



State of New Jersey
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

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

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

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

RESOLUTION 2025-10-01-07
INVOKING THE DOCTRINE OF NECESSITY IN THE MATTER OF
APPLICATION #12049 (A HIGHER GROUND DISPENSARY LLC)

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission (“the Commission”), established pursuant to P.L.2019, c.153, known and cited as the “Jake Honig Compassionate Use Medical Cannabis Act,” is charged with implementing the provisions of that Act as well as P.L.2021, c.16, known and cited as the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 24:6I-24(b)(8), a majority of the total authorized membership of the commission shall be required to exercise its powers at any meeting thereof; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 24:6I-27, the New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law (“NJ COIL”) applies to all employees and members of the Commission, with limited exceptions; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with NJ COIL, one or more Commission members is ineligible from considering any matters pertaining to application #12049, an application from A Higher Ground Dispensary LLC; and

WHEREAS, Chair Houenou has recused herself from all matters involving A Higher Ground Dispensary LLC due to a personal relationship. This recusal was filed with the State Ethics Commission in accordance with standard protocols; and

WHEREAS, due to the recusal, the Commission lacks a sufficient number of members necessary to take a valid vote on application #12049; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 24:6I-36(b)(1)(c) states that, regarding applications for an annual license, the Commission shall verify the information contained in the application and review the qualifications for the applicable license class, set forth in statute and regulations, and not more than 90 days after the receipt of an application, make a determination as to whether the application is approved or denied, or that the Commission requires more time to adequately review the application; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 24:6I-36 also directs that the Commission shall approve a license application that meets the requirements unless the Commission finds by clear and convincing evidence that the applicant would be manifestly unsuitable to perform the activities for the applicable license class for which licensure is sought;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission finds the following:

1. The Commission does not need more time to adequately review application #12049;
2. There is a pressing need for action; That is, action on application #12049 is required by law and the matter cannot be laid aside until another date because the Commission does not need more time to review the application; and
3. The Commission is unable to act without the members in conflict taking part.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as a last resort, the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission hereby invokes the Doctrine of Necessity so that those who were ineligible to consider this matter can participate in taking required action on the matter of application #12049 on October 1, 2025.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

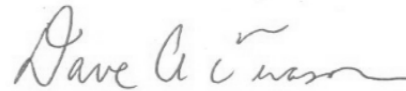
Submitted by:



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 1st day of October 2025.



Dave Tuason, Chief Counsel

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