE CHAIR: Second.

1 CHAIR: Mr. Said?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

3 MS. MAPP: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

5 MS. NASH: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

7 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

9 CHAIR: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

11 CHAIR: We have a waiver request. Again,
12 Chief Counsel Tuason. This is on behalf of the New
13 Jersey Cannabis Trade Association.

14 MR. TUASON: Thank you, chair.

15 So the -- the commission's regulations
16 give the commission the authority to waive our
17 regulations if it meets the factors -- the three
18 factors enumerated under NJAC 17:30-3.7. This is
19 submitted on behalf of all the entities in -- in -- for
20 adult use.

21 The NJ Cannabis Trade Association, they're
22 requesting a waiver of NJAC 17:30-7.12 to waive the
23 background check requirement for all employees and
24 volunteers of licensed entities who do not fall under
25 an owner or principle.

1 This is derived from a statutory amendment
2 under S4847, which gives the commission the authority
3 to exempt certain classes of employees, including entry
4 level employees.

5 It was staff's opinion that waiving just
6 employees and volunteers within the regulations, which
7 would apply to adult use only, not for medical. If
8 you're a medical-only operator, the statute does
9 require those employees to still be background checked.
10 But expanded ATCs or anybody in AU would -- we would be
11 able to waive that requirement under 7.12.

12 So with that, I turn it back over to you,
13 chair, for a vote.

14 Just one -- one piece here as well is we
15 don't -- we do not recommend that we waive any of the
16 badging requirements, even if the board were to grant
17 this background check waiver because badging is -- is
18 something different. We would still need to attract
19 these line-level employees and volunteers, but they
20 wouldn't have to go through the fingerprinting process.

21 CHAIR: So just wanna make sure that
22 everybody's abundantly clear as to what the
23 recommendation is. It is we do not waive any badging
24 requirements. However, we do waive the background
25 check requirement for line-level or entry-level

1 employees. This is excluding management ownership and
2 principles, correct?

3 MR. TUASON: That's correct. Anybody that
4 has managerial decision making would fall under the
5 definition of principles, so they would still need to
6 be background checked.

7 CHAIR: Okay. Are there any questions on
8 behalf of the board? Is there a motion to approve the
9 waiver?

10 MS. MAPP: Move.

11 CHAIR: Sorry. Motion to approve the
12 waiver given the previously mentioned stipulations.

13 MS. MAPP: Move.

14 CHAIR: Is there a second?

15 MS. NASH: I second.

16 CHAIR: Mr. Said.

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

18 MS. MAPP: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

20 MS. NASH: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

22 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

24 CHAIR: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

1 CHAIR: Now to Chief Counsel Tuason's
2 favorite part of the meeting, notices of enforcement
3 action. Chief counsel?

4 MR. TUASON: Thank you, chair.

5 We have one enforcement action today for
6 the board's consideration, INV-33-2026. Entity name is
7 Culture Craft Cannabis Collective, LLC. They were
8 cited for failing to adhere to the regulations by
9 storing cannabis product in an unsecure area.

10 And I turn it back over to you, chair.

11 CHAIR: Thank you.

12 So we have the notice of violation for
13 Culture Craft Cannabis Collective. Say that five times
14 fast.

15 And are there any questions from the board
16 in regards to the NOV? Seeing none, would anybody like
17 to make a motion in terms of -- of -- in terms -- in
18 relation to the NOV?

19 MS. MAPP: Move.

20 CHAIR: Move what? Fine? Move the
21 amount.

22 MS. NASH: 2,000.

23 CHAIR: Is there a second?

24 MS. MAPP: I second.

25 CHAIR: Mr. Said.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

2 MS. MAPP: Yes. Based on the information
3 we have, these entities need to follow policy. There's
4 a (inaudible). Based on the information we have, these
5 entities need to follow policy. Policies are written
6 for a reason. And if you continue to do this, we will
7 continue to do our part in fining you.

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

9 MS. NASH: Yes. I will echo the
10 sentiments of Commissioner Mapp. I have stated before
11 that monetary penalties are probably our least favorite
12 thing to do up on the dais. However, compliance is
13 very important to us. And if your compliance officer
14 tells you not to do something, please, please don't do
15 it again. Thank you. My vote is yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

17 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

19 CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

21 CHAIR: I echo everything that
22 Commissioner Mapp and Commissioner Nash said.
23 Compliance officers are not here to make your life
24 difficult. They are here to adhere to the law. And we
25 will -- we will work with you as best we can, but

1 please don't blatantly ignore what they say.

2 Now, we have public comment.

3 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, chair.

4 As a reminder, public speakers during this
5 afternoon's public comment period will be limited to
6 three minutes. Please be respectful and concise during
7 your comments.

8 The first person I have on my list is
9 Carlos Almanzar.

10 MR. CARLOS ALMANZAR: Good afternoon,
11 ladies and gentlemen. Carlos Almanzar. Happy Mother's
12 Day to all the ladies in here.

13 I am coming here -- some of you guys don't
14 know me, some of you guys do know me. When the
15 cannabis started, the industry started blooming, I
16 decided that I wanted to give my family an opportunity.
17 That opportunity was a dispensary.

18 So my brother and I, we ran our family
19 business, construction, successfully. We had the
20 capital where we were doing okay, and we had our mother
21 as the queen and everything else how it's supposed to
22 be. My mother worked in a nursing home for over 24
23 years, taking care of everyone, from the governor's
24 mother, from many people's mothers and fathers. So
25 when this cannabis opportunity opened, I wasn't

1 selfish. Everybody knew my name in the cannabis
2 underground. But I wasn't selfish. I wanted something
3 bigger than what I could put my name to. I wanted a
4 legacy that could be something for my community. So I
5 sat down with one person, my mother, and I said, ma, I
6 know you always hated that I'm -- I'm associated with
7 this type of stuff. She called it the devil's grass.

8 My mother is -- was one of the heads of
9 the church, many things for the community, from a plate
10 of food to somewhere to sleep. My mother is that
11 person that you could go and count on. So I went to
12 the pastor. I went to somebody else. I went to
13 everyone that my mother trusts and went for advice. So
14 I convinced my mother, I said, let's go for a
15 dispensary. I convinced my mother, so let's take the
16 money from my -- from my enterprise, from my company
17 that we were building and put it into this dispensary.
18 I was encountering with dirty politician.

19 I have come. I have called. I have asked
20 for help. Everyone said you got to go up, up. So I
21 did that. I went from knowing my local governor to
22 everyone that I had to go. As it makes three and a-
23 half years now, I'm coming to you guys because now my
24 township is willing to hear you guys out.

25 I would like for you guys to come into

1 South Toms River and check the original application
2 that I submitted for my mother, Rosa Frias, that at the
3 last minute, the scoring of the application got
4 changed. So I just didn't just lose everything. They
5 robbed us from opportunity of a fair scoring. They
6 robbed us opportunity for something greater for our
7 community and education that was included in there.

8 So I'm asking to please come sit down with
9 my local government and just go over the application so
10 we know that this will never happen again because I
11 love the numbers, Wesley. Those numbers are
12 incredible. I love what's going on with our community,
13 but there's still those little things that we got to
14 fix. And I'm just asking one of you guys, come. I
15 will pay the CRC for all expenses just so I can move
16 forward with my idea of clean government.

17 It's a new set of government over there,
18 but they still not willing to open the scoring
19 application. And with your help, it'd be the best
20 thing. We could move forward, and I could go and open
21 my business somewhere else because I would not open my
22 business until I close that one chapter of my mother.

23 So please, I pay for all expenses, South
24 Toms River.

25 THE SECRETARY: Thank you.

1 MR. ALMANZAR: Thank you, guys.

2 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Mr. Almanzar.

3 The next person on the list is Edwin
4 Paredes. Just want you to (inaudible).

5 MR. EDWIN PAREDES: Sure.

6 THE SECRETARY: And stick to the three
7 minutes, please.

8 MR. PAREDES: Yes, absolutely.

9 THE SECRETARY: Thank you.

10 MR. PAREDES: Can you hear me, clear?

11 My name is Edwin Paredes. Good afternoon,
12 commissioners, and thank you for the opportunity to
13 speak today.

14 I am co-owner of Nurturing Leaves, which
15 is a social equity and minority-owned retail
16 dispensary. I would -- respectfully would like to ask
17 the commission for clarification on an issue that
18 appears to be impacting some cannabis applicants across
19 different municipalities in New Jersey. My
20 understanding is that the -- the commission's process,
21 including the final on-site assessment stage under NJAC
22 17:30-7.14, is that before an applicant -- before an
23 applicant can complete a final on-site assessment, the
24 applicant must already possess all relevant municipal
25 approvals required by that municipality, including a

1 local cannabis license if the -- if required, and the
2 location has to be operationally ready. This would be
3 -- this would appear to include items such as zoning
4 approvals, planning approvals, certificates of
5 occupancies where applicable, and potentially a local
6 cannabis license if required.

7 With that in mind, I respectfully ask the
8 commission to clarify whether it is correct that an
9 applicant cannot complete the NJCRC final on-site
10 assessment process unless all required municipality
11 approvals are already in place beforehand, including
12 the local municipality cannabis license if required.

13 I believe clarification of this sequencing
14 issue would greatly help municipalities applicants such
15 as myself, and the public better understand the intent
16 order of operations under the CREAMM Act and the
17 commissioner's regulations.

18 The reason this is important is because
19 some municipalities may be interpreting the process
20 differently, which can create uncertainty and potential
21 impossible situations where an applicant is told to
22 first obtain a complete CRC final on-site inspection
23 before the municipality will issue the local cannabis
24 license that the CRC requires beforehand.

25 I'm not asking the commission to intervene

1 in any individual municipality. I'm simply asking for
2 clear statewide --

3 THE SECRETARY: 30 seconds.

4 MR. PAREDES: -- guidance on sequencing so
5 the applicants and municipalities can operate under a
6 consistent understanding of the process. If this -- if
7 this guidance exists already, can the New Jersey CRC
8 please share where I could obtain this information to
9 help educate myself?

10 Thank you again for your time, your public
11 service, and continued work supporting a fair and
12 transparent cannabis marketplace in New Jersey. Thank
13 you.

14 THE SECRETARY: Thank you. Thank you,
15 Edwin.

16 The next person on the list is Hugh
17 Giordano.

18 MR. HUGH GIORDANO: Hello, commissioners.
19 My name is Hugh Giordano. As everybody knows, I am a
20 representative for the UFCW Local 360, which is the
21 official labor union under the AFLCIO of cannabis
22 workers.

23 I like to come to the commission just to
24 give an update of where we are because I think it's
25 important for the public to know and for the workers to

1 know where we are because we're on the ground every day
2 speaking directly to these working people.

3 We are seeing issues where companies now
4 are starting to buck back against the labor peace
5 agreements, threatening workers, misclassification of
6 workers, forcing workers into meetings that are anti-
7 union in theory. And that's against New Jersey state
8 law for forcing workers into anti-union meetings, not
9 only LPAs, but also it was just passed that they can't
10 do that. These things are happening.

11 We have companies that are fighting LPAs.
12 And rather than treating workers well, putting that
13 money towards the workers, they'd rather spend
14 thousands or even millions at times to buck the system,
15 to fight for -- against the equity and justice that you
16 all have fought for through your careers and that the
17 many folks before this commission was around have
18 fought for, for equity and justice.

19 I think that fighting against workers'
20 rights, taking away their rights to collectively
21 bargain, to fight for their wages and benefits is not
22 equity. It is not justice.

23 And I went to many of those council
24 meetings where they got up in front of mayors. They
25 got up in front of council presidents. And they said,

1 I'm going to treat my workers' rights. I signed an
2 LPA. This is my union guy right here. I'm the union
3 guy for the workers. But I knew that by opening up
4 facilities, that gives workers opportunities. It
5 creates good jobs. And these same people are now
6 starting to turn their backs on the same working class
7 people that got their companies up and running. They
8 are the backbone.

9 Also, just wanted to let you know that we
10 are negotiating with some really great employers. And
11 I want to thank them. They know who they are. And
12 they actually do believe in equity and justice.

13 The one thing I will say because I have 30
14 seconds left is that we're okay with the medical
15 cannabis licensing expanding. We have some great
16 unionized employers that provide good medicine, even
17 though they're AU. It'll create more jobs. It will
18 also give patients who are working class people the
19 opportunity to have more access. So with patients and
20 workers, it's a working class issue. And I hope that
21 we can see the expansion of that. And we support
22 medical home grower, of course. It creates more jobs.
23 Thank you.

24 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Mr. Giordano.
25 Thank you.

1 The next person I have on the list is
2 David Cheek, if you're in the room. All right. I
3 don't see David.

4 So that was it for in-person. So I'm
5 going to move now to the callers. The first caller I
6 have on my list is Matha Figaro. Last four is 9238.
7 Matha Figaro, 9238. If you're in the room, please
8 raise your hand. Just as a reminder, it's star 9 to
9 raise your hand and star 6 to unmute yourself. I don't
10 see Matha.

11 So the next person I have on the list is
12 Ariel Mizrahi. Last four of the telephone number is
13 9582. Okay. I see you, Ariel. Ariel, you have the
14 floor. It's star 6 to unmute yourself. Ariel? It's
15 star 6 to unmute yourself if you're calling in. I'm
16 going to come back to you, Ariel.

17 The next person I have on the -- on the
18 list is Richard Neale. Last four is 8314. Richard
19 Neale or Richie Neale. Last four is 8314. I don't see
20 that person.

21 The next person on the list is Thomas
22 Norcia. Last four of the telephone number is 2406.
23 Thomas Norcia. I don't see that person.

24 The next person on the list is Max
25 Jackson. Last four of the telephone is 8933. Max

1 Jackson. Okay. I see you, Max. Give me one second.
2 Max, you have the floor.

3 MR. MAX JACKSON: Good afternoon, chair
4 and commissioners. My name is Max Jackson. I'm the
5 vice chair of the Cultivation Committee of the New
6 Jersey Cannabusiness Association.

7 I want to talk about a structural problem
8 in how licensed operators get paid in this market and a
9 solution that already exists.

10 I've spoken with multiple licensed
11 operators about this issue, and the picture is
12 consistent. One cultivator manufacturer has 74 out of
13 115 accounts overdue, consistently carrying between
14 \$600,000 and \$1.2 million in unpaid receivables.
15 Another has been forced to go COD-only and is being
16 squeezed out of expenditures because they cannot
17 compete with well-capitalized operators offering 60 and
18 90-day terms payable with discounts. A third won a
19 court judgment against non paying dispensaries and
20 still couldn't collect. The fees exceeded what was
21 owed.

22 This is a national problem. Whitney
23 Economics documented \$3.8 billion in delinquent
24 receivables across the US cannabis industry. 57
25 percent of operators surveyed said unpaid receivables

1 had a greater impact on their business than Section
2 280E.

3 Unpaid invoices from fellow licensees are
4 doing more damage than the IRS. Five states have
5 already acted. New York operates a cash-on-delivery
6 list. Retailers who don't pay within 30 days lose the
7 ability to buy on credit from any supplier. The system
8 is self-correcting.

9 Massachusetts just signed a reform package
10 into law less than a month ago, creating a delinquent
11 business list with mandatory reporting and credit lock.

12 Washington State prohibits credit between
13 licenses entirely.

14 Here's why this should be straightforward.
15 New Jersey already operates a trade credit enforcement
16 framework for its other regulated intoxicating
17 substance. The Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control
18 enforces a 30-day credit term, cash-on-delivery status
19 for delinquent retailers, and critically, COD status
20 that follows the license through transfers. Every
21 component of the cannabis framework that requires --
22 every component that the cannabis framework requires
23 already exists within the New Jersey state government
24 just for alcohol.

25 I'm asking the commission to initiate rule

1 making to establish a trade credit enforcement
2 framework for cannabis licensees modeled on the AEC
3 system and informed by the New York and Massachusetts
4 models. The NJCBA has a proposed framework ready, and
5 we will welcome the opportunity to brief the commission
6 staff.

7 These are licensed business owners who
8 should be spending their time growing their operations.
9 Instead, they are hiring collections consultants,
10 retaining lawyers, and chasing invoices, spending money
11 that they need to operate to collect money that they
12 have already earned.

13 THE SECRETARY: 30 seconds.

14 MR. GIORDANO: Thank you.

15 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Jackson.

16 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Max.

17 The next person I have on my list is
18 Edward Grimes. Edward Grimes, last four of the
19 telephone number is 0682. Edward Grimes. I don't see
20 Edward Grimes.

21 The next person on the list is Mark
22 Williams. Mark Williams, last four of the telephone
23 number is 5682. Mark Williams, 5682. I don't see that
24 person.

25 The next person is Andrea Raible. The

1 last four of the telephone number is 2164. Andrea
2 Raible. Okay. I see you, Andrea. Give me one second.
3 Andrea, you have the floor.

4 MS. ANDREA RAIBLE: Hello.

5 THE SECRETARY: Yes.

6 MS. RAIBLE: My name is Andrea.

7 THE SECRETARY: Yeah. We can hear you.

8 Sorry. Go ahead.

9 MS. RAIBLE: Awesome. Thanks. Thank you
10 for the opportunity to speak today. I'd also like to
11 thank Director Riggs for addressing more lab data. Bad
12 actors are going to continue exploiting the market if
13 they know no one is watching and if they know there are
14 no significant repercussions.

15 When we talk about failure rates, a few
16 percentage points might not sound like much, but it
17 tells a much bigger story and has a significant impact
18 here in New Jersey, where we have the clinician's
19 largest testing batch size.

20 Looking at the slide, it looked like the
21 lab in question ran about 620 tests with a 4.2 percent
22 fail rate. That comes out to about 26 failed batches.
23 26 failed batches doesn't sound like a lot, but it's
24 important to remember that testing batch size, 100
25 pounds. So this is potentially 200 -- 2600 pounds of

1 contaminated cannabis, which we break down to over 1.1
2 million contaminated free rolls.

3 The difference in a few percentage points
4 with testing is the difference in a regulated market or
5 just safety (inaudible). We're getting closer to the
6 national average, but we aren't there yet.

7 I would love to see a robust data program
8 and ongoing secret shopper testing like in (inaudible)
9 1291. I would also love to see you have a team and
10 resources to keep our city safe.

11 I'm grateful for the work of the lab
12 manager and CRC staff for looking into this issue, and
13 I'm looking forward to continued improvements and
14 transparency.

15 Time is limited, so I'm going to pivot.
16 There's been a lot of talk about Schedule III lately,
17 and it's easy to dismiss as a federal issue, but we
18 really need to revisit what could be going on here in
19 our state. While I have significant concerns, this is
20 also an opportunity to reassess what's important,
21 understand our competitive advantage or lack thereof if
22 they open interstate commerce, and really figure out
23 the kind of future that's worth fighting for.

24 Without a strong radical program, our
25 market is extremely vulnerable. We can't compete with

1 the landmass of the Midwest, the climate of Hawaii, or
2 the experience and pricing of more developed markets.

3 New Jersey has fallen from its title as
4 the Garden State, and a lot of the program is barely
5 hanging on. But it doesn't have to be this way. We
6 have access to some of the top doctors, education, and
7 pharmaceutical developers in the world. When I speak
8 to people in other parts of the country, they ask me if
9 I've ever had the chance to come and see the doctors in
10 the Northeast. We could be the epicenter of cannabis
11 research and treatment, but this state feels like an
12 exploitative trap for critically ill patients and
13 practically discourages doctors from participation.

14 The headline this morning read, "New
15 Jersey physician gives medical weed to kids young as 6,
16 Attorney General says. A doctor has medical license
17 suspended for issuing medical cannabis to minors
18 despite being registered" --

19 THE SECRETARY: 20 seconds.

20 MS. RAIBLE: -- "(Inaudible) legislation
21 being written in the name of a minor."

22 Jake Honig was a child, and unfortunately,
23 it seems we seem to be (inaudible) his name around but
24 changed very little from his brave and brief life.

25 The Jake Honig Act was created in our

1 industry but was never properly implemented. Seven
2 years later, patients are still dying without hospital
3 access. We have a window of opportunity to fix this
4 because federal scheduling has always been an excuse.

5 California has Ryan's Law that offers help
6 for terminal patients, but Jake's Law is unique here.
7 It allows compassionate emergency before it's too late.
8 So I know it's easy to shift responsibility to everyone
9 else or wait for someone else to take the lead.

10 I'd love to continue conversations about
11 this, but I'm just going to ask you to remember
12 Chairwoman Houenou's words to embrace discomfort and
13 ask you to find a way to kickstart implementation.
14 Thank you.

15 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Andrea. All
16 right.

17 I'm going to go back to Ariel Mizrahi. I
18 see you. Your hand is still up. Can you try to unmute
19 yourself, Ariel? And unmuting is star 9 if you're
20 calling in. If you're on the Zoom platform, just hit
21 the microphone button so that you can unmute yourself.
22 Ariel, we -- we don't hear anything you're saying.
23 Okay. Ariel, when you have a chance, if you can submit
24 your comments through -- through written comments that
25 would be better. I just -- I don't see a way to -- to

1 have you speak. Thank you.

2 I'm just going to go over one more time.
3 Okay. Matha Figaro. The last four of the telephone
4 number is 9238. Matha Figaro. I don't see that
5 person. The next person is Richard Neale. Last four
6 is 8314. Richard Neale. If you're in the room, please
7 raise your hand. I don't see that person. The next
8 person is Thomas Norcia. Last four of the telephone is
9 2406. Thomas Norcia. I don't see that person. The
10 next person is Edward Grimes. If you're in the room,
11 please raise your hand. Last four of the telephone is
12 0682. Edward Grimes. I don't see that person. The
13 next person is Mark Williams. Last four of the
14 telephone number is 5682. Mark Williams. I don't see
15 that person.

16 Thank you, chairman. This will conclude
17 the registered speakers we have for today's public
18 meeting.

19 CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Said.

20 Our next meeting will be July 9th at 11:00
21 a.m. It is unclear if it'll be virtual. It says
22 virtual, but it's unclear if it'll be virtual. And we
23 appreciate everybody's time for coming out.

24 Is there a motion to adjourn?

25 MS. MAPP: So moved.

1 CHAIR: Is there a second?

2 MS. NASH: Second.

3 CHAIR: All in favor?

4 MS. MAPP: Aye.

5 MS. NASH: Aye.

6 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

7 CHAIR: We are adjourned.

8 (Meeting concluded)

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