



State of New Jersey
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

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AMELIA MAPP, *Commissioner*
CHRIS RIGGS, *Acting Executive Director*

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Lt. Governor

NEW JERSEY
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

THURSDAY AUGUST 7, 2025

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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3 DIANA HOUENOU, Chair

4 KRISTA NASH, Vice Chair

5 AMELIA MAPP

6 CHRISTOPHER RIGGS

7 DANIEL SAID, Secretary

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1 CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. Welcome,
2 welcome, when in all in here, out there to the Cannabis
3 Regulatory Commissions meeting. I'm your host,
4 Chairwoman Dianna Houenou. The time is 11:30 a.m. and
5 I'm gonna call this meeting to order. Mr. Said, you
6 can please read the notice of the public meeting.

7 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman. This is a
8 regularly scheduled meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis
9 Regulatory Commission's 2025 annual meeting schedule.
10 Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in
11 accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer, Open Public
12 Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was provided to
13 the Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record, Courier-Post,
14 Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on December 12th,
15 2024.

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

22 CHAIR: Mr. Said, can you please take roll
23 call?

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

25 MS. AMELIA MAPP: Here.

1 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

2 VICE CHAIR: Here.

3 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

4 CHAIR: Present.

5 THE SECRETARY: We now have a quorum. The
6 first order of business is for the commission to go
7 into executive session to discuss legal matters and
8 litigation and, and investigation updates. These are
9 discussions that are not shared with the public. We
10 believe the executive session should take about 90
11 minutes.

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

14 MS. MAPP: Oh yes, seconded.

15 VICE CHAIR: I second.

16 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp moves to go into
17 executive session. Seconded by Vice Chair Nash. Is
18 there any discussion in -- on this motion? Hearing no
19 discussion, all those in favor, say aye?

20 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

21 CHAIR: Aye.

22 MS. MAPP: Aye.

23 CHAIR: All those oppose say nay. Any
24 abstentions? Motion passes. So as Mr. Said mentioned,
25 we anticipate the executive session to last

1 approximately 90 minutes. We will leave the live
2 stream running during that time. And so we can expect
3 to resume the public portion of this meeting at 12:45.
4 Thank you for your patience, everyone.

5 [MOVED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 00:02:23]

6 [RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION AT 00:02:53]

7 CHAIR: All right. Welcome back everyone.
8 Time is 1:38. and we will remove, resume the public
9 portion of this meeting. Apologies for the extended
10 executive session. We do our best to anticipate how
11 much time we'll need. Sometimes we underestimate
12 ourselves there.

13 Before we get started, I want to note for
14 everyone a few changes to the agenda. Today, we will
15 not be approving prior meeting minutes today. Also
16 there are two ownership changes that are being removed
17 from consideration today and will be considered at a
18 future Board meeting.

19 Application Number 12533 is also being
20 removed from consideration today. That will be -- that
21 will be decided at a future Board meeting. And we are
22 adding one item to the agenda; a delegation of
23 authority that we will touch -- that we'll describe in
24 further detail right before we go to public comment.
25 So few updates to the agenda, but hopefully it will

1 actually smoothen things out as we move forward. So
2 with that, Mr. Said, can please announce the next item?

3 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the
4 agenda is the Chair's report.

5 CHAIR: All right. So as we -- before I
6 dive into the, the Chair's report for this month, I
7 want to, to note that, you know, it's not lost on me
8 that there are applicants waiting eagerly to get
9 approval of their applications so that they can move
10 forward in starting and launching their, their, their
11 businesses. There are -- there continue to be
12 misrepresent -- misunderstandings, I'm going to call
13 them. Misunderstandings of the agency's process for
14 reviewing applications.

15 Specifically, there have been, you know,
16 questions of whether the board is holding up
17 applications and holding onto applications for years at
18 a time. So I wanna take a, a moment to remind everyone
19 of the, the process that the agency uses to review and
20 act on license applications.

21 Once a -- an application is submitted to
22 the commission using the online portal, our staff go
23 through a multi-step process for ensuring that an
24 application is complete. That it is -- addresses fully
25 each question that is required and all documents are,

1 are, are included, and that the investigation of any
2 individuals that are -- have to go through a background
3 check is completed.

4 And so it's not until all of that is, is
5 done that the board then gets an application and begins
6 to review them. So the board doesn't even get these --
7 most of the applications until right before a Board
8 meeting. And the -- at that point, it's gone through
9 several hands of our, our esteemed staff to make sure
10 that applications meet the requirements of our
11 regulations and the law.

12 As we all know, there are some times
13 deficiencies that need to be corrected in an
14 application and they'll go through that cure process
15 where applicant is given a letter describing what the
16 deficiencies are and has an opportunity to respond.
17 And sometimes we have had applications that go through
18 an extensive cure phase where there's a lot of back and
19 forth to make sure that the applicant knows exactly
20 what's expected of them. And has an opportunity to
21 make their own decision on what, what to provide or,
22 what adjustments to make in their application.

23 So and then the board has usually about
24 three to four weeks with an application. So we -- the
25 board sees the -- these applications just a few weeks

1 before the board meeting, but we do our best to get
2 through them quickly so that if there are any last-
3 minute hiccups that are identified, we can get those
4 rectified quickly for our applicants to be able to move
5 forward. So I wanted to make, make that clear.

6 In other news, we have a new online waiver
7 form. So the Commission regularly receives requests to
8 rule -- I'm sorry, to waive a regulatory rule. And so
9 we now have a new online form that businesses can use
10 to submit their regulatory waiver request. We created
11 the form to standardize the rule -- rural waiver
12 request process and ensure that requesters are thinking
13 through the necessary components for their request.
14 And this form can be found on the commission's website.
15 You click on the resources tab and scroll down to the
16 Adult Use Recreational Cannabis section. And it's that
17 first link there.

18 Next slide please. So as you complete the
19 form remember that the -- there are -- the, the request
20 must meet three criteria. It must be consistent with
21 the Medicinal or Recreational Cannabis Laws. It must
22 be necessary in order to provide access to cannabis and
23 it must not jeopardize anyone's health, safety, or
24 welfare.

25 One final note on waiver requests is that

1 we, at the commission, have seen several requests
2 asking for waivers because it would make their business
3 more efficient. And while we understand the desire to
4 run an efficient enterprise, a regulatory waiver is not
5 to be used for convenience or to simply make things
6 easier, faster, or more attractive. It is a mechanism
7 for the commission to deviate from its dually
8 established regulations. And as such, the waiver power
9 is to be used sparingly only when it is actually
10 necessary. So we do hope that the new online form will
11 prove useful for businesses that find themselves in
12 those rare cases of true necessity.

13 Now I want to move onto a few cautions for
14 applicants and business owners. First, we are aware of
15 several business owners that have been posting online
16 offering their license for sale. We've even seen
17 conditional licenses being posted and offered for sale
18 for \$280,000, \$100,000 and things like that. Anyone
19 who offers a conditional license for sale is not giving
20 you any real authority to be a cannabis business. So
21 please be wary of that.

22 Conditional licenses don't allow you to
23 start growing processing or selling cannabis, nor are
24 conditional licenses necessary for a prospective
25 investor or business owner to have. So if you come

1 across these listings don't be fooled by them, don't
2 buy them. Don't let fraudsters dupe you into buying
3 something that isn't even a real cannabis business yet.

4 Next, we -- there have been reports of
5 business owners spending large sums of money in
6 preparation for -- of opening a cannabis business. And
7 we understand, as I noted earlier that business owners
8 want to get up and running as soon as possible. But
9 for entrepreneurs know that getting ahead of yourself
10 can run the risk of quickly turning into getting in
11 your own way. Nowhere is this more prevalent than in
12 businesses' efforts to get financing and when
13 businesses are doing construction.

14 We frequently see businesses accepting and
15 spending investors' money before getting approvals for
16 their financial source agreement or their investor
17 agreements. We also frequently see building --
18 businesses building out their facilities before getting
19 approved for a license. Sometimes we have businesses
20 that are trying to finish up construction even before
21 submitting an application for a license.

22 We also saw quite a few retailers building
23 out their consumption areas before submitting an
24 application for consumption area endorsement.
25 So for our applicants, our business owners, and our

1 investors, we want you -- I want you to know that you
2 are not required to finish your construction or
3 renovation before submitting an application. And you
4 certainly are not required to spend millions of dollars
5 of investors' money before your license application is
6 approved.

7 You know, we at the Cannabis Regulatory
8 Commission we want to see our businesses succeed. And
9 while we can't give anyone business, legal or a
10 financial advice, we can tell you that if you do choose
11 to move forward ahead of getting the necessary
12 approvals, you run -- you can find yourself running the
13 risk of your application not being approved if there
14 are problematic or prohibited provisions in your
15 agreements.

16 So it doesn't matter how much money you've
17 already spent or whether investors are on the verge of
18 pulling their investments. You know, we want you to,
19 to know that if your investor agreements or your
20 financial source agreements do not comply with our
21 regulations and the applicable statute, it cannot move
22 forward and won't be approved. Which brings me to my
23 final point. Businesses can set themselves up for
24 success by first being honest and realistic about their
25 capacity and their projections. You know, we want you

1 to be honest with yourself and set up realistic and
2 achievable goals for yourself. Biting off much more
3 than what you can chew can leave you in debt with few
4 options to cover your expenses.

5 So think about what you can accomplish
6 with the time, resources, and people that you have.
7 Think about how to set up your expenses and revenue
8 projections to allow for cushion and any unexpected
9 hiccups. And remember that our rules are built to
10 allow you to start small and go slow and grow from
11 there. We want to see our businesses succeed, but you
12 have to be the one to drive your business to that goal.
13 We're here to help, but only you can actually be the
14 true business person that makes your business a
15 success.

16 So that is it for my Chair's report today.
17 Thank you.

18 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the
19 agenda is the Executive Director's Report.

20 CHAIR: Director Riggs, floor is yours.

21 MR. CHRISTOPHER RIGGS: Thank you, Madam
22 Chair. So as always, we'll give an update on
23 dispensary openings. These are new recreational only
24 dispensaries opening up. We have them opening up
25 everywhere. There is the list of dispensaries that

1 have opened all over the state and they continue to be
2 opened up on a weekly basis.

3 The licensing update, we have total
4 licenses approved, as of July 30th, 2025, over 3000
5 applications have -- been submitted through the portal.
6 So we finally hit that 3000 mark. A lot of
7 applications coming in, 2300 of them have been
8 approved, 232 of these applications are under review in
9 the office of licensing, 276 of these applications are
10 pending resubmission following that cure process that
11 you outlined where it can be intense and there can be
12 multiple cures, but they sit out there. And then, 165
13 applications are under review in the Office of
14 Compliance and Investigations.

15 Total of recreational licenses approved as
16 of July 30th by the board 1,629 Conditionals, 451
17 conditional annual conversions, 279 annuals, 84
18 expanded alternative treatment centers. And right now,
19 we have a grand total of 357 total operating licenses
20 and permits in and Medical.

21 Today we have applications up for
22 consideration. There are three conditional conversion
23 applications that we will be considering and
24 recommending. There are seven annual licenses and 29
25 annual renewals.

1 As always, we'll give an update on our
2 patient numbers. As of July 15th, 2025, total patients
3 are a little over 58000. Our caregivers are a little
4 under 4000, and our doctors are right around 1500. And
5 this is our quarterly reporting month here, here.

6 So we will give an -- a sales and pricing
7 update. And then I'll kick it over to the Office of --
8 Diversity and Inclusion, Wesley McWhite to go through
9 some of the demographic data.

10 Right here, this slide shows the last four
11 quarters of medicinal and recreational sales. Quarter
12 2 is about 14 percent -- trending in 14 percent more
13 than it was, last year. That's significant and we will
14 talk about it more. It, it doesn't necessarily show
15 that the market is growing just based on sales, because
16 the price of cannabis is actually going down, you'll
17 see that soon.

18 Total sales by month year over year, June
19 of 2024 to June of 2025, you saw a 17.3 percent
20 increase over those two months in, in a year for sales,
21 total sales.

22 This is adult use bud and flower Pricing
23 Program. This is another metric that we like to look
24 at. As you'll see adult use bud and flower is at \$8
25 and 58 cents per gram. It's a minus 2.9 percent

1 change. The year over year change from June of 2024 to
2 June of 2025 is minus 28 percent. So the price
3 continues to go down. Same thing here with Medicinal
4 bud and flower Pricing Program. Medicinal cannabis is
5 a little bit cheaper program at \$8 and 22 cents. The
6 year over year change there was minus 22 percent.

7 Here's our product mix category slide that
8 we go through. You'll see that bud and flowers still
9 pretty much dominate the market at about 40 percent of
10 the -- 40 percent of sales. The interesting thing here
11 is that edibles are starting to catch up to the pre-
12 rolls. They're starting to catch up. I think that,
13 that is probably because we expanded the availability
14 of the, the forms that we allow for edibles. So that's
15 starting to creep up. I think that'll continue to
16 creep up and probably surpass the pre-rolls sometime
17 here in the -- in the near future.

18 Pounds harvested, harvested by month.
19 Now, this is a -- this is one that you, you look at and
20 you see -- it shows that the market is still growing.
21 You know, it, it grew at June -- from June of 2024 to
22 June of 2025, we had almost a 40 percent increased in
23 the number of pounds harvested. So almost 40 percent
24 more pounds were harvested in over a year. So the
25 market continues to be healthy and grow.

1 Now these are interesting slides that I
2 wanted to bring to the attention of everybody. This is
3 THCA Testing Value Averages from 2023 to 2025. And in
4 2023, you see that the average was 24.21 percent. Now
5 in 2025, it's 27.21 percent. That change represents a
6 12.4 percent increase. We are looking into that.
7 There's an ongoing investigation to determine whether
8 these levels are being inflated because of that
9 increase, you know, cannabis hasn't changed much from
10 2023 to 2025 as far as bud ad flower go, but the
11 percentage of THC seems to go up, so we want to make
12 sure that we understand why.

13 Same thing here with Total Yeast to Mold
14 Testing Rates 2023 to 2025. You'll see in 2023, we had
15 a fail rate of 3.7 percent. And in 2025, it's only 1
16 percent. And if you look to the right, you see a cliff
17 at about a hundred thousand CFUs per gram. Mold
18 doesn't really know what a hundred thousand CFUs --
19 colony forming units look like. And there's a cliff
20 there. So we really need to look into that.

21 The data shows that something's going on.
22 You know, there's a fall off. It should -- it should
23 look the same on the right as it does on the left and
24 it doesn't. So we're continuing to investigate that
25 more to come. But I did wanna share with the public

1 some of these things that we're looking at and what the
2 data's showing. And with that, I will kick it over to
3 our esteemed Office of Diversity and Inclusion
4 Director, Wesley McWhite to go through some more data.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. WESLEY MCWHITE: Thank you. You
7 follow that, huh? I thought it would be very important
8 for us to provide a quick update on what's happening
9 with the New Jersey Business Action Center -- Action
10 Center's Cannabis Training Academy. They're doing
11 great so far and so this is their contact information
12 if you haven't had the opportunity to check out the
13 CTA.

14 As you know, it is a 10-level go at your
15 own course, go at your own pace, free, here in the
16 state of New Jersey with over 60 courses and 28
17 instructors all-online at no cost. So from October
18 2024 to their soft launch in June of 2025, all levels
19 have been configured. Over 60 courses. There's over
20 60 videos and PowerPoint presentations, more than 300
21 pages of downloadable course text scripts.

22 They've just launched their cannabis
23 badging training curriculum with eight courses that
24 meet regulatory requirements and three standalone
25 courses focused on initial badging walkthrough.

1 They've also successfully completed their
2 Legacy to Legal Instructor Q&A and Expert Webinars.
3 Those organized more than -- excuse me, organize more
4 than 10 expert webinars, organize more than 15 plus
5 instructors Q&A, folks that have had legacy experience
6 that have transitioned into the regulated space.
7 Organized 5 legacy to legal webinars, more than 12
8 hours of content in that space.

9 As you can see, New Jersey CTA has already
10 been recognized as, as, as a national program from some
11 various esteemed names there. I'll let you read them,
12 but we're really, really proud of the work that the CTA
13 has done over there from the executive Director of the
14 Business Action Center, Melanie, the deputy Director,
15 penny and Tahe Chappelle, the executive director of the
16 CTA and their entire program.

17 And as you can see, more than 1600
18 students have registered at least 40 percent have
19 started their journey through level -- through Level
20 10. 19 self-identified cannabis license holders and 44
21 self-identified employees are already using the
22 cannabis -- Cannabis Badge Curriculum. And they are
23 continuing to stay committed to Governor Murphy's
24 commitment to diversity.

25 So 48 percent of our self-identification

1 of students are black. 52 are -- 22 percent are white
2 and 19 are Latino, with women leading the charge,
3 making up more than 51 percent of the student
4 population. And black women making up the most
5 percentage of the student body. And there you can see
6 a breakdown of counties represented in our CTA. So
7 keep signing up for the CTA to complete all of your
8 courses. We do wanna celebrate our graduates at some
9 point.

10 So on to the quarterly reports represents
11 Quarter 2 2025. We're starting off always with our
12 wordy application data and please remember as always,
13 the full report is uploaded to the CRC website under
14 resources; under our reports page. But up until this
15 point, we have awarded 714 annual licenses, 122 of
16 those are social equity businesses, and 490 of those
17 are diversely owned businesses.

18 New Jersey CRC has increased the number of
19 awarded micro businesses licenses by 17, with a minor
20 increases, increases across the board for each license
21 type. We continue to surpass that statutory benchmark.
22 We don't talk about this one too much which is a great
23 sign that more small cannabis businesses are fueling
24 this industry.

25 Our diversely owned benchmark Data are 23

1 additional minority-owned awarded licensees last
2 quarter, and additional 22 women or disabled veteran-
3 owned businesses were awarded. We continue and
4 consistently surpass both statutory benchmarks by 48
5 and 44 percent.

6 We continue to monitor our progress by
7 keeping an eye on national trends. And according to
8 the Minority Business Daily, DEI report, only 19
9 percent of all licenses nationwide are minority owned.
10 While 40 percent -- 46 percent of New Jersey CRC
11 licensees are minority owned. Nationally, just 16
12 percent of all cannabis licenses were women owned, 40
13 percent of our licenses have been awarded to majority
14 women-owned businesses.

15 So we continue to watch national trends.
16 We try to watch other surveys that come out that update
17 this information regularly. But we're gonna continue
18 to keep our eye on, on national trends and we're, we're
19 really excited to see that we're continue to stay above
20 those.

21 Benchmarks including expanded -- expansion
22 licensees we can -- once you add in expanded ATCs, we
23 still continue to surpass those benchmarks.

24 Operational Businesses Licensed under the
25 CREMM Act. So 24 so far, are cultivators, 20 are

1 manufacturers, one wholesaler, 132 retailers and five
2 testing laboratories. And off to your right in the key
3 categories, you see a breakdown of those operational
4 businesses.

5 Operational businesses licensed under the
6 CREMM act according to their DORES certification. So
7 a majority of those have no certification, but 51 out
8 of the rest, a majority owned are women owned, 38 are
9 minority owned, 32 have both minority and women owned
10 DORES -- treasury certifications. Five, just disabled
11 veteran owned, and then five-disabled veteran and
12 minority owned. So we're really -- we continue to
13 encourage people to keep up with their certifications,
14 to submit their certifications, any and all
15 certifications that they apply for as a part of their
16 application process or submitting them with their
17 license as well during renewal time.

18 So Operational Businesses Licensed under
19 the CREMM Act, broken down by race and ethnicity, 24
20 are Asian, 25 are black or African American, 82 are
21 white, and 23 are Hispanic or Latino Majority. And
22 we've seen increases across all board -- across all
23 minority groups as far as operational business
24 licenses.

25 And so we continue to ask the public to

1 let us know what sort of metrics that they're looking
2 forward to -- that they wanna know to see how the
3 industry is going. And so as the acting Executive
4 Director Chris Riggs said earlier, there's been a 17
5 percent increase of adult sales year, year over year
6 from June 2024 to June 2025. But although, there was a
7 17 percent increase for the entire industry starting
8 with key populations like social equity, social, social
9 equity businesses, sales have increased by 56 percent
10 year over year, indicating substantial growth progress
11 in target communities and their representation in the
12 market.

13 So last June 2024, social equity
14 businesses saw about 6.2 million in sales. June 2025
15 of this year they've seen 9.8 million worth of sales
16 just within the month of June. Same for economically
17 disadvantaged areas. They've seen 1.8 percent -- one
18 point million in sales June 2024. This year they've
19 seen 4.3 million in sales for economically
20 disadvantaged areas. From micro businesses, they've
21 seen an 87 almost -- a little over -- almost 88 percent
22 increase in sales by month from June 2024 to June 2025.

23 Diversely owned businesses have gone from
24 seeing 27 million in sales, June 2024 to 44 million in
25 June 2025. So these are just indications for us that

1 key populations are making their mark in the industry.
2 Although we do share positive news like this, we
3 continue to try to work with the community,
4 understanding that this is progress. We still have
5 much more work to do. We haven't solved and fixed all
6 the problems. We have not turned back or rectified all
7 the wrongs by cannabis prohibition. But we are off to
8 an amazing start here in New Jersey. It's something we
9 can be proud of now, and it should motivate us to -- to
10 continue to keep working hard for it in the future.

11 And So with that, I'll turn it back over to the Chair.

12 CHAIR: Thank you Director McWhite and
13 Director Riggs, for detailed, and informative, and
14 enlightening Executive Director's report. Again, I'm
15 really happy to see the breakdown of the -- I'm sorry,
16 the, the data on the total sales by some of these key
17 demographics.

18 I agree with you Director McWhite that is
19 -- it's promising and it's showing that our key -- our
20 target audiences that the commission has worked really
21 hard over the last four years to inform and bring into
22 the regulated space, that they are -- they're starting
23 to, and continue to make their mark in the industry.
24 With -- are there any questions from the board for
25 Director Riggs or McWhite? All right. Nope. Hearing

1 none, Mr. Said, can you please announce the next agenda
2 item.

3 THE SECRETARY: The next item up for
4 consideration is decision of waiver of NJAC 17:30-
5 11.5(c) and 11.6(b) under Resolution 2023-144.

6 CHAIR: Thank you. So this is a
7 rescission of the waiver regarding expansion of edible
8 products. So Director Riggs, I'll turn the floor over
9 to you.

10 MR. RIGGS: Sure. Thank you, Madam Chair.
11 You know, at the time the board and staff, you know,
12 we, we wanted to expand the ability to offer different
13 types of edibles and edible products, those waivers
14 have now become stale because we adopted rules that
15 captured everything that was in the waivers.

16 So we've expanded to allow ingestible
17 products. We clarified our ingredient standards since
18 this was a -- temporary waiver and we now have rules in
19 place and rules to follow, this waiver is no longer
20 needed. So we are recommending that the waiver be
21 rescinded at this time.

22 CHAIR: Thank you. And just by -- just to
23 underscore, this is -- this would be a rescission of
24 the waiver only on the adult use side because we do
25 still need the waiver to be in effect on the medicinal

1 cannabis side because we have not updated -- well, we
2 have started, but we have not finished updating those
3 regulations. So this is just on the adult use side,
4 but again, would've we anticipate no change as a result
5 of this action because the regulations are already in
6 place.

7 MR. RIGGS: That's 100 percent accurate,
8 Madam Chair.

9 CHAIR: Perfect. Are there any questions
10 from the board? Hearing no questions, is there a
11 motion on this matter?

12 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to
13 approve rescinding waiver of NJAC 17:30-11.5(c) 2 and
14 11.6(b) under Resolution 2023-144.

15 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Nash. Is
16 there a second?

17 MS. MAPP: Yeah.

18 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is
19 there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no
20 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

22 MS. MAPP: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

24 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

25 CHAIR: Chairwoman Houenou?

1 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
2 next item up for consideration is the rescission of
3 delegated authority to issue provisional badges under -
4 - resolution 2024-199.

5 CHAIR: All right. And so this is a
6 recommendation from the Permitting and Licensing
7 Committee. So I will turn the floor over to Vice Chair
8 Nash.

9 VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Madam Chair. In
10 February of 2024, the commission determined that the
11 cannabis industry was experiencing a significant labor
12 shortage due in part to longer than expected criminal
13 background checks. And it was in the best interest of
14 approved cannabis businesses and prospective employees
15 to issue temporary provisional approval for certain
16 individuals to work in an ATC or an adult use cannabis
17 business.

18 In May 2024, the permitting and licensing
19 committee held statewide public hearings to obtain
20 feedback on the commission's licensing and permitting
21 process. The hearing provided the commission with a
22 broader perspective on the challenges faced by various
23 groups. Some of the issues raised required -- require
24 adjustments to our regulations and/or policies, and one
25 of those was provisional badging.

1 Specifically, persons with disqualifying
2 convictions are not discouraged from participating in
3 New Jersey -- New Jersey's cannabis industry, but
4 instead, given an opportunity to demonstrate that they
5 have moved on from their past criminogenic behaviors.
6 As a result, a provisional badging -- individuals with
7 disqualifying convictions were issued provisional
8 badges and then were terminated by their employers due
9 to failure to meet the background checks.

10 This resulted in major disruptions, not
11 only to their lives, for the terminated employees, but
12 it also forced -- employers to scramble to rearrange
13 schedules or hire additional personnel.

14 In 2025, the board considered only six
15 applications of those with disqualifying convictions.
16 Therefore, the concerns, disruptions, or terminations
17 in this regard are rather insignificant.

18 Currently, individuals that do not have
19 any criminal history attached to their profile are
20 being cleared in about five days. Those individuals
21 with criminal histories that are not deemed
22 disqualifying convictions are being cleared in under 12
23 days on average.

24 There are certain exceptions such as if
25 certain documentation is not received, results could

1 take longer. The permitting and licensing committee's
2 recommendation is that the Commission remove
3 provisional badging and rescind Resolution 2024-199 as
4 provisional badging is no longer necessary. Madam
5 Chair?

6 CHAIR: Thank you, Vice Chair Nash. Are
7 there any questions from the board for Vice Chair Nash?
8 Hearing no questions, is there a motion on this matter?

9 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to
10 rescind authority to issue provisional badges under
11 Resolution 2024-199.

12 MS. MAPP: I second.

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

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

18 MS. MAPP: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

20 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

22 CHAIR: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
24 next item up for consideration is the contract award
25 for a Safe Use Public Information campaign.

1 CHAIR: And this agenda item is being
2 presented by our Public Engagement and Education
3 Committee. So I will turn the floor over to
4 Commissioner Mapp.

5 MS. MAPP: Thank you, Madam Chair. Before
6 I begin I would like to thank the staff of the CRC for
7 the support I continue to receive, whether or not it is
8 asked for.

9 The Public Engagement and Education
10 Committee, a task with educating the public on the
11 legal, safe and responsible use of cannabis. Some of
12 our goals are to continue to provide you with factual,
13 impartial science-based information with a focus on
14 reducing accidental over consumption, promoting
15 awareness and product safety and, and safe storage.
16 Doses guidance, labeling, and purchasing from a
17 licensed dispensary, and engaging the community through
18 localized and culturally competent outreach.

19 Slide 1, please. Our target audience will
20 include the general public with a focus on youth under
21 the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18
22 and 20. Parents and guardians of small children, those
23 who are pregnant, and those who are nursing, health
24 impacted individuals and inexperienced users.

25 Slide 2, please. To accomplish this

1 objective, the CRC has looked to award a mini-bid
2 contract to a vendor who would be able to provide the
3 following, a multi-language safe use campaign, which
4 would reflect the state's predominant languages and the
5 ability to accommodate additional languages.

6 The campaign is designed to evolve based
7 on advertising through diverse media such as outdoor
8 signage, digital ads, streaming, websites, and social
9 media, et cetera, with key messages being amplified
10 across the state regarding driving under the influence
11 of cannabis and also taking into consideration that
12 there is also home delivery, which helps in this
13 prevention. The importance of understanding cannabis
14 products, the ingredients, the labels, the types, the
15 effects, potency, and safe storage, while continuing to
16 provide education on the importance of purchasing from
17 regulated markets rather than the legacy market.

18 Slide 3, please. On Monday, March 17th,
19 2025, a mini-bid engagement was presented to 18 vendors
20 under T3067, a statewide advertising and public
21 relations contract. Bidders were able to submit
22 questions and receive answers via e-mail during the
23 question and, and answer period, which ended on March
24 28th, 2025. After all amendments were made, the final
25 bid was issued on 4 24 2025.

1 The commission's staff received nine
2 proposals by May 5th -- by the May 5th deadline. And
3 after carefully reviewing the proposed -- the proposals
4 received for compliance -- for compliance with
5 requirements and engagement, the committee found that
6 even though all bidders offered great service there was
7 one company who rose above. Slide 4, please. And that
8 company is the Setroc Group Incorporated, which is a
9 Hispanic veteran owned media strategy firm. We would
10 like to thank all those who were part of this process,
11 and we look forward to working with you sometime in the
12 near future.

13 Thank you. I return to the Chair.

14 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Mapp and
15 all the members on the Public Engagement and Education
16 Committee for their work here. I know the, the
17 communications team in particular --

18 MS. MAPP: Yes.

19 CHAIR: -- did a lot of work here and
20 we'll be doing a lot of work on this campaign as well.
21 Yes. Go ahead --

22 MS. MAPP: I forgot one.

23 CHAIR: -- Commissioner Mapp.

24 MS. MAPP: I had a note, but I forgot.

25 Thank you to Dara and Tony Ann(ph) for all your help in

1 getting this done.

2 CHAIR: Well, well, well noted and well
3 deserved. So thank you to the communications team for
4 your assistance in the mini-bid. And thank you, in
5 advance, for all of the work that you're going to do to
6 execute this safe use campaign. Are there any
7 questions from the board? Hearing no questions, is
8 there a motion on this matter?

9 MS. MAPP: So I make a motion that we move
10 ahead, I don't know the exact terminology, but we move
11 ahead with offering the contract to Setroc Group.

12 VICE CHAIR: Mm-hm.

13 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp moves to offer
14 the contract to Setroc Group. And it was seconded by
15 Vice Chair Nash. Is there any discussion on this
16 motion? Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please call
17 the vote?

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

19 MS. MAPP: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

21 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

23 CHAIR: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
25 next item up for consideration are applications for

1 permit or license changes.

2 CHAIR: We'll take these in two buckets.
3 And Director Riggs, I will turn the floor over to you.

4 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. The
5 first bucket that we'll take up is the canopy increase.
6 Canopy physical plant or premises changes require Board
7 approval. Illicit Gardens, New Jersey is requesting to
8 modify their cultivation canopy tier to allow them to
9 go from Tier 1 to Tier 2, which includes the
10 construction of a 24,000 square foot facility and seven
11 additional flower rooms.

12 Their site plans and standard operating
13 procedures have been reviewed and compliance will
14 remain in contact with them and ensure that a site
15 inspection is conducted when the build out is complete.
16 We are recommending that this change in capacity to
17 their canopy be approved so that they can operate as
18 in, in the Tier 2 space. Thank you.

19 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
20 there any questions from the board for Director Riggs?
21 Hearing none, is there a motion on this matter?

22 VICE CHAIR: Madam chair, I move to
23 approve the application to modify capacity, physical
24 plant premises, or administrative office for Illicit
25 Gardens.

1 MS. MAPP: I second.

2 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Nash, seconded
3 by Commissioner Mapp. Is there any discussion on this
4 motion? Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please call
5 the vote?

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

7 MS. MAPP: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

9 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

11 CHAIR: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
13 next bucket is ownership changes. That's the next --

14 CHAIR: Director Riggs (inaudible).

15 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. And
16 yes, that is the next bucket. We have some ownership
17 transfer applications. We have seven of them that are
18 before the board today. Under the Law and Regulations,
19 the Sale or Transfer of equity in any business requires
20 Board approval. This is to ensure that all regulatory
21 requirements are met and that any new owners are vetted
22 by OCI, if needed. We have the seven businesses.
23 Wesley just went through them. Insa Coastline
24 Dispensary LLC, Mountain View Pharmacy LLC, Vidu
25 Brothers Cannabis, Higher Leaf LLC, Green Village

1 Services LLC -- Next slide. Cookies Harrison LLC and
2 Weedies.

3 They're all requesting a change in their
4 ownership structure. Each of these entities has
5 satisfied the regulatory requirements for an ownership
6 change. All of these owners and individuals that were
7 required to be vetted by OCI were done. And OCI is
8 deemed that these individuals are qualified to enter
9 into the adult use market. Therefore, we are
10 recommending that these seven ownership changes be
11 approved.

12 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
13 there any questions from the board regarding these
14 seven ownership changes? Hearing no questions, is
15 there a motion on this matter?

16 MS. MAPP: I make the motion that we
17 accept these changes as presented.

18 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Mapp to
19 accept the changes as presented. Is there a second?

20 VICE CHAIR: Second.

21 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Nash. Is
22 there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no
23 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

25 MS. MAPP: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

2 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

4 CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
6 next item up for consideration is the Adult Use
7 Cannabis Business Conversion License Applications.

8 CHAIR: Director Riggs. I will turn the
9 floor over to you to provide a summary of the
10 applications received.

11 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
12 have three conditional-to-annual conversion licenses up
13 for consideration today. One manufacturer, one
14 retailer, and one cultivator. All of these entities
15 have followed our licensing process where priority
16 assignment was given and we've confirmed that each
17 applicant is assigned to their appropriate review
18 priority. That priority is verified by our licensing
19 team.

20 A completeness review is then conducted by
21 our licensing team to confirm that all the required
22 documents were submitted and to confirm that each
23 document is filled out with the appropriate information
24 as required by our regulations and the law. These
25 applications are then scored where the documents are

1 reviewed and scored. And then there's a qualification
2 reviewed by our Office of Compliance and Investigations
3 where individuals background checks are conducted,
4 management services agreements, or financial service
5 agreements are reviewed. And then a quality control
6 with our licensing office of Compliance and
7 investigations and our legal team.

8 And now we are at the step where we are
9 recommending that these three applications be approved
10 by the board and therefore I turn the floor back over
11 to 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 matter?

15 VICE CHAIR: Madam chair, I move to
16 approve the consideration of applications to convert
17 the (inaudible) business to standard.

18 MS. MAPP: I second.

19 CHAIR: Moved and seconded. Is there any
20 discussion on this motion? Hearing none, Mr. Said, can
21 you please call the vote?

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

23 MS. MAPP: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

25 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

2 CHAIR: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
4 next item up for consideration are the Adult Use
5 Cannabis Business Annual License Applications.

6 CHAIR: Director Riggs, turn floor over to
7 you.

8 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. These
9 -- we have seven annual licenses up for consideration
10 today. Two manufacturers, two retailers, and three
11 cultivators. These applications went through the same
12 process. They had a priority assignment. That
13 priority was verified. We conduct a completeness
14 review. The applications are then scored. There's a
15 qualification review by our Office of Compliance and
16 Investigation. We do quality control and then a
17 recommendation to the board.

18 All these applications have been reviewed,
19 scored, and we are now recommending that they be
20 approved by the board.

21 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
22 there any questions from the board regarding these
23 seven annual license applications? Hearing none, is
24 there a motion on this matter? Is there a motion on
25 this matter regarding the seven annual license

1 applications?

2 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to
3 approve the -- applications to convert from
4 conditional-to-Annual.

5 CHAIR: No, these are not the converting -
6 - sorry. This is Direct-to-Annual.

7 VICE CHAIR: Oh. I move to approve the
8 Direct-to-Annual applications.

9 MS. MAPP: I second.

10 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Nash, seconded
11 by Commissioner Mapp. Is there any discussion on this
12 matter? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you
13 please call the vote?

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

15 MS. MAPP: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

17 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

19 CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
21 next item up for consideration is the Adult Use
22 Cannabis Business Annual License Renewal Applications.

23 CHAIR: Director Riggs, floor is yours.

24 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. There
25 are 29 applications that are up for renewal. As a

1 reminder, all of our licenses are effective for one
2 year from the date of issuance, and we are required to
3 review and reviewed annually.

4 These applications were reviewed. The
5 entities have provided the required documentation for
6 renewal. The documentation was reviewed by and
7 approved by -- Office of Compliance and Investigations.
8 It was looked at by our, our legal team, and anybody
9 that was an expanded ATC as provided additional
10 municipal support as required. Therefore, we are
11 recommending that all 29 of these applications be
12 renewed today.

13 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
14 there any questions from the board for Director Riggs?
15 Hearing none, is there a motion on this matter?

16 MS. MAPP: Madam Chair, I move to approve
17 the applications as submitted.

18 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Mapp. Is
19 there a second?

20 MS. MAPP: Second.

21 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Nash. Is
22 there any discussion on this motion? Hearing none, Mr.
23 Said, can please call the vote?

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

25 MS. MAPP: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

2 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

4 CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
6 next item up for consideration are cases, claims and
7 petitions.

8 CHAIR: Here we have several waiver --
9 regulatory waiver requests. Say that five times fast.
10 So Chief Counsel Tuason, I'll turn the floor over to
11 you to describe the waiver requests received.

12 MR. DAVE TUASON: So as the Chair
13 described earlier in the meeting, entities have the
14 ability to submit a request to waive some of the
15 commission's regulations. For the board to determine
16 whether a waiver would be appropriate, the entity has
17 to demonstrate that they meet the three factors under
18 17:30-3.7(a) which states that the commission may waive
19 a regulatory requirement if such a waiver is necessary
20 to achieve the purposes of the act, necessary to
21 provide access to cannabis items to consumers, and
22 three, does not create a danger to the public health
23 safety or welfare.

24 So the first waiver request that the board
25 will be considering today is waiver number WR021 by

1 Curaleaf. And it is a waiver of the requirement under
2 19.5(b) to conduct stability testing on a per batch or
3 per lot basis and requesting instead to conduct a
4 stability testing on a product family-based stability
5 testing. And with that, I'll turn it back over to you,
6 Madam Chair.

7 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are
8 there any questions from the board? Hearing no
9 questions, is there a motion on this matter as it
10 relates to the waiver request, WR021 from Curaleaf?

11 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to deny
12 the waiver request at this time.

13 CHAIR: Vice Chair Nash moves to deny the
14 waiver request. Is there a second?

15 MS. MAPP: I second it.

16 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is
17 there any discussion on this motion? I will note that
18 though -- that I agree with our staff's determination
19 that there is no evidence presented in this waiver
20 request demonstrating the necessity to -- that it is
21 necessary to achieve the purposes of the CREAMM Act or
22 the Honig Act. They possibly could provide access to
23 cannabis, but it is not clear that it would. And I
24 also agree with our staff that not having a defined
25 standard for using product family-based testing could

1 lead to inconsistent test results and contamination in
2 products. And thus posing a risk of harm to health and
3 safety.

4 And so for those reasons, I support a
5 denial of the waiver request. Is there any other
6 discussion on this motion? Hearing none, Mr. Said, on
7 the motion to deny the waiver request, can you please
8 call the vote?

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

10 MS. MAPP: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

12 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

14 CHAIR: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

16 MR. TUASON: The second waiver request is
17 WR027. It was submitted by the New Jersey Cannabis
18 Trade Association. They request a waiver of 17:30-
19 11.8(c)(2) to extend the baseline expiration date of
20 cannabis products from six months from the manufacturer
21 cultivation date to 12 months from the manufacturer or
22 cultivation date. And I turn it back over to you,
23 Madam Chair.

24 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel Tuason.
25 Any questions from the board for Chief Counsel?

1 Hearing no questions, is there a motion on this matter
2 related to waiver request number 027 from the New
3 Jersey Cannabis Trade Association? Is there a motion
4 on this matter? I will move to deny the waiver
5 request. Is there a second?

6 MS. MAPP: I second.

7 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is
8 there any discussion on this motion? I'll note that
9 though I do agree with revisiting the expiration dates
10 that are in our regulations, the Permitting and
11 Licensing Committee, in fact, had a recommendation to
12 the board to confer -- to have the Product Safety
13 Packaging and Labeling Committee take a look at the
14 expiration dates that are written on our regulations
15 and provide any recommendations for changes to
16 expiration product -- expiration dates.

17 And so I, I agree with the idea of
18 revisiting our expiration dates for cannabis products.
19 But the waiver process is not the, the proper vehicle
20 to do that. And we cannot substitute a requirement for
21 a new one through the waiver process. And thus, that
22 is why I am -- a no on this particular waiver request.
23 It is not necessary under the law. And it is, is not
24 the proper vehicle for doing this kind of policy
25 change. Any further discussion on this matter? With

1 no further discussion, Mr. Said, on the motion to deny
2 waiver request WR027, can you please call the vote?

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

4 MS. MAPP: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

6 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

8 CHAIR: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

10 MR. TUASON: The next waiver request is
11 WR029 by Nova Farms Woodbury. They request a waiver of
12 the requirement under 17:30-16.5(a)(6)(i). And what,
13 what's that issue is are, are regulations; do you
14 provide examples of images or graphics that might be,
15 be, or that are prohibited and are considered
16 attractive to children? And in this wave of request in
17 particular, the, the -- our regulations do say candy,
18 food products would -- or cartoon characters would
19 suggest a presence or would be images that would be
20 attractive to children.

21 And with that, I turn it over back to you,
22 Madam Chair.

23 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are
24 there any questions from the board? Hearing no
25 questions, is there a motion on this matter as it

1 relates to WR029?

2 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to deny
3 the motion for requested waiver. The -- there is a
4 picture of a piece of melting chocolate with -- on the
5 label with in large letters chocolate on the label.
6 And I think that could -- be very dangerous to children
7 and confuse people as to what the actual package
8 contains. And that's why I'm recommending no.

9 CHAIR: All right. Vice Chair Nash moves
10 to deny the waiver request. Is there a second?

11 MS. MAPP: I second.

12 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is
13 there any additional discussion on this motion?
14 Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Said, can you please
15 call the vote?

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

17 MS. MAPP: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

19 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

21 CHAIR: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

23 MR. TUASON: The next waiver request is
24 WR030 by Inclusion Gourmet. They request a waiver of
25 their requirement under 17:30-11.5(e)(4) that

1 ingestible products shall be a non TCS, which is Time
2 Control for safety, food item. It's essentially
3 another term that's, that's in our Department of Health
4 Regulations for shelf stable type of items. And with
5 that, I turn it back over to you, Madam Chair.

6 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Any
7 questions from the board? Hearing no questions, is
8 there a motion on this matter as it relates to WR030?

9 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, as much as I
10 like ice cream I'm going to move to deny this waiver.
11 The recommendation by staff states that our policy
12 behind the regulation requires the ingestible cannabis
13 products to be non-TCS food items, which are concern
14 for public safety. Products that require freezing may
15 potentially open the door for microbial contamination
16 in the event the cannabis retailer stores the product
17 incorrectly, so I support that.

18 CHAIR: Commissioner -- I'm sorry. Vice
19 Chair Nash moves to deny the waiver request. Is there
20 a second?

21 MS. MAPP: I second.

22 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is
23 there any additional discussion on this motion? I
24 agree with staff's determination that the -- of the
25 policy motivation for behind this regulation. The

1 waiver request certainly does not demonstrate a
2 necessity that it is need -- that we need to allow ice
3 cream products in order to fulfill the purposes of the
4 CREAMM Act or Honig Act.

5 It is not needed to provide access to
6 cannabis items. And it is debatable whether or not it
7 would actually pose a harm given that I share Vice
8 Chair Nash's indulgence of ice cream far more than the
9 recommended serving size. But I would support a denial
10 of this waiver request for those reasons.

11 Is there any further discussion on this
12 motion? Hearing none, Mr. Said, on the motion to deny
13 WR030, can you please call the vote?

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

15 MS. MAPP: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

17 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

19 CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

21 MR. TUASON: The final waiver request the
22 board will be considering today is WR031. That was
23 again, submitted by Nova Farms Woodbury. And they,
24 they request a waiver of the requirement under 17:30-
25 16.2(f) and 16.5(A6) that all packaging for cannabis

1 shall be of a single color and not attractive to
2 children. You know, what's at issue here is there's an
3 external box and an internal tin, whether both external
4 and internal must be a single color. And, and we read
5 the regulations to say all would encompass both
6 internal and external. And with that, I turn it back
7 over to you, Madam Chair.

8 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Any
9 questions from the board? Hearing no questions, is
10 there a motion on this matter as relates to WR031? Is
11 there a motion on this matter? I will move to deny the
12 waiver request. Is there a second?

13 MS. MAPP: I second.

14 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is
15 there any discussion on this motion to deny the waiver
16 request? I agree with that determination that the
17 internal tin here, the, the multicolored nature of this
18 tin, does not conform with the regulations. Waiving
19 the rule certainly is not necessary to achieve the
20 purposes of the CREAM Act or the HONIC Act. It is not
21 necessary in order to provide access to cannabis that
22 is inside the tin and so for those reasons I support
23 denying the waiver request.

24 Is there any further discussion on the
25 motion to deny? Hearing no further discussion, Mr.

1 Said, on the motion to deny the waiver request, can you
2 please call the vote?

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

4 MS. MAPP: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

6 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

8 CHAIR: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

10 MR. TUASON: The next item up for
11 consideration are notices of enforcement actions.

12 CHAIR: So here I will turn the floor over
13 to Director Riggs to provide a summary of our first
14 enforcement action.

15 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well,
16 there is no particular order to these enforcement
17 actions. We'll just take them up one by one. We have
18 seven of them here today. The first one that is on the
19 slide here is Lovegrove Company, LLC. This was a
20 failure to utilize metric tags. Our regulations
21 require when the plants reach a certain height, they
22 must be tagged by metric plans.

23 Our Office of Compliance and
24 Investigations and the assigned field monitors
25 routinely review surveillance footage to confirm that

1 that is in fact happening. This was reported to us by
2 an anonymous source. Our compliance team swiftly
3 investigated it and confirmed that from December 18th
4 of 24 through January 31st of 25, there were no metric
5 tags on some of these plants.

6 The corrective action plan submitted by
7 the business confirms that they did not tag these
8 plants and that they did set forth a procedure to
9 ensure that they were appropriately tagging these
10 plants when they reached a certain height, but they did
11 essentially admit that there was a violation. So we
12 are recommending that an enforcement action be taken.

13 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
14 there any questions from the board? Hearing no
15 questions, is there a motion on this matter as relates
16 to INV 2925? Madam Chair, I move to impose a sanction
17 against Lovegrove for \$1,000 for untagged plants.
18 Moved by Vice Chair Nash. Is there a second?

19 MS. MAPP: Second.

20 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is
21 there any discussion on this motion? I'll note that a
22 penalty of a \$1,000 fine for failure to tag plants is
23 consistent with the commission's prior practices where
24 we have imposed the same fine for the same violation
25 against other companies. So I'm supportive of this

1 motion.

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

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

6 MS. MAPP: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

8 MS. MAPP: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

10 CHAIR: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

12 MR. TUASON: Next slide, please. Oh, you
13 got it. Thank you. The next enforcement or next notice
14 of violation and investigation filed before the board
15 for an enforcement action is INV 59-25 Dank Poet
16 Dispensary. This stems from violations related to
17 alcohol and cannabis consumption on the dispensary
18 premises during a one-year anniversary event.

19 There were a few videos and images
20 obtained from social media by our compliance officer
21 who followed up and confirmed that they were in fact
22 consuming alcohol and cannabis during this event on the
23 premises of the facility while, you know, it was in the
24 parking lot and blown up igloo in the middle of the
25 winter. So I'm sure that they could keep warm.

1 That is still considered the cannabis
2 business premises and no consumption of cannabis should
3 ever occur on the premises of a dispensary unless they
4 have an endorsement for a consumption area. The
5 business is also selling cannabis products in, in
6 excess of the purchase limits, same event, and they
7 failed to collect New Jersey tax on these purchased
8 products. Therefore, we are recommending that an
9 enforcement action be taken against the Dank Poet
10 Dispensary.

11 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
12 there any questions from the board? Hearing no
13 questions, is there a motion on this matter on INV
14 5925?

15 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to impose
16 a sanction against Dank Poet for a total of \$7,500,
17 \$5,000 for consumption on the premises, \$2,000 for
18 selling in excess of the regulations, and \$500 for the
19 sales tax.

20 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Nash. Is
21 there a second?

22 MS. MAPP: I'll second.

23 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is
24 there any discussion on this motion? I will note that
25 this penalty and including the breakdown as provided by

1 Vice Chair Nash is consistent with the Commission's
2 prior practices when presented with similar violations.
3 I also will note here that according to the
4 investigator, the, the business did in fact contact the
5 CRRC and asked about asked, asked about activities that
6 could be conducted during the event. And they were
7 told no. And yet here we are with on-site consumption
8 happening anyways.

9 So our businesses just heed the warnings
10 of our compliance officers. So with that, I support
11 the, the fine of \$7,500. Is there any further
12 discussion? Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Said,
13 can you please call the vote?

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

15 MS. MAPP: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

17 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

19 CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

21 MR. TUASON: The next notice of violation
22 before the board is INV 74-2025, which is Green
23 Medicine NJ LLC. Failure to use approved areas for
24 trimming, packaging, and storage of cannabis products.
25 Unfortunately, this isn't the first time that Green

1 Medicine had an offense related to the failure to use
2 approved areas or were using unapproved areas. They
3 were using a hallway that was unapproved on tables to
4 trim and package cannabis products. And they were
5 storing finished cannabis products in an unapproved
6 area from March 24th through March 26th of 2025.

7 Our compliance officer confirmed that
8 through the surveillance camera system. So everything,
9 you know, they were not using areas that were approved
10 and therefore an enforcement action is recommended.

11 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
12 there any questions from the board? Hearing no
13 questions, is there a motion on this matter, INV 74-
14 2025? Is there a motion on this matter?

15 I will move to impose a penalty to impose
16 a fine of \$20,000 against Green Medicine in this
17 instance. This is not the first time that they have
18 committed these violations. Again, they requested
19 approval for using a particular space at their facility
20 for storage. They were denied and they proceeded to
21 use that anyway. So just a blatant disregard of the
22 regulations and the directions from the regulating
23 authority. So that warrants an increased fine for this
24 business which has been down this road before. Is
25 there a second on this motion to impose a fine of

1 \$20,000?

2 VICE CHAIR: Second.

3 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Nash. Is
4 there any further discussion on this motion? Hearing no
5 further discussion, Mr. Said on the motion to impose a
6 fine of \$20,000. Can you please call the vote?

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

8 MS. MAPP: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

10 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

12 CHAIR: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

14 MR. TUASON: The next notice of violation
15 that we have before the board is Brut's Roots LLC INV
16 75-2025; failure to comply with transport regulations
17 by using a marked vehicle for cannabis transportation.
18 All of these violations are related to using a vehicle
19 that clearly showed that it was transporting cannabis
20 at Brut's Roots on the side of this box truck
21 indicating that that vehicle, the law, the CREAM Act
22 and our regulations don't allow for that. You know,
23 they were told not to use this truck. There was back
24 and forth with our compliance officer whether or not
25 they sold the truck, who owned the truck. But then we

1 have video footage of them moving cannabis products in
2 and out of the location utilizing a truck that was
3 never approved. So therefore we are recommending an
4 enforcement action.

5 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Any
6 questions from the board? Hearing no questions, is
7 there a motion on this matter as it relates to INV 7-5-
8 2025?

9 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to impose
10 a sanction on Brut's Roots for \$5,000.

11 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Nash. Is
12 there a second?

13 MS. MAPP: I second.

14 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp.
15 Any discussion on this motion to impose a sanction of
16 \$5,000?

17 I'll note that I support the motion and
18 what really irritates me about this particular
19 violation is, as you noted Director Riggs, the
20 compliance officer did what they were supposed to do,
21 did exactly the right thing. They contacted the
22 business and warned them multiple times about this
23 unapproved truck and a truck that has advertising
24 cannabis that does not comply with the law. And then
25 they continue to use the truck anyway.

1 So I'm very irritated with that. And so I
2 support the motion to impose a sanction of \$5,000.

3 CHAIR: Is there any further discussion?
4 Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Said, can you please
5 call the vote?

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

7 MS. MAPP: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

9 MS. MAPP: Yes.

10 CHAIR: Chairwoman Houenou?

11 CHAIR: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

13 MR. TUASON: The next notice of violation
14 before the board is Cream Retail Dispensary, INV-81-
15 2025. This is a failure to ensure proper age
16 verification procedures. This was an interesting one,
17 and they didn't have anybody when our compliance
18 officer showed up at the front door checking IDs.
19 That's required by regulation and law. Thankfully,
20 they did have people confirming identification at the
21 point of sale, but that's not enough. We require
22 identification to enter into these dispensaries, and
23 therefore we are recommending an enforcement action.
24 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
25 there any questions from the board? Hearing no

1 questions, is there a motion on this matter as relates
2 to INV-81-2025?

3 MS. MAPP: Madam Chair, I move to impose a
4 sanction of \$500.

5 VICE CHAIR: I second.

6 CHAIR: Moved and seconded. Is there any
7 discussion on this motion? I'll note that I agree with
8 Director Riggs. Thankfully, the mitigating factor here
9 is that there was somebody inside checking ID and
10 verifying age at the point of sale, and so that's the
11 only reason why I'm comfortable with a fine of \$500
12 here. Is there any further discussion? Hearing no
13 further discussion on the motion, Mr. Said, can you
14 please call the vote?

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

16 MS. MAPP: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

18 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

20 CHAIR: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

22 MR. TUASON: The next notice of violation
23 before the board is CureLeaf NJ2 Inc. INV-83-2025. The
24 CREAM Act and our regulations require the maintenance
25 of a labor peace agreement with a bona fide labor

1 organization.

2 CureLeaf had a labor peace agreement with
3 itself and a bona fide labor organization, which was
4 executed on April 6th of 2022. It had a three-year
5 term and needed mutual consent to renew, so therefore
6 it expired on April 6th of 2025. At that point our
7 team of staff reached out and on April 22nd, we advised
8 CureLeaf of that expiration and requested written
9 verification of mutual agreement by both CureLeaf and
10 the union that they have extended their LPA or entered
11 into a new LPA. But to date we do not have any
12 evidence that they have executed a new LPA or extended
13 that LPA, so we are recommending an enforcement action.

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 Chair, I move to impose
18 a sanction against CureLeaf for \$5,000 a day for 122
19 days, which would total \$610,000.

20 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Nash. Is
21 there a second? I will second the motion. Is there
22 any discussion on this motion?

23 MS. MAPP: I will note, as Director Riggs
24 alluded to, both in regulation and in statute, there is
25 a requirement for the maintenance of a labor peace

1 agreement with a bona fide labor organization. And
2 that is an ongoing -- maintenance of a labor peace
3 agreement is an ongoing material condition of the
4 cannabis business's license.

5 And here we have documentation from
6 CureLeaf admitting to the violation that there is no --
7 they do not have a valid labor peace agreement in
8 place. I agree with Commissioner Nash's formula to
9 impose a penalty of \$5,000 per day that is consistent
10 with the commission's approach in prior instances of
11 the labor peace agreement violation, so I'm in support
12 of this motion. Is there any further discussion?
13 Hearing no further discussion on the motion to impose a
14 penalty of a total of \$610,000, Mr. Said, can you
15 please call the vote?

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

17 MS. MAPP: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

19 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

21 CHAIR: My vote is yes, and I will

22 stipulate that my vote is yes because of the
23 calculation that Vice Chair Nash noted between April
24 7th and August 7th is a total of 122 days and, and at a
25 rate of \$5,000 per day, and so my vote is yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

2 MR. RIGGS: The next and final NOV before
3 the board today is Botero Union LLC INV 86-2025,
4 failure to maintain proper employment procedures,
5 follow our age verification process, and comply with
6 product sales limits.

7 You know, this is something where they
8 were letting folks work where they were not badged
9 quite yet. We don't allow for that. You can't do
10 that. That was confirmed and therefore we are
11 recommending that enforcement action be taken.

12 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
13 there any questions from the board? Hearing no
14 questions, is there a motion on this matter related to
15 INV 86-2025? Is there a motion on this matter?

16 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I make the
17 motion that we impose a sanction on Botero Union in the
18 amount of \$1,000 for not having employees badged.

19 CHAIR: \$1,000 for not having employees
20 badged. Is there a second on the motion to impose a
21 penalty of \$1,000 for not having employees badged?

22 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I believe there
23 were three violations.

24 CHAIR: That is correct. There are three
25 violations. The motion that Commissioner Mapp has put

1 forward is to impose a penalty of \$1,000 for having an
2 unbadged worker, which I believe is just one of the
3 three violations.

4 VICE CHAIR: Well, actually, no, that was
5 for the three violations I just read what I was
6 reading. It's all three violations.

7 CHAIR: Okay. So could you repeat your
8 motion?

9 MS. MAPP: The motion to impose a fine on
10 Botero Union for not following the age verification
11 process --

12 CHAIR: Correct.

13 MS. MAPP: -- and complying with the
14 product sales limits and verification -- following the
15 age verification process and complying with the product
16 sales limits.

17 VICE CHAIR: Is there another one?

18 CHAIR: In the amount of?

19 MS. MAPP: In the amount of \$1,000.

20 CHAIR: For all three?

21 MS. MAPP: Yes.

22 CHAIR: Okay. Yeah. So Commissioner Mapp
23 moves to impose a penalty of \$1,000 for all -- for all
24 three of those violations. Is there a second? Is
25 there a second? There is no second, and so the motion

1 fails. Is there another motion on this matter?

2 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to impose
3 sanctions on Botero Union for \$5,000, \$1,000 for
4 unbadged employee, \$500 for the age check at the door,
5 \$3,500 for excess sales over one ounce.

6 CHAIR: All right. So Vice Chair Nash
7 moves to impose a sanction of \$5,000. The breakdown,
8 correct me if this is -- if I -- if I have this wrong.
9 The breakdown you said was \$1,000 for the unbadged
10 worker --

11 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

12 CHAIR: -- \$500 for the age check
13 verification, and \$3,500 for the excess sale, is that
14 correct?

15 MS. MAPP: Yeah.

16 CHAIR: All right. So that is -- the
17 motion is to impose a sanction of \$5,000. Is there a
18 second on this motion? I will second the motion. Is
19 there any discussion on this motion? I believe that
20 these, these penalties and the breakdown that
21 Commissioner Nash -- Vice Chair Nash provided is
22 consistent with the commission's practice for similar
23 violations and so I support this motion. Is there any
24 further discussion on the motion? Hearing no further
25 discussion, Mr. Said on the motion to impose a sanction

1 of \$5,000 can you please call the vote?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

3 MS. MAPP: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

5 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

7 CHAIR: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

9 MR. TUASON: The next item up for
10 consideration is the delegation of authority.

11 CHAIR: So this is the item that I said --
12 that I noted earlier, is a last minute addition to our
13 agenda.

14 And here we find ourselves in a situation
15 where we need to delegate authority to our executive
16 director for certain operations -- critical operations
17 to continue. And so I am making a motion to delegate
18 authority to the executive director to decide whether
19 to issue a 90-day administrative extension of an annual
20 license or permit expiration date in circumstances when
21 the commission does not have a sufficient number of
22 members to take action on the renewal of said license
23 or permit.

24 And the duration of that delegated
25 authority shall -- should continue until rescinded or

1 modified by this board. That is the motion I put
2 forward. Is there a second?

3 VICE CHAIR: Second.

4 CHAIR: Seconded by commissioner -- I'm
5 sorry, Vice Chair Nash. Is there any discussion on
6 this motion? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you
7 please call the vote?

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

9 MS. MAPP: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

11 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

13 CHAIR: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

15 MR. RIGGS: The next item on the agenda,
16 we have the open public comment period.

17 CHAIR: So as with every board meeting,
18 members of the public can submit public comments during
19 or after this meeting in writing via our website,
20 nj.gov/cannabis/meetings.

21 The deadline for submitting written
22 comments for today's board meeting is 5 o'clock p.m.
23 tomorrow, Friday, August 8th. Written comments will be
24 shared with the commission members and they will be
25 made public. Speakers will be called on -- in the

1 order in which they signed up to speak. It will be
2 limited to three minutes. We'll start with the persons
3 who are registered and are in person and then we'll
4 move to anyone who is joining us by telephone. For
5 those who are joining us in person, when you hear your
6 name called, please come forward. The microphone, I
7 believe, is already on, is that correct? Okay.

8 We're gonna confirm -- we're gonna turn on
9 the microphone for you. Your three minutes will be
10 noted to your left and then we'll turn over to those
11 who are joining us by phone and Mr. Said will give
12 instructions for those who are joining us by phone to -
13 - on how to raise their hand and unmute themselves.
14 And so with that, Mr. Said, can you please call on our
15 first speakers?

16 MR. TUASON: Chairwoman, as a reminder,
17 public speakers during this afternoon's public comment
18 period will be limited to three minutes. Please be
19 respectful and concise during your comments. The first
20 person I have on the list is Keith Wood. The next
21 person on the list is Dr. Alyza Brevard Rodriguez. The
22 next person on the list is Thomas Norcia. The next
23 person is Reginald Green. The next person is Smrita
24 Choubey. The next person is Victoria Vasquez. The
25 next person is Samuel Reichbart.

1 MR. SAMUEL REICHBART: Hello, my name is
2 Samuel Reichbart. I actually came here today to
3 testify on a number of things, but you guys -- oh good,
4 but you guys actually seem to have done a lot that we
5 needed you guys to do today. Most notably, I came here
6 to testify about a trans employee at the store that I
7 work at who sent a letter stating that she couldn't
8 work anymore. That was actually resolved this morning,
9 so thank you guys very much for that. I really
10 appreciate it.

11 It was really hard to have to tell her
12 that she wasn't able to work. But I actually do hope
13 you continue to -- like I know you took away the
14 provisional badging today. I hope we do continue to
15 look at that process just because I, I hope -- I, I
16 worry that possibly people have been discouraged
17 because of the almost yearlong waits when they do have
18 to go through that rehabilitation process or like proof
19 of rehabilitation.

20 I know I have another employee who is
21 currently stuck in that process, so I just -- I would
22 want to make sure that we're still doing right by, by
23 workers and that we're, you know, keeping to all the
24 commitments that we've made to people to have this be
25 an inclusive industry and work for all of them. I was

1 also very exciting to hear that we are starting to
2 investigate some of the lab issues that we're seeing.

3 You know, I think a lot of people have
4 been shouting from the rooftops about that for a long
5 time, so it's, it's great to hear that we're starting
6 to recognize and work on some of those issues. Yeah, I
7 guess, I encourage you guys to just keep up the hard
8 work. Thank you so much for taking some steps and
9 showing, showing us that, you know, you're working for
10 us and working with us.

11 THE SECRETARY: Next person on the list is
12 Jeffrey Miller. The next person on the list is Lerone
13 Jones.

14 MR. LERONE JONES: Thank you CRC and the
15 commission for giving me a chance to speak in front of
16 you once more. As you can see I bought the -- oh
17 Jesus, look what you did. But again, you know, again
18 from the bottom of my heart, my family's heart, thank
19 you to be here, give my little guy an opportunity, pass
20 a legacy down to provide for his future siblings and
21 him, so I thank you. And you know I definitely just
22 want to really thank you for being patient with us,
23 letting us cure what we need to cure and achieving what
24 this is all about, you know, taking care of my family.
25 Thank you. Before I end it, I definitely want to say

1 some final words.

2 Lord, put, put your hands on our
3 application. Be with us, bless us, protect us. I
4 thank the CRC for all that they do for my family and
5 for giving us an opportunity that they gave us in Jesus
6 name, amen. Thank you.

7 CHAIR: Too early to, to get the kids
8 engaged in civic, civic activity, so always welcome to
9 bring a little one.

10 THE SECRETARY: The next person on the
11 list, list is Andrea Raible.

12 MS. ANDREA RAIBLE: Hello. My name is --
13 I know it's gonna put me in five seconds, so I'm just
14 gonna -- Hello, I'm still Andrea Raible and I'm excited
15 to be here today and to see some of the changes that
16 might be happening in the CRC. I was very excited
17 about -- to hear Commissioner Mapp discuss some of the
18 potential public education opportunities that are gonna
19 be coming forward. And you're right, it is never too
20 early to get the kids involved.

21 So I hope when we're talking about public
22 education, deterrence isn't the only thing we're
23 talking about. We address minors because minors are
24 welcome as part of our medical program. A lot of time,
25 those patients and their parents are really struggling

1 for resources, or community, or connection to their
2 doctors. So please bear in mind medical minors when
3 you are going forward with these public education
4 programs.

5 I would also like to thank Executive
6 Director Riggs for coming forward and talking about the
7 THC numbers and the microbial test results that we're
8 seeing in New Jersey. Across the country, those are
9 some of the most questionable trends we're seeing.

10 And as multiple labs start to push back on
11 lab shopping or just unreasonable market variants or
12 labeling inaccuracies, it's important that we're
13 starting to look at the data here and really consider
14 what that means and consider what that means when
15 you're making decisions on waivers like extending
16 expiration dates.

17 And I am excited you have a new waiver
18 portal online too. I'm really excited to see that you
19 guys aren't just line stamping anything, that safety is
20 being brought into the discussions when you are making
21 these decisions and when you're making these
22 enforcement decisions. I would like to see further
23 investigation into the labs and into some of the
24 practices.

25 I know a lot of the enforcements today

1 were for retailers and cultivators. Perhaps, you know,
2 if we're looking into the lab licenses too, we might
3 see some of the answers for some of these trends. And
4 I appreciate that some of the enforcement today scaled
5 with the size of the offenses because allowing certain
6 problems to go unchecked for a long period of time
7 doesn't mean that they don't -- they don't escalate.

8 I appreciate your willingness to work with
9 license holders ahead of time. We don't wanna be
10 overly punitive in this industry. We wanna see it
11 grow. Everyone makes mistakes. There's a learning
12 curve, it takes time to dial in cultivation rooms or
13 validate methods, but understanding that there has to
14 be an end to that grace period where we can really see
15 true accountability to be able to trust in the
16 industry.

17 I just appreciate that you're trying to
18 take steps forward on that and I look forward to
19 helping any way I can as a patient and encouraging
20 others to come speak up. Hopefully, we'll hear more in
21 the future and hopefully, you'll have more
22 opportunities for specific discussions like town halls
23 on science or the medical program again. Thank you.
24 Have a great day.

25 THE SECRETARY: The next person on the

1 list is Ean Thompson.

2 MR. EAN THOMPSON: Hello, CRC. My name
3 is Ean Thompson. I am a supervisor with Mister Jones
4 Dispensary. I've come here today to speak on behalf of
5 my employer and the business that he is trying to
6 start.

7 With a proven track record in, in running
8 successful businesses he's an individual that will
9 actually know how to get the job done when it comes to
10 getting the store ready and opening in terms of what we
11 can bring to the town of Little Falls. Just from the
12 revenue generated from that 2 percent sales tax, it can
13 go to funding multiple things throughout the town like
14 recreational facilities, youth programs that you
15 already mentioned, clean community programs.

16 So a lot of that money that the store will
17 generate just from being a proposed multi-million
18 dollar store can go to great benefit for the town and
19 the area around it. Not only that, it will generate a
20 bunch of jobs for a lot of people who are looking to
21 get into the industry as well and opportunities to grow
22 like myself who want to eventually become things like
23 inventory managers, buyers, positions like that.

24 With the backing from Ascend with times
25 right now where a bunch of smaller stores or larger

1 companies are closing their doors, having the backing
2 from a proven company like Ascend will help keep those
3 doors open and we'll be able to keep providing quality
4 cannabis to the people around us. Thank you for your
5 time.

6 THE SECRETARY: Now, now moving on to the,
7 the people deciding to call in. Mollie Hartman Lustig,
8 if you're in the room -- all right, I see you, Mollie.
9 Give me one second. Mollie, you have the room.

10 MS. MOLLIE HERTMAN LUSTIG: Okay, thank
11 you. Good afternoon, commissioners, staff and members
12 of the public. My name is Mollie Hartman Lustig and
13 I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak with you
14 today. I am here to respectfully request that the
15 commission revisit and improve several critical areas
16 in the adult use application process, particularly
17 around disclosure forms, contract approval and
18 fingerprinting. And then finally, if I have time, a
19 separate issue distressed licensees.

20 So number one is, I would really urge the
21 commission to consider creating distinct disclosure
22 packages for different types of disclosures involved in
23 the application process, including a package for
24 ownership or interest holders, financial sources,
25 management services contractors and vendors.

1 Each of these packages would contain role-
2 specific guidance, document checklists and example
3 forms similar in tone and format to the notice of
4 application acceptance, which you guys have already put
5 together. And that's been an extremely helpful
6 resource, but we haven't seen that broken down for
7 these different, I guess, categories.

8 Let's, let's, let's put it. This would
9 change -- this change would allow applicants to give
10 clear and official instructions to their investors and
11 contractors, reducing some of the errors and delays,
12 you know, caused over confusion -- caused by confusion
13 over who must disclose when and what's required, which,
14 you know, the, the commission spent time talking about
15 today. And I think there's work to be done on both
16 sides.

17 As one simple example, Page 3 of the
18 current entity disclosure form still says insert name
19 of New Jersey ATC. And so this outdated reference can
20 be really easily replaced with AU applicant or AU
21 licensee. Immediately after that, the question, what
22 is the nature of the entity requesting suitability?
23 There's a limited list here. And so there could be a
24 dropdown menu or checkbox for licenses, Classes 1
25 through 6. So small fixes like this can have a big

1 impact on compliance and efficiency and I bet it would
2 also make the staff's job easier too.

3 So the second thing is to reinforce this
4 requirement for unsigned agreements, but acknowledge
5 business realities. So I know that the CRC today and
6 in prior meetings has indicated that all licensees must
7 submit agreements in an unsigned form for the CRC to
8 review before any money changes hands. And this
9 requirement of course is essential for oversight and
10 fairness. However, with that being said I am
11 respectfully requesting that the commission reflect on
12 the business realities that applicants are facing and
13 the legislative intent behind the rules.

14 Access to capital is one of the biggest
15 barriers in the industry and we are seeing small and
16 large companies failing every single day in our state.
17 Delays of even a few weeks in executing a note, a
18 lease, or a contract can sink a startup, particularly
19 minority or equity applicants. So from --

20 THE SECRETARY: 30 seconds.

21 MS. LUSTIG: -- okay. So from a
22 legislative perspective, restrictions on new serious
23 interest rates and shelf space limits of course are put
24 in place to protect the little guys. But what I'm
25 asking for is some consideration for earlier

1 submission, faster review agreements, especially simple
2 promissory notes where there's no ownership or equity
3 considerations at play. Consider some provisional
4 approvals for standard form agreements if applicants
5 choose to use them. And also recognize the urgent pace
6 of real world business.

7 With my time limited, let people get
8 fingerprinted as soon as humanly possible. Please
9 don't wait until an application is deemed, quote,
10 "first review," because by that time we are talking
11 months and months of delay, especially leading into the
12 school months where lots of volunteers have to get
13 fingerprinted to help our kids out and get on buses and
14 teams and all that jazz. And I'll save my last comment
15 for the next meeting. Thank you so much. And thank
16 you again for your thoughtful leadership.

17 THE SECRETARY: I'm going to go through
18 the list one more time for the people that didn't get a
19 chance to speak on the list. Keith Wood, Dr. Alyza
20 Brevard Rodriguez, Thomas Norcia, Reginald Green,
21 Smrita Choubey, Victoria Vasquez, Jeffrey Miller.
22 That's...

23 Chairwoman, this will conclude the
24 registered speakers we have for today's public meeting.

25 CHAIR: Thank you. And thank you to

1 everybody who shared their suggestions, their
2 experiences, and their concerns with the commission
3 today. This concludes the business that we have before
4 us today. And with that, I move that we adjourn. Is
5 there a second?

6 MS. MAPP: Second.

7 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is
8 there any discussion on this motion to adjourn?
9 Hearing none, all those in favor of adjourning say aye?

10 MS. MAPP: Aye.

11 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay? Any
12 abstentions? Motion passes. So the time is now 3:20
13 and we are adjourned. Thank you everyone for, for
14 coming out today and we will see you at the next
15 meeting. Thank you.

16 (Meeting concluded)

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