



State of New Jersey  
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

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TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0216

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February 2, 2023

VIA CERTIFIED AND ELECTRONIC MAIL to: [james.leventis@verano.com](mailto:james.leventis@verano.com)

James A. Leventis, Esq.  
Executive Vice President  
Verano Holdings  
415 N. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60654

Re: NOTICE OF CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY - VERANO NJ

Dear Mr. Leventis,

This letter is a Notice of Civil Monetary Penalty, issued by the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission ("NJ-CRC") in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:30-17 to Verano NJ ("Verano"). This penalty assessment follows the Notice of Violation issued to Verano on December 16, 2022, for the below violation.

On Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at its Zenleaf dispensary location at 2100 NJ-66 Neptune Township, New Jersey, Verano was found to have committed the following violation:

1. **Violations 1:** 4/12/2022 and 8/3/2022 Final Agency Decisions and N.J.A.C. 17:30-7.1(d) – Verano prioritized Adult Use consumers over patients by limiting point-of-sale locations at a 9 (for Adult Use) to 1 (patients) ratio, resulting in a patient waiting in excess of 30 minutes to receive a pick-up order.

Pursuant to the law, implementing regulations, and the 4/12/2022 and 8/3/2022 Final Agency Decisions ("FADs"), the NJ-CRC is authorized to impose civil monetary penalties in amounts not to exceed \$50,000 per violation of the regulations (and up to \$500,000 for "major license violations"), and not to exceed \$10,000 per day for violations of the FAD.

The NJ-CRC has determined to impose **a monetary penalty of \$5,000.00** on Verano for the violation listed above. The amount is based on **one violation** of the 4/12/2022 FAD.

The leniency in establishing this penalty is the result of the corrective action plan that was submitted and immediately implemented by the license holder in relation to the current violation. N.J.A.C. 17:30-

17.4(b) provides that, within 20 business days of the receipt of the Notice of Violation, the cannabis business shall (1) Correct the violations; (2) Notify the Commission, in writing, with a postmark date that is within 20 business days of the date of receipt of the Notice of Violation, of any corrective actions taken to correct the violations, and the date of implementation of such corrective actions. Verano's corrective action plan was submitted and received at the NJ-CRC on January 5, 2023.

The NJ-CRC has attached to this Notice of Civil Monetary Penalty its Compliance Monitoring Report, which is the basis for this penalty assessment. If Verano wishes to contest the imposition of this civil monetary penalty, it may request an adjudicatory hearing within 14 days of receipt of this Notice of Civil Monetary Penalty. The NJ-CRC may, in its discretion, retain jurisdiction over the matter, or transmit the matter to the Office of Administrative Law pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 *et seq.* and 52:14F-1 *et seq.*).

If Verano determines to pay this monetary penalty without contest, it may do so through the NJ-CRC's website at the following link: <https://www.nj.gov/cannabis/businesses/resources/>, by following the prompt for "Annual Permit Fee" and submitting the "Application Type Information" as "Other", with a "Description" of "Civil Monetary Penalty Assessment."

If determined to contest this civil monetary penalty, Verano shall request an adjudicatory hearing within 14 days of receipt of this Notice by submitting its request in writing via e-mail to Chief Counsel Christopher Riggs at [Christopher.Riggs@crc.nj.gov](mailto:Christopher.Riggs@crc.nj.gov), **and via certified mail to:**

New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission  
c/o Office of the Chief Counsel  
225 East State Street  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor West  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

The NJ-CRC appreciates your expeditious cooperation in this matter. Any questions regarding this correspondence can be sent to your assigned Field Monitor.

Sincerely,



Paul Thomas Urbish, Esq.  
Director  
Office of Compliance and Investigations  
New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission

w/ attachment