1	TOWNSHIP OF NEW JERSEY
2	PUBLIC MEETING
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4	CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING
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6	AUDIO RECORDING
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11	Date: Friday, August 18, 2023
12	Commencing at 10:00 a.m.
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1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
2
3 DIANNA HOUENOU, Chair
4 SAMUEL DELGADO, Vice Chair
 5 KRISTA NASH
 6 CHARLES BARKER
7 JEFF BROWN
8 DANIEL SAID, Secretary
 9
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APPEARANCES:
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3 HUGH GIORDANO, Worker at UFCW
4 DIANA MCELROY, Higher Higher
5 MARGARITA TSALYUK, CEO of Yuma Way NJ, LLC
  PETER WHITE, UFCW local 152
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CHAIR: Good afternoon, everyone.
 1
                                                    Welcome
 2
   to this virtual edition of the New Jersey Cannabis
 3
   Regulatory Commission's Board Meeting. The time is
 4
   11:11 and I'm calling this meeting to order. Mr. Said.
 5
   Can you please read the notice of the public meeting?
                 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman, this is a spec
 6
 7
   NJ Cannabis Regulatory Commission Public Meeting
   Friday, August 18, 2023 meeting of the New Jersey
8
   Cannabis Regulatory Commission. This meeting was
  noticed to the Asbury Park Press, Press of Atlantic
  City, Star-Ledger, Bergen Record, Trenton Times and the
  Courier-Post on August 14th 2023.
                                      In accordance with
13 the Senator Byron M. Baer open public meetings act.
14
                The agenda and information regarding the
15 virtual nature of the meeting was also posted on the
16
  CRC website. The meeting time and location has also
  been posted on the website of the New Jersey Cannabis
  Regulatory Commission and with the Office of the
18
19
  Secretary of the State.
20
                CHAIR:
                      Thank you. Mr. Said, can you
  please take roll call?
22
                THE SECRETARY: Sure.
                                       Commissioner
23 Barker?
2.4
               MR. BARKER:
                             Present.
25
                THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Dulcet Costo
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(ph) is absent. Commissioner Nash? I didn't hear you.
1
 2
                MS. NASH:
                           Present.
 3
                THE SECRETARY: Okay. Vice Chair Delgado?
 4
                MR. DELGADO:
                             Present.
                THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?
 5
                 CHAIR:
                        Present.
 6
 7
                THE SECRETARY: We now have a quorum.
                                                        The
   first order of business is the Chair's report.
8
 9
                         Thank you. So for today's Chair's
                CHAIR:
  report, I want to note a few items. First and foremost
11 is that there is an agenda change from what is posted
12 onto -- on the website. Today, we will not have an
13 executive session. So the commission will just
14 continue on through the, the preliminary reports and
15 then the cannabis adult-use applications that we have
16 on Deck. The -- also I want to note that the September
  8 board meeting will be back in our regular location at
  44 South Clinton Avenue in Trenton, so be mindful of
18
19
        And stay tuned for major announcements that will
20 be shared in the coming weeks.
21
               We'll have updates on previously discussed
22 regulatory updates and priorities, new initiatives and
23 industry assessments.
                         While more detail will be
  forthcoming, preliminary assessments are showing that
  with nearly 200 annual licenses already approved.
```

agency has made tremendous progress in expanding the 1 2 number of cannabis shops that are open for business. 3 In the last few months, we've seen several newly 4 created adult-use cannabis businesses open their doors 5 to the public, including representation from social equity businesses. 6 7 And while the in NJCRC acknowledges that 8 the biggest barriers to businesses opening up are outside the control of the Commission. And many times even outside the control of the business owners. 10 What 11 we're seeing is that many businesses are having 12 difficulty securing property, further frustrated by 13 landlords who are changing the terms of an agreement at 14 the last minute. 15 There have been construction and 16 construction, permitting delays and lengthy municipal 17 approval processes. And together these barriers are 18 leading nearly three out of four conditional license 19 holders to request more time before submitting an 20 annual license application. I myself have heard 21 directly from individuals who are opting to purchase 22 unregulated marijuana from the legacy or underground 23 market because they are waiting for local businesses to 24 open up before switching to regulated products.

This is a position we've heard for quite

25

```
some time that consumers are using their purchasing
 1
 2
   power to convey the message that they want to support
 3
   more local entrepreneurs. It is -- I believe an
 4
   understandable position despite the risks that
 5
   consumers take when buying marijuana items that haven't
   necessarily been through testing and quality control
 6
 7
   measures.
                 We do encourage consumers to, to buy
8
   products from the regulated businesses so that they can
  feel some level of confidence in the products that they
11 are buying. But meanwhile, the Commission continues to
12 approve applications and expand product availability.
13 And as businesses get past these hurdles, we will
14 continue to see more stores opening up to the public.
15 So I am looking forward to sharing the, the, the
16 further details in the industry assessments and
  regulatory updates that we'll be sharing soon.
18
                And that is all I have for today's Chair's
19
  report.
20
                THE SECRETARY: Okay. Next on the agenda
  is the Executive Director's Report.
22
                CHAIR:
                        Thank you. Director Brown, you
23 have the floor.
24
                MR. BROWN:
                           Thank you, Chair Houenou.
                                                        So
25 I'm going to try and be as brief as possible.
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1 we want to get to the applications, get those approved.
  So first slide please. I did wanna update the, the public
  and the Commission on new dispensary openings both medical
  dispensaries and adult-use retailers. We have new
  alternative treatment centers opening, you know, on a
  weekly basis. Downtown Flowers now open in Jersey
  City, Honey Grove in Gloucester block in Waretown.
  It's great. We have now a medical dispensary in a
  recreational, adult-use dispensary in Ocean County.
10
               We have new recreational only
11 dispensaries, opening notably in since we last met in
12 Kind Kush and Rockaway borough, Cookies Harrison and
13 Harrison Leaf Haus in Somerset, Mountain View Farmacy
14 in West Milford, the Social Leaf in South Toms River
15 and Union Chill in Lambertville. And, and then
16 finally, more and more alternative treatment centers
  are expanding into recreational and being approved to
18 do so whether they've open -- they've done that yet or
19 not the -- these are approved, Design 710 in Atlantic
  City, Urban in Newark, and MPX in Sicklerville.
2.1
               So more stores are opening by the week and
22 we're happy to see that and, you know, certainly wanna
23
  to see that accelerate.
24
               Next slide, please. So secondly, I'm
  going to be talking, we have revenue numbers for sales
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and revenue numbers for the second quarter of calendar
1
 2
   year 2023. The market saw expansion once again quarter
 3
   over quarter. So we saw another 10% increase in
 4
   recreational sales from 145 million in Q1 of 2023 to
 5
   160 million in Q2 of 2023.
                Tax revenue did not see as high of an
 6
 7
   increase.
              So the sales and use tax only increased
   about one point, I think 1.4%. But we did see a, a
8
   significant increase in social equity excise fee
  largely because more cannabis is, is being transferred
  to manufacturers and to retail outlets, thus triggering
12
  the social equity excise fee.
13
                Overall, revenue increased from 9.8
14 million -- revenue to the state increase from 9.8
15 million in Q1 of 2023 to 10 point -- nearly 10.2
16 million in Q2 of 2023. I will note that, you know,
  preliminarily, we're -- we've already seen an increase
18 in July versus June for sales. And as soon as we have
19 numbers for Q3 here, we will share those out with the
20 public.
21
                So the market continues to expand and
22 we're excited to see that and certainly, you know, as
23 more stores open, we will start to see this accelerate.
24
               Next slide, please. On the medicinal
25
  side, medicinal sales were -- came down a little bit
```

but not as big of an increase or decrease as the 1 2 previous quarter. The previous quarter dropped from 3 about 49 million to 34 million, this quarter that were 4 33 million, just under 33 million in medicinal sales. 5 So we still see -- continue to see significant sales in 6 the medicinal market. 7 Next slide, please. So I did want to just call out some factors that -- and the Chair Houenou 8 touched on, on some of these, but you know, things that 10 we hear from consumers are impacting there, you know, willingness to go to legal stores, the sort of policy 12 issues that we see in the market. 13 So number one is price. Prices are still 14 very high and that's a barrier for consumers accessing 15 the legal market. The legal market is safe, it's 16 tested, it's well regulated and it's important that consumers know that, you know, if you don't buy legal 18 then you don't have the guaranteed safety, you don't 19 have third party testing. You don't have the 20 regulations in place to protect you like you do in the 21 legal market. But prices are still very high and that is pushing consumers away from the legal market. 22 23 Accessibility, as, as more stores open 24 sales will increase is, is, is -- as it becomes more 25 convenient for adults to access legal cannabis stores

there -- they will be more likely to do so.

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19

And lastly, I do want to call out and I've mentioned this before to the board and in these meetings but we are seeing that Delta-8 and Delta-9 "hemp" products and I'm putting "hemp" in quotes, which I'll explain. We're seeing a, a proliferation of the -- these products at cheaper prices and, and product diversity than, than the legal market. These products are an illegal gray area. They're unregulated and they pose serious consumer safety concerns.

11 One caveat New Jersey licensed "hemp" is 12 well regulated and Delta-8, Delta-9 "hemp" products are 13 not allowed to be made here. So consumers, if you're 14 purchasing "hemp" you can be confident purchasing from 15 New Jersey licensed "hemp" producers. But there's a 16 lot of these gray area products coming in from out of state. And they are in a lot of cases cheaper than 18 what's available in legal stores.

And so when consumers aren't educated and they don't understand the serious consumer safety risks 21 that they pose, the fact that the testing might not 22 occur, what's in them might not be consistent with 23 what's on the labels. You know, it is in -- but they, 24 they, they are all over and they are impacting legal 25 sales here. I will note that we expect as we did last

```
year to have a detailed report on prices at our next
1
2
   meeting, diving into that issue in more detail.
3
                Related to accessibility and pricing is,
  is getting stores and businesses open and operational.
  And prior, even before the awards that are considered
  today the Commission has now issued awards to 1,200
7
  conditional license holders, as our Chair Houenou
8 mentioned, she elucidated some of the challenges that
9 they are facing trying to convert to annual licenses.
10 But we've also approved -- the commission has approved
11 105 conversions to annual 86 annuals and issued 55
12 expanded ATC licenses. So that means in total, there
13 are now 246 operating licenses either awarded or issued
14 in this market and that after today that's going to
15 grow and it's going to continue to grow.
16
               Next slide please. Overall, looking at
17 licensing, we've now received close to 2,200
18
  applications. Of those nearly 1,400 have been
  approved, 300 are sitting in rejected status.
20 means they, they had an issue with their application.
21 It's been rejected and they have not resubmitted,
22
  there's 181 applications in the office of licensing
23
  currently and 179 in our Office of Compliance and
24 investigations.
25
               We are seeing -- encouraging, although,
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you know, acknowledging the barriers that we see in the
1
 2
   market more conditionals are in fact applying to
 3
   convert to annual. And now, there are 349 conditional
 4
   conversions that have been submitted and we're getting
 5
   new submissions every week.
                 Up for consideration today are 30
 6
 7
   conditional to annual conversion applications and 11
   annual applications which will -- if approved, will
8
   increase the -- those numbers of operating licenses
  that have been approved by the, the board and just
                               And that I believe should
  pending a final inspection.
12 do it for my report for today.
                                   Thank you, Chair
13 Houenou.
14
                CHAIR:
                        Thank you, Director Brown.
  Said, can you announce the next agenda item.
16
                THE SECRETARY:
                                The next items for
  consideration are the adult-use cannabis business
18
  conditional to annual conversion license applications.
19
                CHAIR:
                        Thank you. Director Brown, can
20 you please provide a summary of the applications
21
  received by staff?
22
                MR. BROWN:
                            Yes, thank you, Chairwoman
23 Houenou.
            So today we have 30 conversion licenses up
24 for consideration. These are all applicants that were
25 issued a conditional license and then now have applied
```

to convert to annual license. They have undergone 1 2 priority assignment upon being submitted. 3 priority is verified whether they're social equity 4 businesses, diversity of businesses, impacts on 5 businesses, have bonus points surcharges general applicants, they're then reviewed in accordance with 6 7 that priority. They have undergone completeness review 8 9 and been deemed complete. And they've been scored and 10 have scored sufficiently high to be approved by the commission. Finally, they have all undergone review 12 for qualification, limitations, financial management 13 and agreement review. So that means we've looked at 14 their, initially at their FSHS, management services 15 agreements, if they have them, made sure they don't violate any of our limitations, regulations. And then also have undergone the criminal history background 18 check and background investigation. 19 Finally, so they've all been assessed and 20 undergone quality control and are now these 30 21 conversion applications, which are eight cultivators 22 for manufacturers and 18 retailers are recommended for 23 approval by the, the board of the CRC. And thank you, Madam Chair back to you. 25 Thank you, Director Brown. CHAIR: Are

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there any questions from the board on the information
1
 2
   provided by Director Brown about these license
 3
   applications? All right, hearing none. I will note as
 4
   staff are rotating through the applications. For the
 5
   members of the public this list is on our website, if
   you go to nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. On our agenda, we
 6
 7
   have hyperlinked the list of applications that are up
   for consideration today. With that, is there a motion
8
   on this matter?
10
               MR. DELGADO: Madam Chair Houenou, I moved
  that we approve the conditional to annual license
12 conversions of the eight cultivators for manufacturers
13 and 18 retailers, as presented by the Executive
14 Director.
15
               CHAIR:
                      Moved by Vice Chair Delgado, thank
16 you. Is there a second?
17
               MR. BARKER: Second, (inaudible) --
18
               MS. NASH:
                         Second.
19
               MR. BARKER: -- before the Commissioner
20 Nash.
21
               CHAIR: All right. Seconded by
22 Commissioner Nash. Is there any discussion on this
23 motion to approve the conditional to annual license
24 applications? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you
  please call the vote?
```

1	THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?
2	MR. BARKER: Aye.
3	THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?
4	MS. NASH: Yes.
5	THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?
6	MR. DELGADO: Yes.
7	THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?
8	CHAIR: Yes.
9	THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.
10	The, the next items for consideration are the Adult-Use
11	Cannabis Business Annual License Applications.
12	CHAIR: All right. And here, I believe
13	we've got we will be considering this in two, two
14	steps. We've got a, an initial first group of annual
15	license applications and we do have a recusal for one
16	application, so we'll consider that separately. So
17	with that, I will turn it over to Director Brown to
18	provide a summary of the applications received.
19	MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have 10
20	well, 11 total annual licenses and I'm going to run
21	through the process for all and then we'll, we'll do
22	the 10 and as our Chair mentioned, then there will be
23	one separately.
24	So, annual license is similar to
25	conversion to from conditional to annual. First, they

```
are assigned a priority based on whether they are
 1
 2
   social, equity, diversity and impact zone or otherwise,
 3
   that priority is verified. They undergo completeness
 4
   review, these applications have been deemed complete.
 5
   They undergo scoring, these applications have scored
   sufficiently high to be approved by the Commission.
 6
 7
   They then undergo review for qualification, limitations
   financial, and financial management agreement review.
8
 9
                 That includes criminal history background
  checks, as well as reviews against our regulations to
10
11 make sure there's no issues with limitations or
12 otherwise or qualification. They have all been
13 assessed based on that and undergone quality control
14 and recommended for approval by the CRC Board of
  Commissioners.
15
16
                CHAIR:
                        Thank you. And similarly to the
  conditional to annual license applications.
                                                This list
  of annual -- Director -- annual license applications is
18
19
  posted on our website. With that, are there any
20
  questions from the board or Director Brown regarding
21
  the information provided? Hearing none, is there a
  motion on this matter?
22
23
               MR. DELGADO:
                              Madam Chairwoman, I move
24
  that we accept the annual licenses as presented by the
25
  Executive Director.
```

```
Moved by Vice Chair Delgado, is
1
                 CHAIR:
 2
   there a second?
                 MS. NASH:
 3
                            Second.
 4
                 CHAIR:
                         Seconded by Commissioner Nash.
                                                          Ιs
 5
   there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no
 6
   discussion.
                Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?
 7
                 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?
                 MR. BARKER:
8
                             Aye.
 9
                 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?
10
               MS. NASH: Yes.
11
                THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?
12
                MR. DELGADO: Yes.
                THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?
13
14
                CHAIR:
                        Yes.
15
                THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.
16 Next item for consideration is the annual license
  application number, 2047. Commissioner Nash has
  recused herself from application to 2047 for Bridge
18
19
  City collective, Franklin Township, cannabis dispensary
20 LLC. On account of her recusal, she will remove
  herself from the public meeting while the board
22
  considers this particular application.
                                           Afterward,
  Commissioner Nash will come back in and will take up
  the next order of business.
25
                CHAIR:
                        Thank you. And Commissioner Nash
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has lost, stepped out, great. Director Brown, back to
 2
   you for any summary remarks with respect to this
 3
   application?
               MR. BROWN: Thank you, Chairwoman.
  just state on the, the record that this application
  followed the exact same process I outlined for the
  other 10 annual applications and as such, scored sufficiently
  high to be considered by the application, is complete and is
   recommended for approval by the CRC Board of
10 Commissioners.
               CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown.
11
                                                    Ιs
12 there -- are there any questions from the board for
13 Director Brown on this -- on this particular
14 application? All right, hearing no questions.
15 there a motion on this application?
               MR. DELGADO: Madam Chairwoman, I move
16
17 that we vote on Bridge City Collective Franklin
  Cannabis Dispensary, LLC.
18
19
               CHAIR: And Vice Chair Delgado, when you
20
  say you vote that we move, move to --
21
               MR. DELGADO: -- The vote on it, yes.
22
               CHAIR: -- all right. You mean to -- I
23 presume you mean to approve the license application.
24
               MR. DELGADO: To approve.
25
               CHAIR: Thank you. Is there a second on
```

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1
   this motion to approve the license application Number
 2
   2047? I will second the motion. Is there any
 3
   discussion on this motion to approve the license
 4
   application for applicant number -- application Number
 5
   2047? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please
   call the vote?
 6
 7
                 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?
                 MR. BARKER: Aye. On the condition that
 8
 9
   the applicant, Bridge City Collective provides the
10
  commission with its detailed social responsibility plan
  that it reference in its application prior to the
12 license being issued. Executive Director, are you okay
13 with that?
14
                MR. BROWN:
                            I'm fine with that.
                                                 We've in
  fact already requested that document, so.
16
                             Thank you. Commissioner Nash
                MR. BARKER:
  has recused. Vice, vice Chair Delgado?
17
18
                MR. DELGADO:
                             Yes.
19
                THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?
2.0
                CHAIR:
                        Yes.
21
                THE SECRETARY:
                                The resolution passes.
  Next item on the agenda is the open public comment
23 period.
24
                CHAIR:
                        Thank you. And while we wait for
  Commissioner Nash to join us again, I will note that
```

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members of the public can submit their comments to the
1
 2
   -- to the board during and after this meeting in
   writing via our website nj.gov/cannabis/meetings.
 3
 4
   Comments that are shared with the public are made --
 5
   I'm sorry, comments shared with the board are made
   public. And the deadline for submitting written
 6
 7
   comments for this meeting is Monday, 5 o'clock and that
   is Monday the 21st -- August 21st, at 5p.m.
8
 9
                Speakers will be limited to three minutes.
  So there will be -- you will hear Mr. Said, calling out
  the registered speakers. Once you hear your name
  called, please raise your hand in the zoom feature so
12
13 that we can identify you and unmute you.
14
                If you are using a name that is not very
15 descriptive, we may not be able to identify you.
                                                    For
16 example, I see a couple -- I see a, a Michael with no
17 last name. Someone with the initials S.L. and S.B.
18
  folks, if you can make sure that your name as it
  appears on Zoom is written exactly as you -- as the
19
20 name that you use to register to speak. Otherwise, we
  may not be able to identify you as the individual who
22
  registered to speak. And so we want to make sure
23 anybody who has registered has the opportunity to
  provide their comments.
25
                So if you are unsure whether your name
```

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appears correctly, I encourage you to log off of the
1
 2
   meeting, log back in and you should be prompted to
 3
   enter your name and an e-mail address. If you are not,
 4
   then it might be because you're using an older version
 5
            But that is the only -- unfortunately, that's
   of zoom.
   the only way that we can identify our properly
 6
 7
   registered speakers. So with that, Mr. Said will
8
   please call on the first set of speakers for today?
 9
                THE SECRETARY:
                                 Sure.
                                        Thank you, Chair
  Houenou. As a reminder, public speakers during this
10
  afternoon's public comment period will be limited to
12 three minutes.
                  Please be respectful and concise during
13 your comments. I'll call out the first three, Bilal
14 Naji, Chris Goldstein, and David Feder. Please raise
15 your hands if you're in the meeting and I see Chris
16 Goldstein.
17
               MR. GOLDSTEIN:
                                Yes, thank you.
                                                 Just
  making sure I'm unmuted.
18
19
               THE SECRETARY:
                              Yes, you are.
20
               MR. GOLDSTEIN:
                              All right. Thank you.
  First of all, I want to say I'm looking very much
22
  forward to the price report next week.
                                           Today, I wanted
23 to address the meeting as a New Jersey cannabis
24
  consumer. And we're pretty disappointed with prices,
  millions of us showed up to approve retail sales.
```

now so many working class consumers in New Jersey 1 2 simply can't afford to access the dispensaries. 3 put this into perspective. 4 The average price for a case of beer in 5 New Jersey, we're talking about twelve -- 12-ounce cans is \$19.30. Now, you could have like a nice little 6 7 party with that, in an evening, you can serve a few beers to your friends over dinner for 20 bucks. 8 the average price for just 3.5 grams of regulated adult use cannabis is still around 60 bucks, here in New 10 Jersey and that is just maybe five or six pounds. 12 So legacy providers are providing us a 13 steady supply at about half the price and with 0% tax 14 and that's not really helping anybody. And the idea of 15 buying regulated cannabis to stay safe just doesn't 16 play that we should stay within the state's borders anymore. Maryland recently debuted retail adult use sales at an average price of \$35 an ace for consumers. 18 19 And if we're willing to take a day trip up to Maine, 20 you can find a good quality variety of full ounces, that's 28 grams for \$75 each. 21 22 So including the price of gas and tolls 23 and a lobster roll, it's cheaper for me to drive up to 24 Maine to buy regulated laboratory tested adult-use 25 cannabis and in some cases, from the very same

corporations that are selling it for five to eight 1 2 times as much here in New Jersey. 3 So, you know, oddly enough, the Maine and 4 Maryland regulations are not that far out from New Jersey, they're not that far different. So I, I really 5 do look forward to seeing this report that's coming 7 out, you know, in the next meeting to see what's going on with prices. Because again, most of the voters went 8 to the polls to stop the arrests and we're talking about 100 people getting arrested every day. Consumers really bore the brunt of prohibition. We deserve a 12 little bit better and we deserve a fair price. 13 that legalization is here, thank you. 14 CHAIR: Thank you. And just a note, we 15 are having some technical difficulties with our timer, 16 but we have staff who are keeping track of the time and we will interject just to give commenters an update on how much time they have left. So bear with us as we

18 19 continue to work on our technology skills with this 20 timer. Mr. Said, you may call on the next speaker. 21 THE SECRETARY: Sure. Is there Bilal Naji 22 or David Feder? Okay. I don't see them. So I'll move on to the next three. Diana McElroy, Dickens Cider and Hugh Giordano. All right, I see a Hugh Giordano, go 25 ahead.

```
MR. GIORDANO: Hello, can you hear me,
 1
 2
   okay?
 3
                 THE SECRETARY:
                                 Yes.
 4
                 MR. GIORDANO: Great.
                                        Good evening --
 5
   good afternoon CRC and I hope everybody's having a good
   day along with the staff of the CRC.
 6
                                         As everybody
 7
   knows, my name is Hugh Giordano.
                                      I work for the UFCW.
   The UFCW is the union that represents cannabis workers
8
   from seed to sale, is the official labor union of the
  AFLCIO. CRC, I come to you today, I'm going to start
11 with negative news first, because it's my job.
12 job to report back to you and I went on record, because
13 hot only is it my job to report back, but it's also
14 state law that workers have the right to form and join
15 the union.
16
                We are having issues with TerrAscend and
  the Apothecarium, you know, and I want to make this
18
  clear, we believe that the working class management on
19
  the ground, they are not the enemy they're working
20
  people. Management on the ground, who's in the stores
  40 to 60 hours a week, they're working people.
  understand that any word that comes to them come from
22
23
  the executive level.
24
                Workers are being told in front of our
  union reps that they are not allowed to verbally speak
```

```
about the UFCW. And that was clear, that all
 1
 2
   information that was given to workers, whether it's on
 3
   their break, whether it's just swag when we're
 4
   purchasing and, you know, medical products, when we're
 5
   -- when we're treated like regular customers should be
   given to management immediately.
 6
                 That is against federal law.
 7
                                               And they're
   breaking the law when they do that we were -- we -- you
8
   can expect NLRB charges in the coming weeks.
                                                  We have
10
  reached out to TerrAscend in the past. I have, you
  know, one thing that everybody knows about me, is I
  extend the olive branch, and I've extended it to
13 TerrAscend more than once over the years, saying we
14 should have a relationship that we should work
15 together.
16
                Why is it that every other MSO can do
  that?
        Why is it that I can contact Ascend or I can
18
  contact GTI and I get positive responses back?
                                                    Why is
19 it that other MSOs can have a good relationship with
  the other -- with the UFCW, but they can't? And that's
20
21
  and not only is it about the relationship, it's about
  them what they're doing to the workers.
22
23 breaking the state laws as well.
24
                Labor peace is the law of the land.
25 if you don't want to do the law, then you're spitting
```

```
in the face of the CRC and the assembly and senate and
 1
 2
   the governor's office. So that's exactly what's
 3
   happening and I will make that clear. We will continue
 4
   to talk to those workers, we will continue to do our
 5
   job and that's what's going on.
                 So some positive news.
                                         The workers of MPX
 6
 7
   have joined our union and Gloucester Township, we're so
8
   excited. MPX was a great partner.
                                        The executive
   level, every time I got in contact with them, it was
  not an issue. We follow the LPA, good partners.
10
  also wanna let you know that Curaleaf workers have
12
  ioined --
13
                THE SECRETARY: (Inaudible).
               MR. GIORDANO: -- (inaudible) in Winslow
14
15 and that there are good employers out there.
                                                 That I,
  you know, Surez Nicholson (ph), Diana, of the Flower
16
  Garden in East Orange, good people. So thank you, CRC.
18
                THE SECRETARY:
                                Thank you.
19
                MR. GIORDANO:
                               Bye-bye.
20
                THE SECRETARY: Next up is Jeffrey
  Roizman, Karrissa Miller and Margarita Tsalyuk.
                                                     I see
  Diana McElroy, so I will go to you. Go ahead, Diana.
22
23
               MS. MCELROY: Can you hear me now?
24
                THE SECRETARY:
                                Yes.
25
               MS. MCELROY: Okay.
                                     Thank you.
```

```
1
                 THE SECRETARY:
                                 Just as a precaution, and
 2
   I will signal when it's 30 seconds left.
 3
                MS. MCELROY:
                               I really appreciate it.
 4
   Thank you.
 5
                 THE SECRETARY:
                                 Sure.
                MS. MCELROY: Timing is everything.
 6
                                                      Thank
 7
   you for everything you do in New Jersey for the
   workers' rights. We appreciate you. I actually am
8
   here to speak about children and the messaging that we
  give regarding cannabis or cannabis usage is becoming
11 more and more normal and public, you know, the smell,
12 that stink smell. And I think we need to roll out a
13 program where we discuss why some people medicate, why
14 it's, you know, it's called adult-use versus.
15 know, something for, for kids to pick up unless they
16 are patients in the program and that has to be
  discussed as well, that there are products that are
  helping kids.
18
19
                I think its all part of a
20 distinguishization (ph) and an open and honest
  conversation that we need to have. And I think that's
21
  going to really help elevate this industry in New
  Jersey. And if anyone knows how to change my name, so
24 it comes up with the double A, I would really
  appreciate it. Thank you and have a great Friday.
```

```
THE SECRETARY:
                                Thank you. I see Arita,
1
2
   but I'm not sure if that is the same Arita.
                                                 I'm just
3
   going to allow that person to speak to, to confirm if
 4
   that's okay. Arita?
 5
                MS. TSALYUK: Hello.
                 THE SECRETARY: Yes.
 6
7
                MS. TSALYUK:
                              Hi, this is Rita Tsalyuk,
8
   same as Margarita Tsalyuk. Yes, same person.
9
                THE SECRETARY:
                                Okay. Go ahead.
10
               MS. TSALYUK: So my name is Rita Tsalyuk.
  I'm CEO of Yuma Way, operating in New Jersey, Yuma Way,
12
        And we are part of 2019 medical awardees.
13 it's been five years for us, since we applied for
14 medical market and we just was able to open as medical.
15
                So I wanna first to give kudos to the
16 regulators in New Jersey for giving us an ability to
17 work with investigator, our investigator is wonderful.
18
  She's always available to us and she's always it's --
  her name is Katherine, Katherine Brandt and she, she
20 always pick up all our calls and also always answering
21
  questions.
22
                So we, we operate in five different
23 states.
           And this is more than we've seen anywhere.
24 Where -- I think that maybe we need an improvement and
  maybe you can help us maybe we're just new to the
```

We trying to -- seems like we were already 1 market. 2 approved for the conversion but we have no idea how to 3 understand when we can be scheduled and for how we can 4 see agenda for the next meeting. And if we're 5 scheduled for the next meeting, and we're really hurting, I've seen numbers that you guys presented on 6 7 medical on the ground, it looks quite different. We see maximum of five patients a day 8 9 despite a lot of money putting into advertisement. We. 10 started with eight employees in, in -- and six more ready to join as well. And now we only have two 12 employees, been operating for two months. 13 struggling we were waiting for five years and now we continue waiting. So if anybody could please let me 15 know how to find out when we could be included an agenda that would really, really help us. 17 And in other things that we, we think that 18 they may be should be improved in New Jersey, it takes 19 about a month to get somebody approved for their bid 2.0 and for the Court. 2.1 THE SECRETARY: Okay. 22 MS. TSALYUK: And in collaboration, it 23 take as long almost but then when you changing companies, you don't need to be approved. Jersey, you do. So it's hard to hire somebody and, and

```
maintain as a staff. So if anything can be done with
 1
 2
   that, I think it will be very appropriate.
                                                And I also
 3
   think as the previous speakers spoke, we need to work
 4
   on education --
 5
                CHAIR: You have 30 seconds remaining.
                MS. TSALYUK: -- in this (inaudible) of
 6
 7
   New Jersey market and we gonna try to help you visit as
   much as we can. We're experienced operators and
8
   looking forward to work with the state. Thank you so
10 much.
11
               THE SECRETARY:
                                Thank you.
                                            Jeffrey
12 Roizman or Karrissa Miller, Peter White, okay.
13 Peter White. Go, go ahead, Peter.
14
               MR. WHITE: Thank you.
                                        Thank you.
15 Peter of UFCW. I want to thank the CRC for all that
  you are doing, you know, and I'm actually here today to
  talk about the Columbia Care cultivation site and
18 Vineland at 5, Northwest Avenue.
19
               We do not have a current LPA with the
20
  company, but the employees at the facility have chosen
21
  UFCW as their union representatives. April 5th, we had
  a majority of workers. So we filed for a board -- for
22
23 a car check with the State Board of mediations.
24 State Board of mediations wouldn't do a car check
  because the company's position was they should go to an
```

NLRB election. So we pivoted, we filed for an NLRB 1 2 election with the NLRB and then the company took the 3 position that they're agricultural workers that they 4 aren't entitled to an election. So, so it left us 5 pivoting again, and going back to the State Board of mediations, like we did many months ago. 6 7 But that's not the reason I am here today. I'm here today to talk about how the workers are 8 actually suffering from the company's games. There are serious safety issues within the facility. The workers are currently working with bleach sulfuric acid, their 12 -- violet tone, and other chemicals, and sometimes 13 without the proper PPE to protect themselves. other day, the drains were smoking due to chemical 15 reactions after bleach was poured down on. 16 There's also issues with the HVAC, and even power outages within the building. Due to these power outages and HVAC issues, there's mildew and mold 18 19 within the building and, but more importantly, the PM 20 on the plants. And the concern for the -- for the 21 staff is more or less, you know, the respiratory issues 22 that could come from all this. But unfortunately, 23 without a union, these employees cannot go to 24 management or supervisors with these issues, due to 25 fear of retaliation or threats about losing, losing

their livelihood. 1 2 So even with the workers who are -- and, 3 and even, even with the workers who openly support the 4 union, are getting disciplined, retaliated against and 5 harassed due to the union activity. Management is 6 openly bashing. The union --7 CHAIR: You have 30 seconds remaining. MR. WHITE: -- during, during, during 8 meetings. Currently, they're trying to hire more 9 employees to try to keep the union out. I'm here to 11 let the CRC know what is going on at Columbia Care. 12 And the employees or the -- are asking for help from 13 the CRC. So I just want to thank you for your time and 14 all the hard work you guys do and thank you. 15 THE SECRETARY: Thank you. I'll go over the names of people that I called that did not show up 17 or, or raise their hands, Bilal Naji, David Feder, 18 Jeffrey Roizman and Karrissa Miller. I don't see anyone else. And so that, that looks as like everyone 19 20 that we have for registered speakers, Chair Houenou. 2.1 CHAIR: Thank you. And just a reminder to all the members of the public, you can submit comments 23 to the board by going to our website, hj.gov/cannabis/meetings and submitting written comments. And the deadline to provide written comments

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is 5 o'clock p.m. on Monday, August 21st.
1
2
   concludes the business that we have before us today.
3
   Is there any new business for the board to consider?
 4
   Hearing none, I will ask for a motion to adjourn.
5
                 MR. DELGADO: Madam Chair Houenou, I move
   that we adjourn our meeting here on August 18.
6
7
                 CHAIR:
                         Moved by Vice Chair Delgado, is
8
   there a second?
9
                 MR. BARKER:
                              Second, Madam Chair.
10
                CHAIR:
                        Seconded by Commissioner Barker.
  Is there any discussion on the motion to adjourn?
12
  Hearing none, all those in favor of adjourning, say
13 laye.
14
                ALL:
                      Aye.
15
                MS. NASH:
                           Aye.
16
                        All those opposed say nay?
17
  there any abstentions? All right, hearing none.
18
  motion passes. The time is 11:55 and we are adjourned.
19 Thank you everyone for joining today's virtual meeting.
20 Please stay tuned to our website for more details and
21 information on the next board meeting currently
  scheduled for September 8th. Thanks everyone, have a
23
  great weekend.
24
                (Meeting Concluded at 11:55 a.m.)
25
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CERTIFICATE I, Avi Noam Taub, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the testimonies at the time, place and on the date hereinbefore set forth, to the best of my ability. I do further certify that the transcriber and editor who worked on this transcript are neither a relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any of the parties to this action, and none are a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, and that I'm not financially interested in the action. AVI NOAM TAUB Date: September 1, 2023

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