



State of New Jersey
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

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KRISTA NASH, *Commissioner*
MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, *Commissioner*
SAMUEL DELGADO, *Commissioner*
CHARLES BARKER, *Commissioner*
JEFF BROWN, *Executive Director*

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

1 NEW JERSEY CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

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4 44 South Clinton Avenue

5 Trenton, New Jersey 08609

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VIDEO RECORDING

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PUBLIC SESSION

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Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

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1 APPEARANCES:

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3 BOARD MEMBERS:

4 JEFF BROWN, Executive Director

5 DIANNA HOUENOU, Chair

6 SAMUEL DELGADO, Vice Chair

7 CHARLES BARKER, Commissioner

8 MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, Commissioner

9 KRISTA G. NASH, Commissioner

10 DANIEL SAID, Board Secretary 11

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13 POTENTIAL CRC SPEAKERS:

14 DAVE TUASON, Deputy Counsel

15 WESLEY MCWHITE, Director of Diversity and Inclusion 16

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- 1 REGISTERED SPEAKERS:
- 2 DEANNA ROBINSON, Faith Bros, LLC
- 3 TIM KERR, Leaf Haus
- 4 FREDDY M. HERRERA, Got your six of New Jersey, LLC
- 5 DR. ALYZA BREVARD-RODRIGUEZ, The Other Side Dispensary
- 6 CARLOS ALMANZAR
- 7 AARON BURGARD
- 8 AMINA KURE, IndaKure
- 9 MARIAM KURE, IndaKure
- 10 CHRIS GOLDSTEIN
- 11 ANGELA SPEAKMAN, Elucidation Strategies
- 12 CHRISTOPHER APONTE, AC LEEF, LLC
- 13 CONNOR SHAW, CEED Local 420
- 14 DAVID FEDER, Weed Law
- 15 SAMUEL REICHBART
- 16 ERIN GORE, Garden Society NJ, LLC
- 17 FRANK J. VITOLO, Kushmart NJ, LLC
- 18 JARA SOLDEVILA, Spot 23, LLC
- 19 ANDREA RAIBLE
- 20
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1 CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. The time
2 is 11:03, and I call this meeting to order. Mr. Said,
3 can you please, read the notice of the public meeting?

4 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman, this is a
5 regularly scheduled meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis
6 Regulatory Commission's 2024 annual meeting schedule.
7 Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in
8 accordance with the Senator Byron M. Bear Open Public
9 Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was provided to
10 the Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record, Courier Post,
11 Star Ledger, and the Trenton Times on December 12th,
12 2023.

13 The agenda and information regarding the
14 in-person meeting, and the ability to live stream was
15 also posted on the CRC website. The meeting time and
16 location has also been posted on the website of the New
17 Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission, and with the
18 office of the Secretary of the State.

19 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. Can you
20 please take roll call.

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

22 MR. BARKER: Present.

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
24 Kosso?

25 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Present.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

2 MS. NASH: Present.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

4 VICE CHAIR: Present.

5 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

6 CHAIR: Present.

7 THE SECRETARY: We now have a quorum. The
8 first order of business is for the commission to go
9 into executive session to discuss legal matters, and
10 litigation updates. These are discussions that are not
11 shared with the public. We believe the executive
12 session should, should take about 60 minutes.

13 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there a motion?

14 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
15 we go into executive session.

16 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

17 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado and
18 seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there any
19 discussion on this motion to go into executive session?
20 Hearing none. All those in favor say aye.

21 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

22 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

23 MS. NASH: Aye.

24 CHAIR: All those opposed say, nay. Any
25 abstentions? Motion passes. Again, we expect the

1 executive session to last approximately one hour. We
2 will leave the live stream going on during that time.
3 Any staff members who remain in the room will not be
4 able to answer any questions about matters that are up
5 for consideration today. So we can expect the -- to
6 resume the public session at 12:06 p.m. Thank you for
7 your patience, everyone.

8 (Executive Session - Not Recorded)

9 THE SECRETARY: Next up on the agenda is
10 approving the minutes of the commission's open public
11 session held on February 5th (inaudible) prior to this
12 meeting.

13 CHAIR: Thank you. If there are no
14 changes requested to the public session meeting minutes
15 for the February board meeting. I'll ask if there is a
16 motion on this matter.

17 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
18 we approve the approval of the prior meeting minutes.

19 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
20 there a second?

21 MS. NASH: Second.

22 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is
23 there any discussion on this motion to approve the
24 meeting minutes? Hearing none, all those in favor say
25 aye. Aye.

1 MR. BARKER: Aye.

2 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

3 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay. Any
4 abstentions? The motion passes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Next item on the agenda is
6 the chair's report.

7 CHAIR: Thank you. Today's Chair's report
8 is going to be very brief. The -- well, first of all,
9 happy Women's History Month. But as to the substance
10 our committees will be provide -- a couple of our
11 committees will provide some updates on the 2024
12 priorities that I had shared last month. And also,
13 this spring and Summer, we will be dedicating some
14 public comment periods at our board meetings to hear
15 from the public on patient access issues and the
16 licensing process.

17 So stay tuned to our website for, for more
18 details there. That is all that I have for today's
19 Chair's report. Are there any questions from the
20 board? Hearing no, we will move on.

21 THE SECRETARY: Next item on the agenda is
22 the executive director's report.

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

25 MR. BROWN: Thank you, chairwoman. So

1 today I'm gonna cover a number of things. Licensing
2 update, some additional statistics and then also an
3 update on sales and pricing in the market. A couple of
4 the slides is gonna ping pong back and forth with
5 Director McWhite. So we can start off with a licensing
6 update. So to date there's been 2413 applications
7 submitted. Of those 2413, 1800 have been approved.
8 There are 103 applications under review currently in
9 the Office of Licensing.

10 There are 322 applications are pending
11 resubmission following a cure, and 163 are under review
12 in the Office of Compliance and Investigations. New
13 businesses continue to open, there's now more than 100
14 medicinal and recreational dispensaries open in 20 out
15 of 21 counties in New Jersey. This list grows every
16 day, and every week. I'm also very encouraged, we're
17 starting to see new cultivators open up, new
18 manufacturers open up.

19 I think 2024 is gonna be the year of
20 really seeing additional cultivation capacity, more
21 product diversity, more competitive pricing both true
22 from the on the cultivation side and the manufacturing
23 side. So when we look at the approvals, those include,
24 that's the 1800 applications that have been approved.
25 1356 conditionals, 288 conditional-to-annual

1 conversions, 157 annuals and 70 expanded ATCs. Those
2 last three numbers all are operating licenses. So once
3 a facility gets that award, they just need to pass an
4 inspection. And, and then they get a license.

5 So it -- and we have, when we look at
6 those operating license, there's 219 operating licenses
7 issued. So that's 219 licenses that are operating in
8 New Jersey right now. Next slide, please. And with
9 this, I'm gonna pass it over to Director McWhite. As
10 the chair mentioned, it is Women's History Month so we
11 wanted to provide a -- an update on progress related to
12 women owned businesses in New Jersey's market.

13 MR. MCWHITE: Thank you, Director Brown.

14 Good afternoon to the Chair in the Board. Really
15 excited to -- I'm always excited to be here, right? So
16 really excited to share with you some updated numbers
17 in honor of Women's History Month. To quote one of
18 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso's favorite quotes by Laurel
19 Thatcher Ulrich, "Well behaved women seldom make
20 history." And the data shows -- the data is evidence,
21 and clear that women are making history in the cannabis
22 space and ancillary space here in New Jersey.

23 So this first graph, a board approved
24 majority owned businesses. We continue to see good
25 representation among licenses, among licensed types

1 that have been pored by a board -- approved by the
2 Board that are majority women owned businesses.
3 Conversions continue to climb, which is good. We're
4 starting to see more businesses women owned businesses
5 applying for conversion, who will ultimately end up in
6 the market.

7 For graph two, this includes licensing --
8 licenses, currently operating. This does include
9 expanded ATCs. The highest number, as you can see of
10 currently operating New Jersey women owned cannabis
11 businesses are retailers while one woman owned in
12 manufacturer and seven cultivators are currently
13 operating. But we are encouraged with the number of
14 conversions and conditionals that we see, understanding
15 that number will continue to grow as folks start to
16 open.

17 Graph three, 36 percent -- really, really
18 wanna narrow in on the annual licenses. 36 of our --
19 36 percent of our annual licenses have been awarded to
20 majority women-owned businesses in New Jersey, while
21 according to MJ Bizz Daily's 2023 post pandemic surgery
22 -- survey, women ownership of cannabis companies slid
23 to 16 percent this year from an average of 21 percent.

24 And so, while the country is grappling
25 with a, a sharp decline in ownership among women, today

1 New Jersey can stand tall with 30 percent -- 36 percent
2 of our licenses being awarded to women. And so to
3 quote Chairman Houenou, in a recent article, "Women are
4 developing and implementing sweeping regulatory
5 policies, owning and managing thriving cannabis
6 businesses, and educating the public about emerging
7 industries."

8 And I just did a quick jot of notes of all
9 of the types of women in the cannabis space that I
10 talked to. They are in labor, they are in education,
11 business ownership, banking and investing, real estate,
12 ancillary businesses, disabled veterans, veterans. We
13 have women owned impact zone businesses, social equity
14 businesses, executive managerial, frontline staff.
15 Some are still applicants, some are in the cannabis
16 insurance space, organizers and advocates.

17 Many are in the technical assisted space,
18 the comm space, the admin space, and the medical space.
19 And so we are really excited to continue to welcome
20 women into this industry and excited about where we're
21 going in New Jersey. But last and not least, to the
22 women-led board, we, we honor you all today and also,
23 all of the CRC staff, some who are here. There is not
24 a day that I walk out of my office and I'm greeted by a
25 very smart and capable woman in the cannabis industry.

1 So happy national -- nope, happy Women's
2 History Month and we just celebrated International
3 Women's Day so good job.

4 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Director McWhite.
5 So before the board today, as far as applications up
6 for consideration. We had 24 conditional applicants --
7 applications, 24 conditional-to-annual conversions,
8 seven annuals, two expanded ATCs, and then 34 annual
9 renewal applications. Lastly, before I get to the
10 sales and, and pricing update, well, two, two things
11 before I get to the sales and pricing update.

12 So first, wanted to give a snapshot for
13 where we stand with medicinal enrollment. We're
14 currently at 83,151 patients, just over 5,000
15 caregivers and 1500 physicians participating.
16 Importantly, we did roll out digital ID cards. And so
17 those are starting to be issued to patients. Continue
18 to work through that process, hoping to see these
19 numbers start to go up eventually. And we're
20 continuing to look at things we can do on our end to
21 help make that happen.

22 Lastly, to Wesley's point about working
23 with a lot of very capable, accomplished women in the
24 cannabis industry, I did wanna acknowledge that we're,
25 we're down one today. So our, our deputy executive

1 director, former deputy executive director, Kelly
2 Anderson Thomas has gone on to be Deputy Commissioner
3 of the Department of Health, overseeing the public
4 health systems branch.

5 For those who know the history of the
6 medicinal marijuana program, which then became the
7 division of medicinal marijuana, we actually started in
8 the public health systems branch. So very exciting to
9 see Kelly move on to do bigger and better things and we
10 wish her well. And we'll certainly be working with her
11 going forward. So congrats to Kelly on the new
12 employment. And we'll continue to see her do amazing
13 things.

14 So last, moving to sales and pricing
15 update, been doing these periodically and, and given
16 that we haven't done one since in a while, figured it
17 would be good to touch on this. First off, we have
18 announced previously where we stand on sales. And you
19 can go to the first slide here. So when we look at
20 adult use and medicinal sales for 2023 we came in at
21 just over \$800 million total. Definitely the biggest
22 year on record.

23 Next slide. I wanted to highlight two
24 months in particular because as we're into 2024, when
25 we look at January and February last year versus

1 January and February this year for adult use,
2 particularly, you'll notice that we have a 35 percent
3 increase over last year in January, and a 42 percent
4 increase over February this year. So we're continuing
5 to see growth in the market. And we project that to
6 continue through this year.

7 Going back on adult use sales to the
8 beginning of 2023, you can see the trend line going
9 consistently upward here. You'll notice there is
10 fluctuation month to month. We do see seasonal trends
11 in cannabis, there you know, some of that driven by the
12 same seasonal trends elsewhere. Some driven by
13 seasonal trends unique to cannabis, i.e. April 20th in
14 New Jersey, thanks to when we started adult use sales,
15 we now have April 20th and April 21st to celebrate.

16 So we get two days. So overall though,
17 sales are growing month over month, and the trend line
18 is very positive, which is why we are -- I do believe
19 we will eclipse a billion dollars in total cannabis
20 sales in, in this year. We've announced this
21 previously too, but just to show the statistics, going
22 back to 2018, when we really began the effort to start
23 first reform the medicinal program and then once the
24 adult use law was signed turned into recreational
25 sales, we've had over \$2 billion in cannabis sales in

1 New Jersey over those six years.

2 Now we're gonna turn to pricing. And
3 I've, I've certainly brought up before this board,
4 before I brought up historically, that that New Jersey
5 does have high prices. The good news is that we're
6 seeing, we are seeing a positive trend there as well.
7 And so if we look at, this is bud and flower pricing
8 that we're gonna look at specifically, I'll touch on
9 the percentage of the market that these sales account
10 for, but bud and flower continues to be the highest
11 selling category of cat cannabis product categories.

12 We're seeing prices for medicinal have
13 dropped from -- in January of last year, they were just
14 shy of \$12 per gram. Currently it -- in February they
15 were at \$10.48 per gram average and this is based on
16 actual sales from our inventory tracking system. Adult
17 use retailer, we were at just shy of \$14 per gram in
18 January of last year and now at \$12:22 per gram. Where
19 that shakes out on a per ounce basis, on the
20 recreational side, we're just under \$350 per ounce
21 average retail price. That's not inclusive of taxes,
22 any taxes that need to be paid.

23 And then on the medicinal side, and this
24 is the first time since we've been tracking this that I
25 can say this, we are under \$300 per ounce when it comes

1 to average price paid by patients for bud and flower.
2 There's more work to be done there for sure. We're
3 gonna see prices come down more particularly as
4 competition increases but this is good progress. A lot
5 more work needs to be done. And we do expect these,
6 these prices to continue to decline.

7 So we'll continue to monitor too because
8 when prices fall too far, then it can become a
9 problematic business environment to, to stay afloat.
10 But I think prices remain high, particularly when we
11 look at more mature legal markets. And consistent with
12 more legal markets as they roll out, as businesses
13 become operational, particularly on the supply side,
14 you start to see prices come down. And that's exactly
15 what we're seeing right now.

16 When we look at the product categories
17 being sold, bud and flower remains the most popular at
18 about 42 percent of all sales. Vape carts being the
19 second at about just shy of 30 percent of all sales.
20 Edibles at 14 percent. Expect to see that increase,
21 particularly as our edible expansion. Rules are
22 adopted and the, and people take advantage of those
23 waivers.

24 And then you have pre-rolls, concentrates,
25 shake, trim and capsule pills and -- and other product

1 categories really more minor part of the, of the
2 market. But that's, that's where we, that's where we
3 stand from a product mix situation. And then lastly
4 when we look at sales, one thing I wanted to note is
5 because we see, we see the price going down, it's not
6 reflective of overall utilization of the adult use
7 market.

8 And so you actually see -- we've seen a 46
9 percent increase in grams sold over time since January
10 of 2023 while only a 33.71 percent increase in total
11 sales. So, you know, sales are going up, prices coming
12 down so that total sales will reflect, you know,
13 slightly lower than, than what utilization is. But I
14 think there's positive news in, in both respects there.
15 And next I'm gonna turn it over to Director McWhite
16 again to just announce a couple things coming up
17 through his office and through the CRC.

18 MR. MCWHITE: Thank you, Director Brown.
19 So really excited, last year if you remember, board, we
20 set out to do in-person medical registration clinics
21 one being in one of our buildings. And we were in
22 Trenton, we were in Bridgeton and also in, in Newark
23 where I live. Isn't that interesting? So we are doing
24 them again, but this time we are doing a whole lot
25 more. This time we will again be returning to 212

1 Washington Street in Newark.

2 We'll be going to 50 Barrick Street here
3 in downtown Trenton and 1325 Boardwalk in Atlantic
4 City, which is also the Atlantic City Casino
5 Commission. So in person, you'll be allowed to learn
6 more about the cannabis pro -- medical cannabis
7 program, register as a new patient, create a patient or
8 caregiver portal, renew patient or caregiver card and
9 or change caregiver. And now that we're rolling out --
10 our digital card, you'll be able to get onsite approval
11 for medicinal cannabis card.

12 You can get a printed card here in New
13 Jersey, but all other places you'll be able to -- we
14 will be able to show you or download for you the new
15 digital free digital card. NC funds, every year, it is
16 written in statute that the CRC is to hold three
17 regional hearings to solicit feedback from the public
18 on how to spend social equity excise fee dollars. And
19 so this year we are doing those again on March 26th,
20 March 27th, and March 28th.

21 These will all be virtual on Zoom, and we
22 will also be taking written comments as well. And so
23 our team is going to be doubling down on our outreach
24 and reaching out to all of our community partners, and
25 even business owners so that they can offer

1 recommendations for how to spend the social equity
2 excise fee dollars. We then create a report which then
3 goes to the governor's office and the legislator.

4 And so it is really, really important that
5 the public stays tapped in to social equity excise fee
6 dollars, and shows up to these hearings in both for, on
7 all three for Northern Central and the Southern region.
8 And that's it for me.

9 MR. BROWN: And that is it for the
10 executive director's report.

11 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown and
12 Director McWhite. Are there any questions from the
13 board regarding the executive director's report?

14 MR. BARKER: I know if that Commissioner
15 Delgado has some questions, but I'll have some.

16 VICE CHAIR: No, I don't have any
17 questions.

18 MR. BARKER: Okay.

19 CHAIR: Commissioner Barker.

20 VICE CHAIR: Well, go ahead.

21 MR. BARKER: Executive Director Brown,
22 thank you. So first and foremost, thank you Director
23 McWhite, thank you for the data. Very helpful. Just
24 briefly because pricing as we know we talk about it,
25 it's critical. Can existing operators do more to

1 decrease prices e especially for our patients?

2 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I mean, I would, I would
3 say, yes. I think we don't have -- we don't regulate
4 prices. We certainly report out on them, we monitor
5 them. But I think there's certainly things that
6 businesses could look at to particularly for the
7 medical population, we've seen more discounts for sure,
8 particularly geared towards patients. So that's one
9 thing that is proliferating the market. But I expect
10 to see these prices continue to go down.

11 And I think if, if we're not seeing that
12 particularly for patients then, then we'll wanna
13 understand why and you know, continue to revisit this.

14 MR. BARKER: Okay. And just one more
15 question briefly, can you just elaborate, we've heard
16 it before, we've talked about it, can you elaborate on
17 the discrepancy between the prices for products in New
18 Jersey versus other states. Similar products, but
19 different pricing. Can you elaborate on that? And is
20 there anything that we can do at the CRC about that?

21 MR. BROWN: So what we -- each cannabis
22 market is really a state-based cannabis market is
23 really a self-contained thing, right? There's no
24 interstate commerce, so it it's all within, within that
25 state. You know I think it's important to note when we

1 former administration and, and some of the constraints
2 on the market. Then when I came in there were five
3 dispensaries. Only two of them carried edibles. And
4 there were 17,000 patients. Prices were high, patients
5 had to go four times to see doctors.

6 Some were paying a thousand dollars a month to or a
7 thousand dollars a year just to maintain enrollment in
8 the program.

9 So in this, whenever you make a move as
10 far as licensing whether it's issuing permits or
11 issuing licenses especially on the supply side, it
12 really takes at least two years to see that impact hit,
13 hit the market. That's a long way of saying we've had
14 to take a long route to get to where we are for, for,
15 for certain reasons. But I'm confident that prices are
16 gonna continue to come down.

17 I think the, the, the thing that we can do
18 and we should continue to do is, number one, continue
19 to monitor this data, particularly for medical
20 patients. I think number two continue to look at the
21 licenses issued and make sure that we're issuing enough
22 licenses to maintain a competitive market in both the
23 medical market and the adult use market. And, and
24 then, and then adjust accordingly.

25 MR. BARKER: Thank you. Thank you for

1 that.

2

CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Barker and
3 Director Brown. I know that the -- as far as pricing
4 goes, we had -- the board did outline that taking a
5 look at pricing was a top priority for this year. So
6 we'll continue to, to monitor the data that staff
7 collect and assess our options as a regulatory body to
8 the extent that those options are, are viable for us.
9 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

10 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes. Well, first of
11 all, I wanna thank Director McWhite for presenting that
12 information. It is a Women's History Month. So I do
13 wanna commend the 59 women that are operating in the
14 industry right now. I know it's not an easy task. So
15 I understand the hurdles that you had to overcome to
16 get to where you are. So again, congratulations. And
17 then commissioner Barker did steal my question.

18 I was going to ask director Brown about
19 how our market, how our prices compare to other states,
20 especially the ones that are our neighbors. So I don't
21 know if you have anything else to add on that.

22 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I'll just add one more
23 thing. I think our prices are consistent on the adult
24 use side. Because, Commissioner Barker, we were
25 talking mostly about patients, but AU is applicable

1 here too. I think it's consistent with how you see AU,
2 adult use markets roll out.

3 I saw data from Massachusetts from 2020,
4 which was two or three years in, in for them. They
5 were at about an average price of \$400 an ounce at that
6 time. We're under that by \$50 per ounce right now,
7 three years in. So I expect that to continue to
8 continue to decrease.

9 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Okay. Perfect. Yeah,
10 I would like to continue to work with staff to
11 brainstorm and, and see what, what avenues we have to
12 not only decrease prices for patients, which is very
13 important for me too. And veterans and critical ill
14 patients that are out there paying the high prices
15 (inaudible).

16 VICE CHAIR: (Inaudible) a thousand
17 dollars to renew a retail license for a small operator
18 for all operators, particularly a small operator. And
19 then you throw on top the \$10,000 from the state that's
20 going -- they're gonna have to pay, that's \$35,000
21 right there, right up, right out the right out the
22 door. So that's gonna, that's gonna stress a small
23 operator. So the price of doing business in New
24 Jersey, the cost of cannabis is gonna be doing business
25 in New Jersey is gonna be high.

1 And that's my opinion. But if, if you ask
2 what we can do, municipalities lower their prices on
3 renewals and the state can lower their prices on, on
4 renewals.

5 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chairman.
6 One thing we certainly can do, and I know there's been
7 discussion among commissioners to, to get some
8 stakeholder feedback. But I'll talked to the industry
9 find out what's -- what in their eyes are driving
10 costs. And that can only inform what we do.

11 MR. BARKER: I'd be happy to join you on a
12 meeting with the industry and (inaudible). Happy to do
13 it.

14 CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you, Vice Chair
15 Delgado. Director Brown, you talked about the digital
16 ID cards. Do we have any -- excuse me. Do you have
17 any initial numbers on the number of ident -- digital
18 ID cards?

19 VICE CHAIR: I don't, but I'll prepare
20 that for next meeting, for next month's executive
21 director's report.

22 CHAIR: By all accounts, at this point is
23 that -- is the rollout of digital ID cards going very
24 well, is it going as well as we had initially hoped?

25 VICE CHAIR: I think it's going well. I

1 mean, credit to our customer service staff. I think
2 whenever you roll out something new, there are lots of
3 questions and we're getting the process down. So I'd
4 say it is going well. We'll, we will improve. We'll,
5 whenever you make a change, you have to adjust to that
6 change and then ultimately become a well-oiled machine.
7 And, and we'll get there.

8 CHAIR: Great. And also, I wanted to know
9 if we could get a summary of the edible products that
10 are now on the market. Some businesses have taken
11 advantage of the waiver, the rule waiver to expand
12 ingestible products that they offer. We have some
13 pending (inaudible).

14 VICE CHAIR: (Inaudible) the New Jersey
15 County Regulatory Commission, that's per statute, Madam
16 Chairwoman. And that study includes the agency's
17 organization, the regulation enforcement activities,
18 and overall effectiveness of the, of the commission.

19 There should be a fourth item I believe,
20 and that, that also includes the whether the regulation
21 oversight of the medical cannabis and personal use
22 could be more effectively managed through a
23 reorganization of the (inaudible) of the commission or
24 the consolidation of the commission through different
25 departments in the state. And so that's, that's really

1 the fourth bullet point there. It's not up on the
2 screen.

3 Also, the audit committee is going to
4 adopt the annual reports. I understand that the
5 municipal cannabis industry report, we'll be reporting
6 out may, hopefully.

7 MR. BROWN: Yeah, the medicinal cannabis
8 annual reports, we should have some ready to put it out
9 in May.

10 VICE CHAIR: Very good. And then the
11 adult use cannabis industry report -- go ahead, I'm
12 sorry.

13 CHAIR: Sorry to inter -- interject, Vice
14 Chair. We're having some technical issues with our
15 slides there. So we're just gonna take a pause so that
16 at least the -- so that members of the public can
17 follow along as well.

18 VICE CHAIR: Oh, I didn't see that. I'll
19 be more than happy to repeat it.

20 CHAIR: Okay.

21 MR. BROWN: And the slides will be posted
22 publicly, so if anybody missed anything, they'll,
23 they'll be (inaudible).

24 VICE CHAIR: Who's responsible for that,
25 Director Brown.

1 MR. BROWN: Our communications department.

2 VICE CHAIR: Obviously.

3 (Irrelevant background conversations)

4 MR. BROWN: Oh, there we go, there it is.

5 Great, perfect.

6 CHAIR: Thank you, team OBI for the rest
7 time. So we're great. We're good?

8 MR. MCWHITE: Good to go.

9 CHAIR: All right. Excellent. Thank you
10 for your patience, everyone. Apologies for the
11 technical difficulties and I'll turn it back over to
12 Vice Chair Delgado.

13 VICE CHAIR: Well, thank you very much,
14 Madam Chair. So there's my slide. That's all I have
15 to say.

16 CHAIR: I think we had (inaudible).

17 VICE CHAIR: Oh, in addition to the
18 overall effectiveness of the -- oh, thank you
19 (inaudible) my slide. In addition to the overall
20 effectiveness of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory
21 Commission, the other items that the audit committee is
22 involved with is -- are the adoption of the annual
23 reports. And I think I mentioned earlier that the
24 municipal annual report, we're going to look forward to
25 having it ready in the, in the May 4th meeting.

1 So I -- both, the chairwoman and I are
2 anxious to see that report beforehand, so that's great.
3 And then also the adult use cannabis industry report,
4 that's the second report that will come out later in
5 the year. Okay. And that's all I have, Madam Chair.
6 Thank you for your time.

7 CHAIR: Thank you, Vice Chair Delgado.
8 Are there any questions from the board regarding the
9 audit committee report?

10 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes, Madam Chair.
11 Yes. Quick question is, well, is this something that
12 you can share with today? What is the process that the
13 audit committee is looking at to select that public
14 research university?

15 VICE CHAIR: You can take it.

16 CHAIR: Certainly. So we are -- the audit
17 committee is looking to submit a, disperse a request
18 for information to all of the eligible public research
19 universities with criteria for what we would be looking
20 for, what -- and to get an estimate for their
21 anticipated costs and, and needs in order to conduct
22 the study. Afterwards, the audit committee would
23 review those proposals and develop a recommendation for
24 full board to, to consider before selecting a final
25 vendor for this study.

1 VICE CHAIR: Right.

2 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Thank you. And has
3 the audit committee identified a budget for that study
4 yet? Or is that something that you can share at the
5 next public meeting?

6 CHAIR: We can share more at the next
7 public meeting.

8 VICE CHAIR: And there's five,
9 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso, there's five research
10 universities in the state, Rutgers, NJIT, Rowan, Kean
11 and Montclair. So those are the -- those are the
12 universities that will be sending out the request for
13 information. Okay.

14 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR: You're welcome.

16 CHAIR: Any other questions from the board
17 regarding the audit committee report? Hearing none,
18 then we'll move on. And we have the permit and
19 licensing committee that will be giving its report.
20 And Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso has asked that I -- that
21 I present for this, this month.

22 So the Permitting and Licensing Committee
23 has granted 40 extensions to -- during the month of
24 February. Again, if you are in need of an extension
25 because you are coming up on either the expiration date

1 of your conditional license or a deadline for you to
2 request a -- on a final onsite inspection and become
3 operational, please go to our website on that main
4 business page. On the right-hand side, you will see
5 links for information about the extension request
6 process and the form that needs to be submitted.

7 We -- I also want to remind everyone that
8 the, there is a 15-day deadline requirement for
9 submitting the form, that is to allow for the
10 commission to process your form, review it, coordinate
11 with any other staff to make sure that we have the
12 proper information and also provide a response back to
13 you, the applicant.

14 Moving on, we also have some awardees for
15 the annual licenses on the adult use side that are
16 approaching their operational deadlines. We have 10 in
17 March and six in April. So if you are one of those
18 businesses where you are coming up on that one year
19 deadline for you to become operational, please, please,
20 please, get in touch with your field monitor to make
21 sure that they are up to date and in the know about
22 what's going on with you and submit an extension
23 request if you need one.

24 And then finally, the committee will
25 solicit feedback on the application and licensing

1 process. This is, again, one of the priorities for the
2 year that the board had identified during our February
3 board meeting. And so this spring we're looking to
4 hopefully start in April to convene public hearings to
5 hear from the applicants and people who have gone
6 through this licensing process.

7 So we want to give people an opportunity
8 to weigh in on the current licensing process,
9 understand what's working and should be kept, as well
10 as what maybe should -- can be improved and hear ideas
11 from the people who are going through this process to
12 make it more efficient. So we're currently working on
13 ironing out the final details there. It will be posted
14 on our website once confirmed. So please, stay tuned.

15 And that is all that we have for the
16 permit and licensing committee's report. Unless,
17 Commissioner Cid-Kosso, if there's anything you'd like
18 to add?

19 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: No ma'am, you've
20 covered it all. Thank you.

21 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
22 questions from the board regarding the permit and
23 licensing committee's report? Hearing none, then we
24 will move forward.

25 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the

1 agenda is the consideration of modification of the
2 delegated authority.

3 CHAIR: Director Brown, I'll turn it over
4 to you to provide a, a summary here.

5 MR. BROWN: So this is a modification of
6 delegated authority as previously approved by the
7 board. Chairwoman, we've worked together on this. I
8 think it's encompasses and acknowledges concerns and I
9 think it's a good path forward. For me it's, it's
10 making sure that we can continue to be efficient in our
11 processes and also rely on the, the exceptional
12 expertise that we've developed at the, at the CRC. I
13 think both those things are true here.

14 Just to summarize what the, the change is,
15 so this acknowledges that when FSAs and MSAs are
16 submitted as part of applications and they go to the
17 board, they are reviewed and approved by the board. As
18 part of that application process, we're still
19 maintaining the ability to review and approve FSAs and
20 MSAs outside of the application product -- process or
21 modifications thereof.

22 There'll just be a seven-day review period
23 for the board on any approvals before those are issued.

24 I think there's an additional clarification here on
25 NOVs, which, you know, I'm totally good with, it's just

1 the all NOV's go to the, go to the board for
2 consideration. So overall, I'll just say this, not
3 really pertinent here, but I'm incredibly proud of our
4 FSA, MSA regs.

5 They've really been the result of to be
6 honest, many years working with our investigative team
7 on what's worked, what hasn't, our, our legal team and
8 in determining what we should consider commercially
9 reasonable or not. And I think we're New Jersey is an
10 industry, a nationwide leader when it comes to our
11 regulations that protect businesses from predatory
12 lending practices.

13 So that will, that will continue here and
14 we'll continue to look at how we can improve processes
15 and make sure that we're responding to changes in the
16 industry.

17 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown. And
18 thank you to you and your team for working with the
19 board and apprising us of updates and improvements in
20 the process that we've, that we've been able to, to
21 implement internally. I think it's -- especially given
22 that we are still a relatively new agency, it's always
23 important for us to make sure that we're updating our
24 processes to become more efficient, make sure that we
25 streamline processes where possible and are able to

1 relay those expectations to the public so that
2 everybody is on the same page.

3 So thank you to you and your team for, for
4 working with us to make sure that we are updating our
5 delegated authority to reflect our, our new processes.
6 Are there any questions from the board? If there are
7 no questions, is there a motion on this matter?

8 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move to
9 enthusiastically approve the modification of delegation
10 of bill.

11 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
12 there a second? MS. NASH: Second.

13 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is
14 there any discussion on this motion? Hearing none, Mr.
15 Said, can you please call the vote?

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

17 MR. BARKER: Abstained.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
19 Kosso?

20 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

22 MS. NASH: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

24 VICE CHAIR: Absolutely.

25 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

1 CHAIR: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next
3 item on the agenda is the consideration of applications
4 for name changes.

5 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Brown, I'll
6 turn it over to you.

7 MR. BROWN: We have some name change
8 requests. Jersey Shore Ventures to become Neptune's
9 Garden. Rooted Eves Sham to become Quality Roots Eves
10 Sham. Queen City Wellness to Mind Lift and Glass World
11 Consulting to Treehouse Co-op Dispensary. All of these
12 entities have submitted a letter with request and filed
13 the amendment, the name change amendment with the
14 secretary of state or the New Jersey Department of
15 Treasury provision of Revenue Enterprise Services. So
16 they're all recommended for approval.

17 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
18 questions from the board? Hearing none, is there a
19 motion on this matter?

20 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
21 we -- motion to consideration application of the name
22 changes.

23 CHAIR: To approve the name changes?

24 VICE CHAIR: Yes. To approve them.

25 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

1 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-
2 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion to
3 approve the name changes? Hearing no discussion, Mr.
4 Said, can you please call the vote?

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

6 MR. BARKER: Abstain.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
8 Kosso?

9 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

11 MS. NASH: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

13 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

15 CHAIR: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next
17 item on the agenda is the consideration of applications
18 for location changes.

19 CHAIR: Here's just one. So Director Brown,
20 I'll take it over to you.

21 MR. BROWN: Yes. Thank you. Just one
22 location change. This is a location change for organic
23 remedies moving from Clarksboro in New Jersey to
24 Gloucester City in New Jersey. They submitted all the
25 documentation required by regulation and they've been

1 reviewed by our team and they're recommended for
2 approval for this location change.

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

5 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes. Just a quick
6 one. This is Commissioner Del Cid. Director Brown,
7 just for clarification purposes, this applicant, they
8 have not -- they're not operational at this point,
9 right? They're not open up, they're, they're they
10 whole site or they just --

11 MR. BROWN: So I will have to check.

12 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Okay.

13 MR. BROWN: I believe if they're not open,
14 they're probably close, if we're putting it to the
15 board because it is delegated that we can approve
16 location changes prior to permitting or licensing. So
17 I would imagine if they're, they're not open, they're
18 probably, they getting close, which is why we're, we're
19 I would imagine we're putting it to the board.

20 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Okay. Thank you.

21 CHAIR: Any further questions? Is there a
22 motion on this matter?

23 MS. NASH: So moved.

24 VICE CHAIR: I second.

25 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash to

1 approve the location change. And seconded by Vice
2 Chair Delgado. Is there any discussion on this motion?
3 Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

5 MR. BARKER: Aye.

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
7 Kosso?

8 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

10 MS. NASH: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

12 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

14 CHAIR: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
16 next item for consideration is the adult use cannabis
17 business conditional license applications.

18 CHAIR: Director Brown, I'll turn it over
19 to you to provide a summary of the applications.

20 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. So as
21 is practice, I'll cover the overall process here for
22 all the applications, and then we'll go through
23 category by category. So when an application comes in,
24 it's assigned a priority based on what that application
25 qualifies for, whether it's social equity, business

1 diversity owned business, impacts own business, whether
2 they can bonus points or they're just a general
3 applicant.

4 That priority is verified by our team.

5 They are then assessed for completeness to make sure
6 the application is complete. They're then scored in
7 accordance with our notice of application acceptance.

8 And applications that score sufficiently high in
9 accordance with that notice are then moved forward.

10 There's a review of qualification limitations and
11 financial management agreement review. This is for all
12 applicants, but it's, it's more in depth for annuals
13 and conversions.

14 For annuals and conversions, they then go
15 on to qualification review, which is a criminal history
16 background check as well as financial probity.

17 Conditionals go right to quality control; staff conduct
18 quality control on all these applications to make sure
19 they need meet the regulatory requirements. And then
20 we make a recommendation to the board.

21 So all the applications that are presented
22 today have gone through that process and are
23 recommended for approval. And now we can go through
24 cohort by cohort.

25 CHAIR: Thank you. So starting with the

1 conditional lessons applications.

2 MR. BROWN: Yeah. And, Director McWhite,
3 you can put the list of conditionals on the on, on the
4 board. The all 24 of these are, are recommended for
5 approval, and the list is also on our website under the
6 agenda for today's meeting.

7 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
8 questions from the board regarding the information
9 provided about the allegations? Hearing none, is there
10 a motion on this matter as it pertains to conditional
11 license applications?

12 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, I move to
13 approve the conditional license applications for class
14 1, class 2, class 3, class 4, class 5, and class 6
15 licenses.

16 CHAIR: Is there a second?

17 MR. BARKER: Second.

18 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Barker.
19 Is there any discussion on this motion to approve the
20 conditional license applications? Hearing none, Mr.
21 Said, can you please call the vote

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

23 MR. BARKER: Aye.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
25 Kosso?

1 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

3 MS. NASH: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

5 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

7 CHAIR: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
9 next item up for consideration is the rescission of a
10 previous denial for a conditional license application.

11 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Brown?

12 MR. BROWN: Thank you. So there was --
13 there were some denials at the last meeting. One of
14 those entities paid the required fee before the meeting
15 and the vote took place. And so we're, we're just
16 recommending that the board takes back that denial and
17 that application is, is allowed to move forward.

18 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
19 questions from the board regarding this matter? Is
20 there a motion on this matter?

21 MR. BARKER: Chair, I move that we vacate
22 the denial, reinstate the applicant.

23 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Barker. Is
24 there a second?

25 MS. NASH: Second.

1 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is
2 there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no
3 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

5 MR. BARKER: Aye.

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
7 Kosso?

8 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

10 MS. NASH: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

12 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

14 CHAIR: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
16 next item up for consideration is the adult use
17 cannabis business conversion license applications.

18 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Brown?

19 MR. BROWN: Thank you. There are 24
20 conditional-to-annual conversion licenses. All of it
21 gone through the process I outlined before and all are
22 recommended for approval.

23 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
24 questions from the board? Hearing none, is there a
25 motion on this matter?

1 MR. BARKER: Madam Chair, I move that we
2 approve if we get the conversion applications.

3 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Barker. Is
4 there a second?

5 VICE CHAIR: I second.

6 CHAIR: Second by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
7 there any discussion on the subject? Hearing none, Mr.
8 Said, can you please call the vote?

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

10 MR. BARKER: Aye.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
12 Kosso?

13 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

15 MS. NASH: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

17 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

19 CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
21 next item up for consideration is the adult use
22 cannabis business annual license applications.

23 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Brown?

24 MR. BROWN: Thank you. There are seven
25 annual license applications up for approval. All have

1 gone through the process went before and are
2 recommended to be approved by the CRC board.

3 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
4 questions from the board regarding these applications?
5 There are no questions. Is there a motion on this
6 matter?

7 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve
8 the annual license applications.

9 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash. Is
10 there a second?

11 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

12 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-
13 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion to
14 approve the annual license applications? Hearing none,
15 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

17 MR. BARKER: Abstain.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
19 Kosso?

20 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

22 MS. NASH: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

24 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

1 CHAIR: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
3 next item up for consideration are the expanded
4 alternative treatment center certifications.

5 CHAIR: Director Brown.

6 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
7 have two alternative treatments that are seeking to
8 expand to adult use sales. That's Roots Dispensary in
9 Willingboro and Silver Leaf Wellness in Franklin
10 Township. Both have been vetted against the expansions
11 standards that are in our regulations and statute.
12 Looking at their supply, you know, overall market
13 supply, ability to serve patients' social equity plans
14 and otherwise. And they are both recommended for
15 approval for expansion into the adult use market.

16 CHAIR: Thank You. So I'll take these one
17 by one. Are there any questions from the board
18 regarding the certification for expansion for Roots
19 Dispensary? If there are no questions, is there a
20 motion on this matter as it pertains to Roots
21 Dispensary?

22 MS. NASH: So moved.

23 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash to
24 approve.

25 VICE CHAIR: I second.

1 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.
2 Is there any discussion on this motion to approve the
3 certification for Roots Dispensary. Hearing no
4 discussion, Mr. Said, can please call the vote?

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker.

6 MR. BARKER: Abstain.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
8 Kosso?

9 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

11 MR. BARKER: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

13 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

15 CHAIR: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

17 CHAIR: Then turn to Silver Leaf Wellness.
18 Are there any questions from the board for Director
19 Brown regarding the Silver Leaf Wellness certification
20 terms? Hearing none, is there a motion on this matter
21 as it pertains to Silver Relief Wellness, LLC?

22 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
23 we accept the expanded at ATC certification for Silver
24 Leaf Wellness, LLC.

25 CHAIR: Move by Vice Chair Delgado. Is

1 there a second?

2 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

3 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-
4 Kosso. Is there any discussion on the motion to accept
5 the ATC certification for Silver Leaf Wellness?
6 Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

8 MR. BARKER: Abstain.

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
10 Kosso?

11 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

13 MS. NASH: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

15 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

17 CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
19 next item up for consideration is the adult use
20 cannabis business annual license renewal applications.

21 CHAIR: I'll now turn it over to Director
22 Brown to provide remarks about the annual license
23 renewals.

24 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Chairwoman Houenou.
25 We have, before us, a number of adult annual license

1 renewals. All of those are listed on the slide and in
2 the board packet. There are four entities that are
3 within their first year of adult use operations. And
4 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, seven in their second year. And
5 so I did want to talk a little bit before I get into
6 the recommendation about how we, you know, really work
7 on ongoing compliance here.

8 We're lucky enough to have I think one of
9 the best compliance staffs I'd say in the country. And
10 we -- they're, they're very hands on with permit
11 holders, license holders in constant communication with
12 them. We require any material changes to be submitted
13 to us outside of the renewal process and approved
14 outside of the renewal process. Those include
15 ownership changes you know, location changes, facility
16 modifications things of that nature.

17 Our team is also, when it comes to these
18 entities, their employees have to be carded, whether it
19 be ATC identification card or cannabis business
20 identification card. They're submitting now quarterly
21 reports to Director McWhite and his team on their
22 progress when it comes to their social equity
23 commitments. They're in contact with our Director of
24 Labor Compliance and Education, Bill Wallace.

25 And so assessing compliance doesn't --

1 there's not really -- it's not one point in time at the
2 renewal process, it's an ongoing thing, and our team
3 does a really good job of making sure that these
4 entities remain in compliance. And when they're not
5 then obviously we issue notices of violation and bring
6 those to the board for, for consideration.

7 So when it comes to the renewal process,
8 all of these entities operate in both medicinal and
9 adult use markets were assessed for medicinal renewal
10 several months ago and are now being assessed for adult
11 use renewal. Estimation of our compliance staff is
12 that they're, they're in compliance with the ongoing
13 material requirements for license holders. They're in
14 compliance with the social equity commitments that
15 Director McWhite and his team assess on an ongoing
16 basis.

17 And they are in compliance at the moment
18 with the labor requirements. There are a couple
19 instances that we're tracking for sure. And but at the
20 moment, at this point in time they are good there. So
21 you have in your packet of certification that they've
22 meet those ongoing material requirements. But there's
23 a lot of work that goes underneath that certification
24 to make sure that they, that they are compliant on an
25 ongoing basis.

1 And certainly, if they're not, our team
2 brings that to our session -- attention, and then we
3 issue violations accordingly. So all these entities
4 have been assessed based on their certification, based
5 on that underlying information, based on the reports
6 from the office of diversity and inclusion. And our
7 whole team at the CRC, and they are recommended for
8 license renewal here to most of them expire in April,
9 so that would be renewing these licenses from their
10 expiration date for an additional year.

11 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown. Are
12 there any questions from the board regarding that
13 information
14 provided? If there are no questions, are there -- is
15 there a motion on this matter?

16 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, I move to
17 accept the renewable of adult abuse cannabis business
18 licenses for expanded ATCs.

19 VICE CHAIR: I second the motion.

20 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Delgado.
21 Is there any, is there any discussion on this motion to
22 accept the renewal for these businesses? Hearing no
23 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

25 MR. BARKER: Nay.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
2 Kosso?

3 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

5 MS. NASH: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

7 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

9 CHAIR: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. Next
11 item on the agenda, we have the open public comment
12 period.

13 CHAIR: Thank you. As always members of
14 the public can submit comments to the commission during
15 or after this meeting by going to our website,
16 nj.gov/campus/meetings. The deadline for submitting
17 written comments for today's board meeting is tomorrow,
18 Thursday, March 14th at 5 o'clock. Written comments
19 will be shared with the commission members and will be
20 made public.

21 Speakers today will be limited to three
22 minutes. The public comment period is meant to give
23 members of the public an opportunity to address the
24 commission about matters that the commission should be
25 aware of. Please, this is not a space for simply

1 marketing or advertising private businesses. Mr. Said
2 will call out the names of those registered speakers.
3 When you hear your name call, please come to the front.

4 When you get to the microphone, just push
5 the button that says 'push' until you see a -- when you
6 see a green light that is your cue that -- I'm sorry,
7 that is your cue that the microphone is on, and you can
8 begin. You have three minutes. You will be monitored
9 over here on my right, your left. So please make sure
10 that your comments are concise. With that, Mr. Said,
11 can you please call on the first names.

12 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Chairwoman. As
13 a reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's
14 public comment period will be limited to three minutes.
15 Please be respectful and concise during your comments.
16 So I'm gonna call three names at a time. Deanna
17 Robinson, Tim Kerr, and Freddy Herrera. Please just
18 get ready if you're going to speak. You, Deanna, you
19 can come, Deanna.

20 MS. ROBINSON: Hi. I'd like to first
21 thank you all in the commission for allowing me to be
22 here and for approving me, it was about two months ago
23 or three months ago. And during that time, I had some
24 good feedback to give you with some suggestions. There
25 are a lot of townships that have not implemented the

1 ordinance for cannabis, as you know. And the ones that
2 have, there's some sort of inside communication where
3 the big dogs come out and scoop out the applications
4 and the locations.

5 And before women in business, minority in
6 business have a chance, they've already been taken. I
7 don't know how it's -- the list is done or how they
8 know, but they do know. And then some of these zones
9 that they have for cannabis businesses, retail, are in
10 an industrial zone. So some of these retailers that
11 have come out with limited funds, they go out of
12 business because their locations are in a poor place.

13 I don't know what you can do, but I think
14 that minorities and women in business should have an
15 opportunity to be part of the license application. At
16 least if you have three licenses that the township is
17 giving, one should be designated for women in business,
18 minority in business. It seems that big corporations
19 know everything before we know it, okay? So I don't
20 know how we can change it, but I'm glad that I'm coming
21 in late. I applied three years ago, and I finally got
22 it now.

23 So a lot of the kinks are being worked
24 out. It's not that I'm Johnny come lately, but I'm
25 finding a lot of things that we could do to go forward.

1 Okay. My three minutes are up?

2 THE SECRETARY: No, you have a minute.

3 MS. ROBINSON: No, it's okay. I'm good.

4 Thank you so much. God bless you all.

5 CHAIR: Thank you.

6 THE SECRETARY: The next name on the list
7 is Tim Kerr, if you're here. Next after that is Freddy
8 Herrera. All right. Then the next three names on the
9 list are Michael Wiehl, Dr. Alyza Brevard-Rodriguez,
10 and Carlos Almanzar. I can see Michael, right? Just
11 state your name as we go.

12 MR. WIEHL: Good afternoon, Commission.
13 My name's Michael Wiehl. I'm a New Jersey medical
14 cannabis patient in the state of New Jersey. I also
15 run a weekly YouTube channel, stop the cigarette
16 cannabis live program. And I've learned a lot over the
17 course of the past few years in my research into the
18 cannabis industry. I've been fortunate enough to
19 travel the country and see the implications of the
20 effects of cannabis and how it's affected the states
21 as, as they've implemented it.

22 I hear a lot about costs and everything
23 else. I see a lot that the great work that the
24 commission's done, they don't get applauded enough for
25 the work they've done to kind of control everything and

1 everything else. Some states have ounces as low as 40
2 to \$28 an ounce for recreational cannabis in, in the
3 state of Oregon. Now, I don't understand how anybody
4 could be expected to be in that sort of industry with
5 that sort of profit margin at the end.

6 So the work that they're doing in the
7 beginning to stop that sort of thing from happening is
8 critical to the industry. I feel that, just to speak
9 on price for a second. Now, I just wanted to talk as a
10 medical patient, I've seen a drastic reduction in the
11 number of medical patients over the past year since
12 it's come out. Since the recreational, I've seen it
13 was, I believe, a third drop in patients since
14 recreational sales have opened.

15 In my discussions with the many dispensary
16 owners in the state of New Jersey, I've been to almost
17 every dispensary in New Jersey. I have yet to find
18 anybody to give me an answer on why you would open a
19 medical dispensary right now. There is zero reason for
20 you to apply to open a medically only exclusive
21 dispensary in the state of New Jersey without drastic
22 changes to the benefits to the patients.

23 I see we're having programs; we need to
24 have doctors involved at those programs to be able to
25 issue those sorts of the patient's cards at that

1 program. The big problem is getting to the
2 availability of a doctor, the over cost of the doctor
3 themselves. The commission does an excellent job of
4 affording the availability to people to get their card,
5 but to get the certification, to get their card is
6 where I'm seeing a lot of the blockages.

7 Also, something I see to expand the
8 medical market is to limit the introduction of edibles,
9 certain types of edibles to only medical patients.
10 With drinks of certain percentages being limited to the
11 medical patients as well as higher concentrations of
12 medical products of that, of certain states do 10
13 milligrams for reg patients and then add it to 100
14 milligrams for medical patients in that, to control the
15 dosing and be me more medically conscious towards that.

16 Where a lot of medical patients require a
17 severe a greater dosage to alleviate their symptoms and
18 the cost in purchasing lower dosage edibles just
19 doesn't, it's not good for the patient at that point in
20 time. Thank you very much, and continue on with the
21 great work. You --

22 THE SECRETARY: Are you done? Just submit
23 it in writing. Submit, submit it.

24 MR. WIEHL: Thank you, Commission. Thank
25 you very much.

1 THE SECRETARY: Dr. Alyza Brevard-
2 Rodriguez.

3 MS. RODRIGUEZ: My name is Dr. Brevard-
4 Rodriguez. First name is Alyza. Do me a favor, start
5 that back over when I begin (inaudible). All right.
6 Good afternoon. My name is Dr. Brevard-Rodriguez, and
7 I'm the founder of a future cannabis dispensary and
8 consumption lounge called the Other Side. Yesterday I
9 received a personal courtesy call to be advised that I
10 would not be awarded today, but that my comments were
11 welcomed.

12 I thought how ironic that the CRC had time
13 to cross-reference their e-mails with the speaker list,
14 but didn't have time to rush an already overdue
15 application that was found to have zero discrepancies
16 from a 10-year military veteran. You don't say.
17 Another irony is that the state has managed to award
18 out-of-state companies with grants, but we weren't
19 found good enough for that either.

20 So I can be glorified as the most diverse
21 applicant, but apparently not good enough to be awarded
22 a grant, a license, or receive any state assistance at
23 this point. However, we are good enough to be a marker
24 on your data set every month. See, throughout this
25 painful two-year journey, I have been glorified and

1 herald in the media for being a Black and Latina, LGBTQ
2 disabled veteran operator. Despite the fact that it's
3 the only variation that's yet to be awarded.

4 I'm a Jersey resident. I have zero
5 involvement with any MSOs, no FSAs, no MSAs, and
6 tremendous business acumen. I'm pretty much the exact
7 type of candidate the CRC has described that they
8 wanted as an operator, yet here we are, no license
9 still. The commission claimed that the process takes
10 15 to 27 weeks. However, my team's timetable revealed
11 that we are actually 82 weeks from our initial
12 submission date and 29 weeks from our cure date making
13 the timeline you provided inaccurate.

14 In the last meeting, Commissioner Barker
15 asked for -- that, expressed that there's a lack of in-
16 depth data available. And since there's a sudden
17 interest in research as a research scientist, I figured
18 I'd add a qualitative narrative to your number since
19 they don't paint the real picture. In two years, my
20 team and I have spent \$150,000 in real estate holding
21 fees, \$75,000 on professional services. And that's out
22 of the \$1.1 million that we intentionally raised from
23 only black and brown investors, basically throwing
24 \$250,000 of their money in the garbage.

25 As if we don't already come from families

1 that are struggling, we're over here paying rent on
2 empty buildings like we got it like that. And for
3 what? Because you were ill prepared understaffed.
4 Understand that this is not just data. These are real
5 lives. I quit my full-time job as a policy expert to
6 pursue this process after also being medically
7 separated from the Navy, again, after 10 years,
8 thinking this endeavor could be the opportunity for
9 real wealth and life on the other side where we thrive
10 and instead of survive.

11 But instead as a combat disabled veteran,
12 this process has rattled my anxiety so badly, I may
13 need to be my own best customer. Beyond my lived
14 experiences, I think about the trappers who have
15 stopped their profitable businesses to go legal and
16 trusting you in our communities to lead them to
17 legitimacy. I think about the veterans risking their
18 relationship with the federal system to be involved in
19 this industry. And I think about the dreamers who have
20 fought against vicious landlords and lenders trying to
21 steal their companies.

22 And I think about myself, seasoned
23 entrepreneurs playing a waiting game, having a hard
24 time making it make sense. And while I typically offer
25 solutions, three minutes just isn't enough to truly

1 hear people. So hear this, we need to be collaborative
2 and we need to find solutions together because let me
3 tell you that this talking at you business is not
4 conducive nor productive.

5 So next month when you award me, I will be
6 present here with all of my investors. That way you
7 can look into the eyes of the very people who have
8 taken out home equity loans, money out of their 401ks
9 and given their last bit of savings to bet it all on
10 me. Also, that our kids don't experience another 400
11 years of strife and poverty. What a shame that I had
12 to come up here on women's month and leave like this.
13 What a shame.

14 THE SECRETARY: Just please state your
15 name.

16 MR. ALMANZAR: Carlos Almanzar. Ladies
17 and gentlemen, this is my first time over here. My
18 mother was supposed to be here today, but
19 unfortunately, she got called in because there's a
20 short of nurses. My mother worked from six in the
21 morning to 11 at night. I am a professional trapper.
22 I sold cannabis. Two and a half years ago, I quit
23 everything because I didn't wanna go to jail and I
24 wanna do this the right way.

25 Some politics decided that I was not good

1 enough. I went to my mother and I cried to my mother
2 and I said, mom, you have given me everything. We came
3 from the Dominican Republic into an apartment, Martin
4 Luther King called the jungle. When usually people
5 like me don't make it. My mother gave me everything.
6 I own a construction company and some other business.

7 My business, I give it to the community
8 for the community because I came from the rough part.
9 South Town River has done incredibly the wrong-est
10 thing ever. The only female minority that lives in
11 town, the only female minority that works and gives
12 everything that she has to the kids of our community
13 and the senior citizen, didn't get approved.

14 So far, I have went to everyone. I have
15 sued the town. 420 Organic got approved last week
16 here. That building that they got approved is the same
17 building I gave my mother for her dispensary, the only
18 dispensary in New Jersey that would've had a university
19 inside of it. I'm a Special Ed guy. I cannot write, I
20 cannot read. This is the only way I could communicate.
21 And I told everyone I wanna help my community. I went
22 to different universities to get them united to be able
23 to help my people.

24 Guys, I'm tired because I don't know what
25 to do. I have wasted all my money. I'm going

1 bankrupt, \$1.5 million that I had in my account
2 disappeared. I'm selling all my trucks and everything
3 just so I could have a capital to survive. I don't
4 know what to do no more. You guys say, come out,
5 apply. We are coming out, but we not getting the
6 chance. We are not. And we have to do something to
7 hold these towns accountable.

8 Black and brown are always losing. I
9 don't see colors, I see hearts, and I see people. But
10 when I come from the worst of the worst and I see who's
11 getting apply and who's getting approved, the only
12 different was a Caucasian family, \$14 million, a
13 Hispanic family. And I don't wanna use the word that
14 they said, \$1.5 million.

15 And everything was going to my community
16 because the way to convince my mother, my mother's a
17 very religious lady, doesn't drink, doesn't smoke,
18 doesn't do anything. I had to give my company away to
19 the kids. That's the only reason my mother agreed. So
20 guys, I want you guys to please do something and go
21 after these towns because it's not fair.

22 I can't even apply because what town I'm
23 going to go, I can't go to an outside of town and
24 everything I'm doing is for my mother. It's not even
25 for me. So please, do something about it because look,

1 I wanna throw a 420 Concert and donate all the proceeds
2 to the town. They said, I -- we don't know how to
3 treat that. I said one day liquor a license. "Oh, we
4 don't know. We got to think about it." I went to
5 Social Leaf to see if they will work with us, oh sorry,
6 to see if they would work with us. Nobody wants to.

7 So like, I don't know what to do. I wanna
8 help my community and I wanna help my people. And you
9 guys are doing a great job.

10 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Carlos.

11 MR. ALMANZAR: But we got to do something
12 better, please.

13 THE SECRETARY: Thank you.

14 MR. ALMANZAR: And have a great day, guys.

15 THE SECRETARY: The next three names on
16 the list are Aaron Burgard, Amina Kure, and Mariam
17 Kure. All right. Aaron?

18 MR. BURGARD: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Just please state your
20 name. Stick to the frame. Thank you.

21 MR. BURGARD: Hello, this is Aaron
22 Burgard. I come here as a member of the community. As
23 someone who's big into data and the research that the
24 community has to give to the CRC. I find it very
25 troublesome as a researcher that the data points that

1 we have available to us come in such in frequencies and
2 low denominations. Last meeting, we talked about how
3 we look at other states and what they do well. I would
4 like to point our eye at the state of Colorado.

5 I know they've been here a lot longer than
6 we have, but they give monthly reports, they give their
7 numbers out monthly instead of quarterly. And they
8 also present it in a Google Sheet for the public to
9 obtain. I find that much more accessible for the
10 public to use. And I would like to finish this just
11 stating, help us help you. As a researcher myself, I
12 would love to give you guys any feedback or any
13 findings that I can give you.

14 And right now, it's just hard to find that
15 availability. Thank you for letting me speak today.
16 And yeah.

17 THE SECRETARY: Amina Kure or Mariam Kure.
18 All right. The next three on the list are Chris
19 Goldstein, Angela Speakman, and Christopher Aponte.

20 MS. SPEAKMAN: Angela Speakman. Every
21 barrier, every
22 obstacle in cannabis is rooted in misinformation and
23 problematic stigma, which is nothing new for this plan.
24 We can look to the eighth century as easily as the 18th
25 and find instances of controversy. I'm the founder of

1 Elucidation Strategies, an education agency working in
2 our cannabis industry. Our mission is to help people
3 and organizations make informed decisions when it comes
4 to cannabis.

5 Our education first model delivered
6 through a historical framework while acknowledging
7 individual perspectives and what influenced them is the
8 focus of our work, helping individuals, community and
9 the sector at large. Shaped by my background in higher
10 education and the public humanities, our cannabis
11 community conversation program provides learning
12 opportunities hosted in libraries for supported
13 discussions that explore the complexities of cannabis
14 from past to present.

15 What's behind the lack of real estate, a
16 result of the opt-outs? What's behind the hesitancy
17 for cannabis as an opioid alternative? What's behind
18 every, "I don't want that kind," statement here from
19 community members unwilling to even entertain the
20 possibility of licensed operations. It all comes down
21 to fear based on decades of misinformation. Informed
22 by library feedback, in 2023, Elucidation administered
23 a survey to all 297 libraries in early 2024.

24 The five-question survey aimed to learn
25 more about the interest in and barriers to cannabis

1 education. Each library director in the state was
2 individually contacted by phone and e-mail resulting in
3 an 18 percent response rate. Three key takeaways.
4 One, there is considerable positive interest in
5 bringing these programs to patrons. Two, budget and
6 administrative comfortability and interest are big
7 barriers.

8 And three, unexpectedly, individual
9 conversations prove to be the most insightful as the
10 focus group represents inherent tensions. Quote, "I
11 don't have interest in completing the survey. I know
12 of enough people who started with pot and ended up as
13 drug addicts, several of whom OD'ed. And the thought
14 of someone driving while stoned certainly takes the joy
15 out of driving. The only education that's relevant is
16 education not to smoke pot."

17 Quote, "I'm not interested in doing a
18 cannabis program here. Town X is a very conservative
19 community and prohibits marijuana dispensaries within
20 the township. Most of our programs are seniors" --
21 excuse me, "Most of our patrons are seniors and
22 parents. And I don't think this is the right
23 environment for such a program."

24 I could go on sharing other direct quotes
25 that reveal rationale for and against encouraging

1 access to basic information, which is fascinating when
2 considering all interactions were with information
3 gatekeepers in our statewide communities.

4 While you and your partners are doing a
5 fantastic job promoting education about the process,
6 licensing and safe consumption, Elucidation data
7 indicates that there is a substantial need for
8 reliable, accurate, neutral, fundamental narratives,
9 which ultimately positions New Jerseyans to better
10 understand your current initiatives and make informed
11 decisions involving cannabis.

12 I'm requesting the opportunity to further
13 discuss the implementation of a statewide history
14 focused public education initiative. Using our
15 conversation model to advance historical information
16 that helps people understand why they feel the way they
17 do. The complete survey results are available and I
18 thank you very much for your time and consideration.

19 THE SECRETARY: Thank you. The next is
20 Christopher Aponte.

21 MR. APONTE: Hello, my name is Christopher
22 Aponte, and I'm the owner of AC LEEF. I would like to
23 thank you all for the opportunity to be here and
24 opportunity to be able to open up a retail store next
25 week. I plan on getting my zoning for memorialized by

1 the Atlantic City Commission City Council.

2 Just wanted to sit and, you know, it's a
3 blessing to be able to -- cannabis affected my life
4 when I was 18 years old, catching a felony, blocking me
5 out of a lot of opportunities, and then being able to
6 sit here today as a clean slate. My requisite
7 expungement as of last year has been a journey with me
8 and my team for the past few years with this cannabis.

9 Moving forward, I would just like to say
10 that if we could get a little more help with the
11 attention for the townships of how they treat social
12 equity clients within their, within their, you know,
13 within their communities, I expect it to be a hard time
14 for a lot of us because we're coming from, a lot of us
15 don't have the experience of business and things of
16 that nature, and being able to hold 51 percent but
17 someone entrust you with \$2 million of their capital.
18 It's not the most easiest task.

19 But you guys are doing, and ladies doing a
20 tremendous job. And I just wanted to thank you for the
21 opportunity and stay here. Thank you.

22 THE SECRETARY: Thank you. The next three
23 names on the list are Connor Shaw, David Feder, and
24 Andrea Raible. If any of you are here.

25 MS. RAIBLE: Hi, my name is Andrea Raible

1 and I'm a patient in this state. I'd like to start by
2 saying I appreciate Jeff Brown for speaking up on home
3 grow recently, where us patients didn't have the
4 opportunity to speak for that. I know it's outside of
5 your jurisdiction, but there are a lot of things within
6 your jurisdiction that we definitely need you to take
7 action on. You control our access, our safety, our
8 options, and our voice.

9 The first words in your code of ethics is
10 to uphold the Jake Honig Compassionate Care Act. But
11 five years later, we still don't have institutional
12 access. Medicine like this can save my life as an
13 epilepsy and brain damage patient but it's not allowed
14 in hospitals. Hospice patients don't even have access
15 to their medicine and they don't even have the chance
16 to be heard today here on video testimony, even though
17 we clearly have the capabilities.

18 When you're talking about patient
19 accessibility, we need advisory boards or maybe a
20 patient's rights committee. You guys do a lot of
21 committees. We need science led recommendations. We
22 need transparency. We need all of the COAs posted
23 online. These are outdated practices we need to bring
24 back. We shouldn't have to drive to every dispensary
25 and ask for every product to be printed out.

1 You guys might not regulate it
2 differently, but RSO that legally meets requirements
3 has butane residuals in it. That's the difference in a
4 patient like me, where it's traditionally made with
5 ethanol. And that's what I'm expecting. That's why I
6 feel like my nervous system is frying out. It feels
7 like I'm being electrocuted all the time even when I'm
8 dabbing, I stick to solventless.

9 These things matter to patients and
10 they're easy steps you can take to show that you even
11 care about patients like lifting the testing batch
12 size. I have yeast and mold allergies. I'm also
13 approximately a hundred pounds. So I am the testing
14 batch size for flower in New Jersey right now. While
15 you neglect half a percentage, this AA battery
16 represents how much is actually consumed during the
17 laboratory testing.

18 It's not a representative sample. This
19 was a temporary measure you guys put in to boost the
20 industry, not as a safety practice. And it's been
21 years. We now have a hundred dispensary licenses, \$2
22 billion industry. It's time to please, make common
23 sense changes for public health. If I was divided into
24 eight, 12,800 people would individually be put at risk
25 before we even have the chance to test or do a recall.

1 Lives are at stake here for respiratory
2 sensitive patients and it would be pennies on the
3 dollar for industry to change. We have the highest
4 batch rate in the country by far. Most like the
5 regulation we changed from are around 10 pounds.
6 Pennsylvania proves with the pricing differences that
7 at four times the amount of testing, clearly doesn't
8 impact their prices.

9 There are basic steps that patients and
10 people need you to take for us to feel safe or for us
11 to feel like our voices are heard. So please, I know
12 that one's a simple vote. That would take very limited
13 amount of the council's time.

14 Please, at least consider prioritizing
15 appropriately. Because while home grow isn't in your
16 jurisdiction, you regulate the cost, the access, you
17 regulate our hospital care, you regulate our quality of
18 life, and you regulate our chances of survival. And I
19 just ask that you prioritize accordingly. Thank you.

20 THE SECRETARY: The next three names on
21 the list are Erin Gore, Frank Vitolo, and Jara
22 Soldevila. If any three of you are here, please make
23 yourself known. All right. The next name on the list
24 is Samuel Reichbart.

25 MR. REICHBART: My name is Samuel

1 Reichbart, and I'm here today to talk about a couple of
2 things. First off, as Andrea just spoke on the lab
3 test, batch size is just unacceptable. I don't know
4 how I could feel safe smoking anything that's on these
5 shelves. How these were supposed to be temporary
6 measures put in place to help get adult use product to
7 market in an efficient manner. And we're over a year
8 past that. We're -- sorry, we're coming up on two
9 years past that.

10 So what -- why is that still in place? I
11 do not understand that. And it seems like a simple
12 action by the commission to lift that since it was
13 simply a temporary measure and not written directly
14 into regulations. I've also found that over the last
15 few weeks, over the last three weeks since the last
16 meeting, it seems that the CRC has a misunderstanding
17 of terminology that's relevant to patients and their
18 treatment.

19 I've spent the last three weeks trying to
20 get in touch with someone who can help me with fixing
21 these issues. Specifically, in reference to RSO. RSO
22 is a very specific and unique product. It's different
23 than anything else available in the entirety of not
24 just New Jersey, but the entire cannabis market in the
25 entire country. There's nothing like it when it's

1 processed properly. And what I'm finding on shelves is
2 not, and it can be dangerous to people.

3 I've spent the last three weeks leaving
4 voicemails calling, submitting incident reports,
5 requesting meetings with you guys. I haven't even
6 gotten so much as like automated e-mails back. I
7 finally got an e-mail back from an investigator who was
8 very rude that I was trying to ask him questions and
9 not file a product report. But the issue is that if he
10 was to take the information of that product and go
11 investigate it based on the regulations that you guys
12 impose, it is a safe and compliant product.

13 But I am a patient, an experienced
14 patient, and I have been calling for weeks now to tell
15 you guys that that product is dangerous. And I can't
16 get so much as a 32nd call back to even understand what
17 you guys define that product as so that way I can
18 understand what I could suggest to you to change, to
19 have a better chance for patients to have safe access
20 to their medicine.

21 I am quite literally out of options. What
22 are we as patients supposed to do? We need to
23 establish a better way for patients to have their
24 questions answered and to have their concerns raised.
25 Patient -- the people that work in patient services

1 have been very helpful in the ways that they can, but
2 unfortunately, what they can do is extremely limited.
3 They have told me that they just deal with registering
4 patients. Beyond that, it just gets passed to the
5 correct department who never gets back to me.

6 What are we as patients supposed to do? I
7 feel like I'm completely out of options. And if you
8 guys think that a digital card is going to fix patient
9 numbers, I implore you to listen to patients and maybe
10 establish an advisory board so that way we can help you
11 to make better decisions for us. Thank you.

12 THE SECRETARY: That, that was it for the
13 speakers. I'm just gonna go over the names that that I
14 called that didn't come up. Tim Kerr, Freddy Herrera,
15 Amina Kure, Mariam Kure, Chris Goldstein, Connor Shaw,
16 David Feder, Erin Gore, Frank Vitolo and Jara
17 Soldevila. Chairwoman Houenou, this will conclude the
18 registered speakers we have for today's public meeting.

19 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. And thank
20 you to everybody who shared their thoughts and their
21 experiences with the commission. As a reminder, you
22 can submit your comments to us in writing by going to
23 our website, nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. And the
24 deadline for submitting written comments for today is
25 tomorrow 5 o'clock. And the, those written comments

1 will be shared with the board members and will be made
2 public.

3 This concludes the business that we do
4 have before us today. Is there any new business for the
5 board to consider?

6 MR. BARKER: Madam Chair, briefly?

7 CHAIR: Is it new business?

8 MR. BARKER: New business?

9 CHAIR: Okay.

10 MR. BARKER: Yes. In light of what we
11 just heard and in light of our internal discussions, I
12 would just like to present to the board a motion to
13 convene internally as a board with staff, with
14 stakeholders. But by next meeting, we have on the
15 agenda of an option to consider decreasing the testing
16 batch sizes by next meeting.

17 CHAIR: Sorry, can you clarify the motion?

18 MR. BARKER: The new business would be
19 that the board takes up the option to decrease the
20 testing batch sizes by next meeting.

21 CHAIR: So you're asking for the --

22 MR. BARKER: That's why I said we would
23 convene; we would talk with staff, we would talk with
24 stakeholders.

25 CHAIR: So if that's for an item for a

1 future meeting, then we can talk about that internally.
2 But is there new business for us to consider today?

3 MR. BARKER: I can reiterate that and
4 propose that we address it right now then. I would
5 make a motion that we consider decreasing testing batch
6 sizes. I think we have enough information -- well,
7 I'll speak for myself. I would make a motion, I read
8 the recommendations from the different NJCDA
9 committees. I -- as has been stated and is accurate, I
10 do believe many other states use 10 pounds as an
11 appropriate batch size.

12 I do believe there are states that use a
13 higher batch size threshold. But I would make a motion
14 right now that we decrease it to 10 pounds. And as has
15 been stated, this is something that we have talked
16 about. I know we've talked about it infrequently, but
17 we have talked about this. We've received enough
18 material and I -- and I do really, really hear the
19 patients.

20 This was supposed to be temporary and I
21 think it is something that we can address
22 appropriately. And so I would want to address that and
23 I do want to make that motion.

24 CHAIR: All right. So there's been a
25 motion to decrease the testing batch size to 10 pounds.

1 Before we get into discussion about on this motion, is
2 there a second of the motion?

3 MS. NASH: I'm sorry. I have questions
4 for the ED before we make a motion. So how do -- how
5 does this, can you explain?

6 CHAIR: So before a motion is actually
7 discussed --

8 MS. NASH: Right.

9 CHAIR: -- it needs to be seconded.

10 MS. NASH: Okay.

11 CHAIR: So if is that -- if there is no
12 second for this motion, then the motion dies. But once
13 a second is made, then -- once a motion is seconded,
14 then the floor is open for discussion. So again, is
15 there a
16 second?

17 MS. NASH: Second.

18 CHAIR: There's a second. Seconded by
19 Commissioner Nash to decrease the testing back size to
20 10 pounds. Is there any discussion on this motion?
21 Commissioner Nash?

22 MS. NASH: Yes. I -- Director Brown, can
23 you explain again, like we've had guidance in the past,
24 why that 100 pounds was temporary and what the
25 reasoning is behind it versus going back to 10 pounds?

1 MR. BROWN: Less, less than a month. I
2 think less than a month we'll have something to share
3 with, at least, at least share with the stakeholders
4 for, for some feedback. But I think what I can do is
5 work with the team to then respond through the chair as
6 to when we can anticipate that guidance being issued.
7 But we're very close. There's a lot of work that's
8 been done. And so I would just want any consideration
9 of policy changes to happen in accordance with that
10 process.

11 And I think we may recommend some to that
12 point, I think we need to, Dave was just showing me the
13 regulations for batch sizes. And so I don't, I don't -
14 - the board can take some action. We may ask the board
15 to take some action, but it's got to be action that
16 works, right? And so that's got to work legally with
17 what's on our regs, what's gonna be in the testing
18 guidance, so.

19 MS. NASH: I appreciate this because I
20 think this, this information needs to be shared with
21 the public to understand why we're doing what we're
22 doing and we're not doing what we're doing. So with
23 that, thank you.

24 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there any other
25 discussion on this motion to reduce the testing batch

1 size to 10 pounds?

MS. DEL CID-KOSSO:

2 Yes, Madam Chair, just very quickly. Given the new
3 information that we found out from staff, thank you,
4 Jeff, for that information. I definitely hear what the
5 patients are saying and what the public is saying. If
6 we're not -- we don't take any of those comments in
7 vain. So but I do feel, and I'm speaking to -- for
8 myself is that I need more information before we make a
9 rush policy decision here.

10 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Del Cid-
11 Kosso. Any other discussion?

12 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: I think it is entirely
13 too soon and entirely too rushed to try to do this on
14 the whim, at the end of a board meeting without having
15 the information that staff have been already been
16 working on and have expressed would be ready for the
17 board to consider in the near future. So I think it
18 would be, in my eyes, I think it would be irresponsible
19 for us to do this right now again, on the whim. And so
20 I'm not supportive of this measure.

21 MR. BARKER: Can I just briefly respond to
22 that?

23 CHAIR: Commissioner Barker.

24 VICE CHAIR: We've had -- has been said
25 that it has -- this temporary guidance has been in

1 place for years. We have heard at this point
2 exhaustively from patients that it's not working.
3 We've heard from stakeholders exhaustively, they have -
4 - the same stakeholders that we just mentioned have
5 come before us and told us repeatedly at meetings that
6 it's not working, that we should adjust.

7 So to say that this is rushed or to say
8 that this is inappropriate, I find that very hard to
9 reconcile with the stories that we hear month after
10 month after month. People are crying to us, the people
11 are crying to us, and we do have the information that
12 we can use to make a -- an informed decision. We have
13 the information to make the right decision.

14 And for what it's worth, we implemented a
15 policy, and this has been said, I'm not saying anything
16 that's not known, it's been said publicly. We base it
17 off Maryland. Maryland has since adjusted and adopted
18 and we're still behind. And so I do think it's
19 appropriate when you hear that story, when you see
20 somebody shaken before you, should we convene?
21 Absolutely.

22 But I think for the 10-pound requirement,
23 I think we have received enough information, I think we
24 have talked to stakeholders, and I don't think that
25 that is inappropriate or rushed. I think it's actually

1 consistent with the industry standard. And so I'll
2 leave it there.

3 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Barker. I
4 will remind the board that we also heard from other
5 stakeholders who took the opposite approach and
6 actually encouraged increases to the testing batch size
7 and not to pick sides or pick take a position right now
8 one way or the other, because again, I need more time
9 and more conversations with our experts internally to
10 make a determination on the best, the best path forward
11 for this policy.

12 But I would be remiss if we did not
13 recognize that we have heard from not just individuals
14 today who came and shared their personal stories for
15 which I am grateful. But also, those individuals who
16 came to us beforehand, before today, and also
17 encouraged us to increase the testing batch size. And
18 so when we wrestle with policy positions from multiple
19 parties that are inherently mutually exclusive.

20 I think it is incumbent upon us to make
21 sure that we are doing our due diligence internally.
22 And making sure that we are putting together the
23 information all in one spot for all the board members
24 to make an informed decision and so that we can have
25 confidence in the decisions that we make.

1 So again, I'm not taking a position on
2 this on this this issue one way or another right now,
3 I'm saying it is entirely too soon and I'm not ready to
4 make such a dramatic policy change at this point in
5 time without having further conversations with our
6 staff internally.

7 Is there any other, is there any further
8 discussion from the board? Sir, I see your hand
9 raised, but if you could just provide like, written
10 comments. Because our public comment period has, has
11 closed, I'm so sorry.

12 MALE VOICE: But an important comment
13 relative to I (inaudible).

14 CHAIR: I understand. I understand that.

15 MALE VOICE: But if you say that you're
16 experts, do you have (inaudible) --

17 CHAIR: Sir, if you sir, please, if you
18 don't mind, just I wanted to recognize you and not
19 ignore you as standing (inaudible) staying there.

20 MALE VOICE: Right, but I want answers to
21 my question at the (inaudible) --

22 CHAIR: Sir, if you --

23 MALE VOICE: -- do you have any scientific
24 advisor to help you guys make these expert decisions,
25 these experts that you speak of? Where are they?

1 CHAIR: Sir, please submit your comments,
2 any additional comments that you have in writing to us
3 and we can, we can move -- respond accordingly. I'm
4 not -- we are not gonna respond to it in this session.

5 MALE VOICE: You guys have (inaudible) my
6 time. Thank you for at least ignoring me.

7 CHAIR: Is there any further conversation
8 or any further discussion from the board on this motion
9 to decrease the testing batch size to 10 pounds? If
10 there's no further discussion, Mr. Said, can you please
11 call the vote.

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

13 MR. BARKER: Aye.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
15 Kosso?

16 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: No.

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

18 MS. NASH: So I seconded this motion.

19 However, hearing the encouraging news that this is near
20 and that you have included stakeholders and other
21 parties to for guidance, I am going to say no, but I am
22 encouraged to hear more about this soon. Thank you.

23 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

24 VICE CHAIR: No.

25 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

1 CHAIR: No.

2 THE SECRETARY: The motion fails.

3 MALE VOICE: You guys have failed

4 patients.

5 CHAIR: Is there any new bus -- other new

6 business for the commission to consider today? If
7 there is no further business for us, is there a motion
8 to adjourn?

9 VICE CHAIR: I move that we adjourn, Madam
10 Chairwoman.

11 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: I second that.

12 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado and
13 seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there any
14 discussion on this motion to adjourn? Hearing none,
15 all those in favor of adjourning say aye.

16 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

17 VICE CHAIR: Aye

18 MR. BARKER: Aye.

19 MS. NASH: Aye.

20 CHAIR: Aye. All those opposed say, nay.

21 Are there any abstentions? Hearing none, the motion
22 passes. The time is 2:28 and we are adjourned. Thank
23 you, everyone.

24 (Meeting concluded)

25

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes represent a true and complete summary of the public meeting held by the Cannabis Regulatory Commission on **March 13, 2024**.



Daniel Said

Christopher Riggs
Chief Counsel

Daniel Said
Board Secretary

Date: 4/16/2024

Date: 4/16/2024