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Lt. Governor

DIANNA HOUENOU, Chair
KRISTA NASH, Vice Chair
AMELIA MAPP, Commissioner
CHRIS RIGGS, Acting Executive Director

RESOLUTION 2025-<u>08-07-11</u> IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST DANK POET DISPENSARY LLC

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 24:6I-35(a)(15), the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission ("Commission") shall adopt rules and regulations, which shall include civil penalties for the failure to comply with regulations adopted pursuant to this section; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-20.4(a), during an onsite assessment, a review of financial records, or other Commission review of the license holder and its operations, if the Commission identifies a violation of the Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act, P.L.2021, c. 16, N.J.S.A. 24:6I-31 et seq., (the "Act") or the implementing Personal-Use Cannabis Rules (the "Personal-Use Regulations"), the Commission shall provide notice of the violation, including an official written report of the findings and the nature of the violation, to the cannabis business or testing laboratory within seven business days following the onsite assessment or other identification of the violation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-20.4(b), unless otherwise specified by the Commission, within 20 business days of receipt of the notice of violation, the cannabis business or testing laboratory shall correct the violation(s) and notify the Commission, in writing, of any corrective actions taken to correct the violations, and the date of implementation of such corrective actions; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-9.5(a), a license holder shall not allow any cannabis item or alcohol to be consumed on the premises or administrative offices of the cannabis business, or in public areas in the vicinity of such premises or administrative offices, except cannabis items may be consumed in a cannabis consumption area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-14.3(d), the cannabis retailer shall not sell to a consumer in a single sales transaction: (1) more than 28.35 grams (one ounce) of usable cannabis; (2) more than four grams of solid cannabis concentrate or four milliliters of liquid cannabis concentrate (oil); (3) vaporized formulation containing more than four milliliters of liquid cannabis concentrate (oil); (4) multiple ingestible cannabis-infused products containing an aggregate total of more than 1,000 milligrams of THC; or (5) more than 28.35 grams (one ounce), or the equivalent, of some combination of usable cannabis and cannabis products; and

- **WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-14.3(e), the cannabis retailer shall make a good faith effort to prevent a consumer from exceeding one ounce of usable cannabis or the equivalent weight in cannabis products, in multiple sales transactions; and
- **WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-14.3(k), the cannabis retailer shall collect any tax from a consumer required by the Act and regulations; and
- WHEREAS, Dank Poet Dispensary failed to adhere to the Personal-Use regulations as it relates to preventing on-site consumption, complying with product sales limits, and collecting the required New Jersey sales tax on purchased products; and
- **WHEREAS,** on April 11, 2025, a Notice of Violation was issued to Dank Poet Dispensary (INV-59-25); and
- **WHEREAS,** on April 15, 2025, Dank Poet Dispensary responded to the Notice of Violation and provided a corrective action plan within 20 business days of receipt of the Notice of Violation; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-20.5(a), in response to a violation of any provision of the Act or regulations, the Commission is authorized to take enforcement action or impose sanctions upon a license holder. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, civil monetary penalties; suspension, revocation, non-renewal, or denial of a license; referral to State or local law enforcement, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-20.6, -20.7, and -20.8; or any combination thereof; and
- **WHEREAS,** pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-20.6(b), a monetary penalty imposed by the Commission on a license holder pursuant to regulations may not exceed \$500,000 per major violation or \$50,000 per any other license violation; and
- **WHEREAS,** pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-20.6(c), a violation by each entity or person per day shall constitute a separate incident for purposes of calculating the number of violations; and
- **WHEREAS,** pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-20.6(d), the Commission may impose greater penalties for successive violations up to the maximum amounts; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-20.6(f), the Commission may, in the Commission's sole discretion, consider additional factors in determining the penalty for each violation. Such factors may include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Any prior violations that the license holder has admitted to or was found to have engaged in:
 - 2. Good faith measures by the license holder to self-report or prevent the violation;
 - 3. The license holder's record of compliance with the laws and rules pertaining to personal use cannabis;
 - 4. Corrective action(s) taken by the license holder related to the current violation or prior

violations;

- 5. Willfulness and deliberateness of the violation;
- 6. Likelihood of reoccurrence of the violation; and
- 7. Violations involving damage or danger to the life, health, welfare, safety, or property of any person; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-20.7(a), violations shall be categorized as follows:

- 1. Category I, which is the exhibition of a pattern and practice of violating the requirements of the rules, posing a serious risk of harm to the health, safety, or welfare of consumers or personnel;
- 2. Category II, which is the failure to comply with administrative requirements, such that the licensee or permittee poses an immediate and serious risk of harm or actual harm to the health, safety, or welfare of consumers, personnel, or the general public, including, but not limited to, transfer of cannabis to a person under 21 years of age;
- 3. Category III, which is the submission of fraudulent, false, or misleading information, as to a material fact, to the Commission, or falsifying or concealing any record required to be maintained by the license holder;
- 4. Category IV, which is the failure of any owner, principal, management services contractor, employee, or volunteer of a cannabis business license holder or testing laboratory to register with the Commission and be issued a Cannabis Business Identification Card; or failure to complete training course, or failure to be in physical possession of their Cannabis Business Identification Card while acting in the course of their duties; and
- 5. Category V, which shall consist of other violations of the Commission's rules, or violations of valid ordinances established by municipalities that do not constitute a major violation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission that Dank Poet Dispensary violated the personal-use regulations by failing to prevent on-site consumption, comply with product sales limits, and collect the required New Jersey sales tax on purchased products. The Commission further finds that the violations did not pose an immediate and serious risk of harm or actual harm to the health, safety, or welfare of consumers, personnel, or the general public.

The Commission has determined to impose a penalty of <u>\$7,500.00</u> against Dank Poet Dispensary pursuant to violations of the regulations. A Notice of Enforcement shall be provided to the license holder in accordance with this Resolution and the Commission's regulations.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:30-20.6(i), the license holder may request an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and 52:14F-1 et seq., to contest the Commission's imposition of a civil monetary penalty for any license violation within 14 days of receipt of the Notice of Enforcement Action.

Submitted by:

Dianna Houenou, Chair

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Cannabis Regulatory Commission at its meeting held on the 7th day of August 2025.

Dave Tuason, Chief Counsel

Vote on the Approval of This Resolution	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Chairwoman Houenou			X				
Commissioner Mapp		X	X				
Vice Chair Nash	X		X				