



**State of New Jersey**  
**CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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*Governor*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

DIANNA HOUEYOU, *Chair*  
KRISTA NASH, *Commissioner*  
MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, *Commissioner*  
SAMUEL DELGADO, *Commissioner*  
CHARLES BARKER, *Commissioner*  
CHRIS RIGGS, *Acting Executive Director*

**NEW JERSEY CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**Date: Thursday, February 18, 2025**

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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3 DIANA HOUENOU, Chair Woman

4 SAM DELGADO, Vice Chair

5 MARIA DEL-CID-KOSSO

6 KRISTA NASH

7 CHRISOHER RIGGS

8 WESLEY MCWHITE

9 DAVE TUASON

10 DANIEL SAID, Secretary

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12 BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

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14 CHARLES BARKER

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1 CHAIR: All right. We're back. Thank  
2 you, everyone, for your patience. I am hearing an  
3 echo, so everybody else from our Teams should keep  
4 their phones on mute. All right. So the time is now  
5 12:52 and we will resume the public portion of this  
6 meeting. Mr. Said, can you please announce the next  
7 item?

8 THE SECRETARY: Next up on the agenda is  
9 approving the minutes of both the Commission's open and  
10 executive sessions, held on December 12th 2024. The  
11 minutes have been shared with the members of the  
12 Commission prior to this meeting.

13 CHAIR: Thank you. If there are no  
14 further edits or comments from the commissioners, I  
15 will ask for a motion.

16 MS. MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO: So moved.

17 CHAIR: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso moves  
18 to approve the meeting minutes from December -- was it  
19 12th? December --

20 THE SECRETARY: Yes.

21 CHAIR: Yes, December 12th. Okay. Is  
22 there a second?

23 MS. KRISTA NASH: Second.

24 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash.  
25 Thank you. Is there any discussion on this motion?

1 Hearing no discussion. All those in favor of approving  
2 the meeting minutes from December 12th 2024 say aye.

3 MS. NASH: Aye.

4 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

5 CHAIR: All those opposed, say nay. Any  
6 abstentions? Motion passes.

7 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
8 agenda is the Chair's report.

9 CHAIR: Great. Thank you. So welcome,  
10 everybody, to 2025. I hope everyone's year is off to a  
11 good start. This spring, the Commission will turn four  
12 years old. Now, as we start our fifth year, we have  
13 the opportunity to use our prior experiences and  
14 successes to form long-term goals for the Cannabis  
15 Industry. And so, I wanted to share the five target  
16 goals that the -- that the Commission has, and our  
17 priorities for this year. Next slide, please.

18 So starting off with the vision for five  
19 long-term targets that the board has for -- in the next  
20 five years by 2023, we hope to see an industry that has  
21 at least 10 percent reduction in the average price for  
22 consumers as compared to 2024. We hope to see a --  
23 easy to navigate applications for licensure that are  
24 focused on collecting information most relevant for the  
25 duties and responsibilities of safely and responsibly

1 operating a Cannabis business. I believe that most of  
2 the current application requires -- most of what the  
3 current application requires are actually dictated by  
4 statute, so we can't remove those requirements. But  
5 where we can, we want to reduce barriers to entry, and  
6 having a shortened application, to the extent possible,  
7 would reduce the amount of time that a Cannabis  
8 business takes in getting open and operational.

9 We also hope to see at least -- at least a  
10 15 percent increase in representation of operational  
11 businesses that are majority-owned by people with prior  
12 marijuana conviction. And at least 30 percent of  
13 operational businesses will have been operational for  
14 at least two years. This will indicate that our --  
15 whether our businesses are actually able to survive and  
16 thrive and -- and keep their doors open. And then  
17 lastly, we want to see a reliable social equity  
18 scorecard that our wonderful team and the Office of  
19 Diversity and Inclusion has been working on that  
20 incentivizes corporate social responsibility and  
21 amplifies equitable opportunities in the ancillary  
22 Cannabis industry.

23 Now, in order to realize this vision, the  
24 board has established the following priorities for year  
25 2025. We want to update agency regulations for medical

1 and adult use Cannabis industries. A couple of months  
2 ago, I did note that we had an initial first draft of  
3 the medicinal cannabis rule proposal. So we are in a  
4 good position to get this proposal issued this year.  
5 We also work to collaborate with other state agencies  
6 to establish a reference laboratory to assist the  
7 Commission in overseeing the activities of testing labs  
8 operating in the cannabis industry. Having the -- this  
9 test reference laboratory would help bolster product  
10 safety and ensure accurate labeling of products.

11 We also hope to work to conduct a thorough  
12 assessment of the industry costs, and this would  
13 include examining the regulatory costs of compliance  
14 for businesses and the pricing of adult use and  
15 medicinal cannabis products to identify the factors  
16 that are driving consumer prices in the state. And  
17 we'll also look to enhance and maintain our agency's  
18 monitoring of cannabis -- of businesses' social equity  
19 commitments.

20 Now, for our committees, we have some  
21 specific priorities that are tailored to our -- our  
22 various committees here at the agency, so we'll develop  
23 guidance for testing laboratories detailing appropriate  
24 standards for measuring and documenting product  
25 potency, purity and contamination, develop

1 recommendations to the board on the uses of monies in  
2 the Underage Deterrence and Prevention Account. Our  
3 work group has been diligently working with other  
4 agencies and the Office of the Governor to formulate  
5 recommendations, so I'm excited to see those move  
6 forward.

7                   And we will also look to start a second  
8 public information campaign on a safe and responsible  
9 cannabis possession and use. And then lastly, develop  
10 recommendations for reducing patients' costs for  
11 medical cannabis and ensuring equitable access to care.  
12 So as we make progress on these priorities, the  
13 Commission will share updates at our public board  
14 meetings so that the Commission stays accountable and  
15 transparent, and the public stays well informed. Next  
16 slide, please.

17                   We also -- this year, we also will have a  
18 committee reorganization. Our committees will have new  
19 membership that will go into effect March 22nd. Our  
20 membership will be as follows; the Audit Committee will  
21 be led by Commissioner -- I'm sorry, Vice Chair Delgado  
22 and myself. The Public Engagement and Education  
23 Committee will be led by Commissioner Barker and Vice  
24 Chair Delgado. Product Safety Packaging and Labeling  
25 Committee will be led by Commissioner Barker and

1 Commissioner Nash. The Permitting and Licensing  
2 Committee will have Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso and  
3 myself. And we have our ad hoc bylaws committee that  
4 is nearing it's -- the -- nearing the completion of its  
5 work. That will continue to be led by Commissioner  
6 Nash and Vice Chair Delgado.

7 I am also creating a new ad hoc committee,  
8 the Medical Patient Access Committee. This committee  
9 will be led by Commissioner Del Cid and myself and it  
10 will work with stakeholder staff and stakeholders to do  
11 a deep dive into the cost of accessing medicinal  
12 cannabis and make recommendations to the board for  
13 reducing patients' costs and ensuring access to  
14 equitable care -- I'm sorry, ensuring equitable access  
15 to care. The committee will be required to develop  
16 those recommendations by December 1st.

17 And lastly, I want to move on to some  
18 industry reminders. Our applications for cannabis  
19 consumption areas are open. Our social equity business  
20 retailers can now apply for cannabis consumption area  
21 endorsement. Diversely-owned businesses and  
22 microbusinesses, they can start applying on April 2nd,  
23 and all other retailers can start applying on July 2nd.

24 Secondly, the Commission has been getting  
25 reports of changes being made to municipal approval



1 processes after businesses have either already received  
2 municipal approval, or are well into the municipal  
3 approval process. We encourage businesses and  
4 municipalities to work together throughout the  
5 application process. We acknowledge that disruptions  
6 to the local approval process when applicants are in  
7 midstream can have significant impacts on our  
8 prospective entrepreneurs.

9           On more than one occasion, the Commission  
10 has had to remove a business from consideration at an  
11 upcoming board meeting, right, when the application is  
12 at the finish line, because the applicant has lost  
13 municipal support. We encourage -- we urge, really,  
14 our municipalities to establish clear expectations for  
15 businesses before they begin investing their time,  
16 energy, and money into the local approval process. We  
17 do also want to acknowledge that it is understandable  
18 that changes to a local process may be needed. The  
19 existing process may be causing confusion, or a new  
20 ordinance may require a new step in that local approval  
21 process.

22           I hope that our local officials are able  
23 to make any changes prospective so as to avoid, to the  
24 extent possible, making applicants that are already in  
25 the process be subject to -- to new requirements.

1 Regular communication and collaboration between the  
2 municipalities and our cannabis businesses will greatly  
3 benefit both the local business -- local officials and  
4 the cannabis community. So for our cannabis business  
5 owners, please make sure that you are working with and  
6 collaborating with your municipal officials to get  
7 across the finish line.

8           Lastly, there is a cryptocurrency scam  
9 targeting our cannabis businesses. Scammers are --  
10 currently have been contacting employees and luring  
11 them into sending money to unauthorized financial  
12 accounts. These scammers often pretend to be a manager  
13 at the business or claim to have spoken to the business  
14 owner who wants -- and they pretend that the -- that  
15 the manager or the business owner wants large sums of  
16 cash deposited into an account using cryptocurrency  
17 ATMs.

18           So to our business owners and managers,  
19 please ensure your staff are informed and trained on  
20 how to properly log, secure and deposit money into the  
21 proper business accounts. Some of our businesses have  
22 lost thousands of dollars to these scams and we don't  
23 want to see any more lost. So we at this commission  
24 want to see our businesses and our cannabis workforce  
25 succeed. So please be vigilant and be sure to follow

1 your company protocols for handling and depositing  
2 money appropriately.

3 That is all I have for today's Chair's  
4 report. Thank you.

5 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
6 agenda is the Executive Director's report.

7 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, the  
8 floor is yours.

9 MR. CHRISTOPHER RIGGS: Thank you, Madam  
10 Chair, and thank you for highlighting some of those  
11 important priorities and also for highlighting some of  
12 the things for the businesses to be aware of that are  
13 happening. Obviously, that cryptocurrency scam is  
14 important for businesses to be aware of. Next slide,  
15 please.

16 So with my ED's report, an update on  
17 dispensary openings. Dispensary -- you know, new  
18 businesses are opening all over the state. We have  
19 over 200 dispensaries that are now open, both medical  
20 and recreational and in all 21 counties. We list some  
21 dispensaries here in Atlantic City, South Toms River,  
22 Eatontown, Princeton, Elizabeth, and so forth. Next  
23 slide.

24 I wanted to highlight this new dispensary  
25 map that our communications team put together. Thank

1 you Tony (ph) and Blake (ph) and your team. This new  
2 map is more intuitive. It's user friendly than the  
3 previous version. You can use it on your cell phone.  
4 It'll allow you to search by location and filter the  
5 dispensary types, such as, you know, you can filter  
6 them out for medical, you can filter them out for  
7 recreational and you can find what you're looking for.  
8 It'll give everyone the opportunity to click on a  
9 dispensary so that they can navigate to that specific  
10 location, so that they can call the dispensary or visit  
11 their website and see if that dispensary has what  
12 they're looking for. And you'll also be able to toggle  
13 through and look to see if delivery services are  
14 available by each dispensary. So this is really a long  
15 time coming and I'm happy to see this dispensary map is  
16 now out and the public can use this to help them with  
17 their cannabis needs.

18 I also want to highlight medical cannabis  
19 town halls. As the Chairwoman had indicated, we are  
20 working on those medical rules. And, you know, it's  
21 important that we hear from the doctors, the  
22 caregivers, the patients. We'll have the dates and  
23 times and locations on our website as soon as they're  
24 available. There'll be town hall-like meetings to hear  
25 directly from individuals and stakeholders about

1 experiences, suggestions they may have that can improve  
2 the program. So please keep an eye out for that  
3 information. There'll be more information shared on  
4 our social media pages and also on our website.

5           And now for the licensing updates. So  
6 this is as of February 4th of 2025, total licenses  
7 approved. We've received over a little less than 3000  
8 applications so far that were submitted through our  
9 portal. A little more than 2000 of them have been  
10 approved. Ninety-five applications are pending review  
11 by the Office of Licensing. Three hundred and eighty-  
12 nine applications are pending resubmission following a  
13 cure. Please, make sure if you have an application in,  
14 and you have a cure out there, to get -- get the  
15 information necessary to move your application along  
16 with it. Now, we have almost 400 that are submitting  
17 out there that need a cure, and we'd like to see these  
18 applications be cured so that folks can get, you know,  
19 their license and move towards being operational. A  
20 hundred and seventy-seven applications are currently  
21 under review in the Office of Compliance and  
22 Investigations.

23           Total recreational licenses approved as of  
24 February 4th of 2025, 1,500 -- a little over 1,500  
25 conditionals, a little over 400 conditional-to-annual

1 conversions, about 230 annual licenses, 80 expanded  
2 ATCs for a total of 340 operating licenses, AU and  
3 permits and medical.

4           Today, up for consideration -- we get to  
5 the licensing portion -- we're going to have 18  
6 conditional applications for the board to consider, 14  
7 conditional-to-annual conversion applications, 12  
8 annual applications, we have one expanded ATC  
9 certification, and we have 35 annual licenses that are  
10 up for renewal.

11           And like always, we'll get into the  
12 patients. We're not going to forget about the  
13 patients. They're always at the top of our mind.  
14 Total patients, a little over 65,000 patients in the  
15 program currently. Caregivers, a little over 4000 and  
16 about 1,500 doctors servicing the patients in the  
17 medical program.

18           And I'm going to do a sales and pricing  
19 update before I kick it over to our Office of Diversity  
20 and Inclusion, Director McWhite to go through some of  
21 the demographic data. Next slide please. This is a  
22 medical and recreational sales for the last four  
23 quarters slide. As you'll see, in total, we've hit  
24 over a billion dollars in sales, which is a great  
25 milestone for the Commission. We're very proud of it.

1 And that's a 36 percent increase year over year from  
2 2023. The medical sales, as you'll see, have kind of  
3 leveled out. They're kind of flat and leveled out, but  
4 we do see continued growth in recreational and adult  
5 use sales.

6 This is the adult use sales by month for  
7 the previous 12 months. You can see that there's a  
8 seasonality dip in the summer months and around the  
9 holiday season in December and January. And, you know,  
10 those are -- those are normal but this is all trending  
11 the same as we've seen before, and you do see, you  
12 know, slight increase and some leveling out for the  
13 seasonality changes in the summer months and around the  
14 holidays.

15 This next slide is presenting the adult  
16 use/bud and flower prices per gram over the last 12  
17 months. In December, we finally got under \$10 for the  
18 average price for adult use sales per gram. So that --  
19 that's a milestone. It's the first time we've been  
20 under \$10 ever as a commission. And for the year, the  
21 average price has fallen about 12 -- 12 percent over  
22 the calendar year of 2023. So prices are trending  
23 downward for the average price per gram.

24 This next slide is medical bud and flower  
25 prices per gram. Similar concept, they've dropped

1 about 10 percent and they're below \$9 for the first  
2 time as well. In December, you see it's below \$9, so  
3 it's not even -- you know, it's a little bit cheaper  
4 and less than the adult use sales that just fell below  
5 \$10. We've fallen below \$9 in medical for the average  
6 price of flower per gram.

7           This is the mix of product categories, so  
8 you see a little pie chart there on the side. And that  
9 -- that basically shows that, you know, more than half  
10 of the products that we -- that are sold in the market  
11 in New Jersey require some type of processing or some  
12 kind of value-add to them. You know, vape carts,  
13 edibles, all those things have to go through a  
14 manufacturing process, and you see that they have more  
15 than half of the -- the market. Flower continues to,  
16 you know, dominate, alone, a little over 40 percent in  
17 sales. So this just shows the types of products and  
18 what they -- the percentage of sales in the market.

19           This is a newer slide. It's pounds  
20 harvested by month. Obviously, this is wet -- wet  
21 weight before dried. You'll see that we were -- over  
22 1.5 million pounds were harvested in 2024. Seasonality  
23 in the late summer and fall months, you see those  
24 changes with the seasonality. Total pounds were  
25 harvested in 2024, it increased about 35 percent over -



1 - to just get over one million pounds harvested in the  
2 calendar year of 2023. So we just had -- had just over  
3 a million pounds harvested in 2023. We're up about 35  
4 percent this year. And in 2024, we had 36 companies  
5 that had at least one harvest, which is double of the  
6 number that we had of 18 companies in 2023.

7 I believe that is the final slide from my  
8 Executive Director's report. And with the Chair's  
9 permission, I would like to turn the floor over to our  
10 esteemed director of the Office of Diversity and  
11 Inclusion, Wesley McWhite, to go through some of the  
12 demographic data.

13 MR. WESLEY MCWHITE: Thank you to the  
14 Honorable Acting Executive Director, Chris Riggs, and  
15 thank you to the Honorable Board for this opportunity  
16 to be with you all. Really excited, as I always am, to  
17 share not just demographic data but also business  
18 information data as well. As you know, originally in  
19 the statute, this office is a business administration  
20 office, and so we want to make sure that we're -- we're  
21 closely monitoring new applications, new awardees, and  
22 new businesses that are opening as well, who they are  
23 and where they're from, what their backgrounds are, so.

24 So we have a number of slides to get to  
25 but I will be -- I will not be loquacious. I will be

1 as quick as I can to get through them. But the  
2 conversation does not end here. As many chambers do,  
3 as many employment groups, as many business groups,  
4 reach out -- the community reaches out. After these  
5 quarterly reports, please continue to reach out as the  
6 full report is uploaded to our website in a couple of  
7 days.

8                   So, as always, we'll start with awardee  
9 application data. I wanted to share with you some  
10 information here. So we are seeing an increase to the  
11 credit of this board, to the credit of staff across the  
12 board on the number of approved -- approved  
13 conversions, approved annuals and approved  
14 conditionals. So I wanted to give you a quick  
15 breakdown.

16                   So amongst cultivators, there are an  
17 additional 30 awarded annuals between last quarter and  
18 this quarter, an additional -- well, between the  
19 Quarter 3 and Quarter 4. An additional 33 conversions  
20 awarded to cultivators and additional 66 conditionals  
21 awarded to cultivators. For manufacturers, there have  
22 been additional 25 annuals awarded, additional 21  
23 conversions and an additional 20 -- 20 conditionals  
24 awarded to manufacturers. Even amongst wholesalers,  
25 we've seen an additional seven conditionals be awarded

1 to wholesalers, three conversions and two new annuals.

2           Among distributors, we've seen 10  
3 additional conditionals approved and two new annuals  
4 approved between Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 of last year.  
5 Retailers, the biggest of the bunch, we've seen an  
6 additional 30 annuals -- retailers approved.  
7 Conditional, 77 conversions approved. Additional 129  
8 conditional retailers approved. An additional six new  
9 annual labs that have been approved. That's  
10 encouraging. And one new conditional lab that has been  
11 approved by this board. And we're also seeing an  
12 additional six new annuals under delivery, four new  
13 conversions under delivery and 15 new conditionals  
14 under delivery.

15           And so while retailers continue to lead  
16 the pack amongst awardees, we also notice that there is  
17 a significant gap between conversions and conditionals.  
18 And we understand what some of those reasons are. Lack  
19 of finances. Many of you have conveyed to us that, you  
20 know, investors are -- are pulling out of agreements.  
21 Many of you are avoiding predatory lending practices  
22 and not signing on to agreements that would ultimately  
23 pinch you as far as your ownership and decisions that  
24 you make.

25           So continue to be diligent against

1 predatory lending practices. And just the -- the lack  
2 of space, you know. Many municipalities have reached  
3 their caps and we need more municipalities to opt in.  
4 And so while we understand those really three big  
5 external factors, we're -- we're -- we're imploring you  
6 to continue to reach out to the Office of Diversity and  
7 Inclusion, because we understand that there are some  
8 nuances between folks that have been awarded  
9 conditionals to then applying for their conversion in  
10 their annual.

11                   This is a percentage breakdown of all of  
12 what I just said. There's been increases in percentage  
13 across the board among all of our awardees. Amongst  
14 our social, equity and diversely-owned businesses, we  
15 are very proud of our continued momentum outreach and  
16 the impact of our existing policies. So over 70  
17 percent of all annuals -- of all annuals are diversely-  
18 owned. This is a monumental feat. There are very few  
19 states that have achieved this, if any, at this early  
20 stage of the game. And so we're -- we're really  
21 excited to continue this momentum. And we're seeing  
22 steady at 17 percent of all of our annuals have been  
23 awarded to social equity businesses.

24                   There is -- we continue to monitor key  
25 population data for awardees measuring conditional

1 approvals to conditional submissions and annual  
2 approvals to annual submissions. And so we still  
3 maintain very small gaps between submission and  
4 approvals but we have noticed a larger medium-sized gap  
5 between annual submissions and annual approvals for  
6 minority-owned businesses. So encouraging you all  
7 again, if you've submitted a conditional, if you're  
8 wondering where you are in the process, if you've  
9 looked at the portal and you saw where you are in the  
10 process and wondering if there are things that you've  
11 left off of the cure, we're still waiting on  
12 information. Please, please consider reaching out to  
13 the Office of Diversity and Inclusion so we can help  
14 bridge that gap, if there is any.

15           So among -- amongst our awards by social  
16 equity status, we continue to see an increase across  
17 the board. As we said earlier, upon -- amongst our  
18 approved annuals, our approved conversion to annuals  
19 and our approved conditionals, spoiler alert, many of  
20 these businesses are opening too, and we'll discuss  
21 that later, but we're really encouraged by this. And  
22 again, you know, 405 approved conditionals and only 96  
23 -- and 10 approved annuals. We continue to encourage  
24 social equity businesses to reach out, if they need any  
25 resources or point -- need to be pointed in the right

1 direction.

2           So under our majority-owned awardees for  
3 prior marijuana convictions, we're looking at 305  
4 approved conditionals, 75 approved conversions to  
5 annuals and 10 annuals. So 20 percent of all  
6 conditionals -- or 20 percent of all conditionals -- 20  
7 percent of all of our awardees are -- have been awarded  
8 to individuals who are majority award owners who have  
9 prior -- prior marijuana convictions, and 13 percent of  
10 all of our conversions have been awarded to individuals  
11 who are majority owners with prior marijuana  
12 convictions. And we're really proud of those numbers  
13 and we're going to work with this board to see a 15  
14 percent increase amongst true social equity applicants  
15 and awardees and so I'm really looking forward to doing  
16 that work with this board.

17           Diversely-owned businesses, we're seeing  
18 1,117 over 1100 approved conditionals, over 300  
19 approved conversion to annuals and 139 approved annuals  
20 for diversely-owned businesses. Impact zone  
21 businesses, also seeing an increase across the board  
22 amongst annuals, conversions and conditionals. And  
23 economically disadvantaged areas also seeing an  
24 increase across the board amongst -- between Quarter 3  
25 and Quarter 4 amongst annuals, conversions to annuals

1 and approvals for conditionals.

2           And as always, the vice chair's favorite  
3 slides, our annual license awardees distribution by  
4 county, we are looking at Atlantic City, again, in the  
5 lead with approved annual licenses -- well, Burlington  
6 County, sorry. Then Atlantic City, and then Camden  
7 County, so shout out to South Jersey. And our  
8 conditional-to-annual conversions distribution by  
9 county, our highest year being Atlantic again, second  
10 being Essex and third being Hudson County for folks  
11 that have applied and received their annual through  
12 conversion.

13           The quarterly benchmark data, always a  
14 fave of mine. We continue to surpass our microbusiness  
15 benchmark data by over 10 percent. 35 percent of our  
16 licenses have gone to small micro craft businesses. A  
17 -- for our conditional license benchmark we continue to  
18 surpass that by over -- by 55 percent. 90 percent of  
19 our licenses have gone to conditional licenses. So  
20 that lower barrier way to get that first look at CRC, a  
21 lot of people have gone through this way and it has  
22 been beneficial to folks, and so I'm really excited to  
23 see the conditionals have worked up till this point.

24           Diversely-owned benchmark data. So we are  
25 up 7 percent (inaudible) points for minority-owned

1 businesses and we are up 3 percent for women and  
2 disabled veteran-owned businesses, surpassing those  
3 benchmarks by 33 and 29 percent respectively. One of  
4 my favorite slides; an update on diversely-owned  
5 business certification data. So we've had an  
6 additional 13 minority business enterprises -- yes,  
7 additional one diverse -- disabled veteran-owned  
8 business, an additional eight minority and women  
9 business enterprises and additional four women's  
10 business enterprises, as per our certification data.  
11 We continue to stay well above the national averages  
12 for women and minority-owned businesses. The -- the  
13 larger cannabis community is looking to update this  
14 survey and so we will have updated numbers for you, but  
15 I am confident that New Jersey will continue to beat  
16 those national averages when it comes to majority  
17 ownership for cannabis businesses.

18 Our -- we've seen an increase in 2 percent  
19 in women and disabled veteran-owned businesses. So we  
20 are surpassing that benchmark by 30 percent and  
21 surpassing -- including expansions, surpassing that  
22 benchmark by 24 percent and 30 percent, when you  
23 include expansions in alternative treatment centers.  
24 All right. So we have added minority owners, race and  
25 ethnicity for annual awardees. We have added an



1 additional 19 approved majority black-owned businesses,  
2 increasing that majority ownership of all awardees to  
3 18 percent. A majority -- an additional nine majority  
4 Asian-owned businesses, maintaining that percentage at  
5 just under 14 percent and additional six Hispanic or  
6 Latino-owned businesses. And that is it for now for  
7 approved businesses.

8           So operational businesses under the CREAMM  
9 Act. So these are businesses that are currently  
10 operational between Quarter 3 -- well, for new -- this  
11 quarter that'll be between Quarter 3 and Quarter 4. So  
12 we have an additional five manufacturers and additional  
13 12 retailers who are -- have become operational between  
14 Quarter 3 and Quarter 4. That's eight new impact zone  
15 businesses, three new businesses majority-owned by  
16 individuals with previous marijuana convictions, five  
17 new microbusinesses, four new social equity businesses  
18 and 12 diversely-owned businesses have opened between  
19 Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 of 2024, and I'm sure more have  
20 opened. It will be opening Quarter 1.

21           Our DORES certification. We continue to  
22 monitor, you know, the number of certifications that we  
23 get. We've seen an increase across the board on our  
24 board search -- our DORES certifications, as far as  
25 women businesses, minority -- minority and women

1 businesses and one additional, I do believe, a minority  
2 business and a disabled veteran-owned business.

3           And I believe this is, yes, my last slide.  
4 We have seen an additional increase in -- we've seen an  
5 additional increase, so one more operational business  
6 that has identified as American-Indian or Alaskan  
7 native. We have seen an increase amongst new  
8 operational businesses that are majority black or  
9 African American-owned, that should be an increase of  
10 19 new approved majority-owned black businesses, but  
11 five new black-owned businesses open between Quarter 4  
12 and Quarter 3, and the same for Hispanic or Latino  
13 businesses, I believe, that six new Hispanic or Latino  
14 businesses that are currently operational between  
15 Quarter 3 and Quarter 4.

16           So that is it for me. It wasn't too long.  
17 It wasn't too bad. But we wanna do continue to  
18 encourage the cannabis community, potential prospective  
19 business owners to stay in constant communication with  
20 the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, so that when we  
21 recommend policies to this board, to Chris Riggs, to  
22 the Executive Director's office that they are policies  
23 that are really impacting you on the ground.

24           And so we're going to continue to do this  
25 work and to support businesses, help people get those

1 conversions and help people with their cures, and we're  
2 going to continue to solicit your feedback to make sure  
3 that this industry, New Jersey cannabis industry,  
4 continues to look like, you know, the -- the makeup and  
5 the culture of New Jersey, and the diversity in the  
6 rich culture of New Jersey.

7           And so congratulations to all of those new  
8 operational businesses. Congratulations to all the new  
9 awardees. You are real people. You are not just  
10 businesses and numbers. We see you. We recognize you.  
11 We honor you and just thank you for all of the work  
12 that you all have been putting into this industry up  
13 until this point. And so, at this time, I'll turn it  
14 back over to our Acting Director, Chris Riggs.

15           MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Director McWhite.  
16 Great presentation. And we'll make sure that this data  
17 becomes available on the internet and on the website as  
18 soon as the meeting ends. And I'm going to turn it  
19 back over to the Chair.

20           CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs, and  
21 thank you to Director McWhite and his team as well for  
22 all the work that the Office of Diversity and Inclusion  
23 is doing to reach out to people, make sure they  
24 understand what they need to provide to us, (inaudible)  
25 those deficiencies and get across the finish line. If

1 there are no questions from the board for Director  
2 Riggs, then we will move on to the next agenda item.

3 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, it's not  
4 a question but just a brief statement, if that's okay?

5 CHAIR: Yes, Commissioner Del Cid.

6 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes. Director Riggs,  
7 I did notice that there was about 1000 patients that we  
8 lost since December 1st -- sorry, December 12th. But  
9 the last board meeting, you reported that we had 66,374  
10 enrolled patients, now we're down to 65,000 or roughly  
11 almost close to 1000 patients that we lost through our  
12 enrollment numbers. I just want to say I look forward  
13 to working with staff, now that Chairwoman Houenou and  
14 I are going to be sitting in the Medical Patient Access  
15 ad hoc committee, so that we can find ways to not just  
16 increase our patient enrollment numbers but also find  
17 policy measures, so that we can create a more robust  
18 medical program within the CRC.

19 MR. RIGGS: Yeah. Thank you, Commissioner  
20 Del Cid-Kosso. You know, we share the same goal on the  
21 staff side of things. Yes, you're correct, the numbers  
22 have dropped about 1000. We're hopeful that with the  
23 new medical rules and with some of these medical  
24 roundtables that we're going to hold on the staff side  
25 to help guide some of the policies that we're going to

1 implement under the new medical rules will help bolster  
2 that medical program. And we look forward to working  
3 with you to, you know, work on some creative ideas to  
4 also make this medical program more attractive and more  
5 beneficial to the patients.

6 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Thank you.

7 CHAIR: Thank you both. Any other  
8 questions from the board for Director Riggs? Hearing  
9 none. We will move forward.

10 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
11 agenda are committee reports.

12 CHAIR: All right. So we have the Public  
13 Engagement Education Committee that will provide a  
14 committee report. For this, I will turn it over to  
15 Commissioner Nash. The floor is yours.

16 MS. NASH: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I  
17 also want to thank Acting Director Riggs and Director  
18 McWhite for providing such thorough and important data.  
19 Great job. Thank you.

20 The Public Education and Engagement  
21 Committee will once again host three virtual hearings  
22 to solicit recommendations from the public on how the  
23 social equity excise fees should be appropriated. The  
24 social equity excise fee is a tax on cannabis  
25 cultivators, or a fee based on the sale of usable

1 cannabis and unusable cannabis used for manufacturing  
2 to fund programs and services, among other things, to  
3 benefit communities and the people that reside in them.  
4 The Commission set the per ounce fee, beginning January  
5 1st, at \$2.50.

6           Some examples of how the monies can be  
7 appropriated are through grants and loans, economic  
8 development, reentry support, educational programs,  
9 after school care, and there's much more. So we want  
10 to hear from you, the public, on ideas, so that we can  
11 convey that to the legislature. By gathering public  
12 input from the New Jersey residents, the Commission  
13 reaffirms its dedication to keeping the legislature  
14 informed about the needs of communities across the  
15 state, and to allocate SEE funds appropriately.

16           The Commission has submitted three reports  
17 to the legislature since 2022, and to date, the funds  
18 have accumulated. And as of August 2024, the balance  
19 in the fund was over \$6 million. The hearings will be  
20 held Thursday, February 20th at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday,  
21 February 25th, 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday, February 26th  
22 at 1:00 p.m. Participants are encouraged to register  
23 to speak or submit written comments at  
24 [njcrcgov.info/cseef](http://njcrcgov.info/cseef). Madam Chair, the floor is yours.

25           CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Nash. I

1 want to echo Commissioner Nash's excitement and to hear  
2 from members of the public. So make sure that you  
3 register. Go online and register to speak so that your  
4 voice can be heard and incorporated into the report  
5 that the Commission will later publish. Are there any  
6 questions from the board for Commissioner Nash?

7 Hearing none. We will move forward.

8 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
9 agenda is the Product Safety Packaging and Labeling  
10 Committee.

11 CHAIR: Mr. Said, I believe the -- yes,  
12 the product packaging -- Product Safety Packaging and  
13 Labeling Committee will be providing a -- presenting on  
14 this next -- on the next agenda item. The -- that is a  
15 public notice and publication.

16 THE SECRETARY: My apologies.

17 CHAIR: That's all right. No problem. So  
18 we have the rule waiver of NJAC 17:30-19.3(b). So I'll  
19 turn it over to our Product Safety Packaging and  
20 Labeling Committee, and for a readout of this rule --  
21 the need for a regulatory waiver and any accompanying  
22 materials and guidance that the committee will provide.

23 MS. NASH: Sure. Thank you again. The  
24 Product Safety Packaging and Labeling Committee is  
25 excited to announce that the Commission has developed

1 its own comprehensive testing guidance for testing  
2 laboratories. For clarity, the guidance will also  
3 include a restatement of relevant rules that apply to  
4 laboratories and explanation of where such rules are  
5 waived, or where additional details were needed to  
6 clarify such rules.

7           Since 2021, the Commission adopted  
8 Maryland's testing guidance until such time as it could  
9 establish its own standard requirements and procedures.  
10 In January 2022, the batch size was increased from 10 -  
11 - 10 pounds to 100 pounds, so that businesses could  
12 increase the supply of cannabis and cannabis products  
13 to consumers. The proposed guidance required a  
14 comprehensive understanding of scientific protocols and  
15 the committee would like to thank regulatory officer,  
16 Noah Mamber, our legal team, and the stakeholders who  
17 provided input to develop a sound and comprehensive  
18 technical guidance document. Next slide.

19           As I mentioned, New Jersey -- New Jersey's  
20 batch size is currently 100 pounds. It is the highest  
21 in the nation. The Committee proposes waiving certain  
22 testing requirements to reduce the batch size from 100  
23 pounds to a max of 33.07 pounds, and also require  
24 specific incremental sampling for usable and unusable  
25 cannabis that yields more specific results. Next



1 slide.

2 Certain requirements will be waived in  
3 connection with increments and lot sizes, and instead  
4 will provide more specific lot weights, and again  
5 incremental units for various product types as we're  
6 seeing in the market, such as inhalable, ingestible,  
7 and many others. Next slide.

8 Here's a chart that requires for --  
9 minimum weights for initial samples, which is also a  
10 waiver. And instead, this chart will include more  
11 specific guidance as shown here on various product  
12 types including retention samples. Next slide.

13 The Commission established a timeframe to  
14 give labs and businesses time to prepare for these new  
15 protocols. For sampling changes, the grace period will  
16 be 30 days from today, and the initial and stability  
17 testing changes will take effect on 11 -- sorry, 11:59  
18 on Friday, May 23rd.

19 Madam Chair, the floor is yours.

20 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Nash, and,  
21 yes, thank you -- thank you to Regulatory Officer Noah  
22 Mamber, Chief Counsel Dave Tuason and the rest of the  
23 committee, and the engaged stakeholders to help us get  
24 our testing requirements in the right place, so that  
25 our commission can continue to uphold its value of

1 safety. If there are no questions from the -- the  
2 board, I'll ask for a motion on this recommendation.

3 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to  
4 recommend the testing guidance and waivers.

5 CHAIR: Commissioner Nash moves to approve  
6 the rule waiver and the testing guidance. Is there a  
7 second? Last call for a second? I will second the  
8 motion. Is there any discussion on this motion to  
9 approve the rule waiver and testing guidance? Hearing  
10 no discussion. Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker is  
12 absent. Commissioner Del Cid-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 on the agenda is the delegation of authority.

22 CHAIR: I will now turn the floor over to  
23 Acting Director Riggs.

24 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Next  
25 slide, please.

1           So there's two delegations of authority  
2 that staff is requesting from the board of  
3 commissioners. The first is failure to cure a license.  
4 We have several. As you saw in a previous slide,  
5 approximately 400 licenses that are out for a cure,  
6 some of them have been sitting for quite some time in  
7 upwards of a year, 18 months. We are requesting  
8 delegated authority to -- you know, once a process is  
9 followed with 30-day notice follow up, 60-day notice  
10 follow up with the licensee or the prospective  
11 licensee, we are requesting delegated authority to deny  
12 those licenses -- or those applications for a failure  
13 to cure the license.

14           The second delegated authority requested  
15 by staff is to approve and deny conditional license  
16 applications. This will give us the authority in the  
17 Office of Licensing and within my Office of the  
18 Executive Director to review the conditional licenses  
19 that are submitted and provide approval of those  
20 licenses or reject those licenses within a timely  
21 fashion, under the rules. So we are recommending that  
22 these delegations of authority be provided to staff.  
23 And with that, we recommend approval by the board.

24           CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. If  
25 there are no -- are there any questions from the board

1 regarding the information provided by Director Riggs?  
2 There are no -- hearing no questions. Is there a  
3 motion on this matter?

4 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, I move to  
5 adopt the resolution concerning the delegation of  
6 authority to deny for failures to cure a license  
7 application and to approve or deny conditional license  
8 applications.

9 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Del Cid-  
10 Kosso. Is there a second?

11 VICE CHAIR: I second.

12 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.  
13 Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no  
14 discussion. Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker is  
16 absent. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

17 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

19 MS. NASH: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

21 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

23 CHAIR: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
25 next item on the agenda is the consideration of

1 applications for ownership changes.

2 CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is yours  
3 to provide a summary of the applications for an  
4 ownership change.

5 MR. RIGGS: Sure. And before I get into  
6 the specifics on this, I just want to remind everybody  
7 that an ownership change is a material change to your  
8 license. It must be submitted to staff and approved by  
9 the board before it becomes effective. Ownership  
10 transfers without board consideration and approval are  
11 non-compliant under the regulations and under the law,  
12 and therefore invalid and could result in sanctions,  
13 the suspension of the license or any other action taken  
14 against the license. We have seen some New Jersey  
15 licenses that have been online that are up for sale.  
16 You know, the license, you know, you can't just put the  
17 license up for sale and think that you're going to sell  
18 it without getting board approval and board  
19 consideration. So I do want to remind folks that if  
20 you are trying to sell your license, that needs to be  
21 noted that board approval is required. This is a  
22 material change to the license. These individuals all  
23 need to be vetted and go through the process that  
24 everyone else goes through when they obtain a license.  
25 Up for consideration today, we have three

1 ownership changes. We have Green Lightning which is  
2 adding a new owner. We have Honey Grove South, which  
3 is a change in their ownership structure. And then we  
4 also have Mojo Botanica which is also a change in their  
5 ownership structure. Each of these three entities have  
6 satisfied the regulatory requirements for the ownership  
7 change. They submitted all the required documentation.  
8 The owners and individuals that are required to be  
9 vetted by the Office of Compliance and Investigation  
10 have been vetted and approved and deemed qualified to  
11 enter into the adult use market. Therefore, we are  
12 recommending that the board approve these three  
13 ownership transfers. Thank you.

14 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
15 there any questions from the board? Hearing no  
16 questions. Is there a motion on this matter?

17 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
18 we approve the ownership transfer of applications.

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 ownership -- the transfer of ownership applications?  
25 Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can you please call

1 the vote?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker is  
3 absent. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

4 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

6 MS. NASH: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

8 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

10 CHAIR: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
12 next item on the agenda is the consideration of  
13 applications to modify capacity, physical plant  
14 premises or administrative offices.

15 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, the  
16 floor is yours to provide a summary of these  
17 applications.

18 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chairwoman. What  
19 we have is we have two cultivators that are trying to  
20 change their facility -- they're modifying their  
21 facility. It's a material change that needs to be  
22 approved by the board, and they are modifying their  
23 canopy capacity. So what is required to be submitted  
24 is a site plan, standard operating procedures for the  
25 increase in the canopy. All these applicants have

1 provided that requested information. Brute's Roots and  
2 Hamilton Farms have both been responsive and provided  
3 all the sales data and things like that over to the  
4 Office of Compliance and Investigation and it's been  
5 reviewed by that office.

6 Brute's Roots is increasing their canopy  
7 from Tier 3 to Tier 6 which is 150,000 square feet.  
8 Hamilton Farms is maintaining the same tier, but they  
9 are modifying their physical plant by adding an  
10 additional container to their farm so that they can  
11 grow additional cannabis on their premises. All of the  
12 information as I stated was provided to the Office of  
13 Compliance and Investigation and reviewed, and  
14 therefore staff is recommending approval of these  
15 facility modification applications. Thank you.

16 CHAIR: Thank you, Director -- thank you,  
17 Director Riggs. Are there any questions from the  
18 board? Hearing no questions. Is there a motion on  
19 this matter?

20 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
21 we approve the application to modify the capacity of  
22 physical plant, premises or administrative offices for  
23 Brute's Roots and Hamilton Farms.

24 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado.  
25 [Cough]. Excuse me. Is there a second?



1 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second. Second.

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

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker is  
7 absent. Commissioner Del Cid-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 on the agenda is the consideration of  
17 applications for business conversions.

18 CHAIR: Director Riggs, can you please --  
19 please provide us a summary of the business  
20 applications -- sorry, the business conversion  
21 applications.

22 MR. RIGGS: No worry. No problem. Thank  
23 you, Madam Chair.

24 These are microbusiness to standard  
25 business conversion applications. This is one of the

1 first times we're seeing these applications come in.  
2 And that's likely because you need to be operational  
3 for one year and in good standing with the CRC before  
4 you can submit this type of application. Once the  
5 application is submitted, our licensing team and our  
6 Office of Compliance and Investigations complete a  
7 completeness review to ensure that all documents are  
8 updated, standard operating procedures and the like and  
9 that the necessary fees are paid to converting to a  
10 standard business and add more employees, add more  
11 square footage to your business plan.

12 Daylite Cannabis, LLC and the Cannabis  
13 Clubhouse, LLC have submitted all the necessary  
14 documentation, they've paid the necessary fees and  
15 therefore staff is recommending that they be approved  
16 to convert from a microbusiness to a standard business.  
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
19 there any questions from the board? Hearing no  
20 questions. Is there a motion on this matter?

21 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
22 we approve the consideration of application to convert  
23 from microbusiness to standard cannabis business for  
24 Daylite Cannabis, LLC, and the Cannabis Clubhouse, LLC.

25 CHAIR: Moved 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 this motion?  
5 Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can you please call  
6 the vote?

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker is  
8 absent. Commissioner Del Cid-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. The  
17 next item up for consideration are the adult use  
18 cannabis business conditional license applications.

19 CHAIR: So -- sorry. Good grief.  
20 Director Riggs, I don't know why I just keep promoting  
21 you to -- I keep designating you as a commissioner, my  
22 apologies. Director Riggs, if you could please provide  
23 a summary of the conditional license applications.

24 MR. RIGGS: I certainly appreciate the  
25 promotions. I appreciate that, Chairwoman.

1           So these conditional licenses applications  
2 have followed our licensing process articulated in the  
3 regulations and our notice of application acceptance.  
4 They've been given a priority assignment where we've  
5 confirmed that each application is assigned to the  
6 appropriate review level for their priority. We look  
7 at the diversity of the business, status, taxes,  
8 residency if required, and then cures are sent if  
9 needed. That priority is then verified. We make sure  
10 that the -- not only that they request the priority,  
11 that they submitted the appropriate documentation to  
12 support that priority, and again, cures are sent if  
13 that priority, if needed to be in that priority status.

14           Completeness review is conducted in our  
15 Office of Licensing where they confirm all the required  
16 documents are submitted, and that the application is  
17 complete, and that basically confirming that all the  
18 documents are actually filled out and the required  
19 information has been submitted to our Office of  
20 Licensing, and then they are scored. For the  
21 conditionals, we have 18 conditional licenses, eight  
22 cultivators, one delivery license, two manufacturers  
23 and seven retailers. All of these applications have  
24 been reviewed, scored, and are now recommended for  
25 approval by the board. Thank you.

1 CHAIR: Thank you. And the -- for those  
2 watching us on -- on the live stream, the list of  
3 applications is also available on our website on our  
4 meetings page. If you look at the agenda for today's  
5 board meeting, click on the hyperlink for this agenda  
6 item, and you will see the list of applications that  
7 are scrolling through on -- on the slides right now.  
8 Are there any questions from the board for Director  
9 Riggs? Hearing no questions. Is there a motion on  
10 this matter?

11 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair --

12 VICE CHAIR: (Inaudible). You go ahead,  
13 Commissioner.

14 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Thank you. Thank you,  
15 Vice Chair. I move to adopt --

16 VICE CHAIR: You're welcome. (Inaudible).  
17 Go ahead.

18 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: I move to adopt the  
19 resolution concerning the consideration of conditional  
20 license applications for Class 1, Class 2, Class 5 and  
21 Class 6 cannabis licenses.

22 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Del Cid-  
23 Kosso. Is there a second?

24 VICE CHAIR: I second.

25 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.

1 Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no  
2 discussion. Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker is  
4 absent. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

5 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

7 MS. NASH: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

9 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

11 CHAIR: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
13 next item up for consideration are the adult use  
14 cannabis business conversion license applications.

15 CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is  
16 yours.

17 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. These  
18 are the conversion from conditional licenses. So the  
19 same process that I just stated previously for the  
20 conditionals, has followed priority assignment,  
21 priority verification, a completeness review and then  
22 they're scored. Then they go into the Office of  
23 Compliance and Investigation and we follow the annual  
24 process, which is the qualification review for  
25 individuals, financial sources and any other agreements

1 are reviewed for regulatory compliance. Background  
2 checks are conducted and reviewed to ensure that the  
3 owners and persons of interest are qualified to operate  
4 in the adult use market place. And then there's a  
5 quality control portion that's conducted by licensing,  
6 the Office of Compliance and Investigation and our  
7 legal team, to ensure that all the requirements are met  
8 for licensure.

9           Today, we have 14 conditional-to-annual  
10 conversion licenses, four cultivators, two delivery  
11 licenses, two manufacturers, four retailers and two  
12 wholesalers. All these applications have been  
13 reviewed, scored, and are now recommended for approval.  
14 The list will be online, as the Chairwoman articulated  
15 earlier. We'll leave the list up here for you guys all  
16 to look at, but this list will also be up online.  
17 Staff is recommending that the board approve all of  
18 these conditional-to-annual license conversion  
19 applications. Thank you.

20           CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
21 there any questions from the board? Hearing no  
22 questions. Is there a motion on this matter?

23           MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve  
24 the applications to convert from conditional to annual.

25           CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash. 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 this motion?  
5 Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can you please call  
6 the vote?

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker is  
8 absent. Commissioner Del Cid-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. The  
17 next item up for consideration are the adult use  
18 cannabis business annual license applications.

19 CHAIR: Mr. -- Director Riggs, the floor  
20 is yours.

21 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. All  
22 these applications that follow the same licensing  
23 process that I stated previously, except everything  
24 came together with priority assignment, priority  
25 verification, completeness review, then they're scored.



1 They move over to our Office of Compliance and  
2 Investigation, where the background checks and things  
3 like that are conducted. They go through the quality  
4 control process and then they come for recommendation  
5 to the board. There are 12 annual licenses before the  
6 board today, five manufacturers, five retailer, one  
7 testing lab and one wholesaler. All of these  
8 applications have been reviewed, scored and are now  
9 recommended for approval by the board. Thank you.

10 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Any  
11 questions from the board? Hearing no questions. Is  
12 there a motion on this matter?

13 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
14 we approve consideration of annual license application  
15 for Class 2 cannabis manufacturer, Class 3 cannabis  
16 wholesaler, Class 5 cannabis retailer and testing  
17 laboratories.

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

20 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

21 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-  
22 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion?  
23 Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can you please call  
24 the vote?

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker is

1 absent. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

2 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

4 MS. NASH: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

6 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

8 CHAIR: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
10 next item up for consideration is the expanded ATC  
11 certification.

12 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. The  
13 floor is yours.

14 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Next  
15 slide, please.

16 Up for consideration today, we have one  
17 expanded Alternative Treatment Center certification for  
18 Breakwater Treatment and Wellness, a Class 5 retailer  
19 in Roselle Park, Class 1 cultivator in Cranbury and a  
20 Class 2 manufacturer in Cranbury. They have provided  
21 the certification materials necessary to expand into  
22 the adult use market with zoning and municipal  
23 approvals. We've confirmed that legal requirements are  
24 met as required by the law. They have certified that  
25 they have sufficient quantities of medical cannabis and

1 medical cannabis products available to meet the  
2 reasonably anticipated needs of registered qualifying  
3 patients in accordance with the law. And therefore,  
4 staff is recommending that Breakwater be approved to  
5 expand into the adult use marketplace for the three  
6 licenses that they're requesting. Thank you.

7 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
8 there any questions from the board for Director Riggs?  
9 Hearing no questions. Is there a motion on this  
10 matter?

11 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
12 the acceptance -- that we accept the certification for  
13 the Development Treatment Center, Breakwater Treatment  
14 and Wellness to expand operations to the adult use  
15 cannabis market.

16 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is  
17 there a second? Is there a second for Vice Chair  
18 Delgado's motion to accept the certification? I will  
19 make -- I will second the motion. Is there any  
20 discussion on this motion? Hearing no discussion. Mr.  
21 Said, can you please call the vote?

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker is  
23 absent. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

24 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

1 MS. NASH: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

3 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

5 CHAIR: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
7 next item up for consideration are the adult use  
8 cannabis business annual license renewal applications.

9 CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is  
10 yours.

11 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We  
12 have 35 applications that are up for renewal before the  
13 board today. We have three that are in their first  
14 year of operations and why that's significant is that  
15 because if they're an expanded alternative treatment  
16 center, they need to provide additional municipal  
17 support and proof of that additional municipal support  
18 after the first year. They, you know, pretty much the  
19 same as the licensing process. The licenses are  
20 effective for one year from the date of issuance and  
21 they're reviewed annually. All these entities have  
22 provided the required documentation for renewal. The -  
23 - this documentation has been reviewed by our Office of  
24 Compliance and Investigations and therefore we are  
25 recommending that all 35 licenses be renewed. Thank

1 you.

2 CHAIR: Thank you. And we have the --  
3 yes, we have that list of businesses circling through  
4 our -- our slides. Are there any questions from the  
5 board for Director Riggs regarding the annual license  
6 renewals? Hearing no questions. Is there a motion on  
7 this matter?

8 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve  
9 the annual license renewal presented here today.

10 CHAIR: Is 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?  
14 Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can you please call  
15 the vote?

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker is  
17 absent. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

18 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

20 MS. NASH: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

22 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

24 CHAIR: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The

1 next item on the agenda, we have cases, claims and  
2 petitions.

3 CHAIR: Let's start with our  
4 determinations of rehabilitation. Director Riggs, the  
5 floor is yours.

6 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. And  
7 I'm going to kick this over to our esteemed chief  
8 counsel, Dave Tuason, to go through the rehabilitation  
9 determinations.

10 MR. DAVE TUASON: Good afternoon,  
11 everyone. So today, we have for consideration to  
12 Alternative Treatment Center employees. They both  
13 received notice that their criminal history check  
14 revealed a disqualifying conviction. Both employees  
15 were given the opportunity to challenge that or request  
16 rehabilitation. They both submitted an application for  
17 -- for rehab, and they both demonstrated affirmative --  
18 affirmatively demonstrated rehabilitation therefore we  
19 -- we recommend approval of both applications. And  
20 with that, I turn it back to you, Madam Chair, for a  
21 board vote.

22 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Tuason. Are  
23 there any questions from the board for Chief Tuason?  
24 Hearing no questions. Is there a motion on this  
25 matter?

1                   VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that  
2 we approve the request for determination of  
3 rehabilitation for adult use cannabis business  
4 personnel.

5                   MS. NASH: Second.

6                   CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado and  
7 seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is there any discussion  
8 on this motion? Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can  
9 you please call the vote?

10                  THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker is  
11 absent. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

12                  MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

13                  THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

14                  MS. NASH: Yes.

15                  THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

16                  VICE CHAIR: Yes.

17                  THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

18                  CHAIR: Yes.

19                  THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
20 next item on the agenda, we have consideration of  
21 enforcement actions.

22                  CHAIR: I'll turn the floor over to  
23 Director Riggs to provide a summary of the notice of  
24 violation that were issued.

25                  MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 Prolific Growhouse was issued a notice of violation  
2 based upon an anonymous complaint that was received by  
3 our Office of Compliance and Investigations for a  
4 packaging and labeling violation under the regulations.  
5 They were packaging flower under the Fruity Pebbles  
6 label in a package that resembled or looked like this  
7 popular cereal for children. Therefore, a notice of  
8 violation was issued. They did submit a corrective  
9 action plan which was -- the board has considered. But  
10 at this point, we are recommending an enforcement  
11 action be taken for the violation. Thank you.

12 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
13 there any questions from the board for Director Riggs?  
14 Hearing no questions. Is there a motion on this  
15 matter?

16 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to impose a  
17 sanction against Prolific Growhouse for \$3,500.

18 CHAIR: Commissioner Nash has moved to  
19 impose a sanction of 30 -- of \$3,500. Is there a  
20 second on this motion?

21 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

22 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-  
23 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion? I  
24 would like to -- to note that the -- the -- the  
25 violation here that -- that occurred was very



1 unfortunate for the business to have taken the step to  
2 put together packaging that so clearly mimics the --  
3 the cereal that Director Riggs mentioned. There in the  
4 business's response to the notice of violation that  
5 they were issued, there was absolutely no  
6 acknowledgement from the business of the violation and  
7 the seriousness of the -- of the company's actions.  
8 Instead, the company tried to distort the Commission's  
9 explicit and unambiguous regulations. The arguments  
10 that the business offered are utterly absurd and  
11 unacceptable, and so I am in support of this motion.

12 I am thankful for the Office of Compliance  
13 and Investigations diligence to make sure that the  
14 packaging that was -- that was distributed to -- to  
15 stores and customers -- oh, sorry, to the stores was  
16 recalled back to the business to -- to correct. And I  
17 do genuinely hope that we don't see this kind of  
18 behavior from our regulated businesses. Remember the -  
19 - a core component to legalization and the regulation  
20 of cannabis items was to make sure that cannabis items  
21 were not going to be sold or advertised or packaged in  
22 a way that makes them attractive to children.

23 Mimicking a very common well-known cereal  
24 that is very attractive to children does a disservice  
25 to the -- the work that our businesses are -- are doing

1 to abide by the rules, and to make sure that our  
2 industry is being run with -- is filled with safe and  
3 responsible operators. I want to encourage all of our  
4 -- I want to urge rather, all of our regulated  
5 businesses to please make sure that your packaging is  
6 not in any way attractive to children and cannot be  
7 construed to be attractive to children.

8           If you have questions about whether your  
9 packaging is acceptable, please reach out to your --  
10 your field monitor, your clients officer, they will  
11 help you make sure that you avoid any missteps on this  
12 front. This is not the first time that I've -- that  
13 we've called out packaging by a business that uses  
14 inappropriate imagery or -- or -- or packaging in a way  
15 that is reasonably enticing or attractive to children.  
16 So please make sure that you are abiding -- abiding by  
17 the rules. So make sure that you -- you can be  
18 considered a responsible operator here.

19           I'm in support of this motion, and I'm  
20 thankful that our -- our staff were able to rectify the  
21 situation and make sure that no additional packaging  
22 that -- that followed this error moved forward in  
23 getting into stores. Is there any further discussion  
24 on this motion?

25           MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, just

1 briefly. I echo your sentiments for sure and we know  
2 that accidents can happen and they happen very quickly.  
3 I have a almost two-year-old and I know how -- how it  
4 can be. And, you know, not just my two-year-old but  
5 just kids in general, how attractive these type of  
6 things could -- could be for them. So definitely, the  
7 issue here poses a risk to safety, and that's the  
8 reason why I support a -- imposing a fine of 3,500 to  
9 this business. I want to make sure that not only this  
10 doesn't happen again, but also folks are aware that  
11 there are rules in place as to what we're looking for.

12 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Del Cid.  
13 Any further discussion? Hearing no further discussion.  
14 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker is  
16 absent. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

17 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

19 MS. NASH: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

21 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

23 CHAIR: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
25 next item on the agenda, we have the open public

1 comment period.

2 CHAIR: So as -- as we open the floor to  
3 public comments, as with every meeting, members of the  
4 public can submit their comments to the Commission,  
5 during or after this meeting in writing via our website  
6 nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. The deadline for submitting  
7 written comments for today's meeting is 5 o'clock  
8 tomorrow, Wednesday, February 19th. Written comments  
9 will be shared with the Commission members and will be  
10 made public. Speakers will be limited to -- to three  
11 minutes. We may have a technical issue with our clock  
12 on screen but our staff will be keeping time. So  
13 please be mindful and make sure that if you do run out  
14 of time, just please, wrap up your -- your comments,  
15 provide your -- your last quick thoughts, and if  
16 there's anything else that you were not able to get to,  
17 you are free to submit written comments, where there is  
18 no length maximum. That said, Mr. Said will call out  
19 the names of our speakers. When it is your turn to --  
20 to speak, he will ask you to turn on your microphone.  
21 If you are joining by phone, I believe -- and staff can  
22 correct me if this is wrong, I believe the way to turn  
23 off your -- to unmute yourself is by star 6?

24 THE SECRETARY: Six. Uh-huh.

25 CHAIR: Star 6. Perfect. Great. Thank

1 you. Now, I also want to note, for those who have --  
2 who know that they have registered to speak, if your  
3 name on Zoom does not match the name that you  
4 registered under, we are not going to be able to guess  
5 that you are the one who had registered to speak. So  
6 please, if you have -- if you're unsure what your name  
7 on Zoom looks like, I encourage you to log out, hop  
8 back in, you should be prompted to confirm your -- your  
9 name. We have several folks who are right now listed  
10 under a first name with no last name. We've got some -  
11 - some iPhones listed, so we won't be able to -- to  
12 guess who you are, so please just make sure that your  
13 name matches what you used to sign up to speak. With  
14 that, Mr. Said, can you please call on our first  
15 speakers?

16 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Chairwoman. As  
17 a reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's  
18 public comment period will be limited to three minutes.  
19 Please be respectful and concise during your comments.  
20 And as the clock is not operational right now, I will  
21 give a reminder at 60 seconds, just to -- to let you  
22 know how much is left. And if you're calling in on  
23 Zoom, it is star 9 to raise your hand and star 6 to  
24 unmute. So I will start now with the people that  
25 registered to speak within the Zoom call, not through

1 phone but through the Zoom call, the Zoom meeting, that  
2 are in attendance. The first person on the list, we  
3 have Donny Adelman. If you're in the room, please  
4 raise your hand. Donny Adelman? I don't see that  
5 person. The next person registered to speak is  
6 Reginald Green. If you're in the room, please raise  
7 your hand. I don't see that person. The next person  
8 on the list is Mahim Gupta. Okay. I do see you,  
9 Mahim.

10 MR. MAHIM GUPTA: Hello?

11 THE SECRETARY: Hi, Mahim. You have the  
12 floor.

13 MR. GUPTA: All right. Thank you. Ladies  
14 and gentlemen of the CRC, thank you for taking the time  
15 to hear my comments. My name is Mahim Gupta. I'm with  
16 The Weekly Reviewer, a news and media organization.  
17 I'm also New Jersey born and raised. So I just had a  
18 question. You know, where -- where do you guys plan on  
19 actually using the SEE fees that you guys were talking  
20 about back in the day? You know, give a process to  
21 make that public and transparent to see how you're  
22 going to be spending the money? I want to know on your  
23 website, you know, somewhere available to everyone, how  
24 you're going to use that -- those pools of capital.  
25 The way I see it, you guys are burning cash every day,

1 just sitting on what, millions of dollars in cash. So  
2 I'm here to offer you a solution, and all I ask is that  
3 you start studying it. Bitcoin fixes this. Okay?  
4 From your first meetings, you -- you mentioned the sum  
5 of like \$4 million in your SEE fee. If you don't want  
6 to lose like \$400,000 a year in just inflation tax,  
7 you'd probably do best to study Bitcoin. So while you  
8 wait to decide how you allocate SEE funding, your  
9 purchasing power is being diminished and eroded away.  
10 So, yeah, you need to decide on how to allocate the SEE  
11 funding quickly. I'd also like to see this process  
12 democratized or made public and transparent. My first  
13 recommendation is that you study Bitcoin, purchase 40  
14 Bitcoin, hold it on your treasury balance sheet.  
15 Currently, states are rushing to do this. I want New  
16 Jersey to be there. And the institutions are doing  
17 this. You not doing this kind of is like missing out  
18 on an opportunity. You're sitting on cash and it's  
19 burning away. I posit that New Jersey's cannabis  
20 industry can lead New Jersey in the Bitcoin race and  
21 secure a position and probably save their -- their  
22 people for generations to come. One of the ways that  
23 you can give back to the community, in fact, is by  
24 endowing the community with the Bitcoin that you're  
25 holding. It doesn't necessarily make sense to split up

1 cash and to potentially get certain things done when  
2 you --

3 THE SECRETARY: Sixty seconds.

4 MR. GUPTA: -- might not be able to  
5 calculate that. Thank you.

6 THE SECRETARY: Mm-hmm.

7 MR. GUPTA: But instead, you could  
8 actually just endow an entire community with just  
9 straight Bitcoin. Bitcoin is an asset that saves your  
10 purchasing power against debasement and inflation, and  
11 to endow a community with this for, say, 10 or 20 years  
12 can make them prosper infinitely. So, you know, this  
13 is a once in a lifetime opportunity to help New Jersey  
14 residents and our cannabis industry. I urge you to go  
15 back and study Bitcoin and further to begin searching  
16 for a Bitcoin adviser to help you acquire and hold  
17 Bitcoin properly. You know, the way I see it, CRC set  
18 out with two mandates, social justice and a thriving  
19 cannabis industry that's ahead of other states. If you  
20 truly want to fulfill that mandate, study Bitcoin.  
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Gupta. Just very  
23 quickly. The Commission, just for -- to make sure  
24 we're -- we're clear on the record, the Cannabis  
25 Regulatory Commission does not appropriate monies



1 generated by the Social Equity Excise Fee. That is for  
2 the legislature and the governor to do through the  
3 annual appropriations process. If you -- anyone can go  
4 to our website [nj.gov/cannabis](http://nj.gov/cannabis), on the resources --  
5 under that navigation bar, there's a resources tab,  
6 click reports, and there is our report for every year  
7 that we've done. We've issued a report thus far with  
8 the recommendations on using the Social Equity Excise  
9 Fee that those reports are available on our website for  
10 everyone to see. And lastly, I'll also note that for  
11 any media inquiries if you go to our website click on  
12 the contact us page there is a an option for you to  
13 inquire for any media responses through the media link  
14 there. Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, if you  
16 allow me to amplify what you just said for a second?

17 CHAIR: Vice Chair Delgado.

18 VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Yeah, there's a -  
19 - and this is to the public. There's a misconception  
20 out there that the -- that the New Jersey Cannabis  
21 Regulatory Commission actually takes these funds in and  
22 we dispense these funds. We have the power to dispense  
23 these funds. We do not have the power to dispense  
24 these funds -- these Social Equity Excise Fee funds.

25 If you read the Kreme Act, if you read the

1 -- the report that we publish every year, we only  
2 recommend to both the State Legislature and to the --  
3 and to the Governor how these funds should be used.  
4 Again, we do not have the power to dispense these  
5 funds. We could only recommend. So I just want to  
6 amplify that again, because there's a great  
7 misconception out there in the public that we actually  
8 dispense these funds.

9                   And I don't know how many times we have to  
10 say it. I don't know how many times we write it. I  
11 don't know how many times -- it's in the website, it  
12 says it in the website. It says it in our reports that  
13 we can only recommend. We do not dispense these funds.  
14 That's all I have to say.

15                   CHAIR: Thank you, Vice Chair Delgado.

16                   VICE CHAIR: Did I say it enough?

17                   CHAIR: You did.

18                   VICE CHAIR: Okay.

19                   CHAIR: You did right on message. Right  
20 on point.

21                   VICE CHAIR: We can only recommend. It's  
22 the State Legislature and their wisdom that wrote it  
23 into the law that they dispense these funds and -- and  
24 of that's -- that's all I have to say.

25                   CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Said, if you can

1 call in our next speakers?

2 THE SECRETARY: Sure. The next person on  
3 the list is TJ Coutts. If you're in the room, please  
4 raise your hand. I don't see that person. The next  
5 person on the list is James Schon. James Schon? The  
6 next person on the list is David Sanders. I would just  
7 like to remind everyone you have to change your name on  
8 Zoom to the name that you registered with, so that I'm  
9 able to find you. Otherwise, I'm not able to -- to  
10 differentiate who actually registered for the list.

11 David Sanders? I don't see that person.

12 The next person on the list is Marcel Rodriguez.

13 Marcel Rodriguez? I don't see that person. The next  
14 person is Jeffrey Miller. If you're in the room please  
15 raise your hand. The next person on the list is Dave  
16 Valese. If you're in the room please raise your hand.  
17 I don't see that person. The next person is Thomas  
18 Norcia. All right. Thomas, I see you. Just give me  
19 one second. Thomas, you have the floor.

20 MR. THOMAS NORCIA: Yes. You hear me?

21 THE SECRETARY: Yes.

22 MR. NORCIA: Yes. This is Thomas Norcia  
23 from Grow Works, and I'm part of the New Jersey Hemp  
24 Growers Association. Couple things for you today. How  
25 is the New Jersey CRC ensuring hemp derived



1 your e-mail response.

2 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Thomas. The  
3 next person on the list is Chris Goldstein. If you're  
4 in the room, please raise your hand. Okay. I see you,  
5 Chris.

6 MR. CHRIS GOLDSTEIN: Hi, good afternoon.  
7 First of all, I want to say thanks to the commissioners  
8 for the focus on so much going on with the medical  
9 marijuana program. At the beginning of the meeting,  
10 you noticed that we're down another almost a thousand  
11 patients. And the medical cannabis program has  
12 suffered a loss of almost 50 percent of patients gone  
13 at this point. So we really do need to improve the  
14 program, and now is just the time to do it.

15 There are probably close to 2 million  
16 people in the state of New Jersey who would qualify  
17 under the current provisions of the medical cannabis  
18 law. So 66,000 is very low number. Just next door in  
19 the state of Pennsylvania, there are almost half a  
20 million registered patients. And I'm also going to  
21 point out something you brought up the program data  
22 when it comes to the price. The price for medical  
23 cannabis in Pennsylvania is about 50 percent less than  
24 New Jersey right now.

25 And what is really a problem is that it's

1 from a lot of the same operators. So when it comes to  
2 Cure Leaf, Ascend, Air (inaudible), Columbia Care, and  
3 GTI, they're all charging \$15 an ace in Pennsylvania  
4 and \$35 -- \$45 an ace in New Jersey. When I looked at  
5 New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Illinois, it looks  
6 like these same companies are charging a lot less in  
7 every state except New Jersey. So I understand that  
8 you're gonna look at why it's important that you're  
9 looking, you know, at the price issue.

10 But I hope that you'll look at these  
11 companies and what they're charging in other states.  
12 Because medical cannabis shouldn't cost less in the  
13 center of Manhattan, or in the center of Boston than it  
14 does in Edgewater Park, New Jersey. It should be less  
15 to our patients here in New Jersey after more than a  
16 decade of running this program than it is today. So  
17 thank you for that focus.

18 The other thing I'm really thrilled to  
19 hear is the reference lab. As a consumer safety  
20 advocate, I'm glad to hear that we're launching  
21 reference lab here in New Jersey to double check the  
22 safety standards out there. I think that's really  
23 required. So I think this really marks a lot of  
24 forward progress. Please, carefully look at the price.  
25 I know that on your side, you look at the sales --

1 THE SECRETARY: 60 seconds.

2 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Thanks so much. Make sure  
3 to look at the menu prices, and that's what I look at  
4 and I try and be aware of because if consumers and  
5 patients don't see a fair price on the menu, they'll  
6 never walk in and purchase a legal product. So I  
7 understand that you're looking at the backend prices.  
8 Please make sure to take a look at the menus at the  
9 same time too. Thanks so much for your time, and  
10 thanks so much for the progress.

11 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Chris. The  
12 next person on the list is Jonathan Frank, if you're in  
13 the room, please raise your hand. Jonathan Frank? I  
14 don't see that person. The next person is Andrea  
15 Raible. If you're in the room, please raise your hand.  
16 Right. I see you, Andrea. Andrea?

17 MS. ANDREA RAIBLE: Can you hear me?

18 THE SECRETARY: Yeah. Can you speak up a  
19 little bit?

20 MS. RAIBLE: Is that better?

21 THE SECRETARY: Somewhat. Go ahead.

22 MS. RAIBLE: Okay. Hi, I'm Andrea Raible.  
23 I know we've talked about it a little bit throughout  
24 this meeting that we lost about a thousand patients  
25 since the last meeting. Director Riggs said patients

1 are always at the top of our minds when we were  
2 reviewing the enrollment numbers. And Chairwoman  
3 Houenou opened this meeting, discussing the five-year  
4 goals. None of which mentioned the medical program.

5           The medical program is a primary concern  
6 in the CRC code of ethics, but it barely made the last  
7 line on your priority list with the goal to lower  
8 prices by 10 percent. As Chris just said prices in  
9 this state are dramatically higher than our neighboring  
10 states. Double the cost on some identical products by  
11 the same MSOs. The issues patients are facing are far  
12 beyond pricing.

13           We're struggling without hospital access,  
14 full spectrum CBD, transparency in the market, or  
15 safety on the shelves. I'm excited to hear about the  
16 town halls, and I really hope you opt to open them to  
17 the public and can gain some perspective. In the past,  
18 you only allowed a handful of selected people to speak  
19 despite being thousands asking for the opportunity.  
20 Patients and caretakers are painfully aware of what  
21 needs are not being met. I'm also hopeful about the ad  
22 hoc Med Access Committee.

23           Knowing the majority of remaining meetings  
24 this year will have a limited agenda focusing solely on  
25 licensing, it's a relief that there's some form of



1 energy being committed towards the dwindling program.  
2 Hopefully, this committee will have some success in  
3 communicating to the public and with advocating to the  
4 other committees for the interests of the patients and  
5 program.

6           When it comes to medical access, there's  
7 one thing your patients need above all else,  
8 transparency. We need COAs posted online. It's absurd  
9 to drive around to every dispensary and ask for  
10 printouts. Patients need to know which products have  
11 been remediated, and we need solvents labeled on  
12 packaging. These details directly impact my safety as  
13 a patient. While I applaud the new dispensary map,  
14 that information was already accessible through other  
15 means.

16           We need to know what we are actually  
17 consuming from those dispensaries. It's been months  
18 since the intoxicating hemp bill with no explanation --

19           THE SECRETARY: 60 seconds.

20           MS. RAIBLE: -- for timeline for the  
21 patients or growers impacted. Miners can purchase  
22 distillate, but not full spectrum CBD. There are  
23 products on shelves with added cannabinoids and hemp  
24 derived products, but no transparency about where those  
25 products are coming from.

1                   And as a patient, all I know is it's not  
2 coming from our New Jersey hemp growers because they're  
3 denied a pathway to dispensary shelves. Even with the  
4 products on shelves, we're unable to trust the testing.  
5 We have years of data showing potentially dangerous  
6 trends, and I have purchased legal products from your  
7 dispensary shelves in 2025 and had them retest it.

8                   There was more than potency inflation.  
9 There was multiple times the legal limit of  
10 contamination. Patients are depending on you for  
11 access to safe medicine. I applaud establishing a  
12 reference lab and finally lowering batch size and  
13 updating regulations. And I plead that you enforce  
14 them to your full capacity at the close of the grace  
15 period. Dirty products should not be making it to  
16 shelves.

17                   Lab shopping and corruption are  
18 nationwide, and I understand that you're stretched  
19 incredibly thin as a commission and staff. However,  
20 you only oversee eight lab licenses. These licenses  
21 should be your top priority for ensuring public safety  
22 and meeting the needs of your patients. Anytime there  
23 is a recall with consequences for a cultivator or  
24 manufacturer, there should be corresponding lab  
25 enforcement.

1           If you want to continue to scale this  
2 billion dollar industry, you have a responsibility to  
3 scale safety regulations and enforcements. I will  
4 continue to develop a secret shopper program, and  
5 compile more data to encourage your efforts. I'm eager  
6 to see what you're able to accomplish this year with  
7 new lab regulations, new pathways for input from the  
8 public, and a reinvigorated interest in saving the  
9 medical program. Thank you for your time.

10           THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Andrea. The  
11 next person on the list is Brendan Kapp. If you're in  
12 the room, please raise your hand. Brendan Kapp? I  
13 don't see that person. The next person is Edward  
14 Tobias. If you're in the room please raise your hand.  
15 All right, I see you, Edward.

16           MR. EDWARD TOBIAS: Okay. Are we here?

17           THE SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you.

18           MR. TOBIAS: Okay. Very good. My name's  
19 Edward Tobias. I'm an cannabis attorney and I actually  
20 represent NJ Weedman, Ed Forchion, and NJ Weedman's  
21 Dispensary, LLC, Forchion Farms, LLC. They have  
22 applications in for cultivation, manufacturing, and  
23 retail licensing. And actually I have Ed Forchion on  
24 the phone with me who would also like to speak  
25 regarding his application, and the provisions of NJAC

1 1730-6.8 which is now the focus of a proposed bill by  
2 Nick Sari (ph).

3 Just -- there's a lot of provisions in  
4 this bill, but I just think we should speak about the  
5 one that talks about family members being able to  
6 participate in the -- the cannabis industry. So right  
7 now, I'm going to yield the rest of my time to Mr.  
8 Forchion who's also signed up to speak as well today.  
9 Ed, can you hear me?

10 MR. EDWARD FORCHION: Yes, I can.

11 MR. TOBIAS: Okay. Very good.

12 MR. FORCHION: Okay. (Inaudible). Can  
13 you hear me?

14 MR. TOBIAS: How about now?

15 MR. FORCHION: I'm here.

16 CHAIR: Mr. Tobias, we're having -- we're  
17 having some trouble hearing the -- hearing the call  
18 from -- from your end.

19 MR. TOBIAS: Okay.

20 CHAIR: If --

21 MR. TOBIAS: What -- what I'm going to do  
22 is have Mr. Forchion call in. He's on the Zoom as  
23 well.

24 CHAIR: Yes. If he -- if he's able to --  
25 he's registered to speak, and so if he is able to use

1 the Zoom platform. That will probably give us much  
2 better audio quality to hear his comments.

3 MR. TOBIAS: Okay. There -- very well  
4 then. Again, I yield to the CRC. Thanks. Take care  
5 now.

6 CHAIR: Thank you.

7 VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Edward. So that's  
8 it for the people registered to speak in the meeting.  
9 The next is the phone callers that are -- that  
10 registered to speak. So the next person on the list is  
11 Edward Grimes. Last four is 0682 of your telephone  
12 number. Edward -- okay, I see you, Edward. Edward,  
13 you have the floor.

14 MR. EDWARD GRIMS: Good afternoon. Good  
15 afternoon. This is Edward Lefty Grimes. I'm with  
16 sativacross.org. We're a 501C3 here in New Jersey.  
17 Fighting for disabled rights and cannabis patients  
18 rights. My father was in the Vietnam War and he was in  
19 a prison in Vietnam. And when he came home, he had  
20 PTSD and they were spitting on him. And at -- at a  
21 certain point, he shot himself in the head and he  
22 lived, and he was in a wheelchair for many years after  
23 that.

24 So the reason why I'm such a tenacious  
25 jerk about wheelchair access for disabled vets, that's

1 one of the reasons why. We live in a culture of  
2 ableism. When you have police stations without  
3 wheelchair access, post offices without wheelchair  
4 access, dispensaries without wheelchair access, urban  
5 enterprise zones, which offer a discount to people  
6 unless you're in a wheelchair.

7           Back in the day, they would have signs on  
8 the building that would say, "No Jews allowed, no  
9 blacks allowed, no gays allowed." Well, wheelchair  
10 users don't need the sign. That sign is a sign in  
11 itself. That sign that step says, "Keep your cancer  
12 home. Stay -- stay out of here, little cripple. We  
13 don't want you here cripple person." That's what that  
14 step says. It's a sign that says many words.

15           Well, the CRC has the opportunity to fix  
16 this with the stroke of the pen, at least as far as  
17 dispensaries having wheelchair access, every dispensary  
18 should have wheelchair access. If you think that  
19 dispensaries should not be accessible to disabled vets,  
20 please raise your hand. I agree, I think they -- I  
21 agree with you. No hands went up and I agree. Every  
22 dispensary should be accessible to every disabled vet.

23           And you could do that with the stroke of a  
24 pen. I suggest that you do a resolution and somebody  
25 second it and maybe -- and get it subsidized, get the

1 legislature to subsidize it.

2 THE SECRETARY: 60 seconds.

3 MR. GRIMS: This is a very important  
4 issue. It affects a lot of people, and it's a patient  
5 issue that we -- that we are worried about. That's  
6 pretty much all I have. I just want to thank you for  
7 taking the time to hear us and our disabled vets  
8 deserve better than what we're doing in New Jersey.  
9 It's a culture of ableism that we have to stamp it out,  
10 and you guys have the power to do that with a  
11 resolution. And I hope you do that.

12 They shall grown, not old as we that are  
13 left to grow old, age shall not worry them, nor the  
14 years condemn at the -- going down of the sun. And in  
15 the morning we will remember that. Thank you.

16 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Edward. The --  
17 the next person on the list is Edward Forchion. I see  
18 your hand raised. To unmute yourself on Zoom it is  
19 star 6, just a heads up. Okay. Edward, can you -- can  
20 you hear me? I see I'm asking you to unmute. It's  
21 star 6 if you're calling in. Edward Forchion, it's  
22 star 6 to unmute if you're calling into the Zoom  
23 meeting, or if you're on the Zoom platform, just hit  
24 unmute.

25 MR. FORCHION: Okay. Can you hear me?

1 THE SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you now.

2 MR. FORCHION: Sorry about that. I had  
3 trouble unmuting. Okay.

4 THE SECRETARY: No worries.

5 MR. FORCHION: Yes, my name is Edward  
6 Forchion. I've been in the marijuana/cannabis industry  
7 for most of my adult life for the last say 30 something  
8 years. Even here in New Jersey, prior to being legal.  
9 When it became legal, it wasn't like I was just going  
10 to suddenly stop. But anyway both me and my daughter  
11 both attempted to be 100 percent legal.

12 As it turned out, I believe, I was pretty  
13 -- pretty much stalled out in the city of Trenton. As  
14 far as my application for NJ Weedman Dispensary. My  
15 daughter applied for Forchion Farms, and then we ran  
16 into a problem where now I feel, like, the CRC is  
17 holding me hostage in the legality. Basically, with  
18 17:30-6.8, Paragraph G. Which specifically, I guess,  
19 bans -- I think the intent was nepotism. But it bans  
20 siblings or kids from both having licenses at the same  
21 time.

22 Now, my daughter in my case, she actually  
23 filed a few weeks ahead of me for her license and got -  
24 - and got the probation license. And then I filed and  
25 I also got the license. And then later we found out



1 that there was a rule after we both spent over a --  
2 close to a million dollars -- to combine, we spent over  
3 a million dollars between getting our buildings,  
4 getting set up, getting ready.

5 And then we find out that there's this  
6 rule to prevent either one of us from getting our --  
7 our license. We have our conditional license and  
8 getting our annual license.

9 THE SECRETARY: 60 seconds, Edward.

10 MR. FORCHION: Yes. And apparently  
11 Senator Catari (ph) recently has, you know, put a bill  
12 in that will -- will correct that I strongly urge the  
13 CRC to support that. And I have to say that there's  
14 other people I've come across who kind of have that  
15 same problem. And I remember the CRC board and plenty  
16 of politicians said that they wanted to get the black  
17 market involved. They wanted to get it legal.

18 This is an insurmountable hurdle for some  
19 of us, you know, especially, those who are family  
20 businesses. If I owned a septic system company and my  
21 daughter owned a septic system company, there's no way  
22 anywhere else in the state would say that we both can't  
23 sling crap. But for some reason, the CRC with this  
24 rule says we both can't sling cannabis. I want to use  
25 a different word there, I'm pretty sure you caught

1 that. But I find that amazing that I can have a father  
2 and son trucking company, which I had before.

3 There is all kinds of father and daughter  
4 businesses out there, but this rule prevents us from  
5 being in the cannabis business --

6 THE SECRETARY: If you can just wrap up  
7 your thoughts.

8 MR. FORCHION: All right. That's it. I'm  
9 just hoping that somebody up there opens their eyes and  
10 see how you're holding some of this hostage in  
11 illegality.

12 THE SECRETARY: Thank you so much, Edward.  
13 The next person on the list is Sam Nesheiwat. Last  
14 four of the telephone number is 4354. Sam Nesheiwat?  
15 I don't see that person on the list. The next person  
16 on the list is Karen Kannegeisser. Okay. I see you,  
17 Karen. Karen, you have the floor.

18 MS. KAREN KANNEGIESSER: Thank you. Can  
19 you hear me?

20 THE SECRETARY: Yes.

21 MS. KANNEGIESSER: First of all I want to  
22 say a big thank you to everyone on the Commission.  
23 This call is going to be very short. I just wanted to  
24 thank you for keeping it very safe and for making sure  
25 you check everyone out before handing out a license.

1 What I did want to also thank you for was granting my  
2 son from conditional to an annual license today. So I  
3 just wanted to jump on and say we appreciate you at  
4 Herb House and keep up the good work.

5 THE SECRETARY: Thank you so much, Karen.  
6 The next person on the list is Alan Trzuskoski. If  
7 you're in the room, please raise your hand. Okay. I  
8 see you, Alan. Go ahead, Alan.

9 MR. ALAN TRZUSKOSKI: Good afternoon. I'm  
10 Alan Trzuskoski with the Bridgeton Business Incubator.  
11 I'm here to talk about the external transfer  
12 functionality and metric. Metric describes the  
13 external transfer functionality as a tool that enables  
14 the tracking and transfer of cannabinoid ingredients  
15 from external facilities into the regulated market,  
16 ensuring full compliance with safety standards. You  
17 can read more about the specifics of the external  
18 transfer functionality and metric bulletin MI\_IB\_48.

19 Essentially, the external transfer  
20 functionality, which is already available in metric,  
21 could provide hemp farmers a path onto dispensary  
22 shelves by way of Class 2 manufacturers. This would  
23 allow hemp farmers access to regulated market while  
24 ensuring that licensed manufacturers keep products  
25 compliant, tested, and safe using the existing testing

1 and compliance infrastructure. Oregon is already using  
2 this model with great success, and I propose that we  
3 follow suit.

4           Let's implement the external transfer  
5 functionality in New Jersey. New Jersey patients are  
6 seeking safe, regulated, non intoxicating, low THC, and  
7 full spectrum cannabinoid products. But dispensaries  
8 have to turn them away, and New Jersey patients are  
9 left to go without or buy unregulated and untested  
10 products from out-of-state sources that don't support  
11 our businesses or residents. At the same time, our  
12 hemp farmers are struggling.

13           They've got products, but they don't have  
14 a viable route into the regulated market. Class 2  
15 manufacturers have the infrastructure to create tested  
16 and compliant products, but lack access to many of the  
17 necessary ingredients to satisfy patients. Disconnect  
18 is -- this disconnect is harming patients, the  
19 industry, and our local economy, but there's a simple  
20 solution. By adopting the external transfer  
21 functionality, we can solve several problems at once.  
22 Hemp farmers will have an outlet for their products.

23           Manufacturers will offer a wider range of  
24 products that are tested safe and locally sourced.  
25 Dispensaries will cater to a broader customer base.

1 Patients and consumers will gain access to the safe and  
2 regulated products they need.

3 THE SECRETARY: 60 seconds.

4 MR. TRZUSKOSKI: And the state and  
5 municipalities will generate incremental tax revenue  
6 that can be reinvested into our communities. We have  
7 an opportunity here to create a robust, compliant, and  
8 thriving hemp market in our own state under the  
9 existing CRC regulatory infrastructure. I urge you to  
10 support the implementation of Metrics, external  
11 transfer functionality, and let's build a brighter,  
12 more sustainable future for our industry and our  
13 patients in New Jersey. Thank you for your time.

14 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Alan. That's  
15 it for the list. I'm just going to go over the list  
16 again for those who didn't get a chance to speak to see  
17 if they're still in the room. Donnie Adelman, if  
18 you're in the room, please raise your hand. Reginald  
19 Green, if you're in the room, please raise your hand.  
20 Thomas Coutts? I do see Thomas, so I will allow you to  
21 speak. Thomas?

22 MR. THOMAS COUTTS: Can you hear me?

23 THE SECRETARY: Yes, we can.

24 MR. COUTTS: Okay. Hello, my name is  
25 Thomas Coutts. I'm here on behalf of GrowTheHigh.

1 We're a cannabis media company with aspirations joining  
2 the cultivation industry. I'm here to discuss some  
3 problems I've noticed and some fixes to those problems.  
4 One of those problems I'd like to discuss is the SEE  
5 fee. This fee is pushing a lot of people back to  
6 street vendors in the cannabis market. The other issue  
7 I have with this fee is that it's placed on the  
8 cultivators, which have like the lowest profit margin  
9 of about 10 to 20 percent.

10           When retail decides the price that the  
11 customer actually pays, as you increase the fee, it'll  
12 become increasingly difficult for any businesses  
13 starting the industry, potentially creating monopolies  
14 for the members that got in early. This obviously  
15 eliminates the original goal with legalization of  
16 getting it off the streets and regulating it. We've  
17 conducted a survey of cannabis users and over half of  
18 them refused to go to dispensaries because it just  
19 wasn't worth what they were paying.

20           The next thing I'd like to talk -- bring  
21 up would be homegrown. At least for medical patients,  
22 it is infeasible to put all that responsibility on  
23 medical cannabis companies, as at the end of the day,  
24 they have to operate as a business. People who have  
25 niche needs will fall through the cracks and won't be

1 able to receive the strains and terpenes they need.

2 I propose that we initiate a program that  
3 allows at least 500 medical patients to homegrow with a  
4 specific number of plants and have these individuals  
5 inspected and audited every three months. You've lost  
6 about a third of your medical users over the past two  
7 years, and I think it's more important than ever to  
8 show that you still care about the medical side of the  
9 industry.

10 The next initiative I would hope to start  
11 would be set up a training program for doctors that are  
12 recommending people to the medical industry to suit  
13 individualistic needs. From what I've seen, most  
14 medical information is just a small pamphlet that  
15 teaches you how to use cannabis, opposed to actually  
16 teaching like what terpenes are and how they interact  
17 with the body. I'd also recommend creating a training  
18 program for medical professionals involved with --

19 THE SECRETARY: 60 seconds.

20 MR. COUTTS: Thank you. With medical  
21 cannabis users in order to train doctors to better  
22 direct patients towards specific strains, terpenes. If  
23 I could add at least one last thing. Can we keep a  
24 section on site that summarizes all the language in  
25 layman's term? This language often keeps people gated

1 when it's not really their job to learn this kind of  
2 language. If you have any questions, you can feel free  
3 to reach out to me. Thank you.

4 THE SECRETARY: Thank you so much, Thomas.  
5 The next person on the list is James Schon. If you're  
6 in the room, please raise your hand. Next person is  
7 David Sanders. If you're in the room, please raise  
8 your hand. The next person on the list, Marcel  
9 Rodriguez. The next person is Jeffrey Miller. If  
10 you're in the room, please raise your hand. The next  
11 person on the list is Dave Veles. The next person is  
12 Jonathan Frank. The next person is Brendan Kapp. If  
13 you're in the room, please raise your hand.

14 And the last person on the list is Sam  
15 Nesheiwat. If you're in the room, please raise your  
16 hand. Chairwoman Houenou, this will conclude the  
17 registered speakers we have for today's public meeting.

18 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. And thank  
19 you to everyone who shared their -- their thoughts,  
20 their suggestions, their ideas, and their experiences  
21 with us today. As a final reminder, anyone who would  
22 like to submit written comments to the commission has  
23 until 5 o'clock tomorrow, Wednesday, February 9th to do  
24 so on our website. This concludes the business that we  
25 have before us today. And with that, I move that we



1 adjourn today's meeting. Is there a second?

2 VICE CHAIR: I second.

3 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.

4 Is there a second -- I'm sorry. Is there any  
5 discussion on this motion to adjourn? Hearing no  
6 discussion. All those in favor of adjourning say aye.

7 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

8 CHAIR: Aye. All those opposed say nay.

9 Any abstentions? Motion passes. Time is now 2:51, and  
10 we are adjourned. Have a great rest of the day  
11 everyone, and we will see you at the next meeting.  
12 Take care.

13 (Meeting concluded.)

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