



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*

NEW JERSEY CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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3 DIANNA HOUENOU, Chair

4 SAM DELGADO, Vice Chair

5 MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO

6 AMELIA MAPP

7 KRISTA NASH

8 DANIEL SAID, Secretary

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1 VICE CHAIR: Hey Wesley, I'm in.

2 MR. WESLEY MCWHITE: Okay. Sam, we're
3 live on YouTube.

4 VICE CHAIR: Okay. We start in 10
5 minutes, right?

6 MR. MCWHITE: Sure. Yes sir.

7 VICE CHAIR: Okay. So what do you want me
8 to do? Get off now or?

9 MR. MCWHITE: Yeah, you can go ahead mute
10 yourself and take your video off until then.

11 VICE CHAIR: I'll take the video off and
12 mute myself.

13 MR. MCWHITE: There you go.

14 [Silence]

15 CHAIR: All right. Good morning,
16 everyone. Apologies for the delay, and thank you for
17 your patience in bearing with us. The time is 11:08,
18 and I call this meeting to order. Mr. Saeed, can you
19 please read the notice of the public meeting?

20 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman, this is a
21 regularly scheduled meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis
22 Regulatory Commission's 2025 annual meeting schedule.
23 Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in
24 accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public
25 Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was provided to

1 the Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record, Courier Post,
2 Star Ledger, and the Trenton Times on December 12th,
3 2024.

4 The agenda and information regarding the
5 virtual nature of the meeting, and the ability to live
6 stream was also posted on the CRC website. The meeting
7 time and location has also been posted on the website
8 of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission, and
9 with the office of the Secretary of the State.

10 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Saeed, can you
11 please take roll call?

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
13 Kosso.

14 MRS. MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO: Present.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp.

16 VICE CHAIR: You may be having technical
17 difficulties.

18 THE SECRETARY: Sure.

19 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp, are you able to
20 hear us?

21 VICE CHAIR: Let me go.

22 MRS. AMELIA MAPP: Hi.

23 CHAIR: Yeah. Now, we can hear you.

24 THE SECRETARY: We can hear. We were just
25 doing the roll call, commissioner.

1 MRS. MAPP: Okay. Yes. Hi.

2 THE SECRETARY: Hi. So I'm going to call
3 your name again. Commissioner Mapp.

4 MRS. MAPP: Here.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

6 MRS. KRISTA NASH: Present.

7 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado.

8 VICE CHAIR: Present.

9 MR. NORCIA: Chairwoman Houenou.

10 CHAIR: Present. Thank you very much, Mr.
11 Vice-Chair, appreciate your assistance there.

12 VICE CHAIR: Your welcome, Madam
13 Chairwoman. Anything for you.

14 THE SECRETARY: We now have a quorum. The
15 first order of business is for the commission to go
16 into executive session to discuss legal matters and
17 litigation and investigation updates. These are
18 discussions that are not shared with the public. We
19 believe the executive session should take about 90
20 minutes.

21 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there a motion for
22 us to go into executive session?

23 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move the
24 Board goes into executive session.

25 MRS. NASH: I second.

1 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is
2 there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no
3 discussion. All those in favor say, aye?

4 ALL: Aye.

5 CHAIR: All those opposed say, nay. Any
6 abstentions? Motion passes. So as Mr. Saeed noted we
7 expect the executive session to last approximately an
8 hour and a half. We will leave the live stream running
9 during that time. You can expect -- so we can expect
10 to resume the public portion of this meeting let's say
11 at 12:45. Thank you for your patience, everyone.

12 [END FIRST PUBLIC SESSION]

13 [EXECUTIVE SESSION - OFF RECORD]

14 [SECOND PUBLIC SESSION]

15 CHAIR: All right. Good afternoon.
16 Welcome back. The time is 12:54 and we'll resume the
17 public portion of our meeting today. Mr. Saeed, can
18 you please announce the next agenda item?

19 THE SECRETARY: Next up on the agenda is
20 approving the minutes of the commission's open public
21 session held on April 3rd, 2025. The minutes have been
22 shared with the members of the commission prior to this
23 meeting.

24 CHAIR: Thank you. If there are no edits
25 or changes needed to the April 3rd public session

1 meeting minutes, I'll ask for a motion.

2 MRS. DEL CID-KOSSO: So moved Madam Chair.

3 CHAIR: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso moves
4 to approve the meeting minutes for the April 3rd public
5 session.

6 MRS. NASH: Second.

7 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is
8 there any discussion on this motion to approve the
9 meeting minutes? Hearing no discussion, all those in
10 favor say, aye.

11 ALL: Aye.

12 CHAIR: All those opposed say, nay. Any
13 abstentions? Motion passes.

14 THE SECRETARY: The next item up for
15 consideration are the adult use cannabis business
16 conversion license applications.

17 CHAIR: Thank you. I'll turn the floor
18 over to Acting Executive Director Christopher Riggs, to
19 give us a summary of those applications received.

20 MR. CHRISTOPHER RIGGS: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair. There are two conditional to annual conversion
22 applications up for approval today. Both of these
23 licenses followed the licensing processes, they came
24 through the portal and priority assignment was given
25 where we confirmed that each application is assigned to

1 the appropriate review priority. Look at diversely
2 owned business status, taxes, residency if required,
3 and we can send out cures if needed. The next step is
4 the priority verification process where we confirm that
5 priority by looking at the documentation to, to confirm
6 that it is submitted, and that it also supports the
7 priority designation that the individual application
8 was submitted under.

9 The next step is the completeness review
10 in the Office of Licensing, where we confirm all
11 required documentation if submitted, the application is
12 then deemed complete, and we confirm that the document
13 is actually filled out and all the required information
14 has been submitted. The next -- the next step is that
15 the application is scored, where the documents are
16 reviewed to ensure that the applicant has submitted
17 information to satisfy all the regulatory requirements
18 and the notice of application acceptance.

19 It next moves into the Office of
20 Compliance and Investigations for a qualification
21 review where individuals, financial sources and other
22 agreements are reviewed for regulatory compliance.
23 Background checks are conducted if needed, and are
24 reviewed to ensure that all owners and persons of
25 interest are qualified to operate in the cannabis

1 space.

2 The final process before recommendation is
3 quality control, where the Office of Licensing, office
4 of Compliance and Investigation and our legal team look
5 at the application to confirm that it is indeed ready
6 for board consideration, and then we make a
7 recommendation to the board. All these -- both of
8 these applications have been reviewed, scored, and we
9 are now recommending for -- them for approval by the
10 board today. Thank you.

11 CHAIR: Thank you. Do we have the list of
12 -- there we go. Perfect. Thank you very much.
13 Director McWhite. Are there any questions from the
14 board regarding the conversion applications from
15 conditional to an annual license? Hearing no questions
16 from the board. Is there a motion on this matter?

17 MR. NORCIA: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
18 we accept consideration of applicants to convert from
19 conditional to annual for the two applicants. Class 1
20 cannabis cultivator and Class 5 cannabis retailer.

21 CHAIR: Is there a second?

22 MRS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

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

1 the vote?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
3 Kosso.

4 MRS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp.
6 Commissioner Mapp, I -- yeah. I still don't --

7 CHAIR: Yeah, we can't hear you.

8 VICE CHAIR: I don't think she's on.

9 THE SECRETARY: No. She -- she's on.

10 VICE CHAIR: She's on? Okay. Let's see.
11 Other issues.

12 MR. NORCIA: Commissioner Mapp, try your
13 headset, maybe you're connected to your headset.

14 CHAIR: All right. Let's have somebody
15 swing over and --

16 VICE CHAIR: There you go. She gave the
17 thumbs up.

18 CHAIR: Let's have somebody go over to
19 commissioner Mapp and assist with the -- the sound
20 issues with her, please. So Commissioner Mapp your
21 thumbs up is -- all right. We will, hold on. Mr.
22 Saeed, let's come back to Commissioner Mapp.

23 THE SECRETARY: Sure. Commissioner Nash.

24 MRS. NASH: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado. Vice

1 Chair Delgado.

2 CHAIR: All right. It looks like he has
3 volunteered to be part of the rescue -- the tech -- the
4 tech rescue, rescue team. So we'll come back to him as
5 well.

6 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

7 CHAIR: My vote is yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Okay.

9 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp, if you may --
10 if you can, for the time being, let's just have you use
11 -- sit next to one of the other commissioners and we'll
12 use their, their sound -- their equipment.

13 THE SECRETARY: In the meantime,
14 Commissioner Delgado, how do you vote for the -- for
15 this motion?

16 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Okay.

18 VICE CHAIR: Can just put on a vote.

19 MRS. MAPP: Oh, I vote for this motion.

20 THE SECRETARY: All right. Perfect. So
21 the motion passes. The next item up for consideration
22 are the Adult use Cannabis Business Annual license
23 applications.

24 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, if you
25 could please give us an overview of the annual license

1 applications received.

2 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. All
3 of these -- there's eight annual licenses. I believe
4 we're gonna take them in in two separate votes because
5 we do have a recusal on, on two of the two of the
6 applications, but there are, there are 10 total. So
7 right now 10 total licenses up today. So you have two
8 conversions and eight annual. They filed the same
9 licensing process that I just articulated. There was
10 priority assignment, priority verification,
11 completeness review, and I apologize, I misspoke.

12 There are no refusals on these
13 applications. The refusals are on renewal application
14 and we will get to that in the future. So we will only
15 have one vote on the eight annual license applications,
16 and they will all be presented to you in one tranche
17 here. There is priority assignment given, we verified
18 that priority. There was a completeness review. The
19 applications were scored by the Office of Licensing.
20 Qualification review was done in the Office of
21 Compliance and Investigation. There was a quality
22 control period and then now we are recommending that
23 these applications be reviewed for approval to the
24 board. Thank you.

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 MRS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam Chair, I move
5 that we consider -- that we adopt this resolution to
6 consider the annual license applications for Class 1,
7 Class 2, and Class 5 licenses.

8 VICE CHAIR: I second.

9 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this
10 motion? Hearing no discussion. Mr. Saeed, can you
11 please call the vote?

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
13 Kosso.

14 MRS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp.

16 MRS. MAPP: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Okay. Commissioner Nash.

18 MRS. NASH: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado.

20 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou.

22 CHAIR: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
24 next items up for consideration are the adult use
25 cannabis business Annual License renewal applications.

1 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, the
2 floor is yours.

3 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So
4 the renewals, we will have two separate votes because
5 we do have a refusal here. I apologize for stating
6 that previously, but we will do that here on the
7 renewals. So right now these renewals all follow the
8 same licensing process. Adult use licenses are
9 effective for one year from the issuance date, and
10 they're required to be reviewed annually. All the
11 documents in these -- these entities have provided all
12 the required documentations for their renewal. This
13 documentation has been reviewed by the Office of
14 Compliance and Investigations, and they have been
15 deemed compliant and ready for renewal.

16 The expanded ATCs have also provided
17 additional municipal support and approval if it's
18 required under their first year of operations and
19 therefore we are recommending that all applications up
20 for consideration today are renewed by the board. And
21 if we could just put up the list, that would be great.
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
24 questions from the board for Director Riggs regarding
25 this first group of -- I believe 20 annual license

1 renewals? Hearing no questions from the board. Is
2 there a motion on this matter?

3 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
4 we renew the -- approved the resolution for the 20
5 applicant license renewal.

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

8 MRS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

9 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Del Cid-
10 Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion?
11 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Saeed, can you please call
12 the vote?

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
14 Kosso.

15 MRS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp.

17 MRS. MAPP: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash.

19 MRS. 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 consideration of

1 annual renewal applications for the QCC group LLC and
2 Island Vibes. Commissioner Mapp has recused herself
3 from these annual renewal applications for the QCC
4 group and Island Vibes due to an ongoing professional
5 relationship. On account of her recusal, she will step
6 out of the room while the board considers these
7 particular applications afterward, Commissioner Mapp
8 will come back in and will take up the next order of
9 business.

10 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Saeed. I see that
11 Commissioner Mapp has stepped away. So Director Riggs,
12 the floor is yours.

13 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. The
14 same as the other renewals. Both of these applications
15 have required -- entities have provided the required
16 documentation for renewal -- annual license, they need
17 to renew it annually and they are ready to go. So we
18 are recommending that both of these applications be
19 approved by the board today. Thank you.

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

23 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
24 we renew the, the annual licenses for the QCC group,
25 LLC and Island Vibes.

1 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
2 there a second?

3 MRS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

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

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
9 Kosso.

10 MRS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp.

12 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp is recused.

13 THE SECRETARY: Oh, I'm so sorry.

14 CHAIR: It's all right.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp is
16 recused. Commissioner Nash.

17 MRS. NASH: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

19 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

21 CHAIR: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: The next order of
23 business, we have the open public comment period.

24 CHAIR: Before we get to the open public
25 comment period, actually, I want to add one other item

1 to -- for us to consider here, and it is the rescission
2 of resolution 2025-312, this is a resolution that the
3 commission adopted on April 3rd that would -- I'm
4 sorry, not April 3rd, but earlier this year to waive a
5 portion of our regulations and also adopt accompanying
6 testing guidance.

7 After further consideration and review
8 from the board and the staff, we have -- there is a
9 need for us to rescind this resolution to make sure
10 that the product safety packaging and labeling
11 committee has the time and the space to conduct further
12 review to provide a more -- to provide additional
13 context and feedback to the board for the waiver and
14 the implementation of the testing guidance. So there -
15 - so that question is before us today to hear the
16 rescission of resolution number 2025-312.

17 MRS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to rescind
18 resolution 2025-312, approval testing guidance.

19 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash, is
20 there a second?

21 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I
22 enthusiastically second it.

23 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.
24 Is there any discussion on this motion to rescind
25 resolution 2025-312? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Saeed,

1 can you please call the vote?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Cid-
3 Kosso?

4 MRS. DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

6 MRS. MAPP: Yeah.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

8 MRS. NASH: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

10 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

12 CHAIR: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. And
14 now we have the open public comment period.

15 CHAIR: All right. So as we do with -- at
16 every meeting before we get into the public comment
17 period, I want to remind members of the public that
18 they -- you can submit your comments to the commission
19 during or after this meeting in writing via our website
20 nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. The deadline for submitting
21 written comments for today's meeting is five o'clock
22 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, May 2nd. Written comments will
23 be shared with the commission members and they will be
24 made public. Speakers today will be limited to, to
25 three minutes. Mr. Saeed will call out the names of

1 our registered speakers in the order in which they
2 registered.

3 I will note that -- just a follow-up from
4 some of the comments that we've received at our last
5 board meeting, the commission is actively working with
6 the Department of Agriculture on interpretation of the
7 hemp laws to resolve any outstanding question about the
8 application of hemp -- the hemp statutes and their
9 applicability in the cannabis industry. So we do -- I
10 do anticipate some definitive guidance and information
11 going out on that question soon. And we'll, we'll
12 continue to work with our partners at the Department of
13 Agriculture and in the industry to make sure that our
14 cannabis operators are operating safely, responsibly
15 and in accordance with applicable statutes. So with
16 that, Mr. Saeed, can you please call on our first
17 speakers?

18 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Chairwoman. As
19 a reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's
20 public comment period will be limited to three minutes.
21 Please be respectful and concise during your comments.
22 The first person on the list is David Franciosi. If
23 you're in the room, please raise your hand. David
24 Franciosi? I don't see that person. The next person
25 is Reginald Green. If you're in the room, please raise

1 your hand? Reginald Green? The next person on the
2 list is Marissa Van Vechten. If you're in the room,
3 please raise your hand. Marissa Van Vechten. The next
4 person on the list is Thomas Norcia. If you're in the
5 room, please raise your hand. All right, I see you
6 Thomas, give me one second. Thomas, you have the
7 floor.

8 MR. THOMAS NORCIA: This is Thomas Norcia
9 from Grow Works in the New Jersey Hemp Growers
10 Association. So I'm just going to bring up the same
11 thing I've been bringing up, I'm going to go off our e-
12 mail chain with you guys and off our meeting with you
13 guys. You know, at first you guys started off by
14 saying that no material was coming from out of state;
15 it was only CBD distillate from your material. Now
16 that you guys are made aware that stuff is coming over
17 state lines, now it's like you're trying to strong arm
18 the Department of Agriculture into interpreting
19 definitions the way you want to interpret them.

20 Meanwhile we've been operating -- this is
21 my sixth year growing, and we've been doing these laws
22 now for five plus years and now you guys just come in
23 and interpret things the way you want to interpret.
24 Now I'm glad there's actually something in the works.
25 But now it should be like, your attorneys, your people,

1 the Department of Agriculture and their attorneys show
2 up on my farm and let's have this conversation.
3 Because it's not just inputs, it's plants. Clones
4 coming over state lines, your people use the excuse,
5 "Oh, it's hemp." But we have to be certified, things
6 have to be registered.

7 So there's a lot of stuff that really
8 needs to be cleared up, you know. Just the fact that
9 you know, like, your stuff coming in, I get -- you guys
10 say the inputs, it's hemp, it's coming over state
11 lines, but how do you know the distillate coming in is,
12 is -- how do you know it's not five percent, six
13 percent? That means that you have federally THC that
14 they're saying is federal because it's hemp but it's
15 hot, and now your people are using it. The Department
16 of Agriculture should be testing it. Just like if I
17 were to buy someone else's material from outer state to
18 put into my product, they check it. Even if it's not
19 hot to begin with, they make sure what it is and that
20 it's legal. So if you're people are bringing in
21 distillate and it's point four, it's not legal hemp
22 distillate. And I know what's happening because I'm a
23 hemp grower and I know what happens in all these
24 states. Really get with these people, figure it out.

25 We do appreciate you guys saying that we

1 can put our inputs into your programs, but we are set
2 up as boutique farms, we won't make even a percentage
3 of our money back if we grow for just inputs. And even
4 at the input then, you guys are advising you to break
5 the law. The law in the New Jersey hemp program is we
6 can only transport, give these inputs and clones and
7 stuff to other people that are licensed in a hemp
8 program. It's clear as day. Now Riggs, if you
9 would've read what I gave you last month, it's clear as
10 day in there. We can only transfer stuff to people in
11 program. That means they're not in our program, they
12 can't get it.

13 So just because you say, "Hey, we'll let
14 you do it," doesn't mean that it's legal. Now you guys
15 had a hemp thing, I mean after the psychoactive hemp
16 thing you had so many days to come out with laws and
17 regulations. The last thing said was there was so many
18 days. We know there's a lawsuit --

19 THE SECRETARY: -- Ten seconds.

20 MR. NORCIA: -- but there was never
21 anything else coming up on that. So put out a
22 statement saying something. You said it was illegal
23 but there's no enforcement. I'm a licensed business, I
24 can't operate that way. I was 20 years illegal, I'm
25 trying to be legal. Just because there's no

1 enforcement doesn't make it legal. I'll end there,
2 like get your people out to my farm, get your
3 inspectors out here, with Department of Agriculture and
4 let's work this out.

5 THE SECRETARY: Okay. The next person on
6 the list Jesse Marie Villars. If you're in the room,
7 please raise your hand. Jesse Marie Villars? I don't
8 see that person. The next person on the list is
9 Trzuskoski. If you're in the room, please raise your
10 hand. Alan Trzuskoski? I don't see that person. The
11 next person is Chief Vincent Mann. If you're in the
12 room, please raise your hand. All right, I see you.
13 The floor is yours.

14 MR. VINCENT MANN: Thank you. Good
15 afternoon, everybody. My comments really are in line
16 with the owner of Grow Works New Jersey. You know, we
17 made it very clear the last time (inaudible) last
18 month. You all have our e-mails, you all have access
19 to us in any way shape or form, and I feel a little bit
20 like our intelligence whether inadvertently or on
21 purpose has been questioned. We have been around
22 longer than the cannabis business has been around in
23 the state of New Jersey.

24 There is federal compliance on the hemp
25 side. I will say it again that when Mr. Riggs told us

1 that the manufacturers where allowed to being hemp
2 derived products over the border to put them into the
3 products, I asked him, he shook his head, yes, then I
4 asked him, was that a yes and he said yes. And then we
5 were told to go look in the CREM Act to find the
6 information that we needed and because we couldn't find
7 it, five of us couldn't find it and other people
8 couldn't find it and then we reached back out to the
9 senior council for the CRC who then gives us back the
10 information that we were searching for and that took
11 nearly a month for that to take place. But in that e-
12 mail it states very clearly that anybody who is a
13 manufacturer (inaudible) cannabis license must utilize
14 their plants and get those other specific cannabinoids
15 out of them.

16 THE SECRETARY: 60 seconds.

17 MR. MANN: Again, again they are breaking
18 the law. They are breaking the law, breaking the law
19 and breaking the law. And when it comes to the hemp
20 side of it they need to have a hemp license. If they
21 don't have a hemp license, they cannot handle hemp. I
22 cannot take Grow Works New Jerseys' hemp and
23 (inaudible) to my farm and turn it into a product
24 without having a processing license from the hemp
25 department. From the state agriculture. You had 180

1 days to come up with rules and regulations and yet we
2 still haven't seen those.

3 We are suffering and you all are
4 continuing to allow it to happen by your inactions.
5 And if you are doing something that we don't know about
6 behind the scenes, it only makes sense that you
7 actually speak to the people that you're talking about.
8 There's only 38 of us here in New Jersey. This needs
9 to be rectified. Thank you.

10 THE SECRETARY: The next person on the
11 list is Isaac Siemen. If you're in the room, please
12 raise your hand. Isaac Siemen? The next person is
13 Zachary Duffy. If you're in the room, please raise
14 your hand. Zachary Duffy? For Zachary Duffy, it's --
15 the last four is 2680, if you're in the room it is star
16 nine to raise your hand and star six to unmute. Okay,
17 I don't see that person. The next person is William
18 Crudup. Last four of the telephone is 8404. If you're
19 in the room, please raise your hand. I don't see that
20 person. The next person is Ashley Jordan Brownstein.
21 Last four is 0697. And again if you're calling in,
22 it's star nine to raise your hand and star six to
23 unmute.

24 The next person on the list is Gabriella
25 Wilday. Last four is 4375. I don't see that person.

1 The next person is Hrishikesh Vimadalal. If you're in
2 the room, please raise your hand. That is last four,
3 4465. I don't see that person. The next person is
4 Alyza Brevard-Rodriguez. If you're in the room, please
5 raise your hand and the last four of that is 1033. I
6 don't see that person. The next person is Lyndsey
7 Shaw. Last four is -- okay, I see you. Just give me
8 one second. You have the floor, Lyndsey.

9 MRS. SHAW: Hi, my name is Lyndsey Shaw.
10 I am the owner of Brighterside Canopy, we are a micro
11 cultivator and I wanted to take this time to provide
12 some genuine feedback to the board on a couple topics
13 that I think we could potentially streamline and get
14 better results. So the first topic has to do with six
15 months extension on products. My request to the board
16 is that they consider a five-day turnaround time on
17 approving the requests for extension. Upon providing
18 the necessary paperwork to a field agent, being that
19 it's a letter head with your company name, the initial
20 test, the retention sample test and all the proper
21 paperwork filled out, it would appear to be very black
22 and white on approval. I'm assuming that you had some
23 sort of variance when it comes to determining THC
24 stability.

25 With that said, once you have all the

1 information as I mentioned, it's pretty black or white,
2 it's pass or fail. And the reason why I'm bring this
3 is up is because I'm seeing 20 plus days in response to
4 approving six month expirations dates, and I really
5 think 20 plus days really eats into that six month
6 time. And so, today I just ask the CRC to really
7 consider looking at a five-day turnaround time upon
8 submittal to your field agent for those six months
9 expirations.

10 My next topic has to do with site plan
11 modification. I was fortunate enough to participate in
12 a micro business virtual meeting with some of the CRC
13 board members that are sitting here today, and I was
14 very happy to see that my feedback was taken very well
15 and even some verbatim language was used at the last
16 meeting. So this is a continuation on that.

17 Brighterside Canopy is in the process of a site plan
18 modification as we speak and again, it really stems
19 from not knowing the initial rules and regulations when
20 we submitted for our license way back when. And so
21 what I'm, what I'm bringing up today is I ask the board
22 to really consider categorizing your site plan
23 modification request.

24 THE SECRETARY: 60 seconds.

25 MRS. SHAW: Is it a minor or is a major?

1 And with that said, if it's a minor, if you're not
2 changing the tier it shouldn't have to -- I'm
3 requesting that the CRC provide a 60-day turnaround
4 time. If it's a major plan, so you're changing a tier
5 size, you're building a new building, of course that's
6 a major and it needs more review and more study. And
7 I'm bringing this up because I saw that Hamilton Farms
8 and Brute's Roots had submitted site plan modification
9 in October and August respectfully and they were
10 approved in February. I'm just saying that's a very
11 long time period for people who are operational and,
12 and someone like myself who is a micro business and
13 really needs to be at a hundred percent capacity, I
14 just genuinely ask that some consideration be made when
15 you're not switching tiers -- excuse me, within -- in a
16 site plan submittal.

17 Again, thank you so much for your time, I
18 hope this feedback and just these few topics can be
19 seriously considered. I think it can really streamline
20 the process for operators as well as consumers waiting
21 on product to be released. So again, thank you so much
22 for your time, I look forward to speaking with you guys
23 all again soon. Thanks.

24 THE SECRETARY: Okay. The next person is
25 Mahim Gupta. If you're in the room, please raise your

1 hand. Okay. Mahim, you have the floor. Just unmute
2 yourself.

3 MR. MAHIM GUPTA: Hello, can you hear me?

4 THE SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you.

5 MR. GUPTA: Okay. Hello, my name is Mahim
6 Gupta. So I just wanted to you know, make a comment.
7 We heard and saw from the NJEDA and the NJBAC and I
8 thought their updates were important and I think it's
9 incredibly important for businesses getting, getting
10 started especially the smaller operations.

11 I just wanted to ask that maybe we, we can
12 focus on some of the results to come out of this and
13 maybe focus on them more on social media and maybe on
14 the site and then maybe you know, just so we can show
15 what the successes that are coming out of this and you
16 know, see some of the testimonials from specific
17 businesses that have completed the training that are
18 doing well, the grants as well. And maybe just one
19 more small thing, if you could I don't know, think
20 about maybe creating some kind of open forum for -- if
21 not at least just for the people who are doing the
22 training or who have completed it, maybe they can, you
23 know, have some kind of discussion online. They can
24 have an open for them to discuss. Yeah, thank you.

25 THE SECRETARY: Thank you. The next

1 person on the list is Todd Johnson. If you're in the
2 room, please raise your hand. All right. I see you,
3 Todd. All right, Todd, the floor is yours.

4 MR. TODD JOHNSON: Thank you. Can you
5 hear me?

6 THE SECRETARY: Yes.

7 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, great. Good
8 afternoon, Chair Houenou, commissioners, Executive
9 Director Riggs, Director McWhite and CRC staff. My
10 name is Todd Johnson and I'm the executive director of
11 the New Jersey Cannabis Trade Association. Our
12 membership is comprised exclusively of CRC licensed
13 cannabis businesses operating in New Jersey. Today I'm
14 providing comments on two topics; the recently
15 announced revised testing guidance and the decision to
16 rescind provisional badging for new employees. I'm
17 going to speak quickly but I want to express our
18 appreciation that you, you did rescind the testing
19 guidance and are going to take more time to really
20 think and work with stakeholders to, to make it a
21 policy that works, works for all including those that
22 are, that are operating under your regulations.

23 With regards to the revised testing
24 guidance, the revisions present numerous
25 inconsistencies and ambiguities. Our members have

1 reported conflicting information from field monitors
2 and labs have told us directly that they are struggling
3 to navigate unclear directive. Our association has
4 submitted critical questions to you, the commission,
5 that remain unanswered thereby creating a compliance
6 landscape that is unclear and subject to a variety of
7 interpretations. Some of this uncertainty can be
8 attributed to a lack of communication with, and
9 feedback from stakeholders. This could have been
10 averted with a proper public comment period.

11 In fact, such significant changes to
12 testing standards require a formal rule making process
13 including a mandated comment period as required by
14 state law. Beyond the procedural concerns, the revised
15 testing guidance imposes substantial burdens on the
16 industry. The introduction of interim testing for
17 example, adds unnecessary costs, redundancy and delays
18 without a corresponding increase in safety. The six-
19 month expiration date mandate saddles business with
20 further limitations and runs counter to 12-month
21 expiration adopted by many other states. We have heard
22 directly from standalone manufacturers and dispensary
23 operators that this mandate is particularly detrimental
24 as product must be --

25 THE SECRETARY: -- 60 seconds.

1 MR. JOHNSON: -- as product must be
2 significantly discounted just a short time after it
3 reaches dispensary shelves. Retail cannabis prices
4 have dropped nearly 20 percent of the past year
5 delighting consumers and this commission. However, our
6 members calculated that these new testing requirements
7 will lead to an annual increase of up to two million
8 dollars per operator. This increase coupled with
9 existing financial pressures and threats of higher
10 taxes could reverse the declining price trend and lead
11 to higher prices for all products thereby making legal
12 products more expensive and harder to compete with the
13 unregulated market.

14 We urge the commission today to delay the
15 implementation of the revised testing guidance to allow
16 for proper public comment and more thoughtful
17 consideration of the numerous ways in which it impacts
18 the state's supply chain. Safety is paramount, but
19 many of the revised changes have no impact on safety.
20 Final product testing remains in effect for each and
21 every product that ends up on a dispensary shelf. I
22 will address provisional badging very briefly. By
23 eliminating provisional badging, the CRC is encouraging
24 a discriminatory hiring environment. Prospective
25 employees with any prior conviction will be overlooked

1 and downgraded by hiring managers due to the potential
2 for longer wait times for background checks to be
3 completed and badges approved.

4 We all want to give opportunities to
5 individuals who have non-disqualifying convictions.
6 Eliminating provisional badging leads to the exact
7 opposite outcome. It will keep these individuals out
8 of the new and legal industry thereby giving them fewer
9 opportunities to advance their career in cannabis.
10 Please reconsider this decision to rescind provisional
11 badging and more thoroughly analyze its ramifications.
12 Thank you very much for your time today.

13 THE SECRETARY: Thank you. The next
14 person on the list is Thomas Coutts. If you're in the
15 room, please raise your hand. That is last for -- oh,
16 I see you, Thomas Coutts. Thomas, the floor is yours.

17 MR. THOMAS COUTTS: All right. Can you
18 hear me?

19 THE SECRETARY: Yes.

20 MR. COUTTS: Hello. My name is Thomas
21 Coutts, I'm here on behalf of Gigarena. I would like
22 to address some of my concerns with the recent changes
23 in regulations. First, Governor Murphy recently made a
24 budget recommendation to increase to \$15. This has
25 vast consequences for cultivators in New Jersey and

1 particularly for micro business cultivators.
2 Cultivators already have it hard in their position in
3 the industry and they are dependent on all different
4 avenues of sale. This often leads to incredibly
5 competitive marijuana pricing which leaves very little
6 margin for cultivators. By increasing to a \$15 seed
7 fee you would be eliminating the cultivator class.
8 This is doubly so for the micro business cultivators.
9 With micro business cultivators you have a much lower
10 amount of sellable cannabis at any point, and you're
11 also much and more at the behest of the market
12 conditions.

13 It would be (inaudible) none of these
14 conditions to apply for multiple licenses to better
15 meet market demands and demand to multiple classes in
16 the industry. A micro business cultivator on its own
17 under \$15 seed fee in our opinion is going to suffer.
18 Also the idea of full licenses starting off as a micro
19 business indicates to me that it would be a good
20 introduction period for -- to a business. But if
21 they're unable to hold multiple licenses it would
22 provide a poor introduction fee. I'd like to recommend
23 grandfathering in all the licenses that were already
24 approved in this way. I think that's it. Thank you.

25 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Thomas. I'm

1 just going to go over the list again of the names I
2 called out that didn't get a chance to speak: David
3 Franciosi, if you're in the room, please raise your
4 hand. Reginald Green. If you're in the room, please
5 raise your hand. Marissa Van Vechten. If you're in the
6 room, please raise your hand. Jessie Marie Villars.
7 If you're in the room, please raise your hand. Alan
8 Trzuskoski. If you're in the room, please raise your
9 hand. Isaac Siemen. If you're in the room, please
10 raise your hand. Zachary Duffy. Last four, 2680. If
11 you're in the room, please raise your hand. William
12 Crudup. If you're in the room, please raise your hand.
13 Ashely Jordan Brownstein. If you're in the room,
14 please raise your hand. Gabriella Wilday. If you're
15 in the room, please raise your hand. Hrishikesh
16 Vimadalal. If you're in the room, please raise your
17 hand. Dr. Alyza Brevard-Rodriguez. If you're in the
18 room, please raise your hand. Chairwoman Houenou, this
19 will conclude the registered speakers we have for
20 today's public meeting.

21 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Saeed. And thank
22 you to everyone who shared their, their thoughts and
23 their recommendations with the board. Again, anybody
24 who was not able to share comments with us today or if
25 anyone wanted to share comments that they didn't --

1 weren't able to get to you can submit your comments to
2 us in writing by going to our website by -- before and
3 submitting your written comments to us before five
4 o'clock p.m. tomorrow, Friday, May 2nd. That concludes
5 the business that we have before us today and so with
6 that I move that we adjourn today's meeting. Is there
7 a second?

8 VICE CHAIR: I second.

9 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.
10 Is there any discussion on this motion to adjourn?
11 Hearing no discussion, all those in favor of adjourning
12 say aye.

13 ALL: Aye.

14 CHAIR: All those opposed say, nay. Any
15 abstentions? Motion passes. The time is 1:38 p.m. and
16 we are adjourned. Thank you very much, everyone, have
17 a great rest of the day.

18 (Meeting ended.)

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