CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

DIANNA HOURENOU, Chairwoman
SAM DELGADO, Vice Chairman
CHARLES BARKER, Commissioner
MARIA DEL CID-KOSSA, Commissioner
KRISTA G. NASH, Commissioner
JEFF BROWN, Executive Director

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CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome, everybody, to the Cannabis Regulatory Commission's Public Meeting on this February 24th. The time is now 1:08 on my clock, and I'm calling this meeting to order. Ms. Hogan, please read the Notice of the Public Meeting.

MS. HOGAN: Madam Chairwoman, this is a meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act. The meeting was noticed in the Asbury Park Press, Atlantic City Express, Bergen Record, Courier Post and Trenton times in December 2021. Information regarding the virtual nature of this meeting due to the Covid 19 pandemic was posted in publications and on the CRC website. The meeting time and location has also been posted on the website of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission and with Office of the Secretary of State.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Ms. Hogan, can you please take roll call?

MS. HOGAN: Commissioner Barker?

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Present.

MS. HOGAN: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Present.
MS. HOGAN: Vice Chair Delgado?

VICED CHAIRMAN DELGADO: Present.

MS. HOGAN: Commissioner Nash?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Present.

MS. HOGAN: Chairwoman Houenou?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Present.

MS. HOGAN: All members of the Commission are present, and we now have a quorum.

The first order of business is for the Commission to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters and litigation updates. These are discussions that are not shared with the public. We believe the Executive Session should take about 30 minutes.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank, Ms. Hogan.

Do I have a motion to go into Executive Session?

VICE CHAIRMAN DELGADO: I move that we go into Executive Session, Chairwoman.

COMMISSIONER BARKER: I second.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Seconded by Commissioner Barker.

Is there any discussion on the matter? Hearing none, all those in favor of going into Executive Session say aye.

(All members responded by saying "aye.")
CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All those opposed say nay. Are there any abstentions? Hearing none, the motion passes.

The Commission will now go into Executive Session. We expect the Executive Session to last approximately 30 minutes. We will leave the live stream running during that time, and we'll return to the Executive Session (sic) once the Executive Session is done. So, we can expect to resume the public open portion at about 1:40 p.m. Thank you, everyone, for your patience.

(There is a recess.)

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, everyone, for your patience. The Executive session has ended. It is now 1:42 by my watch, and we will now resume the open public portion of this meeting. Ms. Hogan, can you please announce the next agenda item?

MS. HOGAN: The next item on today's agenda is a Preview of Minutes of both the Commissions' Open Session and Executive Sessions held on January 27, 2022. The minutes have been shared and reviewed by the members of the Commission prior to this meeting.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. If there are no questions or corrections to the minutes, I will ask for a motion to adopt the meeting minutes for
January 27, 2022.

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: So moved,

Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by

Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

COMMISSIONER NASH: I second.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: And seconded by

Commissioner Nash. Thank you. Is there any
discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of
approving the January 27th minutes say aye.

(All those responded "aye".)

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All those opposed
to approving the minutes say nay. Are there any
abstentions? The ayes have it and the motion is
carried.

MS. HOGAN: Next up on the agenda is the
Chair's Report.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. I first
want to begin our -- my Chair's Report today with a
heartfelt thank you to Ms. Erin Hogan for whom this is
her last CRC Public Board Meeting with us. As Erin
prepares to move on to bigger and better things, we are
so thankful to her for all of the work that she has put
in to help the CRC stand up as an agency and be the
success that it is with particular emphasis on, you
know, helping with the -- helping us get through the public meetings. So I want to extend a warm welcome -- sorry. A warm thank you and well wishes for Erin as she moves on to the next journey. And thank you, Erin, for everything that you've done for the CRC.

I'll next turn to provided a few updates on the CRC's process and expectations. I've been concerned that some people of -- we have received incoming from several folks who may be jumping the gun a little bit with respect to what they think will be outcomes of this new industry instead of waiting for the established process that needs to be completed.

So, we have thousands of viewers who have tuned in to this Commission's public meetings over the last ten months. And anyone who's been paying attention knows that the Commission has been pretty transparent about the application and investigation process both as it pertains to the medicinal and the adult use industries, as well as what people should expect in the future.

So, for example, the CRC has met with dedicated partners who have invited us to meet with or have accepted our invitations to meet with them and have been tremendously helpful in forming our rules and sharing information with the public who want to be a part of this industry. So, for example, we have held
several meetings with legacy operators both nationally
and at the state level to talk about how best to
support those in the legacy market who want to
transition into the regulated space. We met with
veterans groups and municipal officials who've been
wonderful partners in sharing information with the CRC
about what's happening on the ground and also sharing
our CRC information to their constituencies. So, I
thank all of the CRC's supportive partners for their
help in this work.

In August of 2021, the CRC put our
initial rules into place. And those rules put a strong
focus on providing meaningful opportunities for people
to own and operate a cannabis business. And we were
able to do that with fees that are among the lowest in
the country and priority application review for people
with prior cannabis related convictions, certified
minority women and disabled veteran owned businesses
and people living in economically disadvantaged areas.
In October, we hosted a statewide informational webinar
to make people aware of the rules and what they can do
to start preparing for applications. And then in the
next month in November, we hosted another
pre-application webinar to dive a little bit deeper
into the application process and provided a number of
resources for those who want to participate in this industry. The CRC has set out our vision for an equitable cannabis industry. We want to see New Jersey's industry reflective of our city -- of our state. We want to see racial and ethnic inclusion among our business owners and workforce. We want to see businesses small, medium and large. And we want to see businesses spread out across the state from Cape May County to the far reaches of the Delaware Water Gap. But in order for that vision to come to fruition we need all of you. We have more than 300 participants watching this meeting. We need each and every one of you to help us bring that vision to reality. We want aspiring entrepreneurs to picture themselves in New Jersey's cannabis industry. So if you are interested in operating a cannabis business, please go to our website, nj.gov/cannabis, to learn more and to apply for a license. And we also need our stakeholders to help share the available information with community members.

So we really look forward to continuing the CRC's work with our trusted partners and stakeholders because we want to ensure that our helpful resources reach anyone who wishes to be a part of our Garden State.
And so with that, I will conclude the Chair's Report. And I'm very excited to see our industry grow as we move forward in New Jersey. And now we'll turn it back to Ms. Hogan.

MS. HOGAN: Firstly, I just want to say I want to thank the Chairwoman for your kind remarks. Next up on the agenda is the Executive Director's Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Madam Chair, may I have the floor?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you. I would like to also echo our Chair's comments in thanking Ms. Hogan for her service to the Cannabis Regulatory Commission and her broader service to the State of New Jersey. So thank you.

So, going to cover a number of things that we've been covering consistently in the Executive Director's Report. You know, echoing Chair Houenou's comments, we want to be transparent about our application process and provide updates as to where we stand so that people who are either waiting to have their applications voted on at a Commission meeting or otherwise have a good idea for where we are. So please go to the next slide with the agenda.
So, going to cover an update on
cultivator and manufacturer application acceptance,
update on the 2019 RFA Awards, touch on where we stand
with the expanded ATC certifications, and then I want
to cover just some follow-up on the interim lab testing
change that was -- that the Commission voted on and
approved last meeting.

So before I get to the application
update, echoing our Chair's comments, you know, one of
the -- we really stand at a crossroads here, an
important one; and we've been at many at the
Commission. You know, one was when the law was signed.
One was when the Commission was formed in April of
2021. Another was in August when we did our rules.
And here we are, you know, moving through hundreds of
applications ready to really kick off this legalized
market under an entirely new framework; one that did
not exist before, did not exist in medical cannabis.
And I can tell you, somebody who came from the
Department of Health who oversaw the division, that,
you know, we learned a lot of what to do, but we also
learned a lot of what not to do. And we learned from
not only our own experience but from other states.
And, you know, we've been getting some -- we get
questions to our licensing mailbox. And I want to just
encourage everybody who's interested in getting into this industry to look at the resources on our website. Our Director of Communications, our Director of our Office of Diversity and Inclusion and other staff members have just done a tremendous job at putting resources on the website that are available for would-be business owners to learn how to get into this industry, to learn how to start a micro business, to learn how to apply for a conditional application, how to convert from a conditional application to an annual application. Watch the two webinars that our Chair mentioned because there's really important information in there. One of the things that we've highlighted -- and we still get questions on this -- is we have completely cast aside the RFA process in our new licensing system. We are moving through applications on a rolling basis but according to priority. Conditional applicants, that's applicants that have that -- that meet certain income thresholds and other requirements -- get reviewed first and foremost. And social equity business applications get reviewed at the top of the heap. And those are applications that are either submitted by individuals with past cannabis convictions or who live and have lived in economically disadvantaged areas around the state for, you know,
five of the last ten years and currently have -- meet
certain income thresholds. You know, our goal there is
to really provide a very targeted approach and provide
priority access to this new industry. So, you know,
when looking at where we stand, we are making
tremendous progress. If you go to the next slide here.
Next one. Thank you.

So one of the things I covered in the
pre-application webinar is that initially with these
applications we anticipate that we'll need more than
90 days to review. Now, for those who submitted on
December 15th of 2021, you know, that 90-day clock is
coming up on March 15th of 2022. Our goal is to get as
close as we can by that 90-day clock and eventually to
beat that 90-day clock on new applications, but just
given the volume and the fact that we're staffing up
the agency, in the pre-application webinar I covered
that we will likely need extra -- need to extend that
90-day clock in early days due to volume.

The components of the application review
are the submission, review and scoring. One thing I
want to highlight here is, as I mentioned, that we're
-- what we're doing is dramatically different than RFAs
that occurred in the medical program is we're going to
allow applicants to essentially cure their application.
This is a new feature. It's in our rules. So, in a big competitive process, you know, you have to follow strict standards. Here, because we're doing a rolling bases and we're looking at each individual application, we can reject an application back to an applicant. They can then cure, resubmit with whatever deficient information wasn't there in the initial round. And depending on what priority level they were, they won't go right to the front of the line, but they'll go to that same priority level. So if you're a social equity business, micro business, conditional applicant, that's the highest overall priority, if your application is deficient and you get it back because of some deficient factor, when you resubmit you don't go to the back of the line. You just go to the back of the, you know, highest overall priority; similarly for other social equity business applicants and diversely owned businesses and so on and so forth. The other components to the review are criminal history, qualification/investigation and probity. That is different depending on whether you're a conditional applicant or a annual applicant; a review for regulatory compliance and then a recommendation for the Commission -- to the Commission from staff, and then the Commission would vote on it. If approved for a
conditional licensee, they would get that license and then have a certain amount of time to convert to annual. And if it's an annual application, they'll, then, essentially, then the build out of the facility starts. And the license is only issued once a facility's built out and ready to start actually producing, manufacturing or selling cannabis. Next slide, please.

You know, I mentioned the criminal history background check component. That is a very targeted and very different look in recreational cannabis versus what was in medical. There's only -- you know, the statute is very clear that a disqualifying conviction has to be directly related to the business. It doesn't include past cannabis convictions. As I mentioned, that, in fact, is -- those can benefit applicants depending on whether they're a social equity business or not. And then there's a review for the statutory compliance with social equity businesses, impact zone business, diversely owned businesses which includes minority business enterprises, women owned business enterprises and disabled veteran owned business enterprises, as well as compliance with the other types of applications. Importantly, we're also looking at
compliance with our regulations which are -- I could
tell you we've had other states reach out to find out
about -- get more info on our regulations on management
services agreements and financial source agreements
which are there to protect social equity businesses, to
protect minority business enterprises, women owned
business enterprises and disabled veteran owned
business enterprises from predatory contracts and
predatory business practices. Next slide, please.

So all that is going on in the review
process. And providing an update that I've updated --
provided before, this is where we currently stand in
the breakdown between conditional and annual. Still,
the majority of applications we have are conditional;
86.5 percent versus 13.5 percent annual. Next slide,
please.

For application types, still, roughly a
close to a two-thirds/one-third split between
cultivation and manufacturing with a few testing
laboratory applications, as well as some others, some
other applications. Those are mainly types that we're
not accepting applications for at this time. Next
slide, please.

The breakdown for the different
designations. And these are only what the applicants
attested to. So, first social equity applications. Out of the 363 we currently have, it's 127, 175 diversely owned business applications, 37 impact zone applications, 9 with bonus points either for collective bargaining agreements or residency, and then 15 that just applied in the general pool of applications. Next slide, please.

So the last thing I want to say on the cultivation and manufacturing is that, you know, we hope to have some very positive updates in the near future here when it comes to those applications. As I said, 90 days is March 15th. And, you know, I anticipate that hopefully we'll come close to that on some of these. But, eventually, we're going to be beating that 90-day mark. I can commit to that especially on the conditional applications. We have had some applicants ask about how to get updates on those applications. They can actually get those in the system. If it says they're under review then they're, in fact, under review. So now I'll turn to the RFA updates and run through this next slide, please.

So we have 43 awardees. And I'll get to why that is. You know, we had 44; we now have 43. I'll talk to that in a second. All 43 are in an investigatory stage of permitting. Importantly, none
-- no permits have been issued. That have awards. And
award are conditional. And they're conditional upon
meeting all the requirements that this Commission put
into the final agency decisions to ensure
accountability, to ensure compliance with our
regulations. This investigation includes verification
of the information supplied in the application,
criminal history background checks and verification of
compliance with all those conditions in the final
agency decisions. Next slide, please.

So we've dropped from 44 to 43 because
one dispensary awardee has not accepted the award. And
so that award has been returned back to the Commission.
It is a dispensary in the Southern Region. And that
award is returned to the Commission. And to all the
Commission members, I anticipate a recommendation
forthcoming from staff on what to do with that. Next
slide, please.

So, we've received a lot of questions
about certifications specifically and the certification
status of applicants. And so, we wanted to provide an
overview of where things stand as pertains to either
minority business enterprise certifications, women
owned business enterprise certifications or veteran
owned certifications which were all scored on in this

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RFA. And, in fact, of the 43 accepted awardees, you know, either based on actual certification status or what they've attested to in their application, there are 19 WBEs, 11 MBEs and 11 MWBEs. So, of those 43, roughly 22 are either minority women business enterprises or minority business enterprises. And importantly, there are several, you know, races and ethnicities that can get you qualification for that. And then 19 are WB or women owned business enterprises. And this is all being verified. Importantly, there are applicants who did not have a certification at the time of award, and, therefore, were not scored as having one who still remain in process for that certification. So, we will continue to report data on awardees as it becomes verified and available. Next slide, please.

So moving now to expanded ATC certifications. And you can go to the next slide. Thank you. So, once again, quick to review. You know, the way the law is set up, existing alternative treatment centers do not need to go through a formal application process to begin recreational sales. ATCs just need to prove they have adequate supply to serve patients and recreational consumers, prove they can expand to recreational dispensing without impacting service to patients, submit proof of municipal approval
for the licenses sought and some other requirements
that are in our regulations. Next slide, please.

Eight certifications have been received
and are under review. I can report versus last --
versus last meeting now five have been deemed complete
and have moved on to substantive review for those
factors in regulation. The three that were still
deemed not to be complete, the reasons have been
communicated to the alternative treatment centers, and
we're working with them to get those remediated
quickly. Next slide, please.

So I hope to have further updates on
that at, you know, certainly at our next meeting and on
an ongoing basis. So now, we have received some
feedback based -- and some questions about the interim
lab testing standard changes that were adopted by the
Commission last week. And that really was simply to
allow for using the Maryland standards. And you can go
to the next slide, please. To up the batch size from
minimum of ten pounds -- or maximum of ten pounds,
rather, to a maximum of 100 pounds. And that was based
on stakeholder feedback from the industry to try and
get more ATCs, more alternative treatment centers, to
actually engage in third-party testing and, you know,
improve product safety and accountability. That
decision was based on a review of regulations in other states and a review of the research we conducted for our own personal use cannabis rules which, also, allows batch sizes in excess of 100 pounds. I wanted to just let the Commission know that there are states that do allow for batch -- other states than us allow for batch sizes of 100 pounds and above. And that it is scientifically sound and also still achieves product safety and accountability for patients. You know, I am hopeful that this achieves the goal of getting more ATCs to use third-party testing. And that it only improves the public health and safety of this overrule Medical Cannabis Program.

With that, thank you. And I'll turn it back to you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director Brown. Ms. Hogan, can you please announce the next agenda item?

MS. HOGAN: Next we have the Public Engagement and Education Committee Report.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. We have a member from the -- member of the Committee to provide an update to the public and the rest of the Commission about their work. So I believe Commissioner Barker is going to provide that update. Commissioner Barker.
COMMISSIONER BARKER: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. And good afternoon, everyone. Thank you, all, for joining. We appreciate you coming to the meeting to learn more about the efforts and the updates that we have for you. Commissioner Nash and I just want to share a brief update regarding the statutorily mandated Regional Public Hearings on behalf of the Public Engagement and Education Committee. As you know, many of you know already, the CREAMM Act states that the CRC shall host at least three Regional Public Hearings throughout the state primarily to solicit public input about social equity investments and how tax revenue should be used and appropriated. We are excited, extremely excited to let you know that we will begin these hearings next week beginning Wednesday, March 2nd. The first hearing will be for the Northern Region; and that will take place, as I just said, Wednesday, March 7th. The second hearing will take place for the Central Region; and that will be Wednesday, March 9th. And the last hearing will be for the Southern Region; and that will take place Wednesday, March 16th. Now, all hearings -- in the interest of trying to get as many participants as possible -- all hearings will be virtual and they will take place between the hours of 7:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M.
And really, just want to emphasize that the purpose of the public hearings is for you, the people, to share your thoughts and ideas and wishes for how tax revenue should be spent for social equity investments. As we know, one of the driving forces behind legalization of cannabis is the ability to use the tax revenue collected to restore people, to restore families and to restore communities most harmed by the failed war on drugs especially our black and brown people communities and families that bore the brunt of that. And so we really, really want to emphasize, again, that this is an opportunity for your thoughts, your ideas to be heard and prioritize for your neighborhood, for your town and for our State of New Jersey. And we do hope that the legislature follows the recommendations from our report.

For more information, you can refer to our website, nj.gov/cannabis. And you can also sign up to register on the website. We ask that you join the public hearing in the region where you live, but we understand you may have a scheduling conflict. And if that is the case, you are welcome to join when you can. Please, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office if you have any questions or comments. And we truly look forward to seeing and hearing from you very
soon. God bless and take care.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Commissioner Barker. Ms. Hogan, can you please announce the next agenda item.

MS. HOGAN: Next up on the agenda is the consideration of adoption of a universal symbol for cannabis items.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Director Brown, can you please provide a summary of the staff's recommendations on universal symbol for cannabis items?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely. Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you to our Public Education Committee for putting that together and putting together those important hearings.

So, pursuant to the law and corresponding regulations, the Commission has to designate a universal symbol to appear on cannabis products. So those are cannabis items, both flower and manufactured cannabis products, that will be sold in the market. The symbol is to denote that it is, in fact, a cannabis product. At our November meeting, the Commission heard public comment from both the public and invited speakers on, you know, best practices and considerations for a universal symbol. And if you can go to the next slide, please.
So, some of the feedback the Commission received at that meeting were to use symbolism, you know, recognizable to a wide range of individuals including children, use components that are utilized across multiple jurisdictions that's responsive to stakeholder feedback, incorporate elements of warning labels from other industries. So, you know, there are many consumer household packaged goods and products that might be dangerous to kids. And they all tend to have warning labels on them. And, so, you know, looking at those to -- as a basis for what we do in cannabis is also important. And, then, also, to include elements recognizable to people who, you know, like kids who can't read yet or non-native English speakers who wouldn't be able to read a written message in English use elements that easily catch the eye.

Next slide, please.

So, based on review and work -- and I want to thank our Communications Director, Toni-Anne Blake, as well as graphic designers at the State Office Information Technology who worked on putting together some options. This is the staff recommendation to the Commission for the universal symbol. And there are two here. And I'll note why. So, one is for packaging, essentially, to go on the label of the exterior of a
package. And this incorporates three elements. So first, a red stop sign denoting pause or stop. The, you know, aversion of the International Intoxicating Cannabis Product Symbol which Doctors for Cannabis Regulation and ASTM International had presented at our last meeting which incorporates elements from other industries of warning labels and, also, uses the cannabis leaf which is utilized in multiple jurisdictions now to denote a cannabis product. And then it includes the plain language warning, "Not safe for kids." So that would be essentially go on the package itself. A minimum size of width of point 75 inches and a height of point 5 inches. And then there will be, if adopted, a corresponding style guide which will explain how to scale that up depending on the size of packages. We do have smaller package that cannabis products can come in. And, so, that's why we would start there and then scale up accordingly.

The second is a product imprint. And per the law, the universal symbol is to be imprinted directly on cannabis products. So edibles, ingestible products will need to be imprinted with this symbol.

And, here, we're just -- the recommendation is to just use the simple warning triangle with the cannabis leaf as that imprint. The imprint piece would be the more
costly to implement for the industry. And, so, if we keep it simple and keep it, you know, something that's potentially useable in multiple jurisdictions I think that can be helpful. So, if you move to the next slide, please.

So, you know, this, as I said, it incorporates a version of the International Intoxicating Cannabis Product Symbol which was presented at our last meeting and adopted by standards organization. It's not exactly to their specifications because it's in this additional format. It includes the cannabis leaf. Next slide, please.

And it incorporates those other elements we talked about; commonly known symbolism to denote stop or pause, plain language that says "Not safe for kids", and it's only three colors; and so cutting down on costs of printing these to appear on labels.

So that is the recommendation. I'm confident that this is a, you know, result of hearing from those stakeholders moving with best practice and making sure our universal symbol is reflective of those things. So, thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director Brown. Do I hear a motion on this matter?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam
Chair, I move to adopt this resolution concerning the
universal symbol that indicates that an item contains
cannabis.

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Second that, Madam
Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by
Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso and seconded by Commissioner
Barker. Is there any discussion on this item? Hearing
none, Ms. Hogan, can you please call the vote?

MS. HOGAN: Commissioner Barker?

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

MS. HOGAN: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

MS. HOGAN: Vice Chair Delgado?

VICE CHAIRMAN DELGADO: Yes.

MS. HOGAN: Commissioner Nash?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

MS. HOGAN: Chairwoman Houenou?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

MS. HOGAN: The motion passes.

Next on the agenda is the consideration
of medicinal cannabis product waiver regarding
concentrates.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Director Brown, can
you please provide a summary of this proposed waiver
and its need.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.

Thank you, Madam Chair. Right now under medical cannabis regulations, license permit holders can produce topicals, lozenges, oils which could be either in a vaporizable form or in like tinctures as well as whole flower. Here, what we're proposing is to provide a waiver of those limitations on products to specifically allow for a category of products for which we have a number of product proposals. And we've heard from both industry and patients alike as to the want for these products in the state of concentrates. So, these are things, essentially, pure forms of either solid or semi-solid cannabinoids that are extracted from the plant. Generally, they are not -- there aren't incipient ingredients added like you can see in big cartridges. So, these are things that go by terms of wax or rosin or shatter and other names. They are available in other northeast medical markets, available in medical cannabis markets cross the state. And we have an opportunity to make them available here in the State of New Jersey.

Importantly, for a patient who, you know, might want a fast-acting product who doesn't want flower, doesn't want a vape cartridge, this could
provide a very high dose, high and effective dose of
cannabinoids in, you know, one inhalation. So
recommendation is to approve this waiver there is one
condition; going back to third-party testing. So, in
order to take advantage of this waiver, we will only
approve ATCs to manufacture products under this waiver
provided that they engage a third-party lab to do their
product testing.

So our recommendation is to approve this
resolution.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director
Brown. Do I hear a motion from one my commissioners?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chair, I move
to approve the product waiver regarding concentrates.

VICE CHAIRMAN DELGADO: And I second it,

Madam Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by
Commissioner Nash and seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.

Is there any discussion on this motion?

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair,
briefly.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes, Commissioner
Barker.

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Before I vote, I
would like to say that I hope my fellow commissioners
and Executive Director Brown, I hope that we will commit to also working on a framework that provides a waiver for expanded edible options. I think our paycheck community and stockholding community they continue to emphasize their need to have expanded edible options that offer them alternative and more suitable methods of medicinal consumption. And, you know, I do believe that they stressed how expanded edibles will better serve them and allow them to benefit in many ways. And I definitely look forward to working with you, all, on this. Although there are some safety concerns, I do understand that concentrates are a helpful option, medicinal option for patients. And I hope we continue to incorporate additional helpful options for patients. And with that, I yield my remarks.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Commissioner Barker. I will give Director Brown an opportunity to respond if he so wishes on the ability of concentrates to be used in ingestible items. But I'll also note -- before I turn it over to Director Brown, I'll also note that the Commission does plan on updating its stipulations within the medicinal space through our Formal Rule Proposal following the APA process. So I think we do -- I think there is plenty
of room for the Commission to do that work and make
sure that we are providing patients with a wide variety
of products so that they can determine what is most
useful for their medicinal needs. So I'll leave it
there, but I'll turn it to Director Brown to see if he
has anything to add in response to Commissioner
Barker's comments.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,
Madam Chair. I mean I'll just echo your remarks. I
think, you know, we will work towards that goal. As
we've discussed, there's some complexities when it
comes to commercial kitchens but confident we can work
through those. And, you know, no issue there. So,
yes, absolutely. You know, our goal is to continue to
work to offer more products to patients.

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair and
Executive Director, thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Is
there any further discussion on this matter? Hearing
none, Ms. Hogan, can you please call the vote.

MS. HOGAN: Commissioner Barker?

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

MS. HOGAN: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

MS. HOGAN: Vice Chair Delgado?
VICE CHAIRMAN DELGADO: Yes.

MS. HOGAN: Commissioner Nash?

COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

MS. HOGAN: Chairwoman Houenou?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

MS. HOGAN: The motion passes.

Next we have the open public comment period. The specific topic open for comment is on adult use consumption areas.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Ms. Hogan. Members of the public can submit comments during and after this meeting to the CRC in writing via our website, nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. The deadline for submitting comments to the Commission is 5:00 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, February 25th. Written comments, as always, will be shared with the Commission members and will be made public along with the meeting minutes.

We will hear from -- so, we will hear from our select invited speakers first. And then we will open up the floor to the broader public to provide their comments. And we'll hear from those individuals in the order in which they have signed up to speak.

So, for our speakers this afternoon, please remember our standard three-minute rule. We'll have invited speakers who we have offered five minutes to speak, but
for the public comment period you'll be limited to three minutes. So, please be mindful and concise during your comments. We have a number of folks who have signed up today. And so, we want to make sure we can hear from as many individuals as possible. Please note that the public comment period is meant to give members of the public an opportunity to address the Commission about matters that the Commission should be aware of. It's not a space for people to simply market or advertise private businesses. So, we ask that everyone keep remarks focused on matters that pertain to the Commission's work or items that the Commission should be aware of.

Ms. Blake will call out the names of our speakers beginning with our invited guests, and then we will turn to our other members of the public who had signed up to speak. When it is your turn to speak, Ms. Blake will ask you to unmute yourself. If you are dialing in by phone, which I believe we have or we had a few folks joining us by phone, you will need to press star 6 to unmute yourself when told to do so. Now, in order for our staff to unmute individuals who signed up to speak, your full name or phone number as it appears on Zoom must match the name or phone number you used to register to speak. So, please ensure that your name
matches the name you used to sign up. If you need to change your name on the Zoom platform, exit the Zoom meeting and immediately relaunch the Zoom meeting which should prompt you to enter your name. If you are joining us by phone, the phone from which you are calling must match the phone number used to sign up. We will not be able to correctly identify you as a speaker if your name or phone number does not match what you used to sign up.

So with that, I will turn it to Ms. Blake to first call on our invited guests and then we will hear from the public.

MS. BLAKE: Good afternoon, everyone. Our first speaker is Suzaynn Schick, Dr. Suzaynn Schick, an Associate Professor at the University of California, School of Medicine. Go ahead, Dr. Schick.

DR. SCHICK: Can you hear me? Can you hear me?

MS. BLAKE: Yes. We can hear you. Go ahead.

DR. SCHICK: So I work at University of California, San Francisco. And California opened their first what we call on-site consumption areas or smoking or cannabis use lounges in cannabis stores or dispensaries back in 2018. And I'm going to be showing
you some data from the air that we studied in these public stores. And, also, California allows cannabis consumption at special permitted events. And I've also got some data from our Annual Harvest Festival. Can you advance the slides, please?

So I'm going to be talking a lot about PM 2.5. PM 2.5 is airborne particles that are less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter. This means that they are small enough that they penetrate all the way down to the bottom of your lung when you inhale. They don't get caught up in your nose or your throat. And they can be solid or liquid, but they're usually made of a mixture of chemicals. And they are known to damage the tissues of the lung and can enter the bloodstream directly through absorption from the lung. And what's especially important about PM 2.5 is that even very low concentrations can increase your risk of cardiovascular disease specifically heart attacks. Next slide, please.

This is data from the Emerald Cup Harvest Festival which is held in the Santa Rosa Fair Grounds. We studied in 2018, 2019 and 2021. This is a 21-and-over event; has a secure perimeter. And in the areas where we work, the attendees are allowed to smoke freely. And vendors, also, give out samples of dabs
and sometimes vapes. Next slide, please.

The majority of the smoking activity --
of the consumption activity is smoking there. And we
measured in 2018, 1,118 micrograms per cubic meter
inside the vendor area when the background
concentration outside, outdoors, was only 4 micrograms
per cubic meter. In 2019 it averaged 172 micrograms
per cubic meter when the background was only 3. And
last December it was 383 on average when the background
was 5. Next slide, please.

This is data from a dispensary that did
not allow smoking but did offer desktop flower
vaporizers and electric dab rigs as well as permitting
the use of vape pens on the premises. We measured,
actually, around the clock for five weeks in 2019. And
the average PM 2.5 concentration when the business was
open was 84 micrograms per cubic meter. And the
average when the business was closed was 3 micrograms
per cubic meter. This paper's been published in
Environmental Health Perspectives. Next slide, please.

These are what the daily concentrations
looked like. The little tiny black bars at the bottom
of each column are the concentrations inside the
business when the business was closed. So that's from
10:00 at night -- 9:00 at night until 9:00 in the
As you can see, concentrations varied a lot day by day, but they were consistently much higher than the concentrations were when the business was closed; and, also, much higher than the concentrations were outdoors in the air. Next slide, please.

Our next data is from a dispensary that permitted smoking. We studied this dispensary not 24/7 but in short visits where we actually went into the smoking lounge with people who were customers carrying our instruments with us in backpacks. We did nine visits mostly between 3:00 and 7:00 P.M. And the average particle concentration was 840 micrograms per cubic meter. And measuring at the same time as we were collecting in the dispensary in a coffee shop on the same block, their PM 2.5 concentration was 4 micrograms per cubic meter. Next slide, please.

What this looked like here is different days. Each bar here represents 30 minutes of sampling. On some experiments we went in and out multiple times. It happened that the dispensary installed a brand new ventilation system midway through our study. It did not appear to make a difference. Overall, there was a 12 percent decline in PM 2.5 concentration. It was not statistically significant. Next slide, please.

So what does all of this mean? What is
a safe level of exposure to PM 2.5? Safe levels of exposure are extremely low. The U.S. EPA's current threshold is 12.5 micrograms per cubic meter. The WHO recommends a threshold of 5 micrograms per cubic meter. And a lot of the PM 2.5 concentrations I just showed you are literally off the scale. And when the U.S. EPA says that something is unhealthy, very unhealthy or hazardous it means that there is a strong risk that it's going to increase the risk of asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes immediately when people are exposed; as in when I say immediately, within minutes. It's also going to add to people's lifelong exposure to carcinogens. Next slide, please.

So, is secondhand cannabis smoke perhaps less hazardous than other forms of smoke like tobacco smoke or vehicular pollution? Do the cannabinoids somehow make it safer or better for us, less dangerous? That's still an open question, but I'll just tell you that the THC concentration even in a highly polluted environment is quite low. When we go in and do these studies, we don't get a secondhand high even in really polluted places. You have to literally have multiple people smoking in a completely sealed environment like a car or van to get that to happen. And if there isn't enough cannabinoids in there to have any
psychoactive effects, there is unlikely to be enough cannabinoids in a secondhand cannabis-smoke exposure to have a therapeutic effect that counters the danger posed just by having tiny particles of any reactive chemical inhaling into your lungs. All you're getting with a secondhand exposure is smoke. Next slide, please.

These are data -- I'm taking maybe a little bit more time here because I'm also presenting data from another scientist here at UCSF. My colleague, Matthew Springer, studies the health effects of all different kinds of smoke using rats. And what he does is he generates a smoke with a smoking machine, dilutes it to a concentration that's similar to what people are exposed to in the real world and then has the rats breathe it. And before and after he measures the diameter of the rats' leg arteries and their ability to increase in diameter when blood flow increases. Once you lose this flow-mediate dilation, your chance of heart disease and your risk of heart attack goes up. When you're exposed to tobacco smoke, you can see that ten minutes after the exposure your flow-mediate dilation goes down; 30 minutes later it recovers a bit. Exposed to the same concentration of marijuana smoke, your flow-mediate dilation goes down
and it does not recover significantly at 30 minutes post. Exposed to just plain air, you don't see any effects on flow-mediated dilation. This to me suggests that cannabis smoke has the same potential health effects in that it will increase risk of heart disease in people who breathed it. And this risk comes on immediately. Next slide, please.

MS. BLAKE: Dr. Schick, you have two minutes.

DR. SCHICK: Thank you. In summary, smoking and vaping release masses of particles. Dr. Springer has recently studied cannabis herbs, you know, just dry herb vaporizers and found the same effects on cardiovascular health. Breathing particles increases the risk of heart attack and cancer. I know that there's still a lot of controversy in the literature right now, but, frankly, we are a long way from having good, large studies of people that accurately assess whether or not they're using cannabis, this, which makes it harder to see health effects. Smoke is very difficult to control using ventilation alone. We didn't tell the dispensary to install the ventilation system. They just had it in one time when we showed up. And it really didn't help. And smoking and vaping lounges really are not safe for the people who work in

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them. This includes people who smoke marijuana for, you know, themselves. Earlier studies with tobacco smoke where they looked at people who worked in bars before and after smoking bans found that both smokers and non-smokers had better lung health and fewer respiratory symptoms after a smoking ban. You're not getting away from the risks of exposing your workers as a business owner simply by employing people who already voluntarily smoke cannabis. And I also note from working in dispensaries, that not all dispensary employees smoke. Some of them only use cannabis via other administration methods.

So, that is the end of my talk. I will be happy to answer questions later on in the chat if that's something that's possible, or you can contact me through my email. The managers of this public meeting can make that available to you. Thank you for your time and your attention.

MS. BLAKE: Thank you, Dr. Schick.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Dr. Schick. Before we let her go and turn to our next invited guest, I'll open up the floor for our commissioners to ask any follow-up questions on the information Dr. Schick presented.

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Thank you,
Chairwoman. And thank you, Dr. Schick, for this presentation; very helpful and informative. One question that I thought of as you were presenting, and especially considering the interest in consumption areas, both indoor and outdoor, I thought about your example of the festival. And I was wondering in consideration of, you know, perspective venues, but, also, in consideration of communities and residents, both the host community and the neighboring communities, were you able to track how far the smoke traveled and what levels, you know, persisted at those different distances?

DR. SCHICK: The data I showed today are all from indoor environments, but we have, also, studied some outdoor environments, just not a lot of them. We studied the 420 Festivals in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. We've also studied some outdoor concerts where both cannabis and tobacco products were in use. You do see dangerously high PM 2.5 concentrations at outdoor events. If the outdoor area is not near anybody else's houses, i.e., blocks away, you are unlikely to see pollution of neighboring environments at levels that we worry about for health. However, if somebody has a consumption lounge in the backyard of their commercial property and it's right
below someone else's window, or if the wind is blowing into someone else's backyard, then you can see exposures that are risky. And, also, very, very likely to cause people to complain. We do normally see lower PM 2.5 concentrations when people are using outdoors rather than indoors. However, if you throw a roof on top of it, add some windscreens you're starting to look a lot like what's indoors again in terms of those very, very dangerous exposures. So, if you've got enough outdoor space, you can see effective dilution, but most commercial properties where people are going to be opening stores and dispensaries don't have that amount of extra space around them. So when we were looking at the 420 Festival in Golden Gate Park and we were at the outer edge of the fenced off area, we did see a slight increase in PM 2.5 concentration but not enough that over time we would have been worried about it and not enough that it would have been high once it had made it all the way across and out of the park to places where people were living.

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Thank you very much, Doctor.

DR. SCHICK: You're very welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Dr. Schick, I was wondering if you could highlight approximately how long
it took for these indoor or enclosed consumption areas that you studied for the concentration of PM 2.5 to return to those background or baseline levels.

DR. SCHICK: So, different businesses have different ventilation settings. However, most of them are somewhere between half of an air change per hour and 4 or 5 air changes per hour. And air changes when you have enough clean air coming into a space that it represents the entire volume of an indoor space. So, in those -- so, you know, when we were looking at the dispensary that allowed us to sample 24/7, we would see within about an hour after closing the PM 2.5 concentrations would be getting closer to the normal background levels, but it didn't happen right away. And the problem is that when you're firing up, you know, when you start smoking something or using a vaporizer you're emitting a lot, a lot of particles. And it's hard to control; and it does take a while to go away.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.

DR. SCHICK: Does that answer your question?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: It does. Thank you very much.

DR. SCHICK: You're welcome.
CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Any other questions from the commissioners? Hearing none, thank you very much, Dr. Schick, for your presentation.

DR. SCHICK: You're very welcome. Thank you for the opportunity.

COMMISSIONER BARKER: Thank you, Doctor.

MS. BLAKE: Madam Chair, may I continue?

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes. Please, Ms. Blake.

MS. BLAKE: The first round of speakers I will ask as you hear your name please raise your hand. Mayor Dwayne Warren from the City of Orange, Mr. Kashawn McKinley and Mayor Janice Kovach. If you are here, I invite you to raise your hand. We will start with Mayor Warren. Go ahead, Mayor Warren. We can hear you.

MAYOR WARREN: Okay. Very good. Thank you for having this session. And thank you for allowing us to present. I am the Chairman of the Cannabis Commission -- Committee of the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association. And it's a collection of mayors throughout the state that have similar problems that focus on urban areas and urban constituencies.

And this is a matter that is very important to the organization. It's something we've
pushed for for a long time. Your issue now to regulate consumption spaces is important as it deals with our workforce, our children and places where we bring our families. And some of the things that we ask you to consider are the rules and regulations that are imposed under the Smoke Free Air Act in New Jersey which basically deals with smoking of tobacco at this point and vaping as well. To the extent that it regulates indoor and outdoor smoking, and with the added feature in this case of having some barrier that's going to be sensitive to the fact that children may be in the space as well and could possibly inhale a substance that legally they're not able to do. The other issues around mitigation and around clean air within facilities concerns us on several fronts. One of which we'd like the air to be cleaned or the smoke mitigation to be handled in a way that's done rapidly to ensure the safety of the employees and the patrons, but, also, we're looking at the safety of our enforcement personnel as well who may be on the scene to enforce regulations. And we believe your regulations should be in accordance with local municipal regulations. And perhaps there should be a compilation of what those regulations are. And that should factor into your rule-making process as well.
There should also be some guidance and training to our inspection staff whether it be building inspectors or our local police as to how that intersection is going to happen because there are health risks that are imposed upon municipal personnel who should not be under the influence of marijuana during the time that they are on duty, but this could be something that may be unavoidable if they're in places where they have to heavily regulate. And so, we want to -- want you to think about how we deal with those employees and that safety as well.

And then in places where there could be violations of where the rules and regulations are, legally we should deal what are the -- what is the quality of evidence going to be as we enforce the rules and regulations? And it just ventures into how do we acquire the evidence, how do we -- and whether or not it's confiscated, what happens to the license of the business owner who's operating the business there? So those kind of more thorny issues ought to be properly laid out so that we can mitigate any litigation that might occur and to make sure that our businesses can thrive in this environment.

And then, finally, there is a big push from all of municipalities to have appropriate signage.
So, I was happy to see that we adopted the universal signage. Now that should be across the state, certainly, in our urban areas. The language on signs and the limitations and a copy of the rules and regulations should be something that establishments should be required to post so that everyone is on notice as to what the rules and regulations are and what the limits are to the use of this new legal product.

With those issues, the Urban Mayors Association is asking that you consider them across the board. We certainly would invite you or have you invite us to a session that walks through these kinds of issues before this final rule implementation. And, certainly, we'll work with our Executive Director, Ms. Barbara George Johnson, to submit something in writing to guide your deliberations as well. Thank you, again, for having us.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Mayor Warren. Do we have any questions from the Commission members for Mayor Warren? Seeing no questions, thank you, again, Mayor Warren, for your time and your expertise.

MAYOR WARREN: Thank you.

MS. BLAKE: Next up is Mr. Kashawn
McKinley who is Director of Constituent Services for the city of -- for Atlantic City.  Mr. McKinley, go ahead.

MR. MCKINLEY: Good afternoon, everyone. Can you hear me?

MS. BLAKE: We can hear you. Go ahead.

MR. MCKINLEY: Thank you. I want to speak on a few things. I want to start off specifically about Atlantic City. Atlantic City is not our state's home to conventions; it's the east coast convention capital. Cannabis is an entirely new industry that will be driven by conventions. Atlantic City needs special provisions to capitalize on this marketplace. Stand-alone consumption lounges, both inside and outdoor, are needed. Atlantic City needs the capability to provide large indoor and outdoor venues for consumption of cannabis, but unlike the consumption of alcohol. Locations like Boardwalk Hall, the Convention Center and Bader Field should be permitted to host large cannabis conventions. Only licensed five retail dispensaries will be permitted to be portable or set up a booth or a table to sell cannabis. Atlantic City Special Events Office requires the authority to issue temporary consumption licenses or permits for festivals and other events. We
understand that the state's -- the statute prohibits
this given the unique characteristics of Atlantic City.
This is an exception that Atlantic City truly needs.
Without such exception or exemption, Atlantic City will
to fail at meeting the demands of the conventions for
tens, in many instances, tens of hundreds of thousands
of visitors attend (sic) Atlantic City.

I believe municipalities will once incur
incidents of DUlIs for consumers leaving consumption
areas. Municipalities will likely be surprised to find
out that consumption areas are prohibited from selling
non-cannabis beverages which would include water and
non-cannabis foods. Drink and water, staying hydrated,
is one way that the consumers may sober up from a high
after consumption. Municipalities, therefore, may have
an interest in pushing for revision to the regulations
to permit the sale of non-cannabis and non-alcoholic
beverages or light snacks. These facilities connected
to dispensaries should be open to the public and not
require people to become a member or to make a purchase
to consume.

Lastly, I want to stress that the point
of legalization was to right the wrongs specifically
against minorities by law enforcement. Prohibited
consumption areas only perpetuates the same cycles of
abuse within minority communities. If it is illegal to consume in public housing and in public, then the cannabis is still illegal for an entire sector of our community. Being forced to consume in public puts them at risk of law enforcement interactions which is the whole point of legalization, to reduce these interactions.

Starting a state-wide educational campaign pointing out the purposes and safety measures that will be imposed on consumption lounges such as the prohibiting of serving alcohol. You also can limit the amount of cannabis product a patron can consume. Provide a free ride share to consumers with an agreement for someone like Lyft or Uber. And, also, create incentives designated -- for drivers who would not consume but will drive friends home, thereby, earning loyalty points from a dispensary. Thank you, guys.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you very much, Mr. McKinley. Do we have any questions from the Commission members for Mr. McKinley? Hearing no questions, thank you, again, Mr. McKinley, for your time and your remarks today.

MR. MCKINLEY: Thank you.

MS. BLAKE: Mayor Kovach, go ahead.
MAYOR KOVACH: Thank you very much.

Good afternoon. Thank you Chairperson Houenou, Vice Chair Delgado and the rest of your commissioners for inviting me to speak this afternoon on behalf of the League of Municipalities. I'm Janice Kovach, Mayor for the Town of Clinton and immediate past President of the League.

As the CRC begins the process of setting standards for cannabis consumption areas, we urge the commissioners to continue to recognize the strong role municipalities have in regulating cannabis businesses. The CRC regulations adopted to date have done a tremendous job in recognizing this. And we thank you for that. Regulations regarding cannabis consumption areas must, first and foremost, consider the health and safety of consumers, neighbors and the rest of the community as a whole. Regulations must also consider quality of life concerns for direct neighbors and community members.

To that end, we offer the following suggestions: Regulations should require public notice and direct notice be given to neighbors whenever a cannabis establishment seeks endorsements for consumption area. This provides an opportunity for those in the community to express any concerns they may
have over such a proposal. Regulations should provide for a mechanism that allows for the reporting of concerns or violations related to cannabis consumption areas. Violations will be treated with progressive punishment culminating with the loss of endorsement for a consumption area; and for the worst offenses potential loss of a cannabis operator license. Odor control is of particular importance as it can greatly affect the quality of life of those in the community. While it may be easier to control the odor for an indoor consumption area, outdoor areas may not be so easy to control. Odor is one of the biggest concerns and complaints local leaders in communities with legalized use have received regarding cannabis businesses. While the CREAAM Act provides that indoor consumption areas must only be accessible through an interior door after first entering the retailer, it remains critically important that these areas have alternative means of ingress and egress in the case of an emergency. This is for the safety of patrons as well as for first responders. When cannabis is consumed at a location other than one's own home, such as in the consumption area, it is only logical that the consumer will need to travel to and from the consumption area. This increases the potential for
impaired driving. CRC regulations should require any
facility with a consumption area to have employees
trained in CRC approved training to recognize
impairment. This is critically important to help
prevent a consumer from getting behind the wheel while
impaired. Any license holder looking to operate a
consumption area must recognize their role in potential
liability when serving consumers; similar to how the
state's dram shop laws operate. Regulations should
place the responsibility on the operator to ensure that
any cannabis brought into the consumption area is from
the regulated market. As the CREAAM Act allows for
bringing in outside cannabis into the consumption area,
it is possible that illegal or elicit cannabis is
brought in. For outdoor consumption areas, the CRC
should provide minimum requirements regarding the
height of surrounding walls, fences or barriers
required and reiterate a municipality's authority to go
beyond these minimum endorsements in order to obtain
municipal endorsement. Although cannabis establishment
license holders are prohibited from acting as a retail
food establishment, there is no current prohibition
that food be prohibited from being brought into the
cannabis consumption area. We believe it should be
left to the municipal discretion on whether or not and
to what extent food or drink can be brought into the
cannabis consumption area.

Thank you very much for your time today.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Mayor Kovach. Do any of the Commission members have
questions for Mayor Kovach?

Mayor, I have one quick clarification
question. You had mentioned a desire to see cannabis
businesses have their workers trained to protect
people, but I did not catch what kind of training you
were hoping to see. Could you just clarify that for
me?

MAYOR KOVACH: Sure. We would hope that
the CRC would provide training. So, some form of
training that -- similar to what some restaurants, most
restaurants should be doing with bartenders or any
servers; you know, how to recognize someone who is
impaired and then what the steps that should be taken
to protect the consumers as well as the business owner.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Okay. Thank you so
much.

MAYOR KOVACH: Sure.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Anyone else have
questions for Mayor Kovach? Seeing no further
questions, Mayor Kovach, thank you, again, for your
time and your comments this afternoon.

    MAYOR KOVACH: Thank you so much.

    MS. BLAKE: So the next five speakers on our list today are Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter, David Rosano, Donte Bronagh, Hassan Austin, Noah Fouad, Hala Alomar. Assemblywoman Sumter, David Rosano, Donte Bronagh, Hassan Austin, Noah Fouad, Hala Alomar. That may be six, but if any one of those people are present raise your hand and I will call you. I see Assemblywoman Sumter. Assemblywoman, you may proceed.

    ASSEMBLYWOMAN SHAVONDA SUMTER: Thank you. And I want to thank the Commission for all of their work to date. I am testifying today as Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus in partnership with the Legislative Latino Caucus and the Asian/American Caucus of the New Jersey General Assembly. That is 34 members.

    I join you today to amplify the mounting distrust and shaken confidence our caucuses have in the creation of the new adult use cannabis industry. I was fortunate to sit through a good portion of your meeting today to hear some of the concerns addressed from the Executive Director and the Chairwoman and from your committee reports; so, I will report that back to all on our respective committees. However, we had scathing
press articles detailing and outlining the lack of
equity and apparent unfairness for the issuance of
medical licenses through a competitive request for
applications that necessitated our united efforts to
ensure we have better outcomes for equity and fairness
in the adult use cannabis awards. We're trying to
engage every effort with the lens of equity and
inclusion regarding adult use cannabis to yield the
intended benefit of social equity to recompensed
communities that were most harmed historically. As
authors of the establishment of the CRC, we were
intentional with creating new opportunities for
businesses and partnerships for individuals from
economically disadvantaged areas of our state impact
zones. We are imploring you to establish a transparent
application process that accounts for MWBEs and
disabled veteran status, as well as a process that
affords the opportunity to cure any questions on the
application within a reasonable timeframe, explicit
instructions on how to move from conditional license
holder to a permanent license holder, and, lastly,
limit the barriers to market entry for micro businesses
that include an overuse of mandatory technical
workshops for new entries.

As we know, time is of the essence and

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much work lies ahead of us. However, we must establish confidence in the regulations, in equity in the awards and quality. There must be intentional steps taken as we move forward with the integration of medical license holders which is less than a year away. The marketplace for adult use cannabis needs a chance to succeed and live up to its written mission.

As a New Legislative United Caucuses, we will continue to monitor your work and amplify concerns as received for timely responses to remediate. We don't want time to pass with us not having a conversation on those concerns raised by the public. We are committed to working with the Commission to ensure that all communities are getting a fair fighting chance. I want to thank you for this opportunity. And you have a copy of my written testimony.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you so much, Chairwoman Sumter, for your time and for your remarks this afternoon. Very happy to have you join us today at the public meeting. Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SHAVONDA SUMTER: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Ms. Blake, please go to the next speakers.

MS. BLAKE: Again, I want to remind
everyone that your name on this list on the attendees
list has to match the name that you have registered
with. I see there's Hasan. There is no last name.
Hasan, could you please say your full name for the
record?

HASAN AUSTIN: Hasan Austin.

MS. BLAKE: Go ahead.

HASAN AUSTIN: Yes. Good afternoon.

I'm Hasan Austin, managing partner of MTN Biz
Development. We're a business development company.
And we work with New Jersey cannabis attorneys,
cannabis doctors, real estate and insurance
professionals, programmers and more to aid the public
and private sector in their pathway to cannabis
licensing in New Jersey. So we advocate for small
businesses while providing pool services commensurate
to their capacity, really, to balance the competition.
So we see a little bit, you know, happenings on our
end.

I just wanted to share some of the
sentiments and hopes of inducing New Jersey
municipalities to opt in the cannabis marketplace.
Your reluctance is noted, but your involvement is
needed. There are inherent challenges with entering
any marketplace. However, if we work together as a
public and private sector cooperative state, we can solve some of these problems on the local level. Multi-state operators, they pull up to New Jersey with balance sheets for scale and often infringe on small businesses. However, the guidelines crafted by the CRC are intended to guard against these occurrences. The CRC shifted the power to grow and develop the cannabis marketplace onto New Jersey municipalities.

So, with great power comes great responsibility. Municipalities should exercise their power and responsibility to ensure social equity is properly administered within their community. Unless those can be very averse to small businesses without proper enforcement, please consider enforcement within your ordinances that will promise fairness and safety. Again, with great power comes great responsibility. Article coming out in Cannabis Insider next week. Check for it. Thanks again, CRC, for your time. And keep up the great work. Thanks again.

MS. BLAKE: Thank you. Again, I'll repeat the names from that first tranche of names: David Rosano, Donte Bronagh, Noah Fouad, Hala Alomar. If none of those individuals are present, I will move to the next set. Chirali Patel, Paul Josephson, Vladimir Castillo, David Feder and Daniel Kessel.
Chirali Patel, I see you. Go ahead.

CHIRALI PATEL: Hey, everybody. Can you hear me okay?

MS. BLAKE: We hear you.

CHIRALI PATEL: Thank you. Thank you, commissioners, for putting consumption lounges on the public agenda because I know it really is an important and equity matter. And I really do appreciate the mayors for chiming in and giving their feedback, as well as the doctor who gave the presentation. I'm sure we all know being in New Jersey with the casinos in Atlantic City that we, even in bars and restaurants, we're exposed to secondhand smoke that is a lot worse. And I think there is technology with -- specifically with clean room technology that's utilized when -- for micro processors or semiconductor chips which has the ability to get rid of a large amount of particles including what the doctor was talking about. And so, looking into those. The clean room technology HEPA filters that are approved by the EPA, that can be used in addition to ventilation because it is known that ventilation alone is not enough to help with the side effects of secondhand smoke. So, just mentioning the clean room technology.

And a lot of what I wanted to say was...
already said earlier, but I will say that in the
current regulations, which I know are still not final,
there's a sentence about prohibiting food and beverage
sales with respect to the consumption spaces. And I
think there should be a strong consideration to at a
minimum allowing access to non-alcoholic beverages
because dry mouth or cotton mouth is a common effect
post consumption or inhalation of cannabis products.
So, the need to have just access to water really is
crucial. I believe there are studies done about when
there isn't access to food and beverages at consumption
sites it can lead to individuals fainting. So I'm
happy to share that study with you as well. And then
the other thing for just safety in general as far as,
like, other businesses because I know that's something,
you know, people don't want consumption lounges, but I
think figuring out how the businesses can really
interact and let them know that, listen, this is a --
this is an equity matter. Like the mayor previously
talked about, a whole population of people who do
consume cannabis live in public housing, Section 8
housing, and they risk eviction losing, you know, their
livelihoods, really, just for consuming on-site. And
so, educating the community through public health
campaigns about the need for consumption spaces, why
it's a equity issue and how we can safely do this together. And I think there is a good amount of information from states that have gone on to allow festivals or on-site consumptions like Nevada and Michigan where we can look to and pull statistics and data to really help us shape this to be the right thing to do. Thank you.


JIM RICE: Yes. Can you hear me?

MS. BLAKE: I can hear you. Go ahead.

JIM RICE: Yes, ma'am. Thank you. Thank you, commissioners and Chairwoman. My name is Jim Rice. And I've spent most of 25 years in the alcoholic beverage industry. Eight as a C-suite executive in an alcoholic beverage wholesaler. And I currently own and operate a cannabis transport business in Ohio.

I would respectfully request the
commissioners consider, again, increasing the number of wholesale permits an entity may be issued from one to three. The primary fundamentally unique business proposition that wholesale distributors could offer is an efficient and effective warehousing and logistics solution which requires strategically located facilities throughout the state. In both my professional and personal opinion, allowing a single permitted entity in Northern New Jersey, one in Southern New Jersey and one against the Jersey Shore will not only help the program achieve its social equity goals, but create a safer, more diverse and more successful adult use cannabis market now and in the future. It's important to note that when states that currently permit wholesale distributors, which are California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado and soon to be New York and New Jersey, non-cap the permit holder -- permit number for warehouse distributors. For wholesale distributors. The reason these states allow multiple facilities is just to create a sufficient supply chain. And in this day and age of inflationary costs on fuel and transportation, it's imperative to make the supply chain of the New Jersey cannabis industry as efficient as humanly possible. Also, makes it a much safer business environment as delivery routes...
will require shorter transports for drivers and less
cash accumulated as they make deliveries. Again,
please consider increasing the number of wholesale
permits from one to three.

And I certainly thank you for all your
hard work and dedication to furthering the cannabis
industry in the State of New Jersey.

MS. BLAKE: Thank you. I see Dr.
Nathan. Go ahead, Dr. Nathan.

DR. DAVID NATHAN: Thank you very much.
Good afternoon, Madam Chair and honorable members of
the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission. I'm a
Board certified psychiatrist and educator. And for the
past 24 years have maintained a private practice here
in Princeton, New Jersey where I live with my wife and
our two children. I'm a clinical associate professor
at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and a
Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric
Association. And as many of you know, I'm also the
founder of Doctors for Cannabis Regulation or DFCR.

Regarding the CREAAM Act, DFCR's expert
physicians and scientists would be delighted to assist
the CRC in ensuring the preservation of public health
and in dealing with this issue as we have in other
jurisdictions where cannabis has been legalized. I'm
unfamiliar with Dr. Schick's work so I can't speak to the research she presented, nor to her characterization of dissipated outdoor secondhand smoke as being very dangerous. I would encourage the CRC always to look to multiple perspectives on public health issues as important as this.

As the principle designer of the International Intoxicating Cannabis Product Symbol, IICPS, I wanted to thank the CRC for its hard work in adopting the universal symbol for cannabis products made and sold here in New Jersey. While this is the first time I'm seeing the CRC's proposal, I'm delighted with the general choices you have made. Clear markings of cannabis products such as this are critical for preventing inadvertent consumption by children and adults alike; and also sends a message of caution to consumers and non-consumers. And that brings me to one serious issue I'd like to address with the CRC, and that is the need for standardization of labeling generally and universal symbol, specifically. I would urge, I would implore the CRC to ensure that New Jersey's universal symbol follows existing standards especially consensus standards in the details of the design. The warning triangle used should be the actual IICPS that has been adopted by ASTM and other states.
Previously legalized states adopted a hodge-podge of different symbols that have created confusion and use leaves of all different design. The CRC should not perpetuate this confusion by using the non-compliant cannabis leaf you presented today. Having studied botany, I can tell you that the leaf that you presented today is not a cannabis leaf. The fused leaflets with a short central leaflet is completely inconsistent with a cannabis leaf and characterizes other species of plants including commonly occurring local weeds. So your decision to incorporate the IICPS into the New Jersey universal symbol and imprinted upon cannabis products is well-supported by recent developments. Montana has adopted it. ASTM is publishing the standard very shortly. Vermont and Alaska have also both proposed use of the IICPS.

MS. BLAKE: Dr. Nathan, I'm afraid that's your time.

DR. DAVID NATHAN: And only through adoption of this original design can the CRC sit at the forefront of the gold standard for cannabis products not just in the United States but around the world. Thank you so much for your work, your time and attention. And I'm happy to answer any questions.

MS. BLAKE: The next five: Ashley
Kessel. No. I'm sorry. That was my last five. Russ Hudson, Molie Hartman Lustig, Joe Hernandez, Jessica Gonzalez, Christine Mbana. If any of those people are present. I see Molly Hartman. Go ahead, Molly.

MOLLY HARTMAN LUSTIG: Good afternoon. Can you hear me? Can you hear me okay?

VICE CHAIRMAN DELGADO: Yes. Go ahead.

MOLLY HARTMAN LUSTIG: Okay. Thank you for providing me this time to speak. As it relates to consumption areas, the statute specifically 24:6I-21(g)(2) along with 24:6I-35A(14)(b) provides, that "Entities holding cannabis consumption area endorsements shall not sell any alcohol, tobacco or food", as some of the prior speakers have mentioned. In addition, N.J.A.C. 2C:35-10(a) I believe it's 46(c), discusses personal use of cannabis items. And in addition to the language regarding personal use in consumption areas, there's language concerning smoking, vaping or aerosolizing of cannabis items by a person or entity that owns or controls a hotel, motel or other lodging establishment in up to 20 percent of its guest rooms. And while a hotel owner would not, obviously, be the owner of a retail license because of the restrictions contained in those sections I mentioned and other restrictions, I would like to see some
additional language concerning guidance for
designations of those rooms that are permitted for
personal consumption of cannabis products. Or,
alternatively, if such a designation is not required,
how a hotel owner stays in compliance with that
20 percent rule. I would also like to see some clarity
as to whether those rooms designated for cannabis
consumption will be the same rooms that hotel may
designate for tobacco use by guests. And I think it's
really important to permit not only hotel operators to
be able to distinguish these types of rooms but for
customers to be able to choose a cannabis room as
opposed to a tobacco room.

With that being said, from a policy
perspective as Mr. McKinley and others, Ms. Patel
stated earlier, Atlantic City is a prime example of a
municipality that needs the ability for elastic and
truly municipal-based regulations related to
consumption areas and the areas in which patrons are
permitted to consume cannabis. A specific issue that I
would urge is consideration -- for consideration when
the regulations are reviewed is whether hotel operators
and owners may provide consumption areas for use of
cannabis products other than guest rooms with explicit
language as to indoor and outdoor consumption that

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would not be linked to a class five retailer license.

As some of the other speakers have mentioned, the smell associated with smoking cannabis in flower form could create issues for guests in neighboring rooms, require extraordinary costs for hotel operators to retrofit their facilities to mitigate those odors. And, also, a consideration of families who are occupying rooms together and adults who are permitted to consume not being able to actually use in those guest rooms --

MS. BLAKE: Ms. Lustig, that is your time.

MOLLY HARTMAN LUSTIG: Thank you.

MS. BLAKE: Thank you. Jessica Gonzalez? Jessica Gonzalez?

JESSICA GONZALEZ: Hi. Hello?

MS. BLAKE: Go ahead. We can hear you.

JESSICA GONZALEZ: Hi. Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for efforts and all your hard work. My name is Jessica Gonzalez, attorney at Hiller, PC, an outside general counsel for Minorities For Medical Marijuana. I ask that everybody on this call keep an open mind when it comes to consumption lounges as consumption lounges are a matter of health, public safety and social equity. Given the restrictions on
where adults can consume in New Jersey, consumption lounges provide adults with a safe and private area to consume. It's important for patients and non-patients alike who may be lacking a safe place to consume their medicine especially for those who live in federally subsidized housing and could be subject to discipline. In addition to health and public safety, consumption lounges will also alleviate concerns surrounding law enforcement as well especially for communities that have disproportionately been targeted for cannabis arrest. Consumption lounges cut off the proximity between communities of color and law enforcement and provides for a supervised, secure and safe environment. If there are those who are concerned with children inhaling cannabis smoke, wouldn't it make sense for towns to designate specific areas for consumers to consume to prevent public street consumption? By advocating against consumption lounges, municipalities are forcing its consumers to consume on public streets especially for the non-homeowners who may be at the mercy of their landlord with regards to their consumption.

Additionally, for those who are concerned about how those will get home after consuming in consumption areas, may I remind those that many bars
and clubs spanning across New Jersey all have parking lots for their patrons and have little to no oversight on how their patrons get home. To place additional obligations on consumption lounge operators to supervise adults leaving these lounges perpetuates the stigma on cannabis that we are seeking to extinguish. And in terms of consumption lounges, which I'm in full support, clearly, my only question is whether the Commission is counting consumption lounges towards the square footage for class five micro licenses. I've submitted this question a few times; so, please let me know as this plays into an applicant's architectural plans.

And further, slightly off topic, while I commend the CRC for its attempts to lower barriers of entry, we are seeing heightened barriers of entry on the municipal level. And while I understand that the statute provides municipalities with broad discretion which falls outside of your authority, there is a lack of transparency, the lack of transparency which I understand is also important to the CRC. I recommend the following to combat this: Establish a portal on the CRC website for municipalities to upload their most current ordinances to have a centralized location and mandate municipalities to upload and keep current their
ordinances. We are seeing such a mandated procedure in New York. And if possible, it be helpful for the Commission to establish a similar practice to make it easier to navigate for applicants and, also, to ensure that ordinances are being applied equally to all residents within their respective towns. That is all that I have. Thank you so much.

MS. BLAKE: Thank you. And we see -- I

Russ Hudson. Russ Hudson, go ahead.

RUSS HUDSON: Yes. Thank you. Good afternoon and thank you for your consideration. Again, my name is Russ Hudson. I'm a consultant with Canna Advisors, a cannabis consulting firm based in Boulder, Colorado. And I'm also the author of The Big Book of Terps which is the world's largest scientific textbook about terpenes and flavonoids and cannabis.

I have three points today that I'd like to address with the Commission regarding our consulting work with New Jersey cannabis license applicants. First, there appears to be no requirement to submit financial information for conversion applications. The conditional application asks for an overview of the proposed financing, but the Commission has been clear that financing does not have to be locked down for the conditional application. However, there may be an
oversight here because the conversion application does not ask for any financial details. Second, does the CRC have or will it develop a pounds conversion rate? For instance, for micro retail licenses you can only sell 1,000 pounds per month; but how are edibles, tinctures, lozenges and other products measured in this regard? Finally, the regulations at 17:30-8.1(b)(2) list the requirements for the completion of a training course by all individuals who apply for a cannabis business identification card. Item (b)(2) in this passage states the requirement that, "All applicants have completed a training course whether from a licensed applicant, a license holder or a third-party that has been approved by the Commission and provides education on, at a minimum, the following topics." Then the regulation goes on to list several training requirements. The question here is this: Does the Commission have or will it develop a list of these approved training courses and providers? Must the training conducted in-house by the applicant be approved by the Commission? And if so, where is this process described?

On behalf of New Jersey clients and applicants, we ask that this information be updated on the CRC's FAQ page or somewhere else prior to the
opening day for retail applications on March 15th as these points are fairly important for all of these applicants. Thank you for your time.


MS. HAMILTON: Hi. I am Dr. Monique Hamilton. And I'm Board certified in internal medicine. I'm the co-founder and lead physician for the Dr. Monihami Medical Center, DMMC, in South Orange, New Jersey.

The type of cannabis product a patient uses is dependent upon the patient's response to the cannabis product and what condition the cannabis is being used for. A bona fide patient/doctor relationship is essential to determine which products work best for that patient. Currently, the bona fide relationship is defined, as among other things, the physician has seen and/or assessed the patient for the debilitating medical condition on at least four visits. The patient should consult with a New Jersey Medical Cannabis Program physician to determine what is the...
treatment goal so a plan of care can be developed. As with conventional therapies, the patient may have to try different forms of cannabis to see which one is best at helping the patient reach the treatment goal. The patient should be able to choose from a variety of cannabis products including concentrates so the doctor and patient can determine what is right for that individual.

I applaud the CRC and its efforts to make cannabis concentrates available to medical cannabis patients. I'm confident the CRC will continue to ensure New Jersey patients are receiving the best cannabis treatments available. Thank you.


JO ANN ZITO: Hello?

MS. BLAKE: Jo Ann, yes. Go ahead. We can hear you.

JO ANN ZITO: Thank you. My name is Jo Ann Zito. And I've been serving as a board member for the Coalition for Medical Marijuana of New Jersey for five years now. I would like to -- these comments are off topic of the consumption lounges, but I would like -- things that I would like to make the Commission aware of. Jake Honig's Compassionate Use Medical
Cannabis Act provides that prices that alternative treatment centers charge for medical cannabis shall be reasonable and consistent with the actual costs incurred by the medical cannabis dispensary. And that they may supply medical cannabis at a reasonable or reduced price and even at no charge to those who've demonstrated financial hardship, and that the term -- the term shall be defined by the Commission by regulation. I would like to know if this definition has been made. And if so, where it can be found, and if patients and alternative treatment centers have made use of this provision or have been encouraged to do so.

That some alternative treatment centers are proposing to destroy cannabis they've grown for the adult use market while still charging some of the highest prices for medical cannabis in the country is a slap in the face to patients especially for those who find it hard to affordably access medical cannabis in the state.

On that note, as someone who has been advocating for home cultivation for some years now in New Jersey, I am happy that the Commission has stated that they want to work with the legislature on making such provisions legal. And given that, I wanted to make the Commission aware that the Senate President, Nicholas Scutari's, Legislative Director, Harris

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Laufer, told me in May of last year that in regards to passing legislation on the matter, that they are waiting on the Cannabis Regulatory Commission to set up regulations. And then in November when I asked about this legislation, Harris told me that they cannot support legislation yet due to the Commission's capacity to handle such regulation. While I know the Commission is working as diligently as possible to achieve all the goals and provisions set forth by the Compassionate Use and CREAAM Acts, I don't think this is a good reason for leaders to continue to keep personal cannabis gardening an indictable offense or to not to take any legislative action on the matter at all. The punishment does not fit the proposed crime; and I think a hearing where medical cannabis patients can be heard on the matter especially is long overdue. I hope the CRC will help remedy that in some way.

I would like to ask the Commission for myself and others who may have the same issue about clarification on qualifying for priority status due to cannabis convictions. I have a number of cannabis arrests for misdemeanors and felonies in various states over various decades. And although these arrests alone have been detrimental to myself and my family, I believe ultimately I only have one misdemeanor
conviction. I understand --

MS. BLAKE: I'm sorry, Ms. Zito, but that is your time.

JO ANN ZITO: Okay.

MS. BLAKE: Please utilize the submit comments in writing.

JO ANN ZITO: I will. Thank you.


JIMMY FARRELL: Hi. Thank you very much. Can you hear me?

MS. BLAKE: We can hear you.

JIMMY FARRELL: All right. Thank you.

So, my name is Jimmy Farrell. I'm the staff manager for ASTM's Committee D37 On Cannabis. And there's been mention of the IICPS today and its adoption by the CRC. And I just want to provide some perspective on what exactly goes into an ASTM standard being created and approved through our consensus process. So, ASTM is an organization. We're an International Standards Developing Organization. We've been around since 1898. And we develop standards from everything from children's toys to airplanes and the fuel that go into them as well as standards in the cannabis space.

It was brought to the Committee on

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Cannabis the idea for an international symbol by Dr. David Nathan and his son. And basically, how that worked was they had an idea that they presented to the Committee. The Committee is made up of experts who participate from across the globe in ASTM's consensus process. And so, they worked with a task group of members to develop this document which has a designation for ASTM. It is D8411. I'm hoping that it's going to be published on our website either in the next day or very early next week. It's very close to publication. And anyway, this task group worked to develop the content of this standard that was then put through ASTM's consensus balloting procedure which is all members of the Committee had the ability to vote and comment on this topic. And members of the Committee represent people who grow cannabis, who test cannabis. There's security people, regulators, advocates within industry, patients, consumers; all people that want to be involved in any part of standards development are welcome. And in the case of D37, do participate. So Committee D37 has 1,100 members. And they all received a copy of this ballot. And there were no negatives that stayed in terms of holding the ballot up from being published. There was unanimous agreement across the Committee. And it is
now entered into this publication space where you will then have the ability to specify exactly how this symbol can and should be used in relation to identifying intoxicating cannabinoids.

MS. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Farrell.

Next up, Sherry Murray Powell.

SHERRY MURRAY POWELL: Hello. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Cheryl Murray Powell, Esquire. I'm a cannabis agricultural, dietary, supplement and trade attorney. I've been in the cannabis base for six years. I'm also the Business Development Manager for CSI, a professional background screening association, accredited company, that's been around for 46 years.

My first comments are with regards to the adoption of the international symbol for cannabis. I am on -- I sit on the ASTM International D37 Committee Executive Committee. I'm the Chair of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee. And I'm also on a task force that met for the first time today to determine a subcommittee on cannabis funding, lending and payment processing.

Congratulations. It's a good decision to adopt the universal symbol. I want to support Dr. Nathan in his comments as well as Jimmy Farrell

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representing ASTM staff and his comments. With regards to the consumption lounge discussion, I just want to echo the sentiments of Attorney Jessica Gonzalez who is the General Counsel for Minorities For Medical Marijuana. And I was the original General Counsel for Minorities for Medical Marijuana. And we're completely aligned on this issue. It's very important that you provide safe spaces for people to consume cannabis.

With regards to the inequity when it comes to economic standing in our country and in the State of New Jersey, it's really important that people have the opportunity to consume cannabis as is their right away from children. Children are more likely to be impacted by cannabis consumption in a home rather than in a safe space. So I think we should really take that into account and provide these safe spaces for people who may not have the luxury of multiple rooms in their homes or home ownership.

In addition, I just want to remind everyone that in Amsterdam they've had consumption lounges for decades and decades. And they haven't seen the issues that were asserted in the presentations earlier today. So they have been able to safely consume in a social environment in safe spaces. And those environments were created and provided to
residents of the community.

Also, you know, when we're looking to distinguish cannabis from other methods of consumption of other products, I want to call attention to the fact that no (sic) cigar lounges exist and have existed for a long time and we don't hear these types of concerns. So it's really important that discriminatory language is not used with regards to cannabis patients and cannabis consumers.

And I thank you for your time today.

MS. BLAKE: Thank you.

Madam Chair, that is our last registered speaker.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Ms. Blake. And thank you to everyone who spoke and shared their comments and thoughts with us today. This concludes the business before the Cannabis Regulatory Commission today. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSA: Motion,

Madam Chair.

COMMISSIONER NASH: Seconded.

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Motion made by Commissioner Del Cid-Kossa. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is there any discussion on the motion to adjourn? Hearing none, all those in favor of
adjourning please say aye.

(All responded "aye".)

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All those opposed say nay. Are there any abstentions? Hearing none, the motion passes.

Thank you, all, for your joining today's meeting. Please visit our website to view information about our upcoming meetings as well as information about the public hearings that the Public Engagement Education Committee is hosting starting March 2nd. Please come out and make your voice heard. We are very excited to hear from the public; and so we really want to encourage folks to participate in that. Our meetings will continue to be conducted virtually until further notice. And our next scheduled public meeting is on March 24th.

The time is now 3:35 P.M. And we are now adjourned. Have a good afternoon and great evening, everyone. Take care.

(The matter is adjourned at 3:35 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATE

CARMEN WOLFE, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings as taken stenographically by me on the date hereinbefore set forth.

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