



State of New Jersey
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

P.O. BOX 216
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0216

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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

NJ CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

2

3 DIANA HOUENOU, Chair

4 SAM DELGADO, Vice Chair

5 AMELIA MAPP

6 KRISTA G. NASH

7 CHRISTOPHER RIGGS

8 DANIEL SAID

9 MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 CHAIR: All right. Good morning everyone.
2 Welcome to the meeting of the Cannabis Regulatory
3 Commission, time is 11:04 a.m. and I call this meeting
4 to order. Mr. Said, can you please read the notice of
5 the public meeting?

6 MR. DANIEL SAID: Chairwoman, this is a
7 rescheduling of the meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis
8 Regulatory Commission's 2025 annual meeting schedule.
9 Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in
10 accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer, Open Public
11 Meetings Act. Notice of the rescheduled meeting was
12 provided to the Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record,
13 Courier post, Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on
14 March 12th, 2025. The agenda and information regarding
15 the virtual nature of the meeting and the ability to
16 live stream was also posted on the CRC website. The
17 meeting time and location has also been posted on the
18 website of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory
19 Commission and with the office of the Secretary of the
20 State.

21 CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Said, can you
22 please take roll call.

23 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

24 MS. MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO: Present.

25 MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?

1 MS. AMELIA MAPP: Present.

2 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

3 MS. KRISTA G. NASH: Present.

4 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado.

5 VICE CHAIR: Present.

6 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

7 CHAIR: Present.

8 MR. SAID: We now have a quorum.

9 CHAIR: Great. Now before we begin I want
10 to take a moment to welcome the newest member of our
11 team, Commissioner Amelia Mapp to the Board of
12 Commissioners. Commissioner Mapp with a background in
13 accounting, finance and real estate was recently
14 appointed to the board by Governor Murphy. She has
15 been with the agency for a little more than a week now
16 and is hitting the ground running. Her experience will
17 be a great value add to the board.

18 Once again, Commissioner Mapp,
19 congratulations on your appointment and welcome to the
20 Cannabis Regulatory Commission. I'm happy to have you
21 with us, and I look forward to working with you and
22 seeing the positive impact you'll bring to the
23 oversight of the cannabis industry. If you'd like to
24 say a few words, you're free to do so.

25 MS. NASH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good

1 morning everyone, I am Amelia Mapp and as the chair
2 said I am the newest member of the CRC. A few months
3 ago, I was appointed by Governor Murphy to serve on
4 this board and just a few weeks ago I was confirmed by
5 the full Senate. I look forward to working
6 cooperatively and collaboratively with my fellow
7 commissioners and the entire staff of the CRC.

8 I'm also looking forward to making a
9 significant contribution in my role as a commissioner,
10 as we work to carry out the legislative intent that
11 made it possible for this commission to exist. I would
12 like to thank Governor Murphy, Senate President Katari
13 and all the members of the Senate who made it possible
14 for me to be here. Thank you. With that, the chair --
15 the floor is yours, chair.

16 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Mapp. All
17 right. So with that, we will then move right along.
18 Mr. Said, can you please announce the first item on our
19 agenda?

20 MR. SAID: The first order of business is
21 for the commission to go into executive session to
22 discuss legal matters and litigation and investigation
23 updates. These are discussions that are not shared
24 with the public. We believe the executive session
25 should take about 45 minutes.

1 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there a motion to
2 go into executive session?

3 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
4 we go into executive session.

5 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
6 there a second?

7 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

8 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-
9 Kosso. Any discussion on this motion to go into
10 executive session? Hearing no discussion all those in
11 favor of going into executive session say aye?

12 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

13 CHAIR: All those post say nay? Any
14 abstentions? Motion passes. So as Mr. Said noted we
15 expect the executive session to last approximately 45
16 minutes. We will leave the live stream running during
17 that time so we can expect to resume the public session
18 and we'll say at the top of the hour at 12 o'clock
19 sharp. Thank you everyone.

20 [MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION 00:12:00]

21 [RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION 01:03:45]

22 CHAIR: Okay. Welcome back. Time is 12
23 o'clock exactly and we will resume the public portion
24 of this meeting. Just a reminder for everyone who is
25 registered -- who has registered to speak, if you could

1 take a moment to confirm that your name is -- as it
2 appears on Zoom matches what you use to register with.
3 We do see -- we have a tendency to see a lot of
4 individuals whose name only shows up as like a first
5 name.

6 And so if you are unsure of whether -- of
7 what your name looks like, we encourage you to hop out
8 of the, the meeting, come back in. You should receive
9 a prompt to, to confirm your, your name. And if you
10 could just make sure that your name is as it is spelled
11 when you registered to speak. That would be greatly
12 appreciated by our staff, so that we know exactly who
13 needs to be unmuted. All right. So with that, Mr.
14 Said, can you please announce the next agenda item?

15 MR. DANIEL SAID: Next up on the agenda is
16 approving the minutes of both the Commissions open and
17 executive sessions held on February 18th, 2025. The
18 minutes have been shared with the members of the
19 commission prior to this meeting.

20 CHAIR: Thank you. If there are no edits
21 or changes to the meeting minutes. Is there a motion
22 on the matter?

23 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: So move, madam chair.

24 CHAIR: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso moves
25 to approve the February 18 meeting minutes. Is there a

1 second?

2 MS. KRISTA G. NASH: I'll second.

3 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash.

4 Any discussion on this motion to approve the February
5 18th meeting minutes? Hearing no discussion, all those
6 in favor say aye.

7 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

8 MS. NASH: Aye.

9 MR. CHRISTOPHER RIGGS: Aye.

10 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

11 CHAIR: Aye. All those opposed say, nay?

12 Any abstentions?

13 MS. AMELIA MAPP: I abstain.

14 CHAIR: Thank you. We have one
15 abstention. All right. The motion passes.

16 MR. SAID: The next item up for
17 consideration are the adult use cannabis business
18 conversion license applications.

19 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, I will
20 turn the floor over to you to provide a summary of the
21 applications that were received.

22 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, madam chair. Today
23 there are ten conditional annual conversion
24 applications up for consideration. One annual
25 application and 58 annual license renewals. Next

1 slide, please. For the conditional to annual license,
2 and conversion applications. These licenses have -- we
3 have nine that are up for a vote by the Board. These
4 licenses have come in through the licensing portal, and
5 the licensing process was followed.

6 Priority assignment was given to these
7 applications, where the licensing team has confirmed
8 that each application is assigned the appropriate
9 review priority in accordance with the regulations.
10 The licensing team will look at the diversely owned
11 business status, taxes, residency if required, and
12 cares are sent out if needed. The next step is the
13 priority verification.

14 Priority verification is with the
15 individuals where the licensing folks will confirm
16 appropriate documentation is submitted to support the
17 priority that is selected and cares are sent if needed.
18 The next step in the process is the completeness
19 review. The licensing team is confirming that all
20 required documents have been submitted and that the
21 application is complete. If so, it is deemed complete.

22 We are also confirming that all the
23 documents that are required are filled out
24 appropriately and the required information on those
25 documents has been submitted. The next step is that

1 these applications were scored by the team. The
2 documents were reviewed to ensure that the applicant
3 submitted the necessary information to satisfy the
4 requirements of the regulations. Standard operating
5 procedures and other things that are required by the
6 notice of application acceptance.

7 And then the next step is with our
8 compliance team, where a qualification review is
9 conducted. The individuals, the financial sources, any
10 management services agreements or other agreements are
11 reviewed for regulatory compliance. Background checks
12 are conducted at this stage, and reviewed to ensure
13 that the owners, and any other persons of interest are
14 qualified to be in the cannabis space.

15 And then the next step is a quality
16 control process. Where our licensing team, the Office
17 of Compliance and Investigations, and our legal unit
18 work together to ensure that the application is ready
19 for board recommendation. And here we are at the final
20 stage, which is recommendation by staff to the Board
21 for action on each license. All of these applications
22 that have been reviewed, scored, and are now
23 recommended to the Board for approval. Thank you,
24 madam chair.

25 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are

1 there any questions from the Board for Director Riggs?
2 Hearing no questions. Is there a motion on this
3 matter?

4 VICE CHAIR: Madam chairwoman, I move that
5 we approve resolution to consider application from --
6 to convert from conditional to annual retail.

7 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
8 there a second?

9 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

10 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-
11 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion to
12 approve the applications for the -- these nine license
13 applications? Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can you
14 please call the vote?

15 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

16 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

17 MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?

18 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp. Could you
19 repeat that? I don't think I heard you.

20 MS. MAPP: Yes.

21 CHAIR: Perfect.

22 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

23 MS. NASH: Yes.

24 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

25 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

1 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

2 CHAIR: Yes.

3 MR. SAID: The motion passes. The next
4 item up for consideration is the adult use cannabis
5 business annual license applications -- no, I am sorry.
6 The next item on the agenda, we have consideration of a
7 conversion application for Enclave Market LLC.
8 Commissioner Mapp has recused herself from this
9 conversion application for Enclave Market LLC due to an
10 ongoing professional relationship.

11 On account of her recusal, she'll step out
12 of the, the Zoom meeting while the board considers this
13 particular application. Afterward Commissioner Mapp
14 will come back into the Zoom meeting and we'll take up
15 the next order of business.

16 CHAIR: Thank you. And Commissioner Mapp
17 has stepped away from her computer. So now we will --
18 I'll give the floor to Director Riggs to provide a
19 summary of this application that was received.

20 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. This
21 application was received, and followed the same process
22 that I, I just articulated for the conditional, and
23 annual license conversions for the nine other
24 applications. Priority assignment, priority
25 verification, completeness review. The application was

1 scored. There was a qualification review, a quality
2 control review, and now we are recommending that this
3 application be approved by the Board. Thank you.

4 CHAIR: Thank you very much. Are there
5 any questions from the Board on this application? I'm
6 hearing none. Is there a motion on this matter?

7 VICE CHAIR: Madam chairwoman, I move that
8 we approve resolution consideration of conditional to
9 annual license conversion application from -- for
10 Enclave Market LLC. A retailer standard.

11 CHAIR: Thank you, Vice Chair Delgado. Is
12 there a second?

13 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

14 CHAIR: Second by Commissioner Del Cid-
15 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion?
16 Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can you please call
17 the vote?

18 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

19 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

20 MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp is recused.
21 Commissioner Nash?

22 MS. NASH: Yes.

23 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

24 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

25 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

1 CHAIR: Yes.

2 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Now, the
3 next item up for consideration are the adult use
4 cannabis business annual license applications.

5 CHAIR: Great, thank you. So we'll give
6 Commissioner Mapp a moment to settle back in. Welcome
7 back, Commissioner Mapp. And I will then turn the
8 floor back over to you, Director Riggs to provide a
9 summary of the applications for an annual license.

10 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair Houenou. We
11 have one application today that came through the annual
12 process. It's a annual license for retail location,
13 followed the same process as the conditional to
14 conversion process. Except everything was done at one
15 time, rather than submitting a conversion application
16 after the conditional.

17 So priority assignment was confirmed, it
18 was verified. Completeness review was conducted, the
19 application was scored. There was a quality review
20 conducted by the Office of Compliance and
21 Investigations. And then there was a con quality
22 control review by licensing compliance and
23 investigations and legal. And we are now recommending
24 that the Board approve this application today at this
25 meeting. Thank you.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
2 there any questions from the Board for Director Riggs?
3 Hearing no questions. Is there a motion on this
4 matter?

5 MS. NASH: Madam chair, I move to approve
6 the resolution for the annual license for Class 4
7 distributor 9199.

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

10 VICE CHAIR: I second.

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

14 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

15 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

16 MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?
17 Commissioner Mapp?

18 CHAIR: I'm having some trouble with the,
19 the mute button. Let's circle back around. And we'll
20 try to troubleshoot. Commissioner Mapp's microphone
21 for some reason it just keeps -- yeah, it keeps
22 automatically going to back to mute. Well, let's come
23 back around to Commissioner Mapp.

24 MR. SAID: Okay. Commissioner Nash?

25 MS. NASH: Yes.

1 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

2 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

3 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

4 CHAIR: Yes. Is anybody on?

5 MS. MAPP: Yes.

6 MR. SAID: There we go.

7 MS. MAPP: Okay.

8 MR. SAID: The, the motion passes. The
9 next item up for consideration are the adult use
10 cannabis business annual license renewal applications.

11 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. Director
12 Riggs, floor is yours to provide a summary of those
13 annual licenses that need to be renewed.

14 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
15 have 58 licenses that are up for renewal. The
16 licensing process was followed initially, but these
17 licenses are effective for one year from issuance, and
18 are required to be reviewed annually. All of these are
19 coming up for their annual renewal. We see these two
20 licenses, Silverleaf Wellness, and (inaudible) Cannabis
21 are in their first year of operations because their
22 expanded alternative treatment centers. They need to
23 submit a new municipal approval after their first year
24 of operations and have done so.

25 All of the remaining entities have

1 provided the required documentation for renewal. The
2 documentation has been reviewed and approved by the
3 Office of Compliance and Investigation. We again, want
4 to ensure that all material changes are submitted to
5 the Commission. Ownership changes, location changes
6 prior to the renewal process.

7 These things should be submitted during
8 the year when they come up during your license period.
9 So please submit those things timely as soon as they
10 happen with ownership changes -- ownership changes, or
11 any other material changes to your business. With that
12 said, these 58 renewals are -- have satisfied the
13 Office of Compliance and Investigation. And we are
14 recommending that they be approved today for renewal.
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
17 there any questions from the Board regarding these
18 annual license renewal applications? Hearing no
19 questions. Is there a motion on this matter?

20 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam chair, I move
21 that we adopt this resolution concerning the renewal of
22 adult use cannabis business licenses and expanded ATCs.

23 CHAIR: Commissioner Del Cid moves to
24 adopt the resolution approving the license renewals.
25 Is there a second?

1 VICE CHAIR: Madam chair, I have moved --
2 I second

3 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.
4 Is there any discussion on this motion to approve the
5 applications? Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can
6 you please call the vote?

7 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

8 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

9 MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?

10 MS. MAPP: Yes.

11 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

12 MS. NASH: Yes.

13 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

14 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

15 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

16 CHAIR: Yes.

17 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item
18 on the agenda, we have the open public comment period.

19 CHAIR: As we do for every, every public
20 comment period members of the public can submit
21 comments to the commission in writing, either during or
22 after this board meeting via our website,
23 inj.gov/cannabis/meetings. The deadline for submitting
24 written comments for today's meeting is 5:00 p.m.
25 tomorrow, Wednesday, March 19th. Written comments will

1 be shared with the Commission members, and they will be
2 made public. Speakers will be limited to three
3 minutes.

4 The -- once you hear your name called, if
5 you can raise your hand in the Zoom platform that will
6 alert us to mark you for -- to verify that you have
7 registered to speak. And we'll then tell you to unmute
8 yourself and you can begin. I really -- I see we have
9 one caller who is phoning in. And so I will look to
10 Mr. Said to confirm the, the numbers that needs to be -
11 - needs to be pressed if that individual is, is
12 registered to speak.

13 But again, use the raise your hand
14 function, we'll be able to unmute you. And if you are
15 unsure what your name looks like on the Zoom platform
16 please, take a moment to leave the meeting, come back
17 in and you should be prompted to confirm your name.

18 The name that appears on the Zoom platform
19 must match the name that you used to register to speak,
20 before we can confirm that you have registered, and
21 then allow you to, to share your comments. With that,
22 Mr. Said, can you please call on our first speakers?

23 MR. SAID: Thank you, Chair Houenou. As a
24 reminder public speakers during this afternoon's public
25 comment period will be limited to three minutes.

1 Please be respectful and concise during your comments.
2 The first name that I have registered to speak is
3 Reginald Green (ph). If you're in the room, please
4 raise your hand. I don't see that person. The next
5 person is Alan Trzuskoski, if you're in the room please
6 raise your hand. I don't see that person.

7 The next person on the list is Donnie
8 Adelman (ph) -- Donnie Delman. The next person is
9 Shante Isenisean (ph) -- Shante Isenisean. The next
10 person is Joseph Nygard (ph). If you're in the room
11 please raise your hand. The next person is Thomas
12 Norcia, if you're in the room please raise your hand.
13 All right, I see you Thomas. Thomas, can you please
14 raise your hand again? Okay, there you go.

15 MR. THOMAS NORCIA: Hello.

16 MR. SAID: Yes, Thomas, you have the
17 floor.

18 MR. NORCIA: Yes. I'm Thomas Norcia. I'm
19 from Grow Works, and the New Jersey Hemp Growers
20 Association. I'm just going to say the same thing I've
21 been saying for the last eight months now. You guys
22 are letting manufacturers bringing in hemp derived
23 cannabinoids as ingredients without a license. You
24 guys sent us definitions on what you allow as
25 ingredients based on those definitions your

1 manufacturers are breaking New Jersey State Law.

2 Not all of them, but whoever has -- that
3 are adding those ingredients. You know, some of those
4 ingredients are being banned on the Psychoactive Hemp
5 Bill, so that kind of doesn't make any sense. We've
6 been bringing this up so much and you continue to allow
7 it to happen. Start sending out e-mails letting these
8 people know that they need to get a license through the
9 Department of Agriculture.

10 There's products all over the place. From
11 Verano stuff, to botanist stuff, to other people's
12 stuff. Lines of tinctures, lines of gummies, topicals.
13 It's all out of state ingredients, and you guys
14 continue to let it happen while the Hemp Grows
15 Association just sits here and struggle. The Hemp
16 Grows Association and the New Jersey Hemp Growers are
17 federally compliant and state compliant.

18 And you guys aren't even 100 percent state
19 compliant because you're allowing your people to
20 continue to break the (inaudible). Whoever has those
21 just go on -- just say social leaf website and look up
22 gummies tinctures topicals. Look up (inaudible) hemp
23 derived cannabinoids. It's clear as day. Get them off
24 the shelve or get them licensed. The hemp department
25 will show up and start fining the manufacturers. In

1 some cases it's fines per day, not just per issue. So
2 some of these events this could stack up.

3 So in all fairness, you guys are a
4 regulatory commission, regulate. Tell them what they
5 need to do because it's just months and months
6 repeated. You've got the e-mails and you guys know
7 exactly what I'm talking about, act on it please. It's
8 got to be even across the Board it's -- you can't get
9 away with everything. So that's it for now, you know,
10 I'll be at the next meeting in person with all
11 definitions, with everything from the hemp program in
12 person, so you could see it.

13 It would be nice if you just reached out
14 to John Carra (ph) like we've been asking for months,
15 and months now and just get this over with. Thank you.
16 Appreciate the time.

17 MR. SAID: Thank you, Thomas. The next
18 person on the list is Jason Cabbs (ph). If you're in
19 the room please raise your hand. Jason Cabbs? The
20 next person on the list is Andrea Rabel (ph), if you're
21 in the room please raise your hand. All right, I see
22 you, Andrea. Andrea, you have the floor. Just unmute
23 yourself.

24 MS. ANDREA RABEL: Can you hear me?

25 MR. SAID: Yes, we can hear you. Okay.

1 MS. RABEL: Okay. Hello, my name is
2 Andrea Rabel. I wanna start by saying thank you for
3 cleaning up the website, and providing a contact e-mail
4 address for when we need to address some of the
5 communications, or some of the contact links that
6 aren't working. It's a simple change, but it's a big
7 relief on the outside. I'm looking forward to the
8 upcoming medical town halls, and encourage all
9 stakeholders to apply.

10 I definitely appreciate the additional FAQ
11 style information provided on the website now about
12 what is -- and is not within the CRC jurisdiction. And
13 I think this is an opportunity -- an important
14 opportunity to discuss institutional access, and other
15 issues that impact consumer safety, and our medical
16 needs. Expanding the list of qualifying conditions,
17 talking about doctor discretion. I think these town
18 halls can be a potential step forward.

19 I'm also looking forward to the end of the
20 grace period for the testing changes, and seeing an
21 improvement in safety and labeling standards. I'm
22 eager to hear more about the plans, and timeline for a
23 reference laboratory, and the actions that the
24 commission will be taking to ensure the new testing
25 standards are met consistently.

1 After over a year of testifying on safety
2 regulations, I have finally been able to proceed with
3 the Secret Shopper testing. This testing was performed
4 to all current state standards, spanned 25 pre-roll
5 samples from 17 licenses. We have found mislabeled
6 products potency inflation nearing 50 percent at
7 points, and failing levels of microbial contamination
8 in over a quarter of the pre-roll samples.

9 This data is available in my written
10 comments as well as on safeleafsociety.com. It shows
11 concerning trends in market safety variants, and this
12 limited data points to a larger problem that we hope to
13 resolve. We understand there are current changes
14 taking place with testing, and oversight, and we hope
15 to be a resource that can provide more data. I think
16 once the grace period ends, there will be no excuse for
17 testing to show worse results, and we are looking to
18 provide transparency. We're looking to work with
19 industry members.

20 We're in the process of collecting more
21 data and working with license holders. We aim to
22 provide transparency in the market, and we aim to see
23 that all safety regulations are met. Our hemp farmers,
24 we've heard from repeatedly during these meetings. I
25 just want to take a time to acknowledge because

1 patients do need these full CBD -- full spectrum CBD
2 products on shelves.

3 We do need transparency on what the
4 ingredients are in the products that are currently on
5 shelves, and we need to be able to trust our testing.
6 I hope to continue to see the CRC taking steps forward,
7 and putting a focus again on the medical program, and
8 again, on safety. I hope to be a resource as we
9 continue to provide more data, and we look forward to
10 providing more transparency as we have further results
11 to clarify exactly what the issues in the market are.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. SAID: Thank you Andrea. The next
14 person on the list is Thomas Koutz (ph), if you're in
15 the room please raise your hand. The next person is
16 David Nicholas, if you're in the room, please raise
17 your hand. David Nicholas? The next person is Edward
18 Grimes (ph), if you're in the room, please raise your
19 hand. The next person is Elizabeth Henry with last
20 47453. Elizabeth Henry?

21 The next person is Rose McKinley (ph), if
22 you're in the room please raise your hand. Last 474 --
23 no. 5765. The next person is Mahim Gupta (ph) with
24 last 42090. The next person on the list William Caruso
25 (ph) with last 43096. The next person on the list is,

1 Kelly Rivera if you're in the room. Okay, I see you
2 Kelly. Kelly, just unmute yourself and the floor is
3 yours.

4 MS. KELLY RIVERA: Hello, can you hear me?

5 MR. SAID: Yes.

6 MS. RIVERA: Great, thank you. Good
7 afternoon, Chairwoman Houenou, and esteemed
8 commissioners. My name is Kelly Rivera and I'm senior
9 counsel too and vice president of Columbia Care, New
10 Jersey, DBA Cannabis. Cannabis is submitting this
11 public comment to respectfully request that its
12 expanded ATC application for its Mays Landing, Hamilton
13 Township dispensary be placed on the Commission's April
14 3rd agenda for approval.

15 We opened this medical -- we opened the
16 site for medical sales in Mays Landing in December.
17 After demonstrating successful medical-only cannabis
18 sales to our valued patients for over 30 days at the
19 site. We submit -- we submitted a complete expanded
20 ATC applications. In mid-January we were informed by
21 CRC staff that there were zero errors with our
22 submission materials, and that CRC staff in standard
23 course of business made a recommendation to the
24 Commission to approve cannabis expanded ATC
25 application.

1 It has been over two months since that
2 recommendation was sent to the Commission, but the
3 application has yet to be placed in an agenda for
4 consideration by the Commission. Cannabis has a
5 documented history of compliance with regulations. All
6 of our licenses remain in good standing, and all of our
7 licensed facilities are located in CRC designated
8 impact zones. We have an executed labor peace
9 agreement, and we have submitted all required quarterly
10 social equity reporting to the CRC.

11 There are no other medical or recreational
12 dispensaries in Mays Landing or the greater Hamilton
13 Township community. Every week that our dispensary
14 remains limited to medical only sales. We are having
15 to turn away hundreds of recreational use consumers
16 that are seeking a safe, tested, and regulated cannabis
17 products in an area where there are no other legal
18 sources of cannabis. Thus we respectfully request that
19 the commission consider cannabis expanded ATC
20 application at its April 3rd meeting, so that we can
21 meet the demands of this valued community. Thank you.

22 MR. SAID: Thank you, Kelly. The next
23 person on the list is Van Riker (ph), if you're in the
24 room, please raise your hand, Van Ryker. The next
25 person is Duncan Markovich (ph). Wait, hold on, I see

1 Van Ryker. Van, just unmute yourself and the floor is
2 yours.

3 MS. VAN RYKER: Hello, can you hear me?

4 MR. SAID: Yes.

5 MS. RYKER: Hi. I'd like to thank you
6 guys for the chance to speak today. I wanted to
7 address an ongoing issue here. I have a letter that
8 we're sending you. It reads, "I would like to request
9 your assistance in holding Curaleaf accountable for the
10 conditions surrounding their 2023 license renewals.
11 I'm referencing you in the CRC emergency meeting on
12 April 17th, 2023. According to the Cream Act and your
13 own statements, a bargaining agreement must be
14 negotiated within 200 days of start."

15 "Curaleaf has not demonstrated good faith
16 in these negotiations, particularly by holding our pay
17 increases hostage during what we believe are insincere
18 negotiations with our union. We have yet to reach any
19 kind of bargaining agreement with Curaleaf resulting in
20 years of stagnation. When you stated it is time that
21 we favor people over profits, it resonated deeply.
22 Unfortunately, this stands in stark contrast to
23 Curaleaf actions. We urgently need your help."

24 "Curaleaf is severely abusing its
25 corporate power and prioritizing greed in New Jersey

1 seemingly exploiting every opportunity for maximum
2 profit. They must be held accountable to comply with
3 state laws, and regulations established by the CRC and
4 it is essential that workers are protected in this
5 process. We thank you for your attention to this
6 matter."

7 MR. SAID: Thank you, Van. The next
8 person on the list is Duncan Markovich. If you're in
9 the room, please raise your hand. Duncan Markovich,
10 I'm going to go over the list one more time for those
11 that didn't get a chance. Reginald Green, if you're in
12 the room, please raise your hand. Alan Trzuskoski, I
13 see you. Alan, unmute yourself and the floor is yours.

14 MR. ALAN TRZUSKOSKI: Good afternoon. I'm
15 Alan with the Bridgeton Business Incubator. I spoke at
16 the last meeting, but I was in the last speaking
17 position, and the form to submit my -- in writing
18 comments are referenced only last year's meeting. So
19 I'm -- I think this is important. So I'm here to talk
20 about the external transfer functionality and metric
21 again. This is particularly important for the hemp
22 folks, I believe, but also adult use as well for some
23 of the previous speaker's comments about having
24 cannabinoids that are more minor cannabinoids.

25 But as I mentioned, I discussed this at

1 the last meeting, but the form -- so I'm going to share
2 my comments again. Metric describes the external
3 transfer functionality as a tool that enables the
4 tracking, and transfer of cannabinoid ingredients from
5 external facilities into the regulated market, ensuring
6 full compliance with safety standards. You can read
7 more about the specifics of the external transfer
8 functionality, and Metric bulletin Mi_IB_48.

9 Essentially, the Metric -- the external
10 transfer functionality which is already available in
11 Metric could provide hemp farmers a path onto
12 dispensary shells by way of Class 2 manufacturers. And
13 this would allow hemp farmers access to the regulated
14 market while ensuring that licensed manufacturers keep
15 the products compliant, tested and safe using the
16 existing testing, and compliance infrastructure.

17 Oregon is already using this model with
18 great success and I propose that we follow suit. Let's
19 implement the external transfer functionality in New
20 Jersey. New Jersey patients are seeking safe,
21 regulated, non intoxicated low THC, and full spectrum
22 cannabinoid products. But dispensaries have to turn
23 them away, and New Jersey patients are left to go
24 without or buy unregulated, and untested products from
25 out-of-state sources that don't support our businesses

1 or residents.

2 At the same time our hemp farmers are
3 struggling because they've got products, but they don't
4 have a viable route onto the regulated market.

5 Class 2 manufacturers have the
6 infrastructure to create tested and compliant products,
7 but lack access to many of the necessary ingredients to
8 satisfy patients. This disconnect is harming patients,
9 the industry, and our local economy, but there's a
10 simple solution. By adopting the external transfer
11 functionality, we can solve several problems at once,
12 and farmers will have an outlet for their products.

13 Manufacturers will offer a wider range of
14 products that are tested safe, and locally sourced.
15 Dispensaries will cater to a broader customer base.
16 Patients and consumers will gain access to the safe and
17 regulated products they need. And the State and
18 municipalities will generate incremental tax revenue
19 that can be reinvested into our communities.

20 We have an opportunity here to create a
21 robust, compliant, and thriving hemp market in our own
22 state under the existing CRC regulatory infrastructure.
23 I urge you to support the implementation of metrics,
24 external transfer functionality, and let's build a
25 brighter, more sustainable future for our industry and

1 our patients in New Jersey.

2 MR. SAID: Thank you, Alan. The next
3 person is Donnie Adelman (ph), if you're in the room,
4 please raise your hand. The next person is Shante
5 Isenisean, if you're in the room, please raise your
6 hand. The next person is Joseph Nygard, if you're in
7 the room, please raise your hand. The next person is
8 Jason Cabbs. If you're in the room, please raise your
9 hand. The next person is Thomas Koutz with last four -
10 - last four digits of the telephone number is 4132.

11 And if you're in the room calling in it
12 is, star 9, to raise your hand and, star 6, to unmute.
13 Next person is David Nicholas. If you're in the room,
14 please raise your hand. Edward Grimes, if you're in
15 the room please raise your hand. Elizabeth Henry with
16 last 47453. Rose McKinley with last 45765. Mahim
17 Gupta with last 42090. William Caruso with last 43096.
18 Duncan Markovich, last four is 2311. Chair, there is a
19 Duncan I'm not sure if it's Duncan Markovich.

20 CHAIR: Mr. Markovich, if you are able to
21 hop out, and then come back in and if you're prompted
22 to change or confirm your name, please do so to add
23 your last name. So that we can confirm that you are
24 the, the Markovich that we are looking for. So we'll
25 give him another moment to come back in.

1 MR. SAID: All right. I'm going to go
2 with Duncan. Hopefully, this is the Markovich.

3 MR. TRZUSKOSKI: I think this is the wrong
4 person. This is Alan Trzuskoski.

5 MR. DANCUN MARKOVICH: Can you hear me?

6 MR. SAID: Duncan?

7 MR. MARKOVICH: Yes, this is Duncan.

8 MR. SAID: Is this, Duncan Markovich?

9 MR. MARKOVICH: Yes.

10 MR. SAID: Okay.

11 MR. MARKOVICH: That's correct.

12 MR. SAID: Okay. Got it. Go ahead. The
13 floor's yours.

14 MR. MARKOVICH: Okay. Thank you very
15 much. Good afternoon, New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory
16 Commission. My name is Duncan Markovich. I am the
17 founder and owner of Better Ways. We are a small
18 cannabis therapeutics, and education center in my
19 hometown of Branford, Connecticut. I'm simply coming
20 here today to just as a cannabis activist advocate here
21 in New England, just wanted to voice my support for --
22 it was S1393. The right for medical patients to have
23 home grow rights.

24 I think it is imperative for any emerging
25 cannabis market to understand the responsibility that

1 the State, and the operators undertake when working
2 with this plant, and working with the community that it
3 serves. Medical patients should always be put first
4 and foremost ahead of the pinnacles and of -- of
5 regulatory capture, and financial gain. Working with
6 this plant as a privilege and healing people needs to
7 be respected equally.

8 So I think it's important that New Jersey
9 looks at the concept of home grow. I think overall
10 it's a little ridiculous when states have this platform
11 saying that tomatoes are legal, but you can only get
12 them at our grocery store. That seems a bit redundant.
13 I don't think a government should have too much
14 oversight or overstep when it comes to our relationship
15 with nature especially, a legal nature.

16 So I just wanted to voice my support for
17 that bill. I encourage everyone to look at operators
18 entering the space with a merit based idea. Similar to
19 the banking industry or when people get licensed for
20 insurance they have to take a test, and prove their
21 knowledge. The almighty dollar sign should not dictate
22 who gets licensure, and we have to start looking at the
23 larger obstacles of entry into this emerging industry
24 for small business owners. They usually have the best
25 intentions and the best meds.

1 So thank you very much to this commission
2 and if anybody has any questions or comments for me, I
3 open the floor.

4 VICE CHAIR: Thank you so much, Duncan.
5 Chairwoman Houenou, this will conclude the registered
6 speakers we have for today's public meeting.

7 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. And thank
8 you to everyone who spoke to and shared their, their
9 ideas, their suggestions, and their experiences. With
10 that -- that concludes the business that we have before
11 us today. And so I move that we adjourn today's
12 meeting. Is there a second?

13 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

14 CHAIR: Second by Commissioner Del Cid-
15 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this Motion to
16 adjourn? Hearing no discussion. All those in favor of
17 adjourning say, aye?

18 MS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

19 MS. NASH: Aye.

20 MS. MAPP: Aye.

21 MR. RIGGS: Aye.

22 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

23 CHAIR: Aye. All those opposed say nay?
24 Any abstentions? The motion passes. So the time is
25 now 12:42 p.m. and we are adjourned. Thank you

1 everyone, and stay tuned to join us in the -- in a
2 couple of weeks at our next board meeting.

3 (Meeting concluded)

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25