



**State of New Jersey**  
**CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
P.O. BOX 216  
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0216

MIKIE SHERRILL  
*Governor*

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL  
*Lt. Governor*

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

**NEW JERSEY**  
**CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**Thursday, February 12, 2026**

1 COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

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3 DIANNA HOUENOU, Chair

4 KRISTA G. NASH, Vice Chair

5 AMELIA MAPP

6 HARRIS LAUFER

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10 ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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12 CHRISTOPHER RIGGS, Acting Executive Director

13 WESLEY MCWHITE III, Director of Diversity and Inclusion

14 DAVE TUASON, Chief Counsel

15 DANIEL SAID, Secretary

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1 CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. The time  
2 is 11:02 and I'm calling this meeting to order.  
3 Welcome to this meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis  
4 Regulatory Commission. Mr. Said, can you please read  
5 the notice of the public meeting?

6 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman, this is a  
7 regularly scheduled meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis  
8 Regulatory Commission's 2026 annual meeting schedule.  
9 Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in  
10 accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public  
11 Meetings Act.

12 Notice of the meeting was provided to the  
13 Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record, Courier-Post, Star  
14 Ledger, and the Trenton Times on December 8th, 2025.  
15 The agenda and information regarding the in-person  
16 meeting and the ability to live stream was also posted  
17 on the CRC website. The meeting time and location has  
18 also been posted on the website of the New Jersey  
19 Cannabis Regulatory Commission and with the office of  
20 the Secretary of the State.

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

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

24 COMM. LAUFER: Present.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp? Vice

1 Chair Nash?

2 VICE CHAIR: Present.

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 investigation updates. These are  
9 discussions that are not shared with the public. We  
10 believe the executive session should take about two  
11 hours.

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

14 COMM. LAUFER: Motion.

15 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer --

16 VICE CHAIR: Second.

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

21 TG: Aye.

22 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay. Any  
23 abstentions? Motion passes. So as Mr. Said mentioned,  
24 we expect the executive session to last approximately  
25 two hours. We will leave the live stream running

1 during that time.

2           For anybody who is in the -- the room with  
3 us in person today, our staff who will remain in this  
4 room will not be able to answer any questions about the  
5 matters that are up for -- for consideration today.  
6 And so we can expect the -- the public portion of this  
7 meeting to resume at approximately 1:05. Thanks  
8 everyone.

9 [END FIRST PUBLIC SESSION]

10 [EXECUTIVE SESSION - OFF RECORD]

11 [SECOND PUBLIC SESSION]

12           CHAIR: All right. Welcome back. The  
13 time is 1:27 and we'll resume the public portion of  
14 this meeting. Before we begin, I do want to note we  
15 are experiencing some technical difficulties with our  
16 YouTube live stream. You can still access our meeting  
17 through the Zoom link on our public meetings page. So  
18 we do know a lot of folks watch on YouTube. So if you  
19 know anybody who is having trouble, please direct them  
20 to our website, [nj.gov/cannabis/meetings](http://nj.gov/cannabis/meetings) and from there  
21 they can access the Zoom link.

22           Again, you will need to go to our website,  
23 [nj.gov/cannabis/meetings](http://nj.gov/cannabis/meetings) and click on the Zoom link.  
24 Thank you. And thank you to our technical team  
25 managing through -- through these technical issues.

1 So, with that, Mr. Said, you can please announce the  
2 next agenda item.

3 THE SECRETARY: Next up on the agenda is  
4 approving the minutes of both the commission's open and  
5 executive sessions held on December 17, 2025 and  
6 January 18, 2026. The minutes have been shared with  
7 the members of the commission prior to this meeting.

8 CHAIR: Thank you. If there are no  
9 corrections requested, is there a motion on the meeting  
10 minutes?

11 COMM. MAPP: So moved.

12 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp moves to approve  
13 the meeting minutes. Is there a second?

14 VICE CHAIR: Second.

15 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Nash. Any  
16 discussion on this motion?

17 COMM. LAUFER: Yeah, I have to abstain for  
18 December, so I'll abstain on the motion because they're  
19 together.

20 CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you,  
21 Commissioner Laufer. Any further discussion on the --  
22 this motion? Hearing none is -- all those in favor of  
23 the motion say aye?

24 COMM. MAPP: Aye.

25 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

1 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay. Any  
2 abstentions?

3 COMM. LAUFER: I abstain.

4 CHAIR: One abstention. Thank you. The  
5 motion passes.

6 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
7 agenda is the chair's report.

8 CHAIR: All right. Happy Black History  
9 Month everyone. Because today's chair's report is  
10 actually going to be quite a little long, I'm gonna try  
11 my best to go as quickly as we can. Starting with some  
12 industry reminders. So for -- we know a lot of  
13 businesses want to host events, and so I just wanted to  
14 share a few simple dos and don'ts for hosting events.

15 Remember that under the law, our  
16 businesses cannot sell or even give away food or  
17 drinks, so you cannot be a pass-through entity giving  
18 away or selling drinks. You can, however, ask your  
19 patron or allow your patrons to bring in their own food  
20 or order food from elsewhere to be brought to the  
21 premises. For advertisements, we -- we do see a lot of  
22 businesses, especially dispensaries, advertising their  
23 products, their events, and that's all well and good.

24 You just need to make sure that you're  
25 doing the appropriate age check for before engaging in

1 any advertisements. We have some strict advertising  
2 rules that are written into the law. And so if you  
3 have questions about whether your proposed advertising  
4 is compliant with the -- the law and our regulations,  
5 please contact your compliance officer. We wanna make  
6 sure people are advertising in a safe and responsible  
7 manner.

8           We have seen -- we have been -- we have  
9 received reports of some businesses hosting raffles or  
10 doing bingos, those are -- you have to register with  
11 the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission in  
12 order to host raffles or bingos. And most businesses,  
13 most of our cannabis businesses actually will not  
14 qualify for a permit, but please contact the Legalized  
15 Games of Chance Control Commission if you are  
16 interested in hosting a raffle or Bingo so that you  
17 don't get caught up in their regulatory issues as well.

18           If you've got questions, again, please  
19 contact your compliance officer. It is better to ask  
20 questions about your proposed activity or what you want  
21 to do beforehand, rather than risk getting cited for a  
22 violation and encountering issues there. Next, as  
23 businesses continue to negotiate business agreements,  
24 we just want to -- hold on, I'm gonna pause. Is there  
25 -- are we good with technology? All right. Thank you

1 -- thank you. All right.

2           Everybody take a moment, mute your  
3 devices, and then we'll resume. Okay. So again, as  
4 businesses continue to navigate business agreements and  
5 transactions, we just want to share some reminders.  
6 Transparency among business partners is really  
7 important for our companies. We have seen companies  
8 encounter problems when one owner isn't being honest or  
9 transparent with the other owners.

10           When compensation for goods and services  
11 is charged, we have seen agreements come across our  
12 desks that utilize a range of compensation methods. So  
13 we want businesses and business owners to be mindful of  
14 when compensation is taking the form of a -- a share of  
15 gross revenue as opposed to net revenue or as opposed  
16 to a flat amount. We've even seen leases or sub leases  
17 that charge a flat amount plus a percentage of sales  
18 revenue.

19           So we just want businesses to make  
20 informed decisions for -- for their operations and we  
21 just want everybody to be on notice. Also, you need to  
22 be thinking about product cycle, product revenue cycles  
23 and invoice due dates. We know this has been an issue.  
24 It's even been a topic of conversation at some of our  
25 national conferences that the CRC has attended, right.

1 So we find that a lot of businesses have been having to  
2 negotiate with their suppliers some extended payment --  
3 - extended times to submit payments.

4           So you need to just be mindful when you're  
5 making your projections and your business accounting.  
6 Keep in mind the product cycles that you have and the  
7 revenues that are gonna come in from the purchase --  
8 from the products that you're offering. Also, think  
9 about the ability to scale operations and drive down  
10 your costs.

11           Now the ability to scale was built into  
12 the CREAMM Act for a small group of companies which  
13 incentivizes cost inflations down the supply chain,  
14 making it extremely challenging for other newly created  
15 businesses to sustain themselves in a market that is  
16 heavily controlled by a select handful of growers.

17           Now, our rules do allow you to start small  
18 and grow your revenue, grow your business as your  
19 revenues increase, so you don't have to bite off more  
20 than you can chew. We have seen quite a few businesses  
21 finding themselves in a predicament when they've bitten  
22 off more than they can chew. So be mindful, you can  
23 start small and grow along with your business.

24           So some common -- wanna move on to some  
25 common pitfalls for applications. Though we have seen

1 significant reductions in the time that it takes to  
2 process our applications which Director Riggs will  
3 expand on later, we still have businesses that are  
4 unable to move forward in the application process  
5 because of incomplete applications. So the top reasons  
6 for these cures continue to be incomplete or missing  
7 disclosure forms, disclosure forms that are not  
8 notarized, missing or outdated tax returns.

9           And I want to give a shout out to our  
10 director of licensing and the licensing team that goes  
11 through all these applications and tries to chase  
12 applicants for missing documents. For -- and in terms  
13 of missing documents, we have seen for investor and  
14 franchise agreements, you must submit all of the  
15 documents that are part of that larger transaction.  
16 This includes all attachments and exhibits. We do see  
17 a lot of businesses that don't provide the full picture  
18 with their initial submissions.

19           Avoid extended review times by submitting  
20 all documents, attachments and exhibits related to your  
21 agreements. And remember that the fastest way to  
22 getting a license is to have all of your application  
23 materials complete and submitted properly. Moving onto  
24 compliance side. So getting your license is only the  
25 beginning. I know we -- there are a lot of business

1 owners here and they can attest that getting a license  
2 is only the start of a long journey.

3 Compliance is really, does need to be on  
4 people's minds here. So standard operating procedures  
5 or your SOPs, they really should be your lifeline for  
6 compliance. They're not just words on a piece of paper  
7 because if you treat them that way, you run substantial  
8 risk of committing violations, messing up your own  
9 record keeping and internal accounting and spending  
10 many hours cleaning up the mess later. We have had  
11 several businesses encounter inventory management and  
12 record keeping issues that took them hours to undo.

13 So all our -- I encourage all of our  
14 companies to -- to review subchapter nine of the rules  
15 plus the subchapter that applies to your specific  
16 activity. Ensure that your staff know what to do in  
17 the case of emergencies. And you can even consider  
18 doing mock exercises, like mock scenarios or desk  
19 tabletop exercises to make sure that everybody  
20 understands how to how to act in various situations.  
21 And oh, as always, if you've got questions, ask your  
22 compliance officer.

23 Lastly, in terms of the industry updates.  
24 Want to share some updates on the hemp front. So a new  
25 law enacted last month restricts the sale of

1 intoxicating products derived from hemp. Starting  
2 April 13th products with more than 0.4 milligrams of  
3 total THC can only be sold by Class 5 cannabis  
4 retailers. Liquor stores can sell intoxicating hemp  
5 infused drinks, but they will face -- they will have  
6 some new requirements starting in November of this  
7 year.

8           Now the law does immediately prohibit  
9 selling hemp derived products or drinks online, selling  
10 hemp infused drinks through vending machines, making or  
11 distributing any synthetic cannabinoids or selling any  
12 THC in any detectable amount to anybody who is under 21  
13 not -- not including medicinal cannabis patients. We  
14 do have FAQs designed specific for this new law that  
15 are -- that is available on our website. If you go to  
16 our main page, you should get a popup that will link  
17 you to the FAQs, sorry, the frequently asked questions.

18           Now as we near the NJCRC's fifth birthday,  
19 I want to highlight some of the successes that we've  
20 had in simultaneously standing up both a new government  
21 agency and a new regulated industry. Starting with the  
22 industry itself, you know, the commission significantly  
23 expanded medical cannabis access points and launched  
24 the adult use market in just a year.

25           Our efforts to promote responsible and

1 equitable industry, both inclusive of both medical and  
2 the adult use markets were and continue to be driven by  
3 some specific markers, tangible markers, focusing on  
4 equal opportunity rather than equal outcomes. You  
5 know, everybody seems to be a free market capitalist  
6 right up until they get their own license.

7           And then it seems that a lot of people  
8 mysteriously have a sudden change of heart and want the  
9 commission to impose a lot of protectionist measures  
10 that essentially box everyone else out of the game and  
11 guarantee their own company's financial viability. We  
12 want our businesses to succeed. We do -- the  
13 commission genuinely wants to see our businesses  
14 thrive, and our New Jersey operators realize their  
15 dreams of setting up a cannabis establishment.

16           Now, it was reported in 2020, five years  
17 ago, that -- sorry, now going on six years ago, that  
18 there was a fear that the cannabis industry in New  
19 Jersey would turn into a -- an -- a small industry that  
20 is not reflective of New Jersey's diversity. In  
21 response to that fear, I said, it's a legitimate fear  
22 that if left unabated, the forces of capitalism and  
23 bias will result in a select few, mostly white men, who  
24 will control and profit from a legalized cannabis  
25 industry.

1           But it's a concern that you have to worry  
2 about only if we don't take affirmative steps to make  
3 sure it doesn't happen. And we do that by making sure  
4 the industry that we set up is one that does let people  
5 have a meaningful opportunity to enter the industry,  
6 regardless of their background, by lowering barriers to  
7 entry and prioritizing equity.

8           Before the commission started in 2021, New  
9 Jersey forced applicants to compete against each other  
10 for a small number of medicinal permits. The  
11 commission broke away from that mold and set up an open  
12 industry accessible to all. And that's why we have a  
13 greater portion of our market represented by diversely  
14 owned businesses as compared to other states.

15           The commission also finds solutions for  
16 businesses rather than running other -- sorry, rather  
17 than running other people's businesses for them. Our  
18 vice chair once said to me that it's up to the  
19 businesses to be their own success story. And even  
20 Commissioner Mapp said to me once, you know, we are not  
21 in the business of operating your business. So we  
22 educate.

23           We set up numerous round table discussions  
24 with business owners to hear -- to hear their  
25 experiences, so that we can help companies help

1 themselves. We offer options so that companies can  
2 make the best choice for their situation. We come up  
3 with creative solutions. The permitting and licensing  
4 committee is working on cooperative purchase agreements  
5 guidance to give our small business owners a way to  
6 help drive down their costs.

7           The commission also encourages shared  
8 responsibility for equity. You know, doing equity work  
9 takes a collective effort. State government certainly  
10 needs to take deliberate steps to avoid creating an  
11 uneven playing field by giving unfair advantages to  
12 some companies over others.

13           But banks and investors, landlords,  
14 suppliers and local governments also need to allow  
15 people an equal opportunity to participate in the  
16 industry without prejudice and without having every  
17 projected incoming dollar squeezed out of them before  
18 they even open their doors.

19           When a business fails, sometimes it's been  
20 easy to blame the wrong conditions. It's been easy to  
21 blame the person who didn't give you a license sooner,  
22 or the town that didn't opt in immediately, or even the  
23 idea that there are too many businesses in town. But  
24 we already know what the biggest obstacles are for  
25 businesses, the ability to scale operations. Right?

1           We have a fewer than a dozen companies  
2 that control more than half of the market share in New  
3 Jersey. Requirements that are written into the law and  
4 cost money, but have little to no nexus to a company's  
5 ability to operate safely or responsibly. And the  
6 ability to get startup capital in a society that is  
7 already contending with systemic inequities in economic  
8 opportunities.

9           So, when businesses have to spend  
10 thousands of dollars for municipal licenses, five  
11 figure monthly rents for their facilities, give 30% of  
12 gross revenues for their management services  
13 contractor, and 30-day deadlines for inventory  
14 inventory -- inventory invoices. It begs the question,  
15 who is expected to to succeed under these conditions?

16           Private sector has an enormous role to  
17 play in ensuring equity is a reality. And sadly, I  
18 believe the private sector, many in the private sector,  
19 are falling short. We do see a number of great actors  
20 who have been incredibly collaborative in reaching out  
21 to the commission, wanting to provide opportunities and  
22 wanting to discuss policy options for the state to  
23 provide opportunities for individuals. But we continue  
24 to see people gouging business owners on rent and --  
25 and the availability of property too. And that is

1 really stifling the industry.

2           Our industry also has been adapting to  
3 evolving cannabis issues. We've been modifying policy  
4 where possible, issuing guidance to fill in gaps, and  
5 finding creative solutions to problems facing the  
6 industry. Now, when it comes to the commission's  
7 organizational integrity, first and foremost, when  
8 setting up a new agency, you have to properly manage  
9 expectations.

10           It's important to remember that cannabis  
11 legalization was never going to be the silver bullet  
12 that kills racism or the vestiges of racism, or the  
13 systems that exclude people from economic, political,  
14 and social opportunities. Legalization is and always  
15 has been one piece of a much larger set of reforms  
16 needed to ensure that government delivers meaningful  
17 opportunities for New Jerseyans to thrive.

18           Setting proper expectations also requires  
19 a willingness for this agency to say what we mean and  
20 mean what we say. And that leads me to the  
21 communication with stakeholders. You know, we have,  
22 through concentrated outreach, round tables, surveys,  
23 frequently asked questions and policy discussions,  
24 we've solicited input from -- from the members of the  
25 public and interested entrepreneurs on rules that would

1 govern the industry. And we've changed how many  
2 people, certainly not all, see and interact with  
3 government.

4 I wanna give a particular shout out to our  
5 Office of Diversity Inclusion and our communications  
6 team for the work that they've done to contribute to  
7 those efforts. Our commission has also been, over the  
8 last five years, increasingly data driven. Having  
9 agency actions be driven by facts and data rather than  
10 by the loudest voice in the room.

11 Our director, Riggs, comes every meeting  
12 with loads of data. Sometimes it's like drinking water  
13 from a fire hose, but that it's critically important  
14 for this data analysis to be conducted and provided to  
15 the board. And so I wanna thank Directors Riggs,  
16 Terranova (ph), and Urbish for their collaboration and  
17 making sure that every action that we take is supported  
18 by data.

19 And lastly, giving value to the rule --  
20 lastly, the commission has given value to its rules by  
21 holding ourselves and our businesses accountable for  
22 their actions. This promotes a safe and responsible  
23 industry. Maintaining transparency in our agency's  
24 actions, showing what we're doing and why is critical  
25 to building trust among the regulated community. When

1 it comes to the businesses, we have to hold everyone to  
2 the same standard.

3           Our industry has room for companies, both  
4 large and small, and so a lot of people have, over the  
5 last five years, unfairly demonized multi-state  
6 operators just because of they are large companies.  
7 And I want to note -- I wanna push back on that because  
8 just because a company has been successful enough to  
9 operate in multiple states, does not inherently mean  
10 the company should be scrutinized while others are not.

11           As demonstrated in our public meetings and  
12 on our website, there are bad actors that are small  
13 businesses and bad actors that are large corporations.  
14 I don't believe that a company's revenue should be a  
15 determining factor in whether a particular penalty  
16 should be imposed. The CRC is open to payment plans,  
17 making payment plans available for businesses that  
18 can't pay a lump sum for any fine, but the  
19 egregiousness of a violation should not be diminished  
20 simply by the size of a company.

21           If we are all transparent and clear with  
22 each other, if we give one another the opportunity to  
23 thrive responsibly, and give each other the tools we  
24 need to make informed decisions, that's when we can  
25 call New Jersey's industry a success story. And I

1   wanna thank everybody at the commission for bringing  
2   that to fruition. Because I do believe that we have  
3   done a great job in setting up a -- an agency with  
4   integrity, and that upholds our standards both inside  
5   and out. And that concludes my chair's report for  
6   today.

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

9                   CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is  
10  yours.

11                   DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair, and  
12  thank you for that report. Next slide, please. So  
13  updates on dispensary openings. Again, we continue as  
14  an industry to open up these dispensaries as quickly as  
15  we possibly can in a safe and compliant way. We have  
16  more than -- can you please go back? It's okay. More  
17  than 299 medical and recreational dispensaries open in  
18  all 21 counties. There's a list of some new  
19  dispensaries there on the side that have just opened  
20  since our last public meeting.

21                   Licensing update, total licenses approved  
22  as of February 5th, 2026, a total of over a little over  
23  3000 applications have been submitted to the CRC  
24  through the portal. Of those, around 2,500 of those  
25  applications have been approved by the board. 331 of

1 the applications are still under review in our office  
2 of licensing.

3           202 of those applications are pending  
4 resubmission following a cure because they either  
5 didn't submit something or the application's  
6 incomplete. And then 157 of them are with our  
7 investigations team in the Office of Compliance and  
8 Investigation undergoing a probative review.

9           Total licenses approved as of today, 1,662  
10 conditionals, 477 conditional to annual conversions,  
11 319 annual licenses, along with 86 expanded alternative  
12 treatment centers. Today up for consideration, we have  
13 one medical satellite location from a 2019 RFA award  
14 winner.

15           Five conversions to annual conversions --  
16 conversion to annual licenses, six annual licenses, one  
17 expanded alternative treatment center, one alternative  
18 treatment center administrative extension. And then we  
19 also have 49 annual license renewals with one  
20 administrative extension before the board.

21           Cannibal sales and revenue totals, 2025, I  
22 think, of note here, you can see in quarter four of  
23 2025, we went over 300 million -- \$324 million in sales  
24 in that month. That's the first time we eclipsed over  
25 300 million in -- in a quarter of sales for cannabis.

1 So that shows that sales are still large. They're --  
2 they're going in the right direction. Everything's  
3 positive in that regard.

4 Workforce growth. So we -- we have a  
5 unique industry where everybody needs to be badged and  
6 they come through the CRC, so we're able to tell and  
7 give really good numbers on the workforce. The total  
8 workforce now in -- in the cannabis space is over  
9 12,000. It's almost 13,000 people that are working now  
10 in the cannabis workforce.

11 Average new hires per month in 2025 are  
12 567 a month, and in January of '26, we had 512. So  
13 that growth continues. There's a trend in continuing  
14 to hire and continuing to employ people that are  
15 qualified to work in this space.

16 New business openings. We did this by  
17 year. On the bottom, you see the bar chart. You know,  
18 we had a huge explosion in business growth in 2024 with  
19 191 new businesses opening up or growing or getting  
20 licenses. In 2025, we had 144 businesses. In -- in  
21 2026, so far, we have 11 new businesses for a total  
22 number of 541 open businesses with new businesses in  
23 2025 coming in at about 144 businesses opening up.

24 Another chart, just showing the, kind of  
25 the type of business. So adult use retailers obviously

1 continue to dominate the new businesses. The good news  
2 is that we're starting to see more cultivators come  
3 online and more manufacturers come online to sort of  
4 have more diverse product type and have additional  
5 cultivators supply in the market. But this just gives  
6 you a sense of where the type of business that opened  
7 in 2025 stands.

8                   Application cycles. As the chair  
9 mentioned, I was gonna go over some of this data. So  
10 annual application cycle times have reduced by 74%  
11 since 2021. That's when we first started looking at  
12 these things and accepting applications. Obviously, we  
13 really were drinking through a fire hose with a really  
14 short staff when we -- we first started. We've been  
15 able to add additional staff and lower those cycle  
16 times.

17                   The average cycle time for an annual  
18 license now is down to 132 days in 2025. For  
19 conversion licenses, it's down to about 166 days when  
20 it was about 242 days. And then you see for  
21 conditional licenses, we're getting those approved in  
22 around 47 days.

23                   This is the distribution for annual  
24 conversions over the last 18 months. And the reason I  
25 -- this slide's relevant and something that we should

1 be looking at is because the outliers kind of skew the  
2 average, right? The average time is skewed. You'll  
3 see that 83% of the applications started and were  
4 approved since July, 2024, were approved by the board  
5 in less than 250 days.

6 In the beginning it was over 500 days.  
7 We're now down and cut that well in half to 250 days to  
8 get them through the board, get board approval, and  
9 move these folks into the -- into the industry.

10 Digitizing and automating the New Jersey  
11 Cannabis Regulatory Commission. So in the beginning of  
12 time, you know, everybody's working off of Excel  
13 spreadsheets, licensing platforms, polling data from  
14 those platforms into spreadsheets, manually inputting  
15 things, manually, reviewing data. Now we have a -- a  
16 Salesforce customer resource management system that's  
17 gonna integrate all the agents -- agency's data  
18 sources.

19 All of that will be pulled into one  
20 system. It'll allow us to create dashboards. It'll  
21 allow us to prepare quickly and more efficiently for  
22 our meeting preparation and public board meetings.  
23 Everything is going to go through this. The Salesforce  
24 platform, we're excited to roll that out. In the next  
25 several weeks, we should be up and running all through

1 Salesforce and -- and be able to have additional data,  
2 some dashboards available to the public and those types  
3 of things.

4           And with that Madam Chair, that is my  
5 Executive Director's report, but I'd like to turn the  
6 floor over to the Director of the Office of Diversity  
7 Inclusion, Wesley McWhite, to talk a little bit about a  
8 new program.

9           DIR. WESLEY MCWHITE: Wonderful. Thank  
10 you so much, Director Riggs and Madam Chair and members  
11 of the board. The New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory  
12 Commission, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and  
13 PSE&G's Energy Efficiency Program, we are proud to  
14 announce an upcoming educational webinar.

15           This webinar reflects governor -- our  
16 newest governor, new governor Mikie Sherrill, and New  
17 Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission's continued  
18 commitment to supporting sustainable, economically  
19 viable cannabis industry by connecting businesses with  
20 practical resources that can help lower operating  
21 costs.

22           This session will introduce an energy  
23 efficiency initiatives, financing options, and  
24 technical assistance available through the PSE&G  
25 programs that can support facility -- facility

1 development and upgrade across -- upgrades across the  
2 cannabis supply chain. So who is this for?

3           The webinar is designed for cannabis  
4 businesses planning gut rehabilitation, new  
5 construction, or facility retrofitting, as well as  
6 operators seeking to reduce energy cost and one -- in  
7 one particular program if those folks that think  
8 they're too far along, there is also some lookback  
9 period to some of these programs as well.

10           While these programs are open to all new  
11 Jerseyans, New Jersey businesses, many cannabis  
12 operators have not yet taken advantage of these  
13 opportunities. We do wanna state that the New Jersey  
14 Cannabis Regulatory Commission's role is limited to  
15 just hosting this informational session. New Jersey  
16 Cannabis Regulatory Commission does not determine  
17 vendor program eligibility.

18           We do not administer the incentives or  
19 endorse any specific program, vendor or financing  
20 option. And all program details, eligibility  
21 determinations and participation decisions are managed  
22 solely by PSE&G. The date of the webinar is Thursday,  
23 February 26th, at one 15 to 2:30 p.m.

24           It is a virtual webinar and we are asking  
25 for folks to register in advance. And so you can scan

1 that QR code if you are watching now currently the  
2 email for all license holders and their specific  
3 contact information. This will be in your email inbox  
4 by this afternoon. And we encourage all licensees and  
5 interested -- interested businesses to register and  
6 attend. Learn which programs they may qualify for, and  
7 explore opportunities to reduce operating costs while  
8 strengthening energy efficiency across the industry.

9           If you have any questions, please contact  
10 the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at  
11 [odi@crc.nj.gov](mailto:odi@crc.nj.gov), and you can visit PSE&G's energy  
12 efficient -- efficiency website at  
13 [mybizenergy.pseg.com](http://mybizenergy.pseg.com). We're really excited to get the  
14 cannabis industry participating in this yearly --  
15 yearly program. So thank you. All done.

16           CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs and  
17 thank you Director McWhite. Yet another example of the  
18 commission working hard to find creative solutions and  
19 bring information to our businesses so that they can  
20 help identify opportunities to drive down their costs.  
21 Are there any questions for the -- from the board?  
22 Great. Then we will move on.

23           THE SECRETARY: The next item up for  
24 consideration on the agenda are the committee reports.

25           CHAIR: So we have one committee report

1 today from the Public Engagement and Education  
2 Committee. So I will turn the floor over to  
3 Commissioner Mapp.

4                   COMM. AMELIA MAPP: Thank you, Madam  
5 Chair. The Public Engagement and Education Committee  
6 is statutorily required to hold at least three meetings  
7 per year in order to solicit input from the public  
8 regarding the use of SEEF, the social equity excise  
9 fees. These hearings -- the hearings for 2026 were  
10 held on January 15th, 21st and 29 respectively. And  
11 all recordings and slides for those hearings are housed  
12 on the CRC's website, under public meetings -- under  
13 the public meetings page, and the public hearings tab.

14                   Our goal is to continue this process by  
15 holding additional hearings, which we would like to  
16 host in the -- in the summer months, so that more  
17 people can come out and attend. And we will also  
18 advertise those hearings as soon as they're scheduled  
19 so that you know when we're going to be out there.

20                   A homepage banner promoting the  
21 SEEF hearing fees -- the SEEF hearing info was set up  
22 since November 17th of 2025 for those meetings that  
23 were held back in January. And we will follow that  
24 same process for the planned meetings so that you are  
25 informed.

1           A total of 60 registrants signed up to  
2 speak at the 2026 hearings. However, there were only  
3 25 who actually spoke. And we really need to hear more  
4 from our constituents. Of those that spoke, a large  
5 majority -- a large majority represented local  
6 departments of health, community-based organizations  
7 and municipal stakeholders.

8           And the suggestions remain consistent with  
9 past recommendations. And some of them are mental  
10 health afterschool programs, apprenticeships, job  
11 skills and readiness training, food assistance, reentry  
12 and rehab services, expungement clinics and financial  
13 literacy programs.

14           All suggestions and recommendations have  
15 been documented and will be included in the official  
16 SEEF report -- SEEF report, which will be sent to the  
17 governor and the legislature upon completion.

18           The social equity excise fee is a per  
19 ounce flat fee assessed on all cannabis cultivated and  
20 sold in New Jersey's adult use cannabis market. And as  
21 required by law, the SEEF funds are to be used for  
22 social equity initiatives, which will benefit  
23 communities that were disproportionately affected by  
24 the war on drugs and the individuals who reside in  
25 them.

1           The unconfirmed total dollars for cannabis  
2 sales for 2025 are, recreational sales were  
3 approximately \$1.1 billion. The tax revenue was  
4 approximately \$68 billion -- million dollars. And  
5 based on these amounts, the SEEF amount would be  
6 approximately \$10.7 million. These amounts may vary  
7 upon confirmation, but that should only be by a very  
8 small percentage.

9           However, this shows the growth of the  
10 market and the direction that the New Jersey cannabis  
11 industry is going. I look forward to seeing a market  
12 that continues in an upward trajectory, enabling us to  
13 provide support for the communities in need, thereby  
14 lifting as we climb. I return the meeting to the  
15 chair.

16           CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Mapp and  
17 to the Public Engagement Education Committee for their  
18 work and their time hosting these hearings. I echo  
19 your sentiments that we need to -- we want to see more  
20 engagement from members of the public.

21           If you signed up to -- to speak, we really  
22 do wanna see you show up and -- and provide your  
23 thoughts and your feedback because it is important.  
24 And it goes directly into our recommendations report  
25 that is sent to the governor and the legislature. So

1 we'll look forward to Commissioner Mapp's presentation  
2 of that report once it is ready.

3 THE SECRETARY: The next item up for  
4 consideration are the public notices and publications.

5 CHAIR: Thank you. I'll turn the floor  
6 over to Director Riggs to provide a summary of the  
7 public notice that needs to be adopted.

8 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. And  
9 we have a public notice for a notice of readoption of  
10 17:30A are medical rules. They have a sunset provision  
11 consistent with most of the rules that are followed in  
12 the OAO where they expire on April 27th of 2026.

13 In order to continue to have those medical  
14 rules in place, we need to file for readoption. I know  
15 we are working hard internally on -- on getting those  
16 medical rules updated, and we'll have some more to come  
17 hopefully here in 2026 as we continue to finalize  
18 those.

19 But with executive order seven of Governor  
20 Sherrill with the 90-day pause we have a short form  
21 adoption that is asked to be approved by the board  
22 today and recommended to be approved by the board today  
23 so that we are able to file that when we are given the  
24 okay to file that by the front office. So thank you  
25 and I return it to you.

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

5 COMM. HARRIS LAUFER: Motion.

6 CHAIR: Commissioner -- Commissioner  
7 Laufer moves to approve the notice of readoption.  
8 Thank you. All right. Moved by Commissioner Laufer,  
9 seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is there any discussion  
10 on this motion? Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can  
11 you please call the vote?

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

13 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

15 COMM. 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 are ownership change  
22 applications.

23 CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is  
24 yours.

25 DIR. CHRISTOPHER RIGGS: Thank you, Madam

1 Chair. The first tranche here we have 17 ownership  
2 transfers that are gonna be shown here up on the slide.  
3 Under the Law and Regulations, the sale or transfer of  
4 equity in a business requires the board to approve that  
5 ownership transfer prior to that transfer being --  
6 taking place.

7                   This is to ensure that all the regulatory  
8 requirements, legal requirements are met. And so the  
9 owners are vetted by our Office of Compliance and  
10 Investigations. There's 17 cannabis businesses that  
11 are up for consideration in this recommendation that  
12 are proposing a new ownership transfer. Each of these  
13 entities has satisfied the regulatory criteria for an  
14 ownership change.

15                   All the owners and individuals that were  
16 required to be vetted by the Office of Compliance and  
17 Investigation were -- were vetted by those and they've  
18 been deemed qualified to enter into the adult use  
19 cannabis market, and therefore, we are recommending  
20 approval of these ownership applications.

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

25                   COMM. MAPP: I make the motion that we

1 approve the applications as submitted by Director  
2 Riggs.

3           COMM. LAUFER: Second.

4           CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Mapp,  
5 seconded by Commissioner Laufer. Any discussion on  
6 this motion?

7           COMM. LAUFER: Good work by staff.

8           CHAIR: Any further -- thank you,  
9 Commissioner Laufer. Any further discussion? Hearing  
10 none. Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

11           THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

12           COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

13           THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

14           COMM. MAPP: Yes.

15           THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

16           VICE CHAIR: Yes.

17           THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

18           CHAIR: Yes.

19           THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
20 next item on the agenda, we have consideration of an  
21 ownership change application for Leaf Relief NJ.  
22 Commissioner Mapp has recused herself from this  
23 ownership change application for --

24           CHAIR: I think we're doing the other one.

25           THE SECRETARY: -- sorry. Excuse me.

1 CHAIR: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the  
3 agenda, we have consideration of an ownership change  
4 application for La Vida Gardens. Chairwoman Houenou  
5 has recused herself from this ownership change  
6 application for Levi Vida Gardens due to an ongoing  
7 professional relationship.

8 On acute -- on account of her recusal,  
9 she'll step out of the room while the board considers  
10 this particular -- particular application. Afterward,  
11 chairwoman Houenou will come back in and will take up  
12 the next order of business.

13 VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said.  
14 Director Riggs, the floor is yours.

15 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Vice Chair Nash.  
16 La Vida Gardens, LLC went through the similar process  
17 that I just articulated for the 17 other ownership  
18 changes. This entity has satisfied the regulatory  
19 criteria for an ownership change.

20 The owners and the individuals that were  
21 submitted with the application were vetted by our  
22 Office of Compliance and Investigation, and they were  
23 deemed qualified to enter into the adult use market and  
24 therefore staff is recommending approval of this  
25 application. Thank you.

1                   VICE CHAIR: Did you say that a little  
2 quicker? Thank you, Director Riggs.

3                   DIR. RIGGS: Trying to meet the Chair's  
4 demands of speeding --

5                   VICE CHAIR: Any questions from the board?

6                   COMM. MAPP: No.

7                   VICE CHAIR: Okay. Hearing no questions.  
8 Is there a motion on this matter?

9                   COMM. LAUFER: Move to approve.

10                  VICE CHAIR: Is there a second?

11                  COMM. MAPP: I second.

12                  VICE CHAIR: Okay. Approved by  
13 Commissioner Laufer and seconded by Commissioner Mapp.  
14 Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing none.  
15 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

16                  THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

17                  COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

18                  THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

19                  COMM. MAPP: Yes.

20                  THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

21                  VICE CHAIR: Yes.

22                  THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou is  
23 recused. The motion passes. The next item on the  
24 agenda, we have consideration of an ownership change  
25 application for Leaf Relief NJ. Commissioner Mapp has

1 recused herself from this ownership change application  
2 for Leaf Relief NJ due to an ongoing personal  
3 relationship.

4 On account of her recusal, she'll step out  
5 of the room while the board considers this particular  
6 application. Afterward, Commissioner Mapp will come  
7 back in and we'll take up the next order of business.

8 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. Director  
9 Riggs, the floor is yours.

10 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Leaf  
11 Relief NJ, LLC has went through the same process for  
12 the ownership change as the other ownership changes  
13 that were just approved by the board. This entity has  
14 satisfied the regulatory criteria for an ownership  
15 change.

16 The owners, the individuals, they were  
17 vetted by our Office of Compliance and Investigation  
18 and deemed qualified to enter into the adult use  
19 cannabis market. Therefore, staff is recommending  
20 approval of this ownership change application. Thank  
21 you.

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

25 THE SECRETARY: Move to approve.

1 VICE CHAIR: Second.

2 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to  
3 approve the application. Seconded by Vice Chair Nash.  
4 Is there any discussion on this motion?

5 COMM. LAUFER: It's a great name.

6 CHAIR: Thank you. Any further  
7 discussion? Hearing no further discussion. Mr. Said,  
8 can you please call the vote?

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

10 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp is  
12 recused. Vice Chair Nash?

13 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

15 CHAIR: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
17 next item on the agenda up for consideration is the  
18 medical satellite applications.

19 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. Director  
20 Riggs, I'll turn the floor over to you to provide an  
21 overview of the satellite request.

22 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you. So Brute's Roots,  
23 LLC, a 2019 RFA awardee has put an application in for a  
24 medical satellite request in Paulsboro, New Jersey for  
25 a dispensary. Under Jake Honig Law, a qualifying

1 alternative treatment center is allowed up to two  
2 satellite locations for the dispensing of medical  
3 cannabis or medical cannabis products.

4 Brute's roots meets all these requirements  
5 and has satisfied all the necessary criteria.  
6 Therefore, we are recommending approval of this medical  
7 satellite location application. Thank you.

8 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
9 there any questions from the board? Hearing no  
10 questions. Is there a motion on this matter?

11 THE SECRETARY: Move to approve.

12 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to  
13 approve the request. Is there a second?

14 COMM. MAPP: I second.

15 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp.  
16 Any discussion on this motion? Hearing no discussion.  
17 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

19 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

21 COMM. MAPP: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

23 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

25 CHAIR: Yes.

1           THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
2 next item up for consideration is the adult use  
3 cannabis business conversion license applications.

4           CHAIR: Director Riggs, turn the floor  
5 back over to you.

6           DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We  
7 have five conditional to annual conversion licenses up  
8 for consideration and recommendation today. One  
9 cultivator, one manufacturer, and three retailers. All  
10 these licenses have followed our licensing process  
11 where priority assignment was given, where we confirm  
12 that each application is assigned to the appropriate  
13 priority review level.

14           We look at diversely owned business  
15 status, taxes, residency if required, and then cures or  
16 sent if needed. That priority is then verified where  
17 we confirm that -- that that documentation is in fact  
18 supports the priority that they've identified.

19           A completeness review is conducted in our  
20 office of licensing where they confirm all the required  
21 documents are submitted, the application is complete.  
22 And they not only confirm that, but they confirm that  
23 the documents are filled out appropriately and the  
24 required information is provided.

25           Those doc -- those applications are then

1 scored. The documents are reviewed to ensure that the  
2 applicant submitted information to satisfy each of the  
3 requirements and regulation and the notice of  
4 application acceptance.

5 At that point, our Office of Compliance  
6 and Investigations does a qualification review where  
7 the individual's, financial sources, any other  
8 agreements are reviewed for regulatory compliance.  
9 Background checks are conducted and reviewed to ensure  
10 that the owners and persons of interest are qualified  
11 to enter into the adult use market.

12 The next step is a quality control process  
13 with our licensing team, the Office of Compliance and  
14 Investigation in our legal team, where we confirm that  
15 yes, every step was met and all the regulations are  
16 met, and now we are at the final stage where we are  
17 recommending that these applications be approved by the  
18 board. Thank you.

19 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Any  
20 questions from the board? Hearing no questions. Is  
21 there a motion on this matter?

22 COMM. MAPP: So moved.

23 VICE CHAIR: Second.

24 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp moves to approve  
25 the conversion applications. Is that right?

1                   COMM. MAPP:   Yes.

2                   CHAIR:   And seconded by Vice Chair Nash.  
3 Is that correct?

4                   VICE CHAIR:   Yes.

5                   CHAIR:   Is there any discussion on this  
6 motion?   Hearing no discussion.   Mr. Said, can you  
7 please call the vote?

8                   THE SECRETARY:   Commissioner Laufer?

9                   COMM. LAUFER:   Yes.

10                  THE SECRETARY:   Commissioner Mapp?

11                  COMM. MAPP:   Yes.

12                  THE SECRETARY:   Vice Chair Nash?

13                  COMM. MAPP:   Yes.

14                  THE SECRETARY:   Chairwoman Houenou?

15                  CHAIR:   Yes.

16                  THE SECRETARY:   The motion passes.   The  
17 next item up for consideration are the adult use  
18 cannabis business annual license applications.

19                  CHAIR:   Director Riggs?

20                  DIR. RIGGS:   Thank you, Madam Chair.   We  
21 have six annual licenses up for recommendation today.  
22 Two cultivators, three manufacturers, and one retailer.  
23 They followed the same licensing process where priority  
24 assignment, priority verification, then the  
25 completeness review.   The applications are then scored.

1 There's a qualification review. Quality control was  
2 met, and now we are recommending that these six  
3 applications be approved by the board today. Thank  
4 you.

5 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
6 there any questions from the board? Hearing no  
7 questions. Is there a motion on this matter?

8 COMM. LAUFER: Move to approve.

9 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to  
10 approve the applications. Is there a second?

11 COMM. MAPP: I second.

12 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp.  
13 Any discussion on this motion? Hearing no discussion.  
14 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

16 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

18 COMM. 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 on the agenda up for consideration are  
25 expansion applications, expanded ATC certification

1 applications.

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

4 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you. We have one  
5 expanded ATC certification that's before the board  
6 today. Illicit Gardens NJ, LLC in Secaucus. We have  
7 confirmed in our office of compliance and  
8 investigations that zoning and municipal approvals are  
9 met, that the labor requirements are met.

10 As required by the law, they have  
11 certified that they have sufficient quantities of  
12 medical cannabis and medical cannabis products  
13 available to meet the reasonably anticipated needs of  
14 registered qualifying patients in accordance with the  
15 law. And therefore, we are recommending that they be  
16 approved to enter into the adult use market. Thank  
17 you.

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

21 COMM. MAPP: So moved.

22 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp moves to --

23 COMM. MAPP: Approve --

24 CHAIR: -- continue.

25 COMM. MAPP: -- as presented. Yes.

1 VICE CHAIR: And I will second.

2 CHAIR: All right. Commissioner Mapp  
3 moves to approve the certification application as  
4 presented. And Vice Chair Nash seconds the motion.

5 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

6 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this  
7 motion? Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can you  
8 please call the vote?

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

10 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

12 COMM. MAPP: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

14 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

16 CHAIR: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
18 next item on the agenda up for consideration are the  
19 medical permits administrative extensions.

20 CHAIR: Director Riggs, floor is yours.

21 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We  
22 have six permit endorsements that are up for  
23 consideration for an administrative extension today.  
24 Curaleaf NJ two, Incorporated, two cultivators, one  
25 manufacturer, and three retailers.

1           We are recommending at this time that an  
2 additional administrative extension be granted given  
3 the fact that there's ongoing litigation and based upon  
4 the advice of counsel. So that recommendation is that  
5 these be approved by the board. Thank you.

6           CHAIR: Thank you. Is there -- are there  
7 any questions from the board? And the -- the current  
8 expiration date for these endorsements is currently  
9 February 27th. Is that correct? Just wanna make sure  
10 I have that right.

11           DIR. RIGGS: Yes, that's based on my  
12 understanding.

13           CHIEF COUNSEL DAVE TUASON: Oh, okay.  
14 Sorry. The -- I think the -- the medical permits are  
15 March 31st. The (inaudible) was February 27th.

16           CHAIR: Oh, okay. My apologies.

17           DIR. RIGGS: So -- sorry.

18           CHAIR: So this is for the March 31st?

19           CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: These are for the  
20 March 31st.

21           DIR. RIGGS: The six medical permanent  
22 endorsements are for March 31st. That's correct.

23           COMM. LAUFER: Okay. So we're -- we're  
24 extending everything to March 31?

25           DIR. RIGGS: That's when they currently

1 expire.

2 COMM. LAUFER: Oh, okay.

3 CHAIR: Thank you for the -- for the  
4 clarification. Are there any further questions? Is  
5 there a motion on this matter?

6 COMM. MAPP: Yes. I make the motion that  
7 we approve the extensions as presented by Chris,  
8 directories.

9 CHAIR: All right. Commissioner Mapp  
10 moves to approve the extension. Commissioner Mapp, do  
11 you have a proposed date for the extension?

12 COMM. MAPP: Another two months.

13 CHAIR: Two months, okay. For an  
14 additional two months. Right. So Commissioner Mapp  
15 has moved to approve the extension, the administrative  
16 extension for an additional two months. Is there a  
17 second?

18 COMM. LAUFER: Second.

19 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Laufer.  
20 Is there any discussion on this motion?

21 DIR. RIGGS: Quickly.

22 CHAIR: Yes, Director Riggs.

23 DIR. RIGGS: They also have an adult use  
24 license in Bordentown, New Jersey that expires on  
25 February 27th. Are we gonna -- is the board voting on

1 extending that license as well through administrative  
2 extension or will that be a separate agenda item?

3 CHAIR: That's a separate item.

4 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you.

5 CHAIR: For later today.

6 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you for the clarity.

7 CHAIR: No -- not a problem. Any  
8 discussion on this motion to approve the extension for  
9 the medical permits for an additional two months?  
10 Hearing no further discussion. Mr. Said, can you  
11 please call the vote?

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

13 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

15 COMM. MAPP: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

17 VICE CHAIR: Only because it's at the  
18 recommendation of counsel, my vote is a yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

20 CHAIR: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
22 next item on the agenda up for consideration are the  
23 adult use cannabis business annual license renewal  
24 applications.

25 CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is

1 yours.

2                   DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We  
3 have 49 total renewals today for the adult use  
4 licenses. These licenses are effective for one year  
5 from the date of issuance and are required to be  
6 reviewed annually. Entities -- and one thing I wanna  
7 say is entities should be responsive to CRCs licensing  
8 team and staff. I know they do a lot of outreach to  
9 these entities to ensure that the businesses submit  
10 their renewal timely and they provide the appropriate  
11 information.

12                   The regulations require renewals to be  
13 submitted 90 days in advance of -- of the expiration of  
14 a license. If a business does not submit a timely  
15 renewal application, they risk having that license  
16 expire and having to restart the entire application  
17 process from the start.

18                   Please, please be responsive to staff, be  
19 responsive to the licensing team so that they can make  
20 sure that things are on the agenda appropriately and so  
21 that your license doesn't expire and that you don't end  
22 up with a license that has expired and then we're  
23 trying to unwind that process.

24                   All the entities that are before you today  
25 have provided the required documentation for renewal.

1 That documentation has been reviewed by our licensing  
2 team and our Office of Compliance and Investigation.  
3 And therefore, we are recommending approval at this  
4 time. Thank you.

5 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. I  
6 believe this is for the group of 45?

7 DIR. RIGGS: That's correct. This tranche  
8 is 45.

9 CHAIR: I wanna double check one thing  
10 before -- before we continue. Okay. Sorry. Director  
11 Riggs, could I trouble you for sidebar for just a --  
12 just a second.

13 (Silence)

14 CHAIR: Just to get everybody on the same  
15 page here, we've spotted a little technical -- minor  
16 technical error. It's all right. So Director Riggs's  
17 recommendation for a group of 44 annual license  
18 renewals is still the same.

19 DIR. RIGGS: 44 annual licenses renewals  
20 with Curaleaf removed from that recommendation.

21 CHAIR: Great. Perfect. Thank you so  
22 much, Director Riggs and Director McWhite. All right.  
23 Any questions from the board regarding this group of 44  
24 annual license renewals? Hearing no questions. Mr.  
25 Said, can you please call the vote on the group of 44

1 annual license renewal applications?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

3 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

5 COMM. MAPP: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

7 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

8 CHAIR: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't -- I  
9 apologize. I got ahead of myself.

10 COMM. LAUFER: There wasn't a motion.

11 CHAIR: Yes, there was no motion.

12 COMM. LAUFER: I'll make the motion to  
13 approve them.

14 CHAIR: Thank you. Commissioner Laufer  
15 moves to approve.

16 VICE CHAIR: I'll second.

17 CHAIR: Group of 44, seconded by Vice  
18 Chair Nash. Is there any discussion on this motion to  
19 approve the group of 44 license renewals? Hearing no  
20 discussion, now, Mr. Said, can you please call the  
21 vote?

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

23 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

25 COMM. 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 on the agenda, we have we consideration of  
7 annual license renewal applications for story -- Story  
8 Dispensary of Springfield. Commissioner Laufer has  
9 recused himself from this application due to an ongoing  
10 professional relationship. On account of his recusal,  
11 he will step out of the room while the board considers  
12 this particular application. Afterward, Commissioner  
13 Laufer will come back in and we'll take up the next  
14 order of business.

15 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, the  
16 floor is yours.

17 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair, and  
18 apologies for some of that confusion. Story Dispensary  
19 of Springfield, LLC, they have submitted and provided  
20 all the required documentation for renewal. That  
21 documentation has been reviewed by our licensing team  
22 in the Office of Compliance and Investigations, and  
23 therefore we are recommending approval of the renewal  
24 of the Story Dispensary of Springfield's application at  
25 this time. Thank you.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
2 there any questions from the board regarding this  
3 annual license renewal application for Story Dispensary  
4 of Springfield? Hearing no discussion -- no questions.  
5 Is there a motion on this matter?

6 COMM. MAPP: I make the motion that we  
7 accept as Chris has -- as Director Riggs has presented.

8 VICE CHAIR: And I will second.

9 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp moves to accept  
10 the -- approve the application. Vice Chair Nash  
11 seconds. Is there any discussion on this motion?  
12 Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can you please call  
13 the vote?

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer is  
15 recused. Commissioner Mapp?

16 COMM. 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. The  
22 next item up on the agenda we have consideration of  
23 annual license renewal applications for QCC Group,  
24 Queen City Remedies and 4Twenty Dispensary.  
25 Commissioner Mapp has recused herself from these

1 applications due to an ongoing professional  
2 relationship. On account of her recusal, she will step  
3 out of the room while the board considers these  
4 particular applications. Afterward, Commissioner Mapp  
5 will come back in and we'll take up the next order of  
6 business.

7 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, the  
8 floor is yours.

9 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chairwoman. The  
10 three applications that are presented for adult use  
11 license renewal, these entities have re provided all  
12 the required documentation for a renewal. That  
13 information and documentation has been reviewed by our  
14 licensing team in the Office of Compliance and  
15 Investigations, and we are recommending that these  
16 three licenses be renewed for another year. Thank you.

17 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
18 there any questions from the board? Hearing no  
19 questions. Is there a motion on this matter?

20 COMM. LAUFER: Move to approve.

21 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to  
22 approve --

23 VICE CHAIR: And I will second the three -

24 -

25 CHAIR: -- license renewals. Seconded by

1 Vice Chair Nash. Is there any discussion on this  
2 motion? Hearing no discussion. Mr. Said, can you  
3 please call the vote?

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Luafer?

5 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp is  
7 recused. Vice Chair Nash?

8 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

10 CHAIR: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

12 CHAIR: Do we -- do we -- you just need --  
13 just need one moment. Okay. So we're gonna take a  
14 very short break before we move on to the next agenda  
15 item. Take five minutes. So we'll come back here at  
16 2:30.

17 COMM. LAUFER: It's 2:30 now.

18 CHAIR: Oh, sorry. 2:35, 5 minutes  
19 (inaudible).

20 (Break)

21 CHAIR: All right. I'll wait for --  
22 splendid. All right. So we're gonna get back to it.  
23 We'll get back to it now. So Mr. Said, can you please  
24 announce the next agenda item?

25 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the

1 agenda up for consideration is an administrative  
2 extension for HarvestWorks Farm Corporation.

3 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs?

4 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

5 Staff's recommending an administrative extension for  
6 this license. They experienced some portal issues in  
7 submitting their renewal, although they did wait rather  
8 long and should have been more responsive to licensing,  
9 I do believe that an administrative extension is  
10 appropriate at this time and we are recommending that  
11 the board approve that.

12 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any  
13 questions from the board? Hearing no questions. Is  
14 there a motion on this matter?

15 COMM. LAUFER: Move to approve.

16 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to  
17 approve an administrative extension. Commissioner  
18 Laufer, to what date do you think --

19 COMM. LAUFER: We'll go -- we'll go two  
20 meetings.

21 CHAIR: For two?

22 COMM. LAUFER: Two months.

23 CHAIR: Two months, okay. Thank you. So  
24 Commissioner Laufer has moved to approve an  
25 administrative extension for two months for

1 HarvestWorks Farms Corporation. Is there a second?

2 COMM. MAPP: I'll second.

3 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is  
4 there any discussion on this motion to approve an  
5 administrative extension for two months for  
6 HarvestWorks Farms Corporation?

7 COMM. LAUFER: Reply to your compliance  
8 officer, please.

9 CHAIR: Indeed.

10 COMM. LAUFER: I felt left out. Everybody  
11 else was saying it.

12 COMM. MAPP: And I will reiterate what the  
13 Chair said. That licensing reaches out 120 days for  
14 renewals. So please, it is your responsibility to get  
15 them in on time, not the day of a meeting. So just  
16 word to the wise.

17 CHAIR: Well said. Any further discussion  
18 on this motion? Hearing no further discussion. Mr.  
19 Said, can you please call the vote?

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

21 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

23 COMM. MAPP: Yes. (Inaudible) to the team  
24 provide the information that's required as soon as it's  
25 required.

1 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

2 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Hounou?

4 CHAIR: My vote is yes. And I want to  
5 underscore that our licensing team does -- is extremely  
6 generous with spending time trying to chase down  
7 businesses for them to submit their documents. Your  
8 business -- for our business owners, your business is  
9 yours to run. It is your responsibility to provide the  
10 information -- the application that is needed in a  
11 timely manner.

12 We offer the opportunity for people to  
13 cure deficiencies, right? We want to give that  
14 opportunity to people because things happen. However,  
15 if we are track -- if we are chasing you down for your  
16 documents, that's not gonna last forever. But with  
17 that, my answer is yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
19 next item on the agenda up for consideration is an  
20 administrative extension for Curaleaf NJ two at the  
21 Bordentown location.

22 CHAIR: Director Riggs, floor is yours.

23 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
24 Similar to the -- the medical permits that were  
25 administratively extended, based upon the advice of

1 counsel, it is recommended that Curaleaf's NJ two's,  
2 Bordentown, adult use license be administratively  
3 extended consistent with the timeframe that we extended  
4 those medical permits. Thank you.

5 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are  
6 there any questions from the board? Hearing no  
7 question. Is there a motion on this matter?

8 COMM. LAUFER: Move to approve the  
9 administrative extension congruent with the other  
10 Curaleaf administrative extensions.

11 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to  
12 approve the administrative extension congruent with the  
13 other administrative extension for Curaleaf. So I  
14 believe that would take us to March -- no, I'm sorry,  
15 to May 31st?

16 COMM. LAUFER: Correct.

17 CHAIR: Is there a second?

18 COMM. MAPP: I second.

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

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

23 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

25 COMM. MAPP: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

2 VICE CHAIR: Only at the advice of  
3 counsel. My vote is a reluctant yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

5 CHAIR: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
7 next item on the agenda up for consideration is an  
8 annual license suspension.

9 CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is  
10 yours.

11 DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Can  
12 I go to the next slide please? Staff is recommending a  
13 summary suspension of Mollitiam New Jersey's  
14 manufacturing and cultivation license pursuant to our  
15 regulations under 20.8(a) because of an immediate  
16 threat to public safety for the business --

17 COMM. LAUFER: Geez, Chris.

18 DIR. RIGGS: Apologies.

19 CHAIR: Apologies. We have (inaudible).

20 DIR. RIGGS: Commissioner Mapp is recused  
21 from this application due to a personal relationship.  
22 Staff is recommending that a summary suspension be  
23 given to both of their license, their cultivation, and  
24 manufacturing under the rules 20.8(a) because of an  
25 immediate threat to public safety for the business to

1 continue its operations.

2           On February 3rd of 2026, during a routine  
3 site inspection of Mollitiam license premises for their  
4 cultivation and manufacturing license that was  
5 conducted by our CRC compliance officers, the  
6 compliance team that was out there was advised by an  
7 owner that Mollitiam had been conducting an outdoor  
8 grow at an unapproved and unlicensed location in the  
9 state.

10           The company had been then moving and  
11 transporting the cultivated flower to its licensed  
12 location for storage, processing, and packaging. On  
13 February 3rd through February 5th, administrative holds  
14 were placed on Mollitiam's licenses and the packages  
15 that originated from that license, which affected a  
16 significant number of downstream products in the New  
17 Jersey cannabis market.

18           On February 6th, taking swift action, the  
19 CRC released the hold on all manufactured products  
20 after confirming that there was no public health risk  
21 to the consumers due to the fact that all of these  
22 products had multiple lab tests and certificate of  
23 analysis attached to all these products.

24           Ultimately, the -- the flower was sold  
25 through our METRC system to other businesses, who

1 received and -- and used it for manufacturing purposes,  
2 mostly to create THC distillate. Everyone along the  
3 way, including the CRC and these businesses was  
4 deceived by this one business, this one bad actor.

5           The CRC is established based on two  
6 principles, two pillars, equity and safety. Both were  
7 in mind as staff immediately jumped into action during  
8 this investigation. To achieve the most equitable  
9 result for all those deceived, including the CRC and  
10 any downstream businesses while maintaining, which has  
11 always been the thing, Number 1 and paramount in our  
12 minds and a hundred percent confirmed, the safety of  
13 all products.

14           I'd like to commend Director Urbish and  
15 his staff on the exceptional investigatory work that  
16 they've accomplished over the last week. Through long  
17 hours, through a record and data review and late night  
18 discussions, our team demonstrated its commitment to  
19 safeguarding public safety while working to minimize  
20 adverse impacts on the New Jersey cannabis market.

21           This issue was handled appropriately and  
22 efficiently given the circumstances, and I'm extremely  
23 proud of the investigation team and the way that this  
24 agency handled this situation. With that said, bad  
25 actors like Mollitiam should have their cultivation and

1 manufacturing licenses summarily suspended as staff  
2 continues to handle this ongoing investigation.

3           The continued operation of these  
4 businesses poses an immediate public safety risk. I'm  
5 recommending that the Board take action on these  
6 licenses today, but I do wanna reiterate that there is  
7 no public safety concern related to the downstream  
8 products as staff was able to swiftly confirm and  
9 ensure that the appropriate lab testing and certificate  
10 of analysis were attached to all of these products.

11           Lastly, this needs to be a wake-up call to  
12 the cannabis industry in New Jersey. The CRC is  
13 committed and remains committed to safety as a  
14 regulatory agency, but if things seem too good to be  
15 true or they seem strange in any way, the cannabis  
16 businesses should be reporting those things to their  
17 compliance officers so that the compliance officers can  
18 look into those things and figure out if we have a  
19 problem, so we don't end up in situations like this.

20           Know who you're doing business with. This  
21 is a highly regulated industry. If you see something,  
22 say something. Partnership with the industry in  
23 identifying bad actors is necessary as we continue to  
24 build the premier cannabis market on the east coast.

25           And with that, I recommend that we issue a

1 summary suspension to Mollitiam for both its  
2 manufacturing and cultivation licenses. Thank you,  
3 Madam Chair.

4 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs, and  
5 thank you also to Director Urbish and his team for  
6 their swift response and their dedication to making  
7 sure that we take appropriate action against any  
8 wrongdoing.

9 Are there any questions from the Board  
10 regarding the information provided by Director Riggs?

11 COMM. LAUFER: Yeah. I just wanna --

12 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer?

13 COMM. LAUFER: I just wanna reiterate,  
14 Director Riggs, there's not a -- a public health risk,  
15 correct?

16 DIR. RIGGS: Commissioner Laufer, that's  
17 correct. Staff was able to swiftly confirm that all of  
18 the downstream products had the appropriate lab testing  
19 and have passed that lab testing and have attached  
20 certificate of analysis to those products.

21 COMM. LAUFER: So we've been on top of  
22 this from Minute 1 and -- and everything that's out in  
23 the market should be consumed -- should be considered  
24 safe?

25 DIR. RIGGS: Everything that is not on

1 administrative hold that is out and able to be  
2 purchased by a consumer is safe.

3           COMM. LAUFER: Thank you and great job to  
4 Director Urbish and you're -- you did pretty well  
5 yourself, so thank you.

6           DIR. RIGGS: Thank you, Commissioner  
7 Laufer.

8           CHAIR: Any additional questions for  
9 Director Riggs? With that, is there a motion on this  
10 matter?

11           COMM. LAUFER: Madam Chair, I move to  
12 summarily suspend Mollitiam.

13           CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to  
14 summarily suspend the both cultivation and  
15 manufacturing licenses --

16           COMM. LAUFER: That is correct.

17           CHAIR: -- for this -- for this entity?

18 Yes. All right. And Vice Chair Nash seconds the  
19 motion. Is there any discussion on this motion?

20           I want to note the egregiousness of the --  
21 of the behaviors here. Illicit grow operations, when  
22 they knew -- when you know that you are not approved,  
23 when you know you do have -- not have a license for  
24 these said operations, and the efforts to disguise the  
25 material is egregious and not -- and will not go

1 unchecked.

2 I'm supportive of this motion to summarily  
3 suspend these licenses pending further -- pending the  
4 conclusion of the Commission's investigations so that  
5 at that time we can take decisive -- final and decisive  
6 act -- action in response to the violations that have  
7 occurred.

8 As I noted earlier, the Commission is  
9 responsible for holding both ourselves and businesses  
10 accountable. This speaks to the integrity of not just  
11 our industry, but also our agency as well. So I thank  
12 again, staff for their collaboration and cooperation  
13 and bringing this to the Board's attention so that we  
14 can take swift action.

15 Is there any further discussion on this  
16 motion? Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Said, on  
17 the motion to summarily suspend both cultivation and  
18 manufacturing licenses for Mollitiam, can you please  
19 call the vote?

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

21 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp is  
23 recused. Vice Chair Nash?

24 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

1 CHAIR: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
3 next item on the agenda up for consideration are  
4 requests for rule waivers.

5 CHAIR: Thank you. For this, we'll turn  
6 it over to Chief Counsel Tuason.

7 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: So we have three  
8 waiver requests that the Board will be considering  
9 today. The standard for whether the Board can agree on  
10 to waiver of our regulations falls under 17:30-3.7(a),  
11 which says that the Commission may wave a -- a  
12 regulation if it is -- that the Commission determines  
13 it is necessary to achieve the purposes of the act is  
14 necessary to provide access to cannabis items to  
15 consumers, and three, does not create a danger to the  
16 public health safety or welfare.

17 The first waiver request the Board will be  
18 considering today is WR045 by CannPowerment. They're  
19 requesting a waiver of 17:30-11.5(d)(3) and 17:30-  
20 11.5(d)(6) to produce a single served baked good up to  
21 100 milligrams without physical scoring and/or  
22 demarcation.

23 It should be noted that the physical  
24 scoring -- or serving size of 10 milligrams is in a  
25 statute and the Board does not have -- or the

1 Commission does not have the authority to waive the  
2 statute under the -- the CREAMM Act.

3 And with that, I turn it back over to you,  
4 Madam Chair.

5 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel Tuason.  
6 Are there any questions from the Board for Chief  
7 Counsel? Hearing no questions from the Board, is there  
8 a motion on this matter?

9 I will move to deny the waiver request  
10 given that the specific provision sought to be waived  
11 is written into statute and the Commission does not  
12 have any legal authority to waive a provision of the  
13 statute.

14 The statute says that standardized serving  
15 of a cannabis product shall be no more than 10  
16 milligrams of active THC, and that's something that we  
17 simply cannot overrule on our end. So I move that we  
18 deny the waiver request.

19 COMM. LAUFER: Second.

20 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Laufer.  
21 Is there any discussion on this motion to deny?

22 VICE CHAIR: I just want to encourage the  
23 person that submitted this waiver request to find a way  
24 to score their (inaudible) cut -- their -- their  
25 product so that they can continue to -- is it on? Oh.

1 I'll repeat that.

2 The person that submitted the waiver  
3 request, I want to encourage them to find a way to  
4 score their product so that they can continue to offer  
5 such a really great product. The floor is yours.

6 CHAIR: Thank you, Vice Chair. Any  
7 further discussion on this motion?

8 I will also note that we do offer in our  
9 regulations, when we expanded the edible products that  
10 are available, we did offer the option for having  
11 edible products that aren't scoreable, right, that are  
12 not able to be delineated easily, for example, like  
13 granular items.

14 So please work with your compliance  
15 officer to see if there are other forms of allowable  
16 edible products that might serve your purposes and  
17 achieve your goals. Any additional discussion?

18 COMM. LAUFER: No.

19 CHAIR: Hearing no further discussion, Mr.  
20 Said, can you please call the vote?

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

22 COMM. LAUFER: I vote yes to deny.

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

24 COMM. MAPP: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

1 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

3 CHAIR: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

5 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: The next waiver  
6 request is WR049 from Bud's Goods NJ. They're  
7 requesting a waiver of 16.1(c), to take cannabis  
8 product from the cultivator, pack it into pre-rolls,  
9 return it to the cultivator without sending the  
10 cannabis product for testing.

11 And with that, I turn it back over to you,  
12 Madam Chair for a Board vote.

13 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are  
14 there any questions for the Board -- from the Board?

15 COMM. LAUFER: Yeah. So the -- they're --  
16 they're seeking a testing waiver, meaning they don't  
17 want to test the product, correct?

18 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: Their request is  
19 that, you know, it is -- when they -- they're a  
20 manufacturer, they receive it in its final form. They  
21 don't believe it should be -- it needs to be tested  
22 before it's sent back to the cultivator.

23 However, you know, Office of Compliance  
24 has made a determination that every single time it  
25 moves from one facility to another, it should be

1 accompanied with a test just for public safety.

2 COMM. LAUFER: Sure.

3 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Laufer.

4 Any additional questions? Hearing no further  
5 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

6 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to deny  
7 Waiver Request 049 for the reasons stated by Chief  
8 Counsel.

9 COMM. MAPP: I second.

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

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

15 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

17 COMM. 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 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: The final waiver  
24 request today is WR051 by Royal Dynastic Organics LLC.  
25 They're requesting a waiver of several regulations

1 effectively to remove the municipal resolution  
2 requirement -- or municipal approval requirement and  
3 should note that that is something that's in the  
4 statute as well.

5           It's in the law and that the Commission  
6 does not have the authority to -- to remove the -- or  
7 waive the municipal approval requirement. With that,  
8 I'll turn it back over to you, Madam Chair.

9           CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are  
10 there any questions from the Board? Hearing no  
11 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

12           COMM. LAUFER: Madam Chair, I move to deny  
13 WR51. The local approval is as Chief Counsel said, as  
14 explicitly stated in the statute and as a mayor, I know  
15 I would not want a business of this type.

16           Springfield has them, which I'm recused  
17 from, but Springfield has them, but a -- a town should  
18 choose whether or not they want them. So I move to  
19 deny the waiver request.

20           CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to deny  
21 the waiver request. Is there a second?

22           COMM. MAPP: I second.

23           CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp.  
24 Any discussion on this motion to deny the waiver  
25 request? Hearing no further -- hearing no discussion,

1 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

3 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

5 COMM. MAPP: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

7 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

9 CHAIR: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The  
11 next item on the agenda up for consideration are  
12 litigation matters.

13 CHAIR: Thank you. I'll turn the floor  
14 over to Chief Counsel Tuason.

15 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: So there were two  
16 different enforcement actions that the Board had  
17 imposed previously. The -- the first one that the  
18 Board will be considering to approve a settlement for  
19 is INV-126-24 and that is with Green Analytics New  
20 Jersey.

21 And today, the Commission is now voting to  
22 act consistent with the discussions we had in executive  
23 session and the recommendation it made to resolve this  
24 enforcement action. And with that I turn it over --  
25 back over to you, Madam Chair.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, director -- I'm sorry.  
2 Thank you, Chief Counsel. Is there -- are there any  
3 questions from the Board? Hearing no questions, is  
4 there a motion on this matter?

5 COMM. LAUFER: Move to approve.

6 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to  
7 approve --

8 COMM. LAUFER: Settlement.

9 CHAIR: -- settlement as discussed during  
10 prior executive sessions. Is there a second?

11 VICE CHAIR: Second.

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

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

17 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

19 COMM. 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.

25 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: The next is a

1 settlement for INV-207-24. That was with Garden  
2 Society LLC. Today, the Commission is now voting to  
3 act consistent with the discussions they had in  
4 previous executive sessions and the recommendation to  
5 resolve this enforcement action.

6 With that, I turn it back over to you,  
7 Madam Chair.

8 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are  
9 there any questions from the Board? Hearing no  
10 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

11 COMM. LAUFER: Move to approve the  
12 settlement.

13 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to  
14 approve settlement as discussed in prior executive  
15 sessions.

16 COMM. MAPP: I'll second.

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

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

21 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

23 COMM. 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 on the agenda up for consideration are  
5 notices of enforcement actions.

6 CHAIR: Chief Counsel, I'll turn the floor  
7 over to you to start us off with our first enforcement  
8 action item.

9 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: So the first  
10 enforcement action is INV-71-2025. The entity name is  
11 OHM Theory LLC, and we issued a Notice of Violation to  
12 the entity for failure to adhere to the regulations by  
13 selling expired products and failing to conduct monthly  
14 inventory of its products.

15 With that, I'll turn it back over to you,  
16 Madam Chair.

17 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are  
18 there any questions from the Board? Hearing no  
19 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

20 COMM. MAPP: Madam Chair, I make the  
21 motion that based on Violation 17:30 --

22 CHAIR: Could you speak into the  
23 microphone?

24 COMM. MAPP: Oh, sorry. Madam Chair, I  
25 make the motion that based on Violation 17 -- can you

1 hear me at all? No wonder. Can you hear me now?

2 Madam Chair, I make the motion that based  
3 on Violation 17:30-9.13(a), we impose a fine of \$1,000,  
4 and the other two violations, which are 17:30-14.2 and  
5 17:30-11.8(a), a total of \$2,500, which brings the  
6 whole total to \$3,500.

7 COMM. LAUFER: Second.

8 CHAIR: Moved by -- so Commissioner Mapp  
9 moves to impose a penalty of \$1,000 for one violation,  
10 2,500 for the others, for a total of \$3,500, and that  
11 is seconded by Commissioner Laufer. Is there any  
12 discussion on this motion?

13 VICE CHAIR: Yes, Madam Chair.

14 CHAIR: Vice Chair Nash.

15 VICE CHAIR: I would like to amend the  
16 motion to include METRC training for all of the  
17 employees and owners of the company.

18 COMM. LAUFER: Good inclusion.

19 VICE CHAIR: Mm-hm.

20 CHAIR: Vice Chair Nash moves to amend the  
21 underlying motion to include METRC -- to include a  
22 requirement for additional METRC training for all  
23 employees, you said?

24 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

25 CHAIR: All right. Is there a second on

1 this motion to amend the underlying motion? I will  
2 second the motion.

3 So we have before us the motion to amend  
4 the underlying motion. Should the underlying motion  
5 before us be amended to add METRC training for all  
6 workers? That is the present question on this motion  
7 to amend the underlying motion. Mr. Said, can you  
8 please call the vote?

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

10 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

12 COMM. MAPP: Yes, with a timeframe for the  
13 training to be done like about a six-months' timeframe.

14 COMM. LAUFER: Vice Chair Nash?

15 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

17 CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

19 CHAIR: So now we have before us a -- an  
20 amended motion. Should -- the present -- the present  
21 motion now is to impose a penalty of a total of \$3,500  
22 and require additional METRC training for all workers  
23 with -- and Commissioner Mapp has noted that she would  
24 like to see that additional training completed within  
25 six months.

1           Does -- is everyone clear on the present  
2 motion before us?

3           COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

4           CHAIR: Wonderful. So on the present  
5 motions, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

6           THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

7           COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

8           THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

9           COMM. MAPP: Yes.

10          THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

11          VICE CHAIR: Yes.

12          THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

13          CHAIR: My vote is yes. I echo the need  
14 for additional training. As was noted by our  
15 investigator this business was -- was, "Suffering from  
16 gross organizational inventory mismanagement".

17                 The -- the investigator here also noted  
18 that management, "Had little to no knowledge of  
19 properly using -- utilizing METRC and relied entirely  
20 on fast item turnover and its memory for -- of -- for  
21 being aware of each item's expiration date for the  
22 businesses over 700 active packages with positive  
23 inventory quantities".

24                 I think this just underscores the need for  
25 businesses to make sure they know what they're doing.

1 And so I'm -- I'm thankful that Vice Chair Nash has  
2 added the -- some additional METRC training for -- for  
3 this. Again, I noted for our business owners, make  
4 sure compliance is on your mind. If you're already  
5 operational, compliance is key.

6 Review your rules to know what standards  
7 you are held to. So review Subchapter 9 and also  
8 review the subchapter that corresponds to your  
9 particular cannabis activity. So hopefully we can  
10 avoid -- minimize this kind of gross organizational  
11 inventory mismanagement in the future. With that, my  
12 vote is yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

14 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: The next  
15 enforcement action for consideration today is INV-102-  
16 2025. It'll be issued in NOV to New Jersey Cannalytics  
17 for failure to adhere to the regulations for  
18 transporting cannabis from its license location in New  
19 Jersey to its unlicensed location in Maryland for  
20 cannabis testing.

21 And with that, I turn it back over to you,  
22 Madam Chair, for a Board -- Board vote.

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? I'm --

1                   COMM. MAPP: Go ahead.

2                   CHAIR: I will move to issue a 14-day  
3 suspension of the laboratory's testing license, that  
4 suspension being suspended for six months so that the  
5 laboratory can complete additional METRC training.

6                   If the -- if that training -- if the  
7 training for all of the 18 employees and two managers  
8 is completed in a timely fashion, and if the Commission  
9 receives confirmation from METRC that the complete --  
10 that the training has been completed, then the 14-day  
11 suspension will not go into effect.

12                   If however, the -- that condition is not  
13 met, then the 14-day suspension of their contesting  
14 laboratory license would be imposed. So, A, I am  
15 moving for a 14-day suspension -- a suspended 14-day  
16 suspension of their license plus a fine of \$10,000 for  
17 the gross negligence and inexcusable action of taking  
18 cannabis across state lines.

19                   COMM. LAUFER: Madam Chair, would you be  
20 open to increasing that fine?

21                   CHAIR: I -- I certainly am. There has  
22 not been -- there hasn't been a second to this motion  
23 just yet, so.

24                   COMM. LAUFER: No, I'm not -- that's why  
25 I'm asking.

1 CHAIR: Yeah.

2 COMM. LAUFER: Before I second it, would  
3 you be amenable to amend your motion to a \$25,000 fine?

4 CHAIR: Yes, sir, I would.

5 COMM. LAUFER: Then I can second that  
6 motion.

7 CHAIR: Wonderful. So I will move to  
8 issue a 14-day license suspension, a -- sorry, let me  
9 do this the other way. I'm -- my -- I move to issue a  
10 penalty of \$25,000 plus a 14-day license suspension,  
11 the license suspension being suspended for six months  
12 on the condition that New Jersey Cannalytics and their  
13 employees complete required METRC -- three required  
14 METRC trainings within six months.

15 Those -- those required METRC trainings  
16 being METRC training admin, NJ Advanced Testing  
17 Facility, and understanding common errors in testing.  
18 And is there a second?

19 COMM. LAUFER: Yeah, I second that.

20 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Laufer.  
21 Thank you. Is there any discussion on this motion?  
22 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call  
23 the vote?

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

25 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

2 COMM. MAPP: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

4 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

6 CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

8 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: The next  
9 enforcement action is INV-124-2025. The entity name is  
10 High Rollers Dispensary. And should note that we --  
11 the Board did impose a penalty back in December and the  
12 -- it's on the agenda today just to correct the  
13 December meeting Board action on that enforcement  
14 action.

15 I'll turn it back over to you, Madam  
16 Chair.

17 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are  
18 there any questions from the Board? Hearing no  
19 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

20 VICE CHAIR: Yes, Madam Chair. I would  
21 like to rescind Resolution 2025/12/17-22 due to an  
22 administrative error and impose a penalty of \$3,500.

23 CHAIR: All right. So Vice Chair Nash  
24 moves to rescind Resolution 2025/17 -- I'm sorry,  
25 2025/12/17-22 and impose a penalty of \$3,500. Is there

1 a second?

2 COMM. MAPP: I second.

3 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is  
4 there any discussion on this motion?

5 COMM. LAUFER: I'll be abstaining 'cause I  
6 was not on the Commission.

7 CHAIR: Understood. Thank you,  
8 Commissioner Laufer. Any further discussion on this  
9 motion? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you  
10 please call the vote?

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer has  
12 abstained. Commissioner Mapp?

13 COMM. MAPP: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

15 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

17 CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

19 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: Next is INV-142-  
20 2025. The entity name is CREAM Dispensary. They were  
21 issued a Notice of Violation for failure to adhere to  
22 the regulations by failing to track its inventory of  
23 its cannabis products in METRC.

24 And with that, I'll turn it back over to  
25 you, Madam Chair.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are  
2 there any questions from the Board? Hearing no  
3 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

4 COMM. MAPP: Madam Chair, I make the  
5 motion that we impose a fine of \$2,000 total for each  
6 violation. So \$1,000 per violation.

7 VICE CHAIR: I'll second.

8 CHAIR: Moved and seconded for imposing a  
9 penalty of a total of \$2,000.

10 VICE CHAIR: Mm-hm.

11 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this  
12 motion?

13 COMM. LAUFER: Would -- good. Just a  
14 question. I mean, we've -- we've asked for METRC  
15 training for everyone else. Do we wanna include it on  
16 this one or no?

17 CHAIR: Are there any -- is there any  
18 response or additional discussion from the Board?

19 Commissioner Laufer, I believe that the --  
20 it's a fair question to raise.

21 COMM. LAUFER: MM-hm.

22 CHAIR: I don't -- from my review of the  
23 evidence and the investigation materials, I don't  
24 believe that additional METRC training is warranted in  
25 this instance.

1                   COMM. LAUFER:  Yeah, that's fine then.

2                   CHAIR:  But I am open to being persuaded  
3 otherwise.

4                   COMM. LAUFER:  I mean, they -- they didn't  
5 do it.  The question is whether or not they know how,  
6 you know what I mean?

7                   Like, we've -- we've assessed it for other  
8 business -- for other notices of violation who've kind  
9 of done the same thing.  So I think in the spirit of  
10 fairness, they should have to eat their vegetables too.

11                   VICE CHAIR:  Uh-huh.  In fairness, the NOV  
12 -- the NOV says that they were previously notified of  
13 discrepancies with its inventory of cannabis product,  
14 so I -- I can't imagine it would hurt to ask for it.

15                   CHAIR:  Any further discussion on it?  So,  
16 Commissioner Laufer, are you moving to --

17                   COMM. LAUFER:  Yeah.

18                   CHAIR:  -- amend?

19                   COMM. LAUFER:  I'll move to amend to add  
20 the METRC training, if Commissioner Mapp is good with  
21 that.

22                   COMM. MAPP:  I'm -- I'm good with that.

23                   CHAIR:  All right.  Commissioner Laufer  
24 moves to amend the underlying motion to add -- to add  
25 additional METRC training for CREAM retail Dispensary

1 Corp. Is there a second on this motion to amend?

2 VICE CHAIR: Second.

3 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Nash. Any  
4 discussion on this motion to amend the underlying  
5 motion? Hearing none, on the motion to amend the  
6 underlying motion so that it adds METRC training, Mr.  
7 Said, can you please call the vote?

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

9 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

11 COMM. MAPP: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

13 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

15 CHAIR: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

17 CHAIR: All right. So now we have the  
18 amended motion before us. The amended motion is to  
19 impose a penalty of \$2,000 total and require additional  
20 METRC training for the business and its employees. Is  
21 there any additional discussion on this now amended  
22 motion?

23 Hearing no further discussion on the  
24 amended motion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

1                   COMM. LAUFER:  Yes.

2                   THE SECRETARY:  Commissioner Mapp?

3                   COMM. 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                   CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON:  The next  
10 enforcement action is INV-143-2025.  The entity name is  
11 MMD New Jersey Inc.  They were issued a Notice of  
12 Violation for also failing to utilize METRC to track  
13 its inventory of cannabis products and for failure --  
14 failing -- failing to update its product inventory on a  
15 daily basis.

16                   With that, I'll turn it back over to you,  
17 Madam Chair.

18                   CHAIR:  Thank you, Chief Counsel.  Are  
19 there any questions from the Board?

20                   COMM. LAUFER:  So this would -- you'd --  
21 you'd categorize this as more egregious than the  
22 previous failure to track, right or wrong?

23                   COMM. MAPP:  It's the same.

24                   COMM. LAUFER:  Or is it the same?

25                   COMM. MAPP:  It's the same.

1           COMM. LAUFER:   Okay.

2           COMM. MAPP:    In my eyes.

3           VICE CHAIR:   My understanding of this one  
4 is that there was -- it didn't sync with Blaze.

5           COMM. LAUFER:   Okay.

6           VICE CHAIR:   That was the issue.

7           COMM. LAUFER:   Okay.

8           CHAIR:       Chief Counsel, do you have a -- do  
9 you also want to respond to the question too?

10           CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON:  No, that's my  
11 understanding too with -- you know, it was failing to  
12 sync with that POS system, so.  You know, I think it  
13 was kind of like a similar type of thing as the last  
14 enforcement action.

15           CHAIR:       Thank you.  Any additional  
16 questions from the Board?  Hearing no further  
17 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

18           VICE CHAIR:   I move to issue a monetary  
19 penalty of \$2,000 total for the two violations.

20           COMM. LAUFER:   Second.

21           CHAIR:       Moved and seconded to impose a  
22 penalty of \$2,000 total.  Is there any discussion on  
23 this motion?  Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you  
24 please call the vote?

25           THE SECRETARY:   Commissioner Laufer?

1                   COMM. LAUFER:   Yes.

2                   THE SECRETARY:   Commissioner Mapp?

3                   COMM. MAPP:     Yes.

4                   THE SECRETARY:   Vice Chair Nash?

5                   VICE CHAIR:     Yes.

6                   THE SECRETARY:   Chairwoman Houenou?

7                   CHAIR:     Yes.   And with that, I just want  
8   to remind folks the regulatory requirement to update  
9   your inventories daily so that this doesn't happen.  
10 Again, do your due diligence now so that you don't have  
11 to spend hours cleaning up a mess later on.

12                   COMM. LAUFER:   And a few thousand bucks.

13                   CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON:   The next --

14                   THE SECRETARY:   The -- the motion passes.

15                   CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON:   The next  
16 enforcement action is INV-145-2025.   The entity name is  
17 Hashery LLC.   They were issued a Notice of Violation by  
18 allowing cannabis paraphernalia to be clearly visible  
19 from the exterior of the dispensary, which is a  
20 violation of the regulations.

21                   With that, I'll turn it back over to you,  
22 Madam Chair.

23                   CHAIR:     Thank you, Chief Counsel.   Are  
24 there any questions from the Board?

25                   COMM. LAUFER:   No.

1 CHAIR: Hearing no questions, is there a  
2 motion on this matter?

3 COMM. MAPP: Madam Chair, I make the  
4 motion that we impose a fine of \$500 for them keeping  
5 the doors open so that product was visible.

6 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp moves to impose  
7 a penalty of \$500. Is there a second?

8 COMM. LAUFER: Second.

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

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

13 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

15 COMM. 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 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: The next  
22 enforcement action is INV-148-2025. The entity name is  
23 Toke Lane Dispensary. They were issued a Notice of  
24 Violation for failure to adhere to the regulations by  
25 effectuating an ownership change prior to Board

1 approval.

2 With that, I'll turn it back over to you,  
3 Madam Chair.

4 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are  
5 there any questions from the Board? Hearing no  
6 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

7 COMM. MAPP: Madam Chair, I make the  
8 motion that based on both violations, we charge a total  
9 of \$7,000. That's \$3,500 per violation.

10 COMM. LAUFER: (Inaudible) it up to 10'.

11 COMM. MAPP: \$10,000, so \$5,000 per  
12 violation.

13 COMM. LAUFER: Second.

14 CHAIR: So Commissioner Mapp moves to  
15 impose a penalty of \$10,000 total?

16 COMM. MAPP: Yes.

17 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer seconds the  
18 motion.

19 COMM. LAUFER: These regs are here for a  
20 reason.

21 COMM. MAPP: Mm-hm.

22 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this  
23 motion?

24 VICE CHAIR: Yes. I just want to state  
25 that this entity was told by Compliance that they were

1 not permitted to make an ownership transfer and they  
2 did it anyway.

3 COMM. LAUFER: Yeah.

4 CHAIR: Thank you, Vice Chair. I actually  
5 have a question for Commissioner Laufer.

6 COMM. LAUFER: Hit me.

7 CHAIR: For the -- any particular facts in  
8 this case that lead you to believe that \$7,000 penalty  
9 is not enough and that \$10,000 penalty is more  
10 appropriate?

11 COMM. LAUFER: Yeah. So A, I would -- I  
12 would go back to what Commissioner Nash just said, is  
13 that, you know, when -- when you ask for permission and  
14 are told no, and -- and do it anyway, you know, the  
15 penalty should be stiffer.

16 You can't plead ignorance. That's --  
17 that's one. And, Two, I mean, you know, actually, I --  
18 honestly, it's really just one. When you --

19 CHAIR: Mm-hm.

20 COMM. LAUFER: -- ask for permission and  
21 you say -- and -- and you're told no and you do it  
22 anyway, I think the penalty should be stiffer.

23 CHAIR: Understood. Thank you very much.

24 I --

25 COMM. LAUFER: You're welcome.

1 CHAIR: I'm supportive of the motion. I  
2 just wanted to make sure that we're on record for  
3 identifying what aggravating factors are at play here.

4 COMM. LAUFER: Yeah, no, totally.

5 CHAIR: Any additional discussion on this  
6 motion? Hearing no further discussion, on the motion  
7 to impose a penalty of total of \$10,000, Mr. Said, can  
8 you please call the vote?

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

10 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

12 COMM. MAPP: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

14 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

16 CHAIR: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

18 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: The next  
19 enforcement action is INV-149-2025. The entity name is  
20 B Caf Dispensary and they were issued a Notice of  
21 Violation for failing to adhere to the regulations by  
22 utilizing unauthorized vehicles to complete deliveries.

23 With that, I turn it back over to you,  
24 Madam Chair.

25 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are

1 there any questions from the Board? Hearing no  
2 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

3 VICE CHAIR: Yes. I move to issue a -- a  
4 monetary penalty of \$3,500 total for the two  
5 violations.

6 CHAIR: Vice Chair Nash moves to issue a  
7 penalty of \$3,500 total. Is there a second?

8 COMM. MAPP: Second.

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

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

13 COMM. LAUFER: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

15 COMM. 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 CHIEF COUNSEL TUASON: And the final  
22 enforcement action today is INV-150-2025. The entity  
23 name is RushBudz Dispensary. They were issued a Notice  
24 of Violation for failure to adhering to the law and  
25 regulations by permitting an employee to commence work

1 prior to the Commission issuing an employee the  
2 cannabis business card ID.

3 And with that, I turn it back over to you,  
4 Madam Chair.

5 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are  
6 there any questions from the Board?

7 COMM. LAUFER: Yeah.

8 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer?

9 COMM. LAUFER: Didn't the standard change  
10 in 4847 that just passed during lame-duck?

11 CHAIR: Director Riggs?

12 DIR. RIGGS: I don't think the standard --  
13 the standard didn't change by requiring cannabis  
14 business ID cards. The -- the standard change in  
15 allowing the Commission to not require background  
16 checks for line-level employees, which need -- would  
17 need to be amended in our regulations.

18 COMM. LAUFER: Okay. Thank you.

19 DIR. RIGGS: You're welcome.

20 CHAIR: Any additional questions from the  
21 Board? Hearing no further questions, is there a motion  
22 on this matter?

23 COMM. MAPP: Madam Chair, I make the  
24 motion that we impose a fine of a total of five -- of  
25 \$1,000, \$500 for each violation.

1                   COMM. LAUFER:   Second.  Get your ID cards,  
2 people.

3                   CHAIR:   Moved and seconded.  Is there any  
4 discussion on this motion?  Hearing no discussion, Mr.  
5 Said, can you please call the vote?

6                   THE SECRETARY:  Commissioner Laufer?

7                   COMM. LAUFER:  Yes.

8                   THE SECRETARY:  Commissioner Mapp?

9                   COMM. 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.  The  
15 next item up on the agenda, we have the open public  
16 comment period.

17                  CHAIR:  As we open the floor to public  
18 comments, I want to thank our Office of Compliance and  
19 Investigations team, our investigators, our compliance  
20 officers, and their supervisors for their hard work on  
21 these investigative matters.

22                  They've also been producing outstanding  
23 investigation reports.  The thoroughness and the  
24 details give us a full picture -- full and clear  
25 picture of what's happening and allow us to make

1 informed decisions. So thank you to our OCI team for  
2 their detailed reports.

3 Now, for public comments, as we do with  
4 every Board meeting, members of the public can submit  
5 comments during or after this Board meeting in writing  
6 via our website, [nj.gov/cannabis/meetings](http://nj.gov/cannabis/meetings). The  
7 deadline for submitting written comments for today's  
8 meeting is 5 o'clock tomorrow, Friday, February 13.

9 Written comments will be shared with the  
10 Commission members and they will be made public.

11 Speakers will be limited to three minutes. Mr. Said  
12 will call out the names of our registered speakers.

13 We're gonna start first with our speakers who are in-  
14 person and then we will move to any speakers who have  
15 registered, who are joining us by phone.

16 When it -- you hear your name called, if  
17 you're in-person, come up to the microphone. I believe  
18 the microphone is already turned on. Somebody will  
19 confirm that that is the case. And for those who are  
20 joining by phone, Mr. Said will instruct you on how to  
21 unmute yourself. Three minutes. We have a timer here  
22 to your left, and when you -- that timer goes off,  
23 we'll just ask that you kindly wrap up your comments.

24 So with that, Mr. Said, can you please  
25 call on our first speakers?

1                   THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Chairwoman. As  
2 a reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's  
3 public comment period will be limited to three minutes.  
4 Please be respectful and concise during your comments.  
5 The first person on the list is Benjamin Byrd.

6                   MR. BENJAMIN BYRD: Hello, Board. My name  
7 is Benjamin Byrd Sr. Benjamin Byrd Sr. I just wanted  
8 to address the Board on a situation I'm having with one  
9 of your dispensaries that I invested \$427,500 into, and  
10 during the time of the investment, the applicant used  
11 information that had to do with me to upgrade his  
12 license from the, I guess, temporary status to annual  
13 license, and the information that he used of mine to  
14 submit was incorrect and not true.

15                   So I was wondering if the Office of  
16 Compliance and Investigation can maybe look into it and  
17 get to the bottom of it and then maybe even more be  
18 revealed when you look into it. And I'm trying not to  
19 lose my money. The store just opened up a few months  
20 ago. Of course, I -- I started funding this project on  
21 October, I think, the 11th of 2023, and the -- the  
22 store was supposed to open up in January of 2024, but  
23 it didn't happen.

24                   So I look forward to maybe having contact  
25 with the Office of Compliance to try to get to the

1 bottom of it. And how do I do that, please?

2 CHAIR: We'll have -- somebody from our  
3 staff will connect with you directly. So don't leave  
4 without connecting with someone.

5 MR. BYRD: I appreciate it.

6 CHAIR: One of our teammates here.

7 MR. BYRD: Yeah.

8 CHAIR: And they'll give you any  
9 directions for follow up so we can effect the --

10 MR. BYRD: All right. Then I'll hold the  
11 rest of my questions for the Office of Compliance.

12 CHAIR: Thank you.

13 MR. BYRD: Thank you. And you're doing a  
14 great job, by the way. I've been the mayor of my town  
15 for eight years, I serve on the committee, so I see you  
16 dancing back and forth when things go wrong, and that's  
17 pretty cool.

18 CHAIR: Thank you.

19 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Benjamin. The  
20 next person on the list is Michael Odenwald. I don't  
21 think I see that person. The next person is Thomas  
22 Ginefra. Just restate your name.

23 MR. THOMAS GINEFRA: Yeah. Thank you.  
24 How's it going, everybody? Good afternoon. My name's  
25 Thomas Ginefra. I'm the CEO and founder and co-owner

1 of TerpTaxi Cannabis Delivery.

2           Two things I just wanna discuss, the first  
3 being the location change fee for a classics. Our  
4 landlord was having a little bit of trouble with his  
5 insurance renewal, and basically, they were stating  
6 they wouldn't -- or -- or excuse me, the existing  
7 company he was working for raised his fees for whatever  
8 reason, and he went to speak to a new company to see if  
9 he was maybe getting overcharged and all of the new  
10 companies he spoke to denied him coverage because  
11 there's a cannabis business on the -- on the -- the  
12 location.

13           So that's, I feel like from what I hear,  
14 the normal sometimes. I think, you know, immediately  
15 what came into mind was the phone call I received,  
16 which was, you know, we might have to include in your  
17 lease that you would have to basically leave because I  
18 don't want to be continue to overcharge -- be  
19 overcharged or denied coverage for some reason,  
20 because, you know, your business is here.

21           And then that leads us with switching the  
22 location. And then when I double check the regulations  
23 to see if there was any cost potentially associated  
24 with that, it was, from my understanding, \$10,000.

25           And while we might be a standard-sized

1 delivery business, we still are a new business. I  
2 mean, we just recently opened up and we still are a  
3 small-margin business, which has definitely not been  
4 easy in -- in New Jersey.

5           And so I would just ask possibly for some  
6 consideration to potentially reconsider the amount of  
7 that fee, specifically, I mean, at least for our  
8 license, especially considering we have an  
9 administrative office, which quite frankly, we're never  
10 really at just for the sake of the license.

11           And yeah, that's -- that's really it. Or  
12 maybe for certain -- if we can even specify it even  
13 more, if that's not possible, maybe for classics  
14 administrative offices that don't have any product in  
15 their facility at all, which we don't either. So  
16 that's -- that was really my -- the first big topic we  
17 had -- you know, I wanted to discuss today.

18           And the second would be -- I brought this  
19 up in a previous public comment period a couple years  
20 ago. I mentioned in Colorado -- our software partners  
21 are from Colorado, and they mentioned they originally  
22 started their own delivery business there and that's  
23 because the state made it equitable enough for them --  
24 for basically to require all retail dispensaries to  
25 partner with a social equity delivery service for the

1 first two years.

2           And I would just ask if we can also  
3 reconsider that. I'm gonna wrap up my time here. But  
4 delivery is a small margin game, extremely difficult in  
5 a competitively priced industry. Sometimes you have to  
6 add fees on your -- on -- on the deliveries, and the  
7 more fees, the more expensive the product gets and it  
8 makes it more difficult and challenging to -- to  
9 attract that customer.

10           And so you might say free delivery, but we  
11 run into marginal problems there as well. So that  
12 allows -- and then allowing dispensaries to do their  
13 own who have higher margins and the ability to do  
14 delivery themselves, you combine those two together and  
15 it kind of puts us outta the equation a little bit.

16           So I just wanted to see if there was any  
17 reconsideration for the -- those two things, that's  
18 all. Thank you very much for your time and for my  
19 time.

20           THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Thomas. The  
21 next person on the list is Jesse Marie Villars.

22           MS. JESSE MARIA VILLARS: Good afternoon.  
23 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is  
24 Jesse Marie Villars, owner and CEO Baked by the River  
25 dispensary in Lambertville, New Jersey. I'd like to

1 begin by again requesting that the CRC reimplement the  
2 provisional badging process for employee badges.

3           With fingerprinting and background check  
4 delays, businesses and new hires are being placed in  
5 extremely difficult situations. Even if unintentional,  
6 these delays create inequitable access to employment  
7 and disproportionately impact small businesses that  
8 don't have the staffing flexibility of large  
9 corporations.

10           Next, I wanna express my support for  
11 Assembly Bill A1291, which establishes additional  
12 requirements for cannabis testing laboratories. I  
13 strongly encourage the Commission to support this bill.  
14 During the December review of lab findings, it was  
15 deeply concerning to see certain labs reporting months  
16 of zero or near zero failure rates for yeast and mold,  
17 especially when those labs are testing the majority of  
18 samples in the state.

19           As a retailer ordering products weekly, I  
20 need confidence that these test results are consistent  
21 and reliable, regardless of which lab is being used.  
22 Lab shopping for inflated THC levels or to avoid failed  
23 results should not create a competitive advantage.  
24 A1291 is an important step toward restoring  
25 transparency and trust for both operators and

1 consumers.

2 I'd like to also ask the Commission to  
3 remain mindful on how sweeping regulatory responses  
4 impact independent businesses and make sure that there  
5 is better transparency for consumers and licensees.  
6 The recent METRC hold is a good example. Many  
7 operators still don't have enough information to be  
8 able to transparently talk to customers about the  
9 products that are once again available.

10 My dispensary was not greatly impacted.  
11 The only cultivators on our shelf are independent New  
12 Jersey businesses whose practices we vetted ourselves,  
13 but some retailers who had large -- large portions of  
14 their inventory placed on hold going into the Super  
15 Bowl weekend.

16 For a large corporation, that may be  
17 manageable, but for a small struggling -- or struggling  
18 business, it can be devastating. The micro businesses,  
19 diversely owned businesses, and impact zone businesses  
20 were prioritized in licensing and should be protected  
21 when sudden market disruptions occur.

22 When sweeping actions are necessary,  
23 safety net should be considered. Right now, we need  
24 greater transparency to be able to give real answers to  
25 our customers. In the future, I'd like to see if

1 there's a way to better support independent operators  
2 through these kinds of industry hurdles.

3 I'd also like to express my support for  
4 CannPowerment's waiver for higher dose single serving  
5 edibles. I get this request at my dispensary all the  
6 time. The fat-based edibles like CannPowerment's  
7 edibles are some of the best edibles for medical  
8 patients. The higher dose is directly needed for med  
9 patients in many consumers. The sooner we can get this  
10 changed, the better.

11 And then finally, I want to address home  
12 cultivation in New Jersey. Although it falls outside  
13 the Commission's direct authority, I believe that New  
14 Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission can and should  
15 support the current push for legal home grow. As a  
16 business owner, I see it as a moral imperative.

17 Home cultivation is the only true path to  
18 equal access. There's no evidence from other adult-use  
19 states that regulated home grow harms the legal market.  
20 I will not allow my business to be used as  
21 justification for denying people the right to grow  
22 their own.

23 The Commission can be a meaningful voice  
24 in showing how home cultivation can coexist and even  
25 complement a regulated market. Thank you for your time

1 and consideration.

2 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Jesse. The  
3 next person on the list is Matha Figaro.

4 MS. MATHA FIGARO: Hello. Matha Figaro.  
5 Nice to meet you guys all in the flesh. It's kind of  
6 cool. So most people know me as ButACake, the first  
7 brand to produce a brownie here in the state. I'm also  
8 licensed Class 2 as manufacturing under CannPowerment.

9 And I came here simply to say, A, happy  
10 Black History Month. Thank you, guys, all for allowing  
11 somebody like me to exist in this space. And so I  
12 would be remiss-ed if I did not publicly say,  
13 specifically, thank you to you, Diana, for a lot of  
14 decisions that you make that allow me to exist, which  
15 also allow many girlies like us to also participate in  
16 the legal market.

17 Secondly, not as an operator, but just as  
18 a general constituent, I do understand that home grow  
19 does not fall under your purview at this time. I do  
20 understand that the goal of the government for our  
21 state is changing as well. So as we enter into this  
22 change in which a lot of these seats I'm looking at  
23 will be filled by different positions, I implore and  
24 encourage you to speak to your colleagues in the space  
25 about home grow.

1           Encourage them to learn about the benefits  
2 of home grow, encourage them to understand why home  
3 grow actually is a good thing for our state. As an  
4 operator, I fully support it. As a human being, I  
5 fully support it.

6           I also would like to say that as the co-  
7 chair of the manufacturing -- excuse me, committee for  
8 the NJCBA, we also would like to send a very big thank  
9 you to you guys for handling what happened last week  
10 with (inaudible) very quickly. A lot of operators were  
11 talking to each other, specifically manufacturers.

12           Luckily for me, I was not impacted because  
13 of my own personal business practices, but to see my  
14 colleagues in the space experience such uncertainty and  
15 not knowing where to go and where to move next, and  
16 some of them still experiencing holds and products  
17 sitting on their properties that they can't do anything  
18 with and they have no guidance for.

19           So handling all of that, thank you so  
20 much, but, there's always a but, please, moving  
21 forward, more clarity for regular people that don't  
22 understand the nuances of what we've got going on as  
23 operators. Yes, the product did test clean, yes, it is  
24 lifted in METRC, yes, that is a huge win for us as  
25 operators, but it seems like the general perception is

1 that it's not understood why.

2           And so if there could be some posts or  
3 some videos, just helping the general public understand  
4 the reason why this impact was so big and so important  
5 would mean a lot to us.

6           So again, happy Black History Month.  
7 Thank you all so much. I'm looking forward to what is  
8 coming for us next, and I definitely will be looking to  
9 help change that statute so that you guys can make  
10 decisions that would better impact our entire industry.  
11 Thanks.

12           THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Matha. The  
13 next person on the list is Thomas Norcia.

14 (Silence)

15           MR. SAMUEL REICHBART: Oh, you just said  
16 they would give me time. He said if you use it,  
17 they're gonna give me time. So I'll just speak right  
18 here right now then. If you won't let me get up there  
19 and speak, I will take my time right now. How does  
20 that sound? I don't give a fuck. If they aren't gonna  
21 let me speak, then I'm gonna speak.

22           CHAIR: Sir?

23           MR. REICHBART: Yeah.

24           CHAIR: Sir?

25           MR. REICHBART: I --

1 CHAIR: Sir? Sir? Sir?

2 MR. REICHBART: If you want to see my  
3 proof of my registration --

4 CHAIR: Sir, I'm talking --

5 MR. REICHBART: -- or what do you want  
6 from me?

7 CHAIR: Sir, I'm talking to you right now.  
8 Sir? Sir, I'm talking to you. I am --

9 MR. REICHBART: (Inaudible).

10 CHAIR: Sir? All right. You've got --  
11 you got three seconds to -- to bring it down a notch.  
12 'Cause I'm just talking to you right now. All right.  
13 I'm talking to you directly. It -- it is okay. It  
14 will be fine. You will have -- just like you had  
15 opportunities in the past, you will have an opportunity  
16 to speak.

17 We will hear from you today, but I need  
18 you to calm down 'cause this is gonna be your last and  
19 only warning before I'm gonna ask the state trooper to  
20 remove you. All right. Because I need -- I need you  
21 to bring it from here down to here. Is that -- can we  
22 agree on that? Can we agree on that?

23 MR. REICHBART: Yeah.

24 CHAIR: Perfect. Thank you very much.

25 Back on, Said? All right. Perfect. Thank you so

1 much. You're good? All right. Perfect. Thank you.

2 So --

3 THE SECRETARY: Chair Houenou?

4 CHAIR: Yeah.

5 THE SECRETARY: Since the speaker that  
6 registered last in time for phone is in-person, can I  
7 call on her?

8 CHAIR: Absolutely.

9 THE SECRETARY: Okay.

10 MR. JACK HENSLEY: Joel Schon is  
11 registered as an attendee. I don't know if that got  
12 messed up (inaudible).

13 CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Said, next  
14 speaker.

15 THE SECRETARY: Okay. Andrea Raible.

16 MS. ANDREA RAIBLE: Hello. My name is  
17 Andrea Raible and I am happy to talk to you today, but  
18 let's all just take a breath because it seems like  
19 tensions are high in the room for a second, and I'm  
20 nervous too.

21 Let's talk about last week. I bet the  
22 industry and the staff and anybody who really  
23 understood the extent of this administrative hold  
24 situation, that your stomach dropped. I bet your mind  
25 -- mind started racing, a billion questions. What do

1 we do? These products that we depend on, suddenly  
2 they're not here. What does it mean? Are they safe?  
3 Are they not? What happens if these products can't be  
4 put back on shelves? The people that depend on it, how  
5 much collateral damage would there be?

6           The scale of the impact to the market and  
7 the people could have been disastrous. I don't envy  
8 your position at all, but I do emphasize with it  
9 because that's what consumers and patients feel. Every  
10 single day in this market when we don't know, we're at  
11 the mercy of the market if our products will be there  
12 tomorrow or not.

13           The line between illegally grown marijuana  
14 and compliant cannabis might be explicit in the law,  
15 but situations like this make it clear that that single  
16 line does not represent safety or define what is right  
17 and wrong in different situations.

18           Within about 24 hours, you proved that  
19 that line could be bent. Products containing legally  
20 grown marijuana were released on dispensary shelves  
21 because safety, maintaining patient access, and  
22 minimizing collateral damage were prioritized.

23           Let me be clear. I believe you made the  
24 right decision, but I don't think that decision is  
25 without consequence, and it is raises a lot of other

1 emotions for me. There is no way to respectfully  
2 articulate the nuance to my outrage at the conditions  
3 in New Jersey right now. I am enraged that while the  
4 industry profits off of products containing material  
5 from an illegal marijuana grow, the war on private home  
6 grow continues.

7           People are arrested, rated for a single  
8 plant. Someone was just sentenced to six years for 11  
9 plants while the industry is profiting off of acres.  
10 For the industry, I'm afraid the next single bad actor  
11 could be a lab and your market would be unsalvageable  
12 overnight.

13           For a consumer, we're facing years in  
14 prison for things like interstate travel, but people  
15 get reeducation, 40 acres gets sold. I can't focus on  
16 the bad emotions or I will actually have seizures in  
17 front of you from the stress. So I'm gonna try to just  
18 move past it.

19           We need home cultivation protections for  
20 individuals in this state. We need preventative  
21 measures in place for this industry. You can't prevent  
22 bad actors but you can track yield. We need data  
23 transparency, better oversight, whistleblower  
24 protections because right now, unfortunately, I'm  
25 acting in a lot of ways as a whistleblower collective,

1 and I know more is coming. We need direct action.

2 We need the Bill A1291 which has the  
3 opportunity for a hearing in a few weeks in the  
4 Assembly Oversight Committee. We need Governor  
5 Sherrill to take direct action for home grow, because  
6 those bills have been sitting for 20 years and we've  
7 been feeling the pressure you felt for one day.

8 We need an opportunity forward. What  
9 happened here is a direct result of a state that has  
10 continually prioritized market growth over market  
11 integrity or patient needs. I hope under Governor  
12 Sherrill's administration we will see a swift and  
13 significant course direction. Thank you.

14 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Andrea. I'll -  
15 - I'll be moving on to now the -- the calling in  
16 portion. Just bear with me.

17 CHAIR: Mr. Said, before we get to the in-  
18 person folks, have you -- have you been able to confirm  
19 that the -- the gentleman did register to speak?

20 THE SECRETARY: Yeah.

21 CHAIR: All right. So he -- he'll be --

22 THE SECRETARY: Did not.

23 CHAIR: Oh, did not.

24 THE SECRETARY: Not -- not within the  
25 timeframe.

1 CHAIR: Ah, I see. I see, I see, I see.  
2 Okay. Okay. So what we'll do is we will -- I'll go  
3 ahead and give you -- sir, sorry, I'm talking to --  
4 it's just -- it's just me. I'm -- we're -- I'm gonna  
5 give you an opportunity to speak. All right?

6 In the future, just make sure that you  
7 enter -- you get registered before the cutoff time  
8 'cause that allows us to prepare.

9 MR. REICHBART: There's a legal  
10 (inaudible).

11 CHAIR: I'm -- I'm letting you speak. All  
12 right? Just in the future. So you can come on up.  
13 You can come on up. In the future, just make sure that  
14 your registration is in before the cutoff time.

15 MR. REICHBART: Hello. My name is Sam  
16 Reichbart. Thank you for the opportunity to speak  
17 today. I'm here to address two closely related issues,  
18 home cultivation and the recent decision making  
19 surrounding the unlicensed cultivation site discovered  
20 last week.

21 The state identified an unlicensed  
22 cultivation operation comparable to other alleged out-  
23 of-state illegal operations exceeding 30 acres.  
24 Products derived from the site were initially removed  
25 from retail shelves. However, within 24 hours, the

1 Cannabis Regulatory Commission determined that the  
2 material that tested within acceptable safety  
3 parameters could legally return to the market.

4           This -- this decision establishes an  
5 important and consequential precedent. It makes clear  
6 that the determining factor for consumer safety is not  
7 licensure, regulatory oversight, or compliance with the  
8 rest of the legal supply chain, but rather the final  
9 product's cleanliness and test results, including the  
10 absence of mold and pesticides.

11           Under New Jersey law, cannabis cultivated  
12 outside of a licensed facility is classified as illegal  
13 marijuana, not cannabis. As a result of the  
14 Commission's decision, licensed retail stores are  
15 currently selling illegal marijuana. Consumers are  
16 purchasing and consuming these products without any  
17 disclosure or warning regarding its origin or legal  
18 classification.

19           This creates significant legal and  
20 reputational risk not only for retailers and consumers,  
21 but for the entire -- for the entire integrity of New  
22 Jersey's regulated cannabis Market. At the same time,  
23 New Jersey residents continue to face severe actions  
24 for extremely small scale cultivation. I know  
25 personally of people who have been arrested at

1 gunpoint.

2           A woman was just sentenced to six years.  
3 It's -- it stands in stark contrast to the response  
4 given to this massive unlicensed commercial  
5 cultivation. The disparity raises a fundamental  
6 question of proportionality and fairness.

7           If the state's position is that a lack of  
8 licensure and oversight does not inherently make a  
9 product unsafe so long as it tests clean, then it  
10 becomes increasingly difficult to justify the continued  
11 prohibition of home cultivation.

12           I have been told directly, in the -- in  
13 the same conversation where a woman came in to tell me  
14 how I should be proud that she let this stuff back onto  
15 the market, she had the audacity to tell me that home  
16 grow is dangerous because of a lack of oversight.

17           So what is it? Does a lack of oversight  
18 make it inherently dangerous, or is it the fact that  
19 it's clean when it -- when it's done? If it's a matter  
20 of oversight, then you need to hold inherently  
21 dangerous products off of shelves.

22           I wanna make it clear, I do not believe  
23 that because I do not believe that licensure or where  
24 it comes from is what makes it safe and acceptable to  
25 use as medicine. I believe we need to enforce our

1 policies uniformly across the board.

2 So if it's okay to cultivate without a  
3 license and it's safe to be sold on the market, then so  
4 is home cultivation. I'm tired of being told it's  
5 dangerous. Thank you for your time.

6 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Sam. Okay. I  
7 will now move to the call in portion of the speakers.  
8 The first person on the list is William Caruso. If  
9 you're in the room -- in the zoom room, please raise  
10 your hand. The last four is 3096. Okay. Just -- you  
11 have the floor, William.

12 MR. WILLIAM CARUSO: Good afternoon, Madam  
13 Chair, commissioners, staff, members of our cannabis  
14 community. My name is Bill Caruso. I'm the president  
15 of the New Jersey Cannabusiness Industry Association.  
16 I'm also an attorney and chair of Archer Laws cannabis  
17 practice, and I'm also honored to be an advocate in  
18 this movement.

19 The first thing I want to offer is in  
20 reference to our cannabis community. I think a better  
21 understanding of the regulator's role here would help  
22 us all. These folks are encumbered by some of the same  
23 things that we're fighting for, or fighting against,  
24 but they arise in challenges in statute, they arise in  
25 challenges in court decisions or pending decisions, and

1 so in some cases, their hands are tied.

2 Put shorter, we're throwing rocks at the  
3 wrong wall sometimes. And on areas of home grow and on  
4 areas of -- I think there's agreement on some statutory  
5 change. I think there's some opportunity to work  
6 together, and I welcome any conversation with any one  
7 of our cannabis community members on where we can do  
8 that.

9 Most importantly though, I came here today  
10 to offer some praise. Sadly though, I don't really  
11 need to because you all have already been offered the  
12 highest form of public praise that any government body  
13 can be offered. You were offered a praise of a local  
14 New Jersey mayor complimenting a state regulatory body.  
15 That is fantastic, ladies and gentlemen, and you should  
16 take the bow for it.

17 I joke a little bit. I'm a former  
18 government staffer. The expectation that government  
19 does excellent work is sometimes low, but I think we  
20 all know that, that have served in terms of government,  
21 the reality is it's high and it's the norm.

22 So with all due respect, praise really  
23 isn't warranted for the incredible job you guys  
24 regularly do, that's the expectation. But I think when  
25 things happen above and beyond, praise is warranted.

1 And obviously, criticism will be guilt out regularly,  
2 but here's something special happened.

3 Last week, a nightmare happened. You've  
4 heard about it, we've had a lot of people talk about it  
5 here. But what was truly amazing is in a regulatory  
6 agency involving cannabis, something happened quickly,  
7 decisively, effectively, and I think as you heard,  
8 everybody agrees it was the right answer.

9 But let's dive into that. Governor  
10 Sherrill deserves a debt of gratitude. She's been in  
11 office less than a month. Her team isn't fully built  
12 out yet. Her attorney general has not even been  
13 confirmed by the full senate and they got to work and  
14 they allowed this group here to do the work it's  
15 excellent and expert at. Truly amazing.

16 Commissioners --

17 THE SECRETARY: 30 seconds.

18 MR. CARUSO: -- you should be applauded  
19 for allowing your team to work, but I want to give  
20 special credit to Director Urbish, his team, Director  
21 Riggs, and the work with the industry and the community  
22 to make sure safety was the top priority, that the  
23 consumer was the first focus, and when you confirm  
24 that, turning everything on as quickly as you did to  
25 help the industry move forward is nothing short of

1 incredible.

2 Thank you. We will look forward to  
3 working with you on continued reforms and really wanna  
4 hold out with the -- with the model we've become. New  
5 Jersey is a model for success in cannabis. Thank you.

6 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Bill. The next  
7 person on the list is Donald Campbell. If you're in  
8 the room, please raise your hand. The last four is  
9 9605, Donald Campbell. I don't see that person.

10 The next person on the list is Jim  
11 DiNatale. If you're in the room, Jim DiNatale, please  
12 raise your hand. The last four is 6757. I don't see  
13 that person.

14 The next person on the list is Kelly  
15 Gatto. If you're in the room, please raise your hand.  
16 Kelly Gatto. The last four is 1640. I don't see that  
17 person.

18 The next person on the list is Spencer  
19 Belz. If you're in the room, please raise your hand.  
20 Spencer Belz. Last four is 1995. Spencer Belz. I  
21 don't see that person.

22 The next person on the list is Andrew  
23 Zeitlin. If you're in the room, please raise your  
24 hand. Andrew Zeitlin. Last four is 0933. Okay. I  
25 see you, Andrew.

1 MR. ANDREW ZEITLIN: Hello.

2 THE SECRETARY: Andrew, you have the  
3 floor. Yeah, we can hear you.

4 MR. ZEITLIN: Great. Thank you so much.  
5 Good afternoon. Wow, that was quite the meeting. What  
6 time is it? It's 4 o'clock already. I have already  
7 canceled two other appointments. I am the owner, CEO  
8 of -- co-owner, I should say, of Canopy Crossroad in  
9 Redbank, New Jersey.

10 We are a Class 5 retail operation. We are  
11 -- we've been doing operation. I am the spokesman, my  
12 lovely bride is the chairman of the board, and we are a  
13 small mom-and-pop that was encouraged to develop a  
14 cannabis business as a New Jersey residence, and we are  
15 well on our way.

16 However, I -- I do believe that there are  
17 significant issues that this meeting has brought to the  
18 fore, not the least of which that it took three hours  
19 to get to any discussion or to get to the finality  
20 here. I believe that there is a need for a listening  
21 session like you're doing for the -- the equity portion  
22 of -- your remit.

23 But I really believe that safety is -- is  
24 really the goal here, and I really believe that a --  
25 that a -- that a listening session with industry

1 participants, people that have put their own money or  
2 other people's money, that are responsible for that  
3 money, whatever, that are playing in this game which is  
4 incredibly complicated.

5           And I've been in the regulated industry  
6 for my entire life and this one is beyond compare. But  
7 I really believe that the Commission would -- would be  
8 well-served and perhaps would be -- even produce a more  
9 efficient meaning in -- in the public sense if -- if  
10 they had industry input on a regular basis.

11           And -- and what I mean by that, and I  
12 could put a proposal together, but do some sort of a  
13 selection process of small players as well as large  
14 ones and do listening sessions and -- and actually have  
15 back and forth conversations about what it's like to  
16 operate in this business.

17           I think it would be beneficial for  
18 customers for the mission of safety and to ensure that  
19 business owners that have spent money and time don't go  
20 outta business and create all kinds of other problems.

21           That's my one point. And I -- I'd love to  
22 be able to follow up with someone on how to get  
23 listening sessions from the industry going. My second  
24 one is if I could ask a question, when will micro to  
25 regular business conversions be considered by the

1 Commission? Thank you so much. My time has expired.  
2 Have a great afternoon.

3 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Andrew. The  
4 next person on the list is Joel Schon. Joel Schon, if  
5 you're in the room, please raise your hand. The last  
6 four for Joel Schon is 3701. If you're in the room,  
7 please raise your hand.

8 And I think if you're calling in on Zoom,  
9 it's star, nine to raise your hand and star, six to  
10 unmute. Okay. I see you, Joel, but just a reminder,  
11 it's -- you have the floor, Joel. Star, six to unmute.

12 MR. JOEL SCHON: Hello. This is Joel.

13 THE SECRETARY: Yes, we can hear you.

14 MR. SCHON: Hi, guys. Okay. Thank you.

15 Good afternoon, Chair, members of the Commission.  
16 Thank you for allowing me to speak by phone today. My  
17 name is Joel Schon. I own Green Buffalo Pharmz in  
18 Jackson, New Jersey along with my father.

19 We're a small family-operated hemp farm  
20 licensed under the New Jersey hemp program. I'm  
21 speaking today, not just for our farm, but for many  
22 farmers across New Jersey, including those who can't be  
23 here, those who are overwhelmed, and those who may have  
24 already been forced outta business.

25 I'll be honest, public speaking is not my

1 strength. I'm a farmer, not a politician. I'm here  
2 because staying silent would mean accepting something  
3 that isn't fair. When hemp became legal in New Jersey,  
4 my father and I did exactly what the state asked of us.  
5 We worked with New Jersey, the -- with the Department  
6 of Agriculture, followed every rule, invested our time,  
7 our money, and -- and future of good faith.

8           Because of recent changes, compliant  
9 products grown legally can no longer be sold, and years  
10 of investment are now at risk. Not because farmers  
11 failed to follow rules, but because the rules changed  
12 after the fact.

13           CBD farmers are being pushed out due to  
14 issues tied to other products that were never regular -  
15 - properly regulated, and that's not fair. Non-  
16 intoxicating hemp and CBD products like oils,  
17 tinctures, topicals, gummies, and whole plant uses are  
18 not the problem.

19           They help people without impairment. I've  
20 seen hemp and CBD help veterans, seniors, families, and  
21 people working to reduce reliance on alcohol and other  
22 substances.

23           When grown and regulated responsibly, this  
24 plant strengthens communities. If New Jersey farmers  
25 are forced out, consumers won't stop buying these

1 products, they'll turn to out-of-state or unregulated  
2 sources.

3 That weakens oversight, harms public  
4 safety, and pushes opportunity out of the Garden state.  
5 We should be working together, farmers, regulators, and  
6 the state to keep compliant farmers who are here first  
7 in the business and serving their communities.

8 THE SECRETARY: 30 seconds.

9 MR. SCHON: All we're asking for is for  
10 fairness, a realistic path that keeps compliant New  
11 Jersey hemp farmers in business, and protect the people  
12 we serve. Thank you for my time and yours.

13 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Joel. The next  
14 person on the list is Dylan Youngclaus. Dylan  
15 Youngclaus, if you're in the room, please raise your  
16 hand. Dylan, you have the floor.

17 MR. DYLAN YOUNGCLAUS: Hi. I'm calling,  
18 first, I have a question. From my understanding, when  
19 a township denies an applicant the right to have a  
20 cannabis business, they have to notify the CRC, is that  
21 correct? And then my next question is, how do I find  
22 the denial, if that is the case, to confirm that the  
23 township had sent the proper documentation?

24 And I wanted to notify you that in the  
25 town council meeting where I was denied, the one

1 council member had notified me that everybody in the  
2 township council cultivates cannabis illegally and that  
3 the judge in the township also, they also cultivates  
4 cannabis illegally on his property.

5           He told me he's cultivating 15 acres. And  
6 to be denied the right to legally do something that  
7 I've put over a quarter million dollars into while  
8 being told that the entire town council and the judge  
9 in the township is illegally cultivating cannabis is  
10 ridiculous considering I've spent hundreds of thousands  
11 of dollars on attorneys and in fines for possessing  
12 cannabis, yet the people that are denying me the right  
13 to do so and collecting my money are doing the same  
14 exact thing.

15           And that's all I really have to say and I  
16 would like to get a response to confirm that you had  
17 received my denial, and I would like to share and know  
18 how I can share the transcript where they tell me that  
19 the mayor has and the judge have been illegally  
20 cultivating 15 acres of cannabis. Because I feel like  
21 that should be public knowledge and they should be put  
22 on blast for that.

23           DIR. RIGGS: Madam Chair, I'd like to  
24 respond just quickly to the question. Under the  
25 current law and regulations, there is no notification

1 requirement if a town decides to deny any approval for  
2 a business in that municipality.

3 MR. YOUNGCLAUS: And is there anything  
4 that can be done about the fact that they're illegally  
5 cultivating cannabis while denying people the right to  
6 apply for a license that they claim they have, but they  
7 have no intentions on giving out?

8 Do they have the power to just say, these  
9 licenses are available, but only to our friends? Is  
10 that just and constitutional?

11 CHAIR: Mr. Youngclaus, thanks so much for  
12 your -- for your comments and thank you to Director  
13 Riggs for providing an answer to the specific question  
14 about municipal notification to the CRC.

15 The Commission has very limited -- Mr.  
16 Youngclaus, the Commission has very limited authority  
17 and has essentially no authority over the  
18 municipalities and what their actions are. So we  
19 cannot give you further guidance on your particular  
20 situation, but we would invite you to maybe contact the  
21 Office of Public Integrity and Accountability, I think  
22 that's the -- the acronym.

23 If there are questions about the municipal  
24 -- actions happening at the municipal level, the  
25 Commission -- the Cannabis Regulatory Commission just

1 does not have any authority or oversight there. Thank  
2 you.

3 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Dylan. So  
4 that's the list. I'm gonna go over just one more time  
5 for the people that didn't get a chance to -- that were  
6 registered that didn't get a chance.

7 Michael Odenwald in-person. And then  
8 moving to phone people. Donald Campbell. 9605 is the  
9 last four. Jim DiNatale. 6757 is the last four of the  
10 telephone number. Kelly Gatto. 1640 is the last four  
11 of the telephone number. If you're in the room, please  
12 raise your hand.

13 I think, Chairwoman, this will conclude  
14 the registered speakers we have for today's public  
15 meeting.

16 CHAIR: Thank you. I will note I was just  
17 alerted that Mr. Norcia, we -- the technical issues  
18 that we had, actually -- you -- oh, you -- you  
19 connected with her? Okay. Great. All right.  
20 Perfect.

21 So that'll be -- that's resolved?  
22 Excellent. Thank you very much. Thank you to our  
23 communications team. We -- that concludes the business  
24 that we have before us today.

25 With that, thank you for all of our

1 registered speaker -- our -- our speakers who came and  
2 shared their experiences and their ideas, both policy  
3 and administrative suggestions for the agency. And,  
4 Mr. Byrd, please don't leave without connecting with  
5 our team. Thank you. With that, I move that we  
6 adjourn. Is there a second?

7 COMM. LAUFER: Second.

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

12 COMM. LAUFER: Aye.

13 COMM. MAPP: Aye.

14 VICE CHAIR: Aye.

15 CHAIR: All those opposed, say nay? Any  
16 abstention? The motion passes. The time is 4:16 p.m.,  
17 and we are adjourned. Thank you so much, everyone.

18 (Meeting concluded)

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