



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*
JACQUELINE FERRARO, *Commissioner*
HARRIS LAUFER, *Commissioner*
AMELIA MAPP, *Commissioner*
CHRIS RIGGS, *Acting Executive Director*

NEW JERSEY CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

2

3 DIANNA HOUENOU, Chair

4 KRISTA NASH, Vice Chair

5 JACQUELINE FERRARO

6 AMELIA MAPP

7 HARRIS LAUFER

8 WESLEY MCWHITE

9 CHRISTOPHER RIGGS, Director

10 DAVE TUASON, Legal Counsel

11 DANIEL SAID, Secretary

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1 CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. Thank you
2 for joining this regular meeting of the New Jersey
3 Cannabis Regulatory Commission. The time is 11:04 and
4 I call this meeting to order. Mr. Said, can you please
5 read 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. Notice of the scheduled meeting was
12 provided to the Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record,
13 Courier Post, Star Ledger and the Trenton Times on
14 December 8th, 2025. The agenda and information
15 regarding the in-person meeting and the ability to live
16 stream was also posted on the CRC website. The meeting
17 time and location has also been posted on the website
18 of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission and
19 with the Office of the Secretary of the State.

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

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro.

23 MS. JACQUELINE FERRARO: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer.

25 MR. HARRIS LAUFER: Present.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp.

2 MS. AMELIA MAPP: Present.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash.

4 VICE CHAIR: Present.

5 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou.

6 CHAIR: Present.

7 THE SECRETARY: We now have a quorum.

8 CHAIR: All right. The first thing --
9 first order of business today. We have a new
10 commissioner joining us, Commissioner Jacqueline
11 Ferraro. So I just want to give a moment to have her
12 briefly introduce herself since this is her first
13 public board meeting as a member of the commission.
14 I'll ask that everybody be nice to her. So
15 Commissioner Ferraro, welcome and the floor is yours.

16 MS. FERRARO: Thank you very much,
17 Chairwoman. It's certainly an honor to be here. I
18 want to take a minute to thank Speaker Craig Coughlin
19 for this appointment. I have deep respect for the
20 speaker and his leadership. I do not take this role
21 lightly, and I'm honored and grateful to work alongside
22 great commissioners, chairwoman, Executive Director
23 Riggs and the staff. It's been a welcoming
24 opportunity here so I'm very grateful and looking for
25 to doing, obviously, the work.

1 I want to recognize the work that's
2 already been done here. New Jersey has done a great
3 job in rolling out this program. Aside from the
4 challenges and struggles that take place -- this isn't
5 easy and I've got to give credit where credit is due.
6 And Chairwoman, thank you for your leadership. And our
7 inaugural board members, Mr. Christopher Riggs, Paul
8 Urbish and directors and staff, you guys have done a
9 phenomenal job so please know that it does not go
10 unnoticed.

11 On a personal note, I've been in the
12 industry for many years and worked alongside operators
13 who aspire to operate in New Jersey. By the way, born
14 and raised in New Jersey so I take great pride in the
15 work that we do here in the State. I have great
16 respect for our entrepreneurs, all our leaders
17 throughout the supply chain. And I'm looking forward
18 to continuing to engage with our stakeholders,
19 legislators, the new governor's administration, the
20 broader community. Because in my opinion, as an
21 advocate who started in 2017, by the way, along with
22 the Chairwoman. We advocated together back then. It's
23 so important that regulators, and in my opinion, and
24 legislators, local municipalities understand the
25 issues. (Sneeze) God bless you. Understand the

1 issues at hand. And so without having your hand on the
2 pulse and really understanding the struggles, there's
3 no way we can really effectively regulate. So I'm
4 looking forward to that for sure.

5 And through this experience, really, I
6 come here with this experience and share through that
7 lens of the experiences that I've had along the way, in
8 the last eight years. We need to create a more
9 sustainable and responsible industry now that it's -- I
10 look at it almost like a phase two of our marketplace
11 here. The build-up and now sustainability,
12 responsibility. How do we tweak -- how do we take an
13 honest look at what works and what's not working. And
14 how do we -- how do we be here for our broader
15 community. So looking forward to working with
16 everybody and thank you so much.

17 CHAIR: Thank you. And once again,
18 welcome. We're really excited to have you on board,
19 learning from your experience and getting your
20 perspective infused in the commission's work.

21 MS. FERRARO: Thank you.

22 CHAIR: Thank you very much.

23 THE SECRETARY: The first order of
24 business is for the Commission to go into Executive
25 Session to discuss legal matters and litigation and

1 investigation updates. These are discussions that are
2 not shared with the public. We believe the executive
3 session should take about 90 minutes.

4 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. Is there a
5 motion to go into executive session?

6 MR. LAUFER: Motion.

7 CHAIR: All right. Commissioner Laufer
8 moves to go into executive session. Is there a second?

9 MS. MAPP: I second.

10 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is
11 there discussion on this motion? Hearing no
12 discussion, all those in favor of the motion, going
13 into executive session, say aye.

14 ALL: Aye.

15 CHAIR: All those opposed say nay. Any
16 abstentions? Motion passes. So as Mr. Said noted, we
17 expect the executive session to last approximately 90
18 minutes. For those watching online, we will leave the
19 live stream running during that time. For anybody who
20 is here with us in person, our staff members who are
21 going to remain in the room will not be able to answer
22 any questions about the matters that are up for
23 consideration on today's agenda. So we can expect the
24 public session to resume at about, we'll say, 12:45.
25 Thank you for your patience everyone.

1 [MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION - OFF RECORD]

2 [RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION]

3 CHAIR: Thank you. All right. Welcome
4 back everyone. The time is 12:47, and we will resume
5 the public portion of this meeting. Mr. Said, can you
6 please announce the next agenda item?

7 THE SECRETARY: The next item up on the
8 agenda is approving the minutes of both the
9 Commission's open and executive sessions held on
10 February 12th and February 20, 2026. The minutes have
11 been shared with the members of the Commission prior to
12 this meeting.

13 CHAIR: Thank you. If there are no edits
14 or changes to the minutes, is there a motion?

15 MR. LAUFER: Motion.

16 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to
17 approve the meeting minutes.

18 VICE CHAIR: Second.

19 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Nash. Any
20 discussion on this motion to approve the meeting
21 minutes? Hearing no discussion, all those in favor of
22 the motion, say aye.

23 All: Aye.

24 CHAIR: All those opposed, say nay. Any
25 abstentions? Motion passes.

1 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the
2 agenda is the Chair's report.

3 CHAIR: So today I will not actually be
4 sharing some industry updates but rather focusing on
5 the five-year anniversary. So April 12th will mark the
6 Commission's fifth anniversary. But it is bittersweet
7 for me because as this fifth year comes to a close, so
8 too does my time with the Cannabis Regulatory
9 Commission. So today will be my last public board
10 meeting as a member of the commission.

11 As I've reflected on the agency's fifth
12 birthday and my time here, I've thought about what it
13 means to build two things at once. A new government
14 agency and a new regulated industry. Neither comes
15 with a roadmap. It requires patience, clarity of
16 purpose, and the willingness to make difficult
17 decisions in real time. Five years ago, the Commission
18 existed only on paper. Then one day it became a
19 government body with only six people on payroll.

20 Today it oversees a functioning, diverse,
21 and expanding industry that provides medical access,
22 economic opportunity and consumer protections to New
23 Jersey residents. The N.J.C.R.C has accomplished a lot
24 in five years, but the work is not finished. Building
25 a fair and responsible cannabis industry is an ongoing

1 process that requires collaboration, transparency and
2 continuous improvement.

3 I'm honored to have played a role in
4 changing how many people, though certainly not all, see
5 and interact with government for the better. Now
6 luckily for our newer commissioners, all of the hardest
7 work is already done. Though there will be challenges
8 ahead, you'll face novel issues that come with a
9 rapidly evolving industry. So my advice to you is to
10 tackle those challenges with an open mind, and
11 commitment to the timeless expression. Say what you
12 mean and mean what you say.

13 Regulations save lives but they work only
14 if they're enforced consistently and fairly.
15 Consistency is crucial for building trust, not just
16 with the public, but with the businesses we regulate.
17 Are you all able to hear me? Okay. We're just having
18 a microphone -- okay. No problem. I'll pause for a
19 second. This one definitely works. All right,
20 awesome. So to my newer commissioners, be willing to
21 try new approaches, and always be willing to embrace
22 discomfort.

23 Sometimes regulators must take unpopular
24 stances and make tough decisions. Alas, that's the
25 responsibility of a regulator. But I know you all have

1 the tools to excel and continue the momentum we've
2 built. I'm deeply grateful to the Commission's
3 personnel, our stakeholders, and the regulated
4 community for their partnership in building the system
5 from the ground up.

6 Your dedication has made these first five
7 years possible and will shape the success of the years
8 ahead. So thank you to Executive Director Chris Riggs,
9 Chief Counsel Tuason, Mr. Said, Director McWhite, and
10 every member of the CRC staff for making my five years
11 with the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission a
12 time to remember. So that's all that I have for
13 today's Chair's report. I've also invited Vice Chair
14 Nash to share some of her own reflections.

15 VICE CHAIR: Good afternoon, everyone. I
16 today want to talk about the chair and her
17 accomplishments. Dianna, when you were first appointed
18 to take the helm of this commission you weren't just
19 stepping into a new job. You were stepping into
20 uncharted territory. You were tasked with building a
21 billion dollar heavily regulated industry completely
22 from the ground up. For anyone that is a monumental
23 undertaking.

24 But you didn't just help build a market,
25 you led that charge that built a framework anchored in

1 justice. Under your leadership, along with others, the
2 New Jersey CRC championed social equity and prioritized
3 diversity. Ensuring that local, independent
4 entrepreneurs actually had a fighting chance to succeed
5 in this space.

6 It is no secret that building this agency
7 came with immense pressure, intense scrutiny and
8 incredibly complex hurdles. Yet through every fiery
9 debate, and there were a lot, and every tough
10 regulatory decision, you led with unwavering integrity
11 and absolute grace under pressure. Because of your
12 vision, New Jersey stands as a national model for what
13 an equitable cannabis framework can look like.

14 You will leave this commission with a rock
15 solid foundation, and you leave big shoes to fill for
16 whoever charts out the next step of this agency's
17 history -- story. Thank you for your support and
18 leadership over the past five years. I wish you
19 nothing but the absolute best in your new chapter.

20 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp, the floor is
21 yours.

22 MS. MAPP: Thank you, Chair. It has been
23 a year. March has been a year for me. As I started
24 this board with Dianna at the helm, and I saw not just
25 Dianna at the helm, but I saw a team of folks working

1 together. As Krista just mentioned, this has been
2 uncharted territory. But Dianna, I have to give you
3 the credit. You led with grace and patience. Even
4 when I know I would have flipped my head in a different
5 direction, you stayed firm.

6 You were that duck in the water who stayed
7 calm on top but paddled like what underneath. And that
8 I admire. I don't know that I am that person. But I
9 give you the credit for building this team and taking
10 the CRC to where it is today. And for those of us who
11 are new, we have work to do, but I think the framework
12 has been laid for us.

13 And we will try to follow -- follow that
14 pattern that has been made. I know things will change
15 because that's life but thank you for your guidance
16 over the year that I have been here. Thank you.

17 MS. FERRARO: Just to add on to that, I
18 want to thank the Chairwoman for her unwavering help
19 that she's offered to me throughout the last four
20 weeks. I'm very grateful for your leadership. The
21 Chairwoman is extremely organized -- oh, sorry. Still
22 learning the ropes. The Chairwoman I found to be very,
23 not only super smart, very organized and I learned a
24 lot from you. So I appreciate your leadership and
25 thank you for all you've done these last five years. I

1 appreciate you.

2 MR. LAUFER: Yeah, Dianna -- Chairwoman,
3 you have not done -- you've done a really hard thing,
4 and you've done it with grace and poise. And over the
5 course of my couple months here I've gotten to know
6 Dianna the person and she's wonderful, equally as good
7 as Dianna the Chairwoman who has taken this agency with
8 Director Riggs and former Director Brown from infancy
9 to what I now liken to a teenager.

10 We're able to get our own water. We're
11 able to do things by ourselves as a Commission. One
12 thing I told you when you broke the news to me was you
13 absolutely deserve your flowers. And you know what?
14 You absolutely do. Whether people disagreed with you
15 whether people agreed with you, you held firm, you held
16 constant and you deserve credit for that and you
17 deserve your flowers. So I wish you the most luck in
18 your next chapter and I hope our paths cross soon.
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR: Agreed.

21 MR. CHRISTOPHER RIGGS: Chairwoman, may I
22 have the floor?

23 CHAIR: Director Riggs, of course.

24 MR. RIGGS: We've been working here for
25 five years. I've gotten to know you personally,

1 professionally, and it's been a pleasure to work with
2 you. But I really want to thank you for your
3 leadership, diligence, and commitment to starting a
4 brand new industry built on the core values of safety
5 and equity. We stood it up, and you continued to
6 follow that path.

7 And it's definitely not an easy task to be
8 the inaugural chair of a brand new commission, a brand
9 new industry. There really was no roadmap because
10 there's not any other state that does it better than
11 New Jersey. So you really did a -- really did a good
12 thing. I think your work has helped lay a strong
13 foundation for fairness and transparency. And it's
14 really, really had a meaningful impact on New Jersey.
15 I'm proud of what we've accomplished together.

16 I'm grateful for the collaboration and
17 dedication that brought us here today. I know this
18 marks the close of a chapter, but I know that the
19 progress that you've made, and that we've made
20 together, will continue to inform and guide this entire
21 commission. I mean, it's got a great foundation laid
22 and will continue to move forward. So thank you and
23 thank you for that partnership along the way and
24 wishing you nothing but the best of the future. Thank
25 you.

1 MR. LAUFER: Was that your ED's report?

2 MR. RIGGS: Where do you find my ED's
3 report? I do have some data to share.

4 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs, and
5 thank you to each commissioner for your kind words. It
6 has been a real pleasure getting to know each and every
7 one of you and watching you flourish and blossom into
8 these roles as regulators. Which has been new for
9 everybody, but you've all taken it in great stride and
10 I'm looking forward to seeing all the accomplishments
11 that this agency will -- will achieve in its next five
12 years.

13 And I will also be looking forward to
14 hearing more about fiery debates, which Vice Chair Nash
15 is absolutely right, there was no shortage of fiery
16 debates. But it was all in an effort to make sure that
17 we are making informed decisions, we are well rounded
18 in our perspectives, and I do believe that the agency
19 is better for it and thus the industry also has been
20 better for it. So thank you to Director Riggs for your
21 patience with me.

22 I know I've been tough on you and the
23 commission staff, as well as my fellow commissioners.
24 Vice Chair Nash can attest to that too. I've been
25 really tough with them, too. But I do see a lot of

1 potential, and we can only go further up from here. So
2 thank you.

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

5 CHAIR: Director Riggs, floor is yours.

6 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chairwoman, and
7 I'll be brief in my Executive Director's Report. As
8 always, we'll give an update on here on dispensary
9 openings. We've got some new dispensaries opened up.
10 There's the map. We have more than 290 medical and
11 recreational dispensaries open in all 21 New Jersey
12 counties.

13 The licensing update for total licenses
14 approved as of March 17th of 2026. A little over 3,000
15 applications have been submitted into our licensing
16 portal. Our licensing team has reviewed them. About
17 2,500 of those applications have been approved. 328
18 applications are under review in the Office of
19 Licensing. A little over 200 are pending resubmission
20 following some type of cure, some kind of issue with
21 the application. And 153 of the applications are with
22 our Office of Compliance and Investigations.

23 Licensing update for total adult use
24 licenses approved as of March 23rd of 2026. 1,676
25 conditional licenses have been approved by the Board.

1 482 conditional to annual conversion licenses, 325
2 annual licenses and 87 expanded alternative treatment
3 centers.

4 Applications up for consideration today.
5 We have two micro business to standard business
6 conversion applications. Eight ownership changes, one
7 medical satellite, 11 conditional to annual
8 conversions, seven annual licenses, one cannabis
9 consumption area endorsement, and one expanded ATC
10 certification. 66 annual licenses renewals, we have
11 five annual license administrative extensions on the
12 agenda today.

13 And current patient enrollment numbers as
14 of March 15th of 2026. A little less than 50,000
15 patients enrolled in our program, a little more than
16 3,000 caregivers and about 1,500 doctors enrolled right
17 now in the program.

18 And right with that, I'm going to turn it
19 over to our Office of Diversity and Inclusion Director,
20 Wesley McWhite.

21 MR. WESLEY MCWHITE: Yes, thank you,
22 Director Riggs. I'll be really quick. Chairwoman
23 Dianna Houenou, it has been an immense honor and
24 privilege to get to know you and to work with you over
25 these last five years. We had one of our first

1 conversations about the commission and your vision for
2 it and what my vision could be for this office five
3 years ago in 2021.

4 And so it has been a journey. And I
5 congratulate you not only being a thought leader in
6 this space, an advocate, former advocate in this space,
7 still an advocate in this space. But being a woman,
8 being a black woman in this space has been very
9 impactful to the people that Glen and I have talked to.
10 So seeing you up here has been an inspiration not just
11 to us, but to others that look like us. To know that
12 they can succeed in this space, not just in the
13 industry but also in government as well. And that
14 really -- really made a difference along the way.

15 So the work that you all laid down even
16 before I got here. The equity rules that you and at
17 the time when Chris was chief counsel and former
18 director Brown and all of the people that laid down
19 that equity framework for us is now the blueprint for
20 states that are coming after us.

21 They're constantly calling us about what
22 we've done and how we got there and how do we look
23 back. States that are even our legacy in this space
24 that are older than us are trying to look back to
25 change their rules and their processes to match ours.

1 And so it's because of your leadership, because of your
2 innovation in this space, we are able to stand proud as
3 a state that really, really does center equity.

4 We're gonna continue to do that work in
5 your name and your honor. Much more work to do as we
6 get into the nuances of a lot of the hurdles that folks
7 are challenging. But rest assured, as everyone said,
8 you have laid a great foundation, and excited about
9 your next chapter. And see you soon, neighbor.

10 All right. So with that, I just wanted to
11 offer a really quick update to our New Jersey Cannabis
12 Training Academy. As you know every quarter this
13 program continues to grow. There are over 2,400
14 entrepreneurs registered to the CTA. Nearly 300 attest
15 that they are current cannabis employers or cannabis
16 workers. More than 300 certificate of completions have
17 been generated, a.k.a. graduates. More than 100 unique
18 cannabis businesses are represented. Over 50 identify
19 as a current license holder. There are 30 additional
20 webinars that have been produced since our last time.
21 Instruct Q&As continue to go, New Jersey CRC interviews
22 continue to happen, and expert insights are constantly
23 being poured into the CTA.

24 And so with that, we wanted to quickly
25 announce that the CTA, the Cannabis Training Academy,

1 is now offering a la carte lessons. So you are able to
2 take lessons at your leisure. You don't have to start
3 at one. Specifically, they're answering the call to
4 making sure that folks understand standard operating
5 procedures. So for folks that need help to
6 understanding their business's standard operating
7 procedures and what the agency expects from those, you
8 are now able to take those as well as any of the other
9 nine additional courses to the CTA.

10 So we want to continue to support the CTA,
11 see it grow, and they continue to answer the call. We
12 need them to continue to expand the resources for the
13 industry. With that, I'll turn it back to the chair.

14 CHAIR: Thank you very much. Mr. Said,
15 can you please announce the next agenda item?

16 THE SECRETARY: The next item up for
17 consideration are micro to standard conversion
18 applications.

19 CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is yours
20 to describe the applications received.

21 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
22 have two micro to standard business applications,
23 Canopy Crossroad LLC and Dank Poet Dispensary LLC.
24 Both of these applications were reviewed to ensure that
25 the applicant has been operational for at least one

1 year prior to applying for conversion. And that they
2 are in good standing with the commission.

3 The completeness review was conducted to
4 ensure that everything required by the CRC regulations
5 is included in the application and that all necessary
6 fees are paid. Both of these applications are eligible
7 for approval, and it is recommended that the Board
8 approve these two applications today. Thank you.

9 CHAIR: Thank you very much. Are there
10 any questions from the Board for Director Riggs?

11 MR. LAUFER: Nope.

12 CHAIR: Hearing no questions, is there a
13 motion on this matter?

14 MR. LAUFER: I move approval of the two
15 conversions.

16 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to
17 approve the applications.

18 MS. 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 Ferraro?

23 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

25 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp.

2 MS. 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. The
8 next items up for consideration are ownership change
9 applications.

10 CHAIR: Director Riggs?

11 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We're
12 going to do these in a couple batches, but we have four
13 ownership applications before the board currently in
14 this moment. Under the law and regulations, the sale
15 or transfer of equity in a business requires board
16 approval. This is so that we can ensure as an agency
17 that all regulatory requirements are met and that any
18 of the owners are vetted through their probity review
19 process and the Office of Compliance and
20 Investigations.

21 These four that are proposing a transfer
22 in the ownership have satisfied the regulatory
23 requirements for an ownership change. All these
24 owners, individuals that were required to be vetted,
25 that was done by the Office of Compliance and

1 Investigation, and the folks are deemed qualified to
2 enter into the adult use market. And therefore these
3 four ownership changes are recommended for approval by
4 the board today.

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

8 MS. MAPP: I make the motion that we
9 accept these changes as presented by Director Riggs.

10 CHAIR: Commissioner Mapp moves to accept
11 and approve the ownership change applications. Is
12 there a second?

13 MR. LAUFER: Second.

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

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

18 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

20 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

22 MS. MAPP: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: 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, we have consideration of an
4 ownership change application for CannaVerde Dispensary.
5 Commissioner Mapp has recused herself from this
6 ownership change application for CannaVerde Dispensary
7 due to an ongoing professional relationship. On
8 account of her recusal, she will step out of the room
9 while the board considers this particular application.

10 Afterward, Commissioner Mapp will come
11 back in and we'll take up the next order of business.

12 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. As soon as
13 the door closes, I will hand the floor over to Director
14 Riggs.

15 MR. RIGGS: (Laughter). Thank you.

16 CHAIR: There we are, Director Riggs.

17 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chairwoman.
18 CannaVerde Dispensary has an ownership application in
19 with the commission that's required to be, you know --
20 oh, also the Office of Compliance and Investigations
21 has reviewed this application. They have determined
22 that this -- the regulatory requirements are satisfied,
23 and the owners are able to enter into the adult-use
24 space. Therefore, it is recommended that this
25 application be approved.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
2 there any questions from the board for Director Riggs?
3 Hearing no questions, is there a motion on this matter
4 as it pertains to CannaVerde Dispensary?

5 MR. LAUFER: Move to approve.

6 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to
7 approve.

8 VICE CHAIR: Second.

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

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

13 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

15 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp is
17 recused. Vice Chair Nash?

18 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

20 CHAIR: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

22 CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is yours
23 for the next -- oh, yes, I'm sorry. We'll invite
24 (laughter) Commissioner Mapp.

25 MR. RIGGS: Yeah.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said.

2 MR. RIGGS: Okay.

3 CHAIR: We'll invite Commissioner Mapp
4 back in. Ready?

5 THE SECRETARY: The next item on the
6 agenda, we have consideration of an ownership change --
7 of ownership change applications for Valley Wellness,
8 Wildflower Market, Air Wellness -- and Air Wellness.
9 Commissioner Ferraro has recused herself from ownership
10 change applications for Valley Wellness, Wildflower
11 Market, and Air Wellness due to an ongoing professional
12 relationship. On account of her recusal, she will step
13 out of the room while the board considers this
14 particular -- these particular applications.
15 Afterward, Commissioner Ferraro will come back in and
16 we'll take up the next order of business.

17 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. Director
18 Riggs.

19 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. As I
20 previously indicated, the sale and transfer of equity
21 in a business requires board approval. These three
22 businesses have submitted their ownership applications
23 to the Office of Compliance and Investigation and
24 they've reviewed them. The owners and the individuals
25 that were required to be vetted under a probity review,

1 it was done by the Office of Compliance and
2 Investigations. And the individuals have been deemed
3 qualified to enter into the adult-use market, and
4 therefore, we are recommending approval of these three
5 ownership changes.

6 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
7 questions from the board for Director Riggs? Hearing
8 no questions, is there a motion on this matter as it
9 relates to Air Wellness, Valley Wellness, and
10 Wildflower Market?

11 MR. LAUFER: Move to approve.

12 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to
13 approve the ownership change applications.

14 MS. MAPP: I'll second.

15 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is
16 there any discussion on this motion to approve?

17 MR. LAUFER: First meeting, she's got
18 recusals. Whew.

19 CHAIR: Yep. As we all have.

20 (Laughter)

21 MR. LAUFER: Yeah. No, mine -- mine too,
22 for the record.

23 CHAIR: As we all have.

24 MR. LAUFER: Yeah. No, mine too.

25 CHAIR: All right. Any further discussion

1 on this motion? All right. Hearing no further
2 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro is
4 recused. Commissioner Laufer?

5 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

7 MS. MAPP: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

9 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

11 CHAIR: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
13 next item up for consideration is a medical permit
14 satellite application.

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

17 MR. RIGGS: (Laughter) Thank you, Madam
18 Chair. Monmouth Wellness & Healing LLC, doing business
19 as NJ Leaf in Aberdeen, New Jersey, has submitted their
20 application for approval for an satellite location in
21 the medical space. Under J. Koenig Law, a qualifying
22 alternative treatment center is allowed up to two
23 satellite locations for the dispensing of medical
24 cannabis or cannabis products. Monmouth Wellness &
25 Healing has met these qualifications and therefore, we

1 are recommending that it be approved today. Thank you.

2 CHAIR: Thank you for -- thank you so
3 much, Director Riggs. Is -- are there any questions
4 from the board for Director Riggs? Hearing no
5 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

6 MR. LAUFER: Move to approve.

7 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to
8 approve. Is there --

9 MS. MAPP: (Interposing) I -- I second.

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

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

14 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

16 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

18 MS. MAPP: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

20 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

22 CHAIR: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The

24 next item up for consideration are the Adult-Use

25 Cannabis Business Conversion License Applications.

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

3 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
4 have 11 conditional annual conversion applications up
5 for today. Two cultivators, one manufacturer, seven
6 retailers, and one wholesaler. All of these licenses
7 have followed the process and submitted through our
8 licensing portal. Priority assignment was given.
9 We've confirmed that each application is assigned to
10 the appropriate review priority, looking at diversely-
11 owned business status, taxes, residency if required,
12 and then cures can be sent if needed. That priority is
13 then verified, where we confirm that the appropriate
14 documentation is submitted to submit that priority. A
15 completeness review is conducted by Licensing to
16 confirm that all the required documents are submitted,
17 that the application is complete. Then the
18 applications are scored and those documents are
19 reviewed to ensure that the applications submitted
20 necessary information to satisfy the regulatory
21 requirements and the Notice of Application
22 requirements. A qualification review is then conducted
23 in our Office of Compliance and Investigation to
24 determine that the individual's financial sources and
25 any other agreements are reviewed for regulatory

1 compliance. Background checks are reviewed to ensure
2 the owners and persons of interest are qualified to
3 enter into the adult-use market. A quality control
4 process is done, and now we are recommending that these
5 applications be approved by the board. Thank you.

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

9 MR. LAUFER: Move to approve.

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

12 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

13 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Ferraro.

14 CHAIR: Is there any discussion on this
15 motion?

16 MR. LAUFER: Some of these names are just
17 fantastic.

18 CHAIR: Any further discussion?

19 MR. LAUFER: (Laughter).

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

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

23 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

25 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

2 MS. 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. The
8 next item up for consideration are the Adult-Use
9 Cannabis Business Annual License Applications.

10 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs.

11 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
12 have seven, I believe. Next slide, please. Seven
13 Annual Licenses up for consideration. One cultivator,
14 one -- two manufacturers, and four retailers. They
15 follow the same process that I just articulated for the
16 conditional to annual conversion applications, priority
17 assignment, priority verification, completeness review,
18 they're then scored, there's a qualification review,
19 quality control, and now we're recommending that these
20 seven be approved by the board today. Thank you.

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 matter?

24 MR. LAUFER: Move to approve.

25 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to

1 approve the applications.

2 MS. FERRARO: Second.

3 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Ferraro.

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

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

7 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

9 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

11 MS. 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. The
17 next item up for consideration is a Cannabis
18 Consumption Area Application.

19 CHAIR: Director Riggs, the floor is
20 yours.

21 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
22 have one consumption area endorsement application for
23 Blazin' Buddies, LLC. It's a Class 5 retailer in
24 Millville, New Jersey. As a reminder, it's an
25 endorsement associated with a brick and mortar Class 5

1 retail space. Site plans and the municipal approvals
2 were submitted and reviewed by our Office of Compliance
3 and Investigations. It's been determined that their
4 retail establishment is in good standing with the CRC.
5 Their standard operating procedures have been reviewed
6 for regulatory compliance, and therefore we are
7 recommending that they be approved to have a
8 consumptionary (sic) endorsement. Thank you.

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

12 VICE CHAIR: I move to approve the
13 Cannabis Consumption Area Endorsement.

14 MS. MAPP: I second.

15 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Nash and
16 seconded by Commissioner Mapp. Is there any discussion
17 on this motion to approve? Hearing no discussion, Mr.
18 Said, can you please call the vote?

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

20 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

22 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

24 MS. 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. The
5 next item up for consideration is an Expansion
6 Application.

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

9 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chairwoman. We
10 have one expanded Alternative Treatment Center
11 Certification to expand at the Adult-Use Space for
12 Brute's Roots, LLC, as a Class 5 Retailer in Paulsboro,
13 New Jersey. We've received their zoning and municipal
14 approvals. We've confirmed that the labor requirements
15 are met. As required by the law, they have certified
16 that they have sufficient quantities of medical
17 cannabis and medical cannabis products available to
18 meet the reasonably anticipated needs of registered
19 qualifying patients in accordance with the law, and
20 therefore we are recommending that they be approved
21 today. Thank 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 MR. LAUFER: Move to approve.

1 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to
2 approve.

3 VICE CHAIR: Second.

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

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

8 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

10 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

11 MR. LAUFER: Commissioner Mapp?

12 MS. 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 up for consideration are the Adult-Use
19 Cannabis Business Annual License Renewal Applications.

20 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. Director
21 Riggs, the floor is yours.

22 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chairwoman. We
23 have a total of 66 licenses to be renewed that will be
24 done in some tranches here. The first set is about 59
25 licenses. Those are effective for one year of -- from

1 the date of issuance and required to be reviewed
2 annually. I am gonna make another call to the public
3 to be responsive to CRC's licensing team and staff when
4 they are doing the outreach for renewals. The
5 regulations require renewals to be submitted 90 days in
6 advance. If a business does not submit a timely
7 renewal application, they run into a risk of the
8 license having expired and having to restart the
9 application process all over again. So please be
10 responsive to my licensing team and the staff on that
11 licensing team. They do a lot of work to get these
12 board meetings together and the renewals take a lot of
13 their time. And please be responsive to the first set
14 of outreach and don't make them call you several times
15 when they're trying to get you to give to renewal for
16 you to operate your business.

17 With that said, the entities -- all the entities
18 presented today have provided the required
19 documentation for renewal. That documentation has been
20 reviewed by Licensing in the Office of Compliance and
21 Investigations and therefore, we are recommending that
22 they be approved today. Thank you.

23 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
24 there any questions from the board for Director Riggs
25 regarding these -- this group of 59 annual license

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

3 MS. MAPP: I move to approve the renewals
4 as presented by Director Riggs.

5 MR. LAUFER: Second.

6 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Mapp and
7 seconded by Commissioner Laufer. Is there any
8 discussion on this motion? Hearing no discussion, Mr.
9 Said, can you please call the vote?

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

11 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

13 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

15 MS. MAPP: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

17 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

19 CHAIR: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
21 next item on the agenda, we have consideration of
22 annual license renewal applications for Ascend New
23 Jersey, Valley Wellness, Sussex Cultivation, Holistic
24 Solutions, and Bud City New Jersey. Commissioner
25 Ferraro has recused herself from these applications due

1 to an ongoing professional relationship. On account of
2 her recusal, she will step out of the room while the
3 board considers these particular applications.

4 Afterward, Commissioner Ferraro will come back in and
5 will take up the next order of business.

6 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. Director
7 Riggs, the floor is yours.

8 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chairwoman. Again,
9 these licenses are effective for one year and they're
10 up for renewal. All these entities have provided the
11 required documentation for renewal. They've paid the
12 fee. That documentation has been reviewed and approved
13 by our licensing team in our Office of Compliance and
14 Investigations, and therefore, we are recommending that
15 they be renewed today. Thank you.

16 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. Are
17 there any questions from the board for Director Riggs
18 regarding these seven license renewals? Hearing no
19 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

20 MR. LAUFER: Move to approve.

21 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to
22 approve the applications.

23 VICE CHAIR: Second.

24 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner -- sorry.
25 Seconded by Vice Chair Nash. Is there any discussion

1 on this motion? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can
2 you please call the vote?

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro is
4 recused. Commissioner Laufer?

5 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

7 MS. MAPP: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

9 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

11 CHAIR: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
13 next item up for consideration is administrative
14 extensions.

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

17 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
18 have five total licenses for Curaleaf for
19 administrative extension. They have submitted their
20 renewal application, they have checked the box that
21 they no longer have an LPA, and therefore, based upon
22 the advice of counsel, I am recommending that we
23 administratively extend these licenses until that
24 litigation is over and we can make a decision on these
25 applications. Thank you.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Riggs. And
2 just to clarify, since our -- this slide says,
3 conditional --

4 MR. LAUFER: Yeah.

5 CHAIR: -- to annual conversion
6 applications, I want to make sure that --

7 MR. RIGGS: This slide is accurate. This,
8 inaccurate. This is -- these are renewal applications
9 for Curaleaf.

10 CHAIR: Thank you.

11 MR. RIGGS: You're welcome.

12 CHAIR: Are there any questions from the
13 board regarding the information provided? Hearing no
14 questions, is there a motion on this matter as it
15 pertains to these five renewal -- I'm sorry, these five
16 annual licenses for Curaleaf NJ?

17 MR. LAUFER: I move to administratively
18 extend these licenses.

19 MS. FERRARO: Second.

20 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to
21 administratively extend the licenses. Commissioner
22 Laufer, to what date or for how long?

23 MR. LAUFER: Let's do 60 days.

24 CHAIR: All right. So Commissioner Laufer
25 moves to administratively extend the licenses for 60

1 days. Commissioner --

2 MS. FERRARO: Second.

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

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

7 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

9 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

11 MS. MAPP: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Nash?

13 VICE CHAIR: Yes, but only because it's at
14 the advice of counsel.

15 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

16 CHAIR: My vote is yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes. The
18 next item up for consideration are determinations of
19 rehabilitation.

20 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Riggs, the
21 floor is yours. I'm sorry, Chief Counsel Tuason. Yes.

22 MR. DAVE TUASON: We -- we received one
23 application for rehabilitation. Staff reviewed this
24 application and believes this individual met all the
25 factors under the statute, and staff recommends

1 approval of this rehabilitation application today. And
2 with that, I turn it back over to you, Madam Chair.

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

6 MR. LAUFER: Move to approve the
7 rehabilitation.

8 CHAIR: Could you speak into the
9 microphone?

10 MR. LAUFER: Move to approve the
11 rehabilitation.

12 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer moves to
13 approve --

14 MS. FERRARO: Second.

15 CHAIR: -- the determination of
16 rehabilitation. Commissioner Ferraro seconds. Is
17 there any discussion on this motion?

18 MR. LAUFER: Glad the system worked.

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

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

23 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

25 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

2 MS. 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. The
8 next item up for consideration are requests for rule
9 waivers.

10 CHAIR: Thank you. Chief Counsel Tuason,
11 the floor is yours.

12 MR. TUASON: Thank you, Madam Chair. So
13 we are -- the board will be considering one waiver
14 request of our regulations today. In order for the
15 board to determine whether a waiver should be granted,
16 they must -- that entity must meet the factors under
17 3.7 in our regulations, which says that the board may
18 waive a regulatory requirement regarding the operations
19 of a business if that waiver is necessary to achieve
20 the purposes of the statute, is necessary to provide
21 access to cannabis items to consumers, and three, does
22 not create a danger to the public health and safety.
23 So the first or the only waiver request we're
24 considering today is WR052. The entity name was Flower
25 Bomb Dispensary. They're requesting a waiver of the

1 renewal application and renewal fee, essentially
2 because the -- the entity had a fire and cannot operate
3 at this time. And with that, I turn it back over to
4 you, Madam Chair, for a board vote.

5 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are
6 there any questions from the board? Hearing no
7 questions, is there a motion on this matter? I will
8 move to deny in part and grant in part. So I move that
9 we deny the waiver request for Rule 7.17D(11), that we
10 grant the waiver for -- of Rule 7.16C, given the
11 extenuating circumstances that this particular licensee
12 is under, and that we extend, administratively extend
13 their existing license until September 30th, at which
14 time the commission can assess the licensee's progress,
15 or status and then make further determinations. So my
16 motion is to deny the waiver request of Rule 7.17D(11),
17 which is the -- which is the licensing fee; to grant
18 the request to waive Rule 7.16C; and to
19 administratively extend the existing license until
20 September 30th.

21 MR. LAUFER: I'll second that motion.

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

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

1 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

3 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

5 MS. 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 up for consideration are notices of
12 enforcement actions.

13 CHAIR: So starting with INV88-2025, Chief
14 Counsel Tuason, the floor is yours.

15 MR. TUASON: So staff issued a notice of
16 violation to Verano, NJ, LLC, for failure to adhere to
17 the regulations by not ensuring that cannabis products
18 were accurately package d and labeled and not ensuring
19 its equipment was inspected effectively, this led to a
20 couple of underweight pre-rolls that were sold to
21 consumers. With that, turn it back over to you, Madam
22 Chair, for discussion and a board vote.

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

1 this matter?

2 MR. LAUFER: Yeah.

3 CHAIR: Commissioner Laufer.

4 MR. LAUFER: Madam Chair, I move, a
5 \$10,000 fine for violation one, a \$10,000 fine for
6 violation two, and a \$500 fine for violation three,
7 giving -- going into more specificity, a \$10,000 fine
8 for the -- the machine issues and the lack of weighing
9 the -- the product, which I believe hurts consumers
10 because they were -- they were not properly weighing
11 consumers and they were doing it in their favor, not
12 consumers' favor. And for the \$500 fine, I -- you
13 know, they should have a supervisor on staff, and now
14 they know that. And finally, they were not adhering to
15 their corrective action plan, which is why the fine is
16 where it is for me.

17 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Laufer.

18 So that is a \$10,000 for the violation of Rule
19 11.12(A)(1).

20 MR. LAUFER: Yep.

21 CHAIR: \$10,000 for violation of Rule
22 16.5(A)(1).

23 MR. LAUFER: Yep.

24 CHAIR: And \$500 for violation of Rule
25 11.3(E). Is that correct?

1 MR. LAUFER: That is correct.

2 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there -- so that is
3 the motion before us. Is there a second?

4 MS. FERRARO: I second that.

5 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Ferraro.
6 Is there any discussion on this motion? I do want to
7 note that in addition to the facts that Commissioner
8 Laufer pointed to, I think it was also very telling
9 that our staff took -- they got -- it took a very long
10 time for this licensee to respond to the direct
11 questions that our staff asked. And so I encourage all
12 of our licensees, if you're asked a pointed question,
13 give a pointed answer. Don't make the staff try to
14 chase you down for an answer that's not gonna bode well
15 for you. But with that, I -- I am in favor of the
16 motion. Is there any further discussion on this
17 motion? Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Said, can
18 you please call the vote?

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

20 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

22 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

24 MS. 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 MR. TUASON: The next -- the final
6 enforcement action the board will be considering today
7 is INV147-2025. And staff had issued a notice of
8 violation to OGs Brands for failure to adhere to the
9 regulations by manufacturing non-infused gummies and
10 supplying cannabis retailers with non-infused gummies,
11 which we consider to be food, which would be under the
12 purview of a different agency if it's food. Just for
13 clarity, the -- the NOV did issue two separate
14 regulatory violations, one for 11.2(C), which says that
15 a cannabis manufacturer shall only manufacture cannabis
16 products, and 11.2(A)(4), which states that a
17 manufacturer shall only be authorized to transfer or
18 sell usable -- usable or unusable cannabis. And with
19 that, I turn it back over to you, Madam Chair.

20 CHAIR: Thank you, Chief Counsel. Are
21 there any questions from the board? Hearing no
22 questions, is there a motion on this matter?

23 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair, I move to impose
24 a monetary penalty on violation two, which is
25 11.2(A)(4) in the amount of \$10,000.

1 MR. LAUFER: Second.

2 CHAIR: Vice-Chair Nash moves to impose a
3 penalty of \$10,000 for violation of Rule 11.2(A)(4),
4 and it's seconded by Commissioner Laufer. Is there any
5 discussion on this motion?

6 VICE CHAIR: Yes. I became aware that
7 this business was already told by our compliance staff
8 that they were not permitted to dispense it, and they
9 did it anyway. So that is why -- that is why I arrived
10 at that figure.

11 CHAIR: Thank you, Vice-Chair Nash. I
12 would -- I agree with you. I think this is becoming
13 increasingly problematic. We are seeing licensees
14 disregard the explicit instructions of the -- the
15 commission. And so if you are asking for -- it is
16 better to ask for permission than forgiveness, but when
17 you're asking for permission and you're told no, just
18 don't --

19 MR. LAUFER: There is no forgiveness.

20 CHAIR: -- do it. There is no -- there is
21 no forgiveness, exactly.

22 (Laughter)

23 CHAIR: Thank you. And I also want to
24 note for the record that the evidence provided did
25 indicate that the licensee did not violate Rule

1 11.2(C), and so I believe that is why Vice-Chair Nash
2 is moving to impose a penalty only for violation of
3 Rule 11.2(A)(4). So we'll have -- we -- that should be
4 reflected in the final agency decision, but I just
5 wanted to note that for the record. Is there any
6 further discussion? Hearing no further discussion, Mr.
7 Said can you please call the vote?

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

9 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

11 MR. LAUFER: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

13 MS. 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. The
19 next item on the agenda, we have the open public
20 comment period.

21 CHAIR: Thank you. So as a reminder,
22 members of the public can submit public comments during
23 or after this meeting in writing via our website,
24 nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. The deadline for submitting
25 written comments for today's meeting is 5:00 p.m.

1 tomorrow, Wednesday, April 1st. And no, that is not a
2 joke.

3 (Laughter)

4 CHAIR: Written comments will be shared
5 with the commission members, and they will be made
6 public. So Mr. Said will call on our registered
7 speakers. We will first start with those registered
8 speakers who are in the room with us, and then we will
9 move to anybody who is joining us by phone. When Mr.
10 Said calls out your name, if you're in the room, please
11 come forward. We'll have somebody check to make sure
12 that the microphone is on. State your name very
13 clearly for our stenographer who is transcribing the
14 meeting, and then you can share your comments.

15 Your three minutes will be on the timer here to
16 your -- to your left. When you hear the beep, just
17 please wrap up your comments.

18 And for those who are joining by phone, when you
19 hear your name called, Mr. Said will give you
20 instructions on how to raise your hand in the Zoom
21 function, and then how to unmute yourself.

22 With that, Mr. Said, can you please call on our
23 first speakers?

24 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Chairwoman. As
25 a reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's

1 public comment period will be limited to three minutes.
2 Please be respectful and concise during your comments.

3 The first person I have on the list is Leo
4 Bridgewater (phonetic), if you're in the room.

5 MR. LEO BRIDGEWATER: Mic check, mic
6 check. Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Leo
7 Bridgewater. I live at 133 Jackson Street, Trenton,
8 New Jersey.

9 I -- I came here today 'cause I wanted to
10 say a few words about the chair. And my first thought
11 was, it was expanded because as I sat there, I'm
12 looking at everybody who's a commissioner now. Krista,
13 you're the last. (Laughter). And I wanna say, Dianna,
14 when I first met Dianna, she was a -- a counsel for the
15 ACLU and having seen many a battle between Dianna
16 Houenou and Senator Ron Rice and so forth, I can tell
17 you that she is a day one. But then I look to the
18 left, and then I see Jackie, and I'm just like, "Are
19 you kidding me? Really? Another day one.". Then I
20 look to the right, and then I see Harris, and I'm like,
21 "Wow, this is what we were fighting for." And then I
22 see Commissioner Mapp, and great Jamaican, dinner where
23 we had and talked, you know. And then looking at
24 Krista and realizing that actually is the longest
25 serving 'cause she's the first to be appointed to the

1 chair, to the commission. So this is -- Dianna, you're
2 leaving us in good hands. I have supreme confidence.
3 I mean, you know, Krista, right, Executive Director
4 Riggs is okay. No, I'm kidding. He's been great. And
5 I want to say to the commissioners, those who are new
6 to the staff -- to the -- to the chair, lean on this
7 staff. Lean on them.

8 As someone who has done business outside
9 of the state of New Jersey, I can tell you, the work
10 that has been done here has opened doors for me. I'm
11 like the prodigal son; I have to go away in order to be
12 appreciated about what's happening here. And
13 everywhere I go, the word that I get is, "How did you
14 guys do what you did in New Jersey?" And that's from
15 Missouri, to Maryland, to California, to Las Vegas.
16 It's the same question. How did you all do it? You
17 know, we went -- we went from hypothetical and theory
18 to practical application. And it's nostalgic for me
19 because when I first met Dianna, I was a newlywed and
20 only had one. You know, Harris, that little boy you
21 met in the State House, is now 6'3" and a freshman at
22 TCNJ. You know, Jackie, that little baby you met is
23 now a junior sensei who's getting ready to test for his
24 black belt.

25 So these years that you were tossing out,

1 Dianna, these -- these are like dog years. Krista, you
2 know. You know, all this is like dog years, the advice
3 of the thick skin that you must have, it is true.
4 Harris, I know you know it 'cause you saw her go
5 through it with Senator Rice and -- and so forth, as --
6 as well as myself. And so I just want to say, the best
7 thank you. A debt of gratitude is owed to you. We --
8 there will never be another end of prohibition on
9 cannabis in New Jersey ever again. So this is not
10 duplicable. I'm so proud of the work that you have
11 done. I'm so proud to have been alongside you during
12 that work, and I am even prouder of this -- this
13 commission in the hands that you left us in.

14 And to the staff, that's the biggest,
15 that's the secret sauce that no one can account for.
16 It's the staff. They are why we are where we are right
17 now. Thank you and thank you for your service.

18 THE SECRETARY: The next person I have on
19 the list is Thomas Norcia. If you're in the room,
20 please raise your hand. I don't see Thomas. So the
21 next person I have is Michael Odenwald. If you're in
22 the room. I don't see Michael. The next person is
23 Patricia Grimsley.

24 MS. PATRICIA GRIMSLEY: I'm here. Thank
25 you. Good afternoon, Chair and members of the Board,

1 and a hard act to follow, but I will give it a try. I
2 am here -- thank you again, for the opportunity to
3 speak. My name is Patricia Grimsley, and I am
4 representing Lifted Jersey, LLC. I'm here for one
5 reason, to ask this board to help ensure New Jersey's
6 social equity cannabis program fulfills its promise,
7 not only in policy, but in practice.

8 Nearly three years ago, we were awarded a
9 conditional social equity license. Since then, we have
10 followed and -- that's my son, the CEO. Since then, we
11 have followed all rules, we pursued a municipal
12 partnership in good faith and invested significant
13 personal resources to open a compliant community-
14 centered business in Roselle. Yet today, we remain
15 stalled. After receiving encouragement from township
16 officials, we secured a location, signed a lease, and
17 invested in architectural and compliance-related work.

18 Six months later, during a planning
19 review, we were told that the site was suddenly
20 ineligible because of its proximity to a field owned by
21 a school. That was information that should have been
22 identified at the outset. That reversal left us
23 bearing the financial burden of a process we trusted.

24 To date, we have spent more than \$90,000
25 with no clear path to converting to an annual license.

1 Our municipal resolution remains in limbo.
2 Communications have been inconsistent, and our
3 application is under review with little transparency.

4 Meanwhile, well-resourced operators appear
5 to be able to move forward, raising serious concerns
6 about whether social equity applicants are being
7 prioritized. This feels less like an equity pathway
8 and more like navigating barriers the program was meant
9 to remove.

10 We are not asking for special treatment,
11 we are asking for fair access to the pathway we were
12 promised. What we now need in -- is support in three
13 areas. First, help facilitate or expedite the review
14 with the Borough of Roselle. The second is coordinated
15 technical support from state partners to help us
16 identify a viable path forward. And third, flexibility
17 with our seed equity grant timelines, so we are not
18 penalized for delays outside of our control.

19 Lifted Jersey is ready to open, hire
20 locally, and invest back in the community. We simply
21 need the system to work with us, rather than against
22 us. And I thank you so much for your time and
23 consideration.

24 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Patricia. The
25 next person I have on the list is Jessie Marie Villars.

1 MS. JESSE MARIE VILLARS: Good afternoon.
2 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name
3 is Jessie Marie Villars, owner and CEO of Baked by the
4 River in Lambertville, New Jersey. I'm here to express
5 concern about some of the hemp-derived products being
6 sold in New Jersey dispensaries, as well as ongoing
7 issues with testing lab consistency in the regulated
8 market.

9 One of the core goals of legalization was
10 to create opportunities for New Jersey-based cannabis
11 businesses and ensure that products sold to consumers
12 are safe and accurately tested. However, with hemp-
13 derived products now widely available in dispensaries,
14 I believe more needs to be done to create a fair and
15 equitable market for New Jersey hemp farmers and CRC-
16 licensed manufacturers.

17 We have incredible hemp farms in the
18 state, and that have followed the rules and are
19 committed to producing high-quality organic products,
20 yet many of these farmers currently lack a viable
21 pathway to the regulated market. At the same time,
22 most hemp-derived products on dispensary shelves are
23 coming from out-of-state manufacturers with limited
24 transparency on sourcing and production practices.
25 This is deeply concerning to me, as someone who does my

1 due diligence to follow up on safe and organic farming
2 and manufacturing practices for the products I feature
3 on shelf. These are out-of-state hemp brands that are
4 not held to the same standards as New Jersey-regulated
5 businesses. These are products that dispensaries can
6 order and get delivered to their front door after being
7 shipped from out of state and then sell as accessories.

8 At dispensaries we're not able to sell a
9 bottle of water, but if that water is infused with a
10 synthetic Delta-8 cannabinoid, we can sell as many as
11 we want. Dispensaries are able to put those products
12 on display for customers to grab themselves and openly
13 advertise these products in ways that we are not
14 allowed to do for New Jersey-based products on our
15 shelves.

16 I'm not opposed to that level of de-
17 stigmatized open advertising and availability of
18 products, but I am opposed to the uneven playing field
19 this creates that disadvantages local operators.

20 I also want to strongly encourage the
21 commission to address inconsistencies in cannabis
22 testing. It was concerning to see reports from months
23 ago of certain labs showing near zero failure rates for
24 contaminants like yeast and mold over extended periods.
25 As someone ordering product weekly, I need confidence

1 that test results are consistent and reliable across
2 all labs. Lab shopping, whether to achieve higher THC
3 results or avoid failures, undermines tests --
4 undermines trust, and gives an unfair advantage to some
5 operators.

6 I urge the commission to take meaningful
7 action to ensure accountability and consistency in
8 testing standards, whether that be through supporting
9 bill A1291 or creating consequences for problematic
10 testing labs that actually require them to change their
11 procedures, rather than additional training.

12 Finally, I'd like to briefly address home
13 cultivation. While I understand this is outside the
14 commission's direct authority, I believe supporting
15 home grow in -- is essential for true access and
16 equity. There are no -- there is no strong
17 justification for continuing to prohibit it. I
18 encourage the CRC to support the current home grow
19 cultivation bills and be a meaningful representative on
20 how cultivation makes perfect sense alongside a
21 regulated cannabis market.

22 Then I wanted to say special thanks to
23 Chairwoman Houenou. I'm grateful for the meaningful
24 policies for equity and diversity that you helped
25 create and foster. It helped businesses like mine have

1 the opportunity to be a part of this industry. While
2 I've not always agreed with the actions of the CRC,
3 I've always been grateful to know that you are the
4 chair and would be willing to hear our concerns.
5 Seeing a woman at the head of the CRC has always been
6 something that's inspired me since day one. So thank
7 you for your time and for your consideration.

8 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Jessie. The
9 next person I have on the list is Matha Figaro.

10 MS. MATHA FIGARO: Oowee. Hello. My name
11 is Matha Figaro. I am a Class 2 manufacturer and the
12 co-founder of Canpowerment. Last month, I already gave
13 Dianna her -- her flowers, so we'll -- we'll skip that
14 and get straight to business today.

15 I've been operating here since 2023,
16 legally, might I add, because I did come from the
17 legacy market. And the first product that Canpowerment
18 was able to bring to market was the oral dissolvable
19 strips. If anybody remembers that, it was like the
20 Listerine strip. It was truly something remarkable for
21 the market. Sadly, I'm here today to let you know that
22 that's not an investment that I can even maintain
23 because of regulation and statute that don't meet the
24 practical realities of manufacturing today. And
25 unfortunately, I'm having the same issues with baked

1 goods. But -- but honestly -- excuse me, I'm a little
2 on my nerve 'cause I really care about this today.

3 The reason why I'm here is because the
4 NJEDA actually invested in my company through a state
5 supported program, and I used that money to help bring
6 New Jersey's first canned THC beverages to life. Just
7 so you guys really hear that. And I want you to know
8 that I'm not here to say it's us versus hemp or
9 cannabis versus hemp. That's not what this is about.
10 Right now, we really have an issue in which regulations
11 are stopping me from winning just as much as the hemp
12 players do. The framework is putting CRC licensed
13 cannabis manufacturers at a structural disadvantage.

14 Under these new laws that are passing on
15 the other side, intoxicating hemp beverages may
16 continue to be sold by certain alcohol licensees and
17 also by CRC regulated dispensaries. This legislation
18 also removed the requirement that hemp beverages be --
19 be stored behind the counter, so that means that they
20 could be displayed openly where customers can see them
21 first while I and my products are held behind a vault.

22 This practice means that what's happening
23 for hemp is very fair and it's awesome and it's great.
24 Congratulations to them, but it honestly is not
25 economically advantaging me or other cannabis

1 manufacturers in this space. That category, they get
2 to operate with broader commercial flexibility while we
3 carry the burden of the CRC framework. Oowee.

4 Respectfully, I'm asking the commission to
5 evaluate the regulatory adjustments that would allow
6 CRC licenses, CRC cannabis beverages in particular, to
7 compete fairly during this transitional period. There
8 is a lot of money at stake. This could be a ten to \$14
9 million situation if you allowed us to compete against
10 each other and not the hemp market. Eight to \$12
11 million in potential cannabis beverage revenue is being
12 displaced from this regulated market that I left the
13 legacy market for. Let me remind you of that.

14 So I know I just ran out of time. What I
15 need from you guys is to assess what's happening in the
16 real world, make it practical so that operators like
17 myself can continue to invest in this state with the
18 money that the state has invested in us. Thank you.

19 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Matha. The
20 next person on the list is Kristen Fowler.

21 MS. KRISTEN FOWLER: All right. Hello, my
22 name is Kristen Fowler and thank you for the
23 opportunity to submit my public statement. I work for
24 a -- as a technical IPM consultant for Koppert
25 Biological. My territory covers Pennsylvania, New

1 Jersey, and as of right now, Colorado as well.

2 A little bit about me, I have two
3 bachelor's in fields of biology and ornamental
4 horticulture and over 20 years of experience. For the
5 last five and a half years, I have worked in the field
6 of IPM for both cannabis and ornamental growers.

7 Koppert is a unique company in that we
8 focus in the use of beneficial insects and microbial
9 products to target and treat for insect pests and
10 diseases. We are an international company, and we work
11 in every crop event imaginable and provide growers with
12 ecological and sustainable solutions. Currently, I
13 work with about 20 different cultivators within my
14 territory and over a dozen of them being in the state
15 of New Jersey. Collectively, I along with my team of
16 associates, we work with numerous MSOs as well as
17 locally owned and independent cultivators. Even though
18 I live in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, represent baked,
19 New Jersey has become a second home to me as all the t-
20 different times that I cross the Delaware to work with
21 my growers. I'm here today submitting this comment on
22 behalf of those growers who are busy doing the hard
23 work today.

24 As you are aware, New Jersey cannabis
25 cultivators are not allowed to use any EPA registered

1 products or pesticides. All applied products must be
2 in the 25B category. 25B products may include mainly
3 oil based products as well as citric acid and isopropyl
4 alcohol. These -- these ingredients act as
5 suppressants and work on a contact basis.

6 As certain pest and fungal diseases arise
7 in a crop in New Jersey, cannabis growers have an
8 extremely limited toolbox to treat for these issues in
9 a curative manner. They are -- they're diseases, they
10 are merely a band-aid on the problem. Over the last
11 five years, we have seen pests like root aphids and
12 more importantly phorid on, which is called, so-called
13 cannabis aphid, take hold in facilities and cause
14 extremely damaging results. I personally have seen
15 facilities have to do full clean outs of entire rooms,
16 if not the whole facility, and shut down portions of
17 cultivation due to quarantine and isolation to prevent
18 the spread of diseases to other regions.

19 In the humid, wet spring and summer months,
20 diseases like powdery mildew can spread throughout the
21 canopy like wildfire. This can lead to growers having
22 to do multiple sprays each time a week, and it leads to
23 further concerns of moisture control within the crop.
24 This also leads to an increase in labor and material
25 cost, not to mention grower burnout as they physical --

1 as -- of the physicality of it all. Climbing up and
2 down the scaffolding of a two-tiered flower room is not
3 a simple task and is not for the weak of heart.

4 Since cannabis is federally regulated by
5 each state, every state has their own rules. In recent
6 years, Massachusetts was the only other 25B state and
7 has recently laxed its regulations on a -- as needed
8 permit.

9 Pennsylvania currently has a submission
10 period for growers to submit products for approval in
11 the state. There are solutions that are safe and
12 sound, and they have been proven safe for use in -- in
13 both hemp as well as tobacco, and I think it would be
14 really awesome for the state to actually have -- to be
15 able to give the growers more tools in their toolbox.
16 Again, I'm kind of at a loss sometimes. I would like
17 to be able to provide viable solutions for them. I
18 know this is not exactly -- most people don't ask for
19 pesticides, but there are biologically derived
20 alternatives that they could use to solve some serious
21 issues to provide a better, safe and secure product for
22 the market. And I would be glad to work and consult
23 with anyone and talk later about these options. So
24 thanks again for your time.

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

1 gonna now move on to -- move on to the calling in
2 speakers. The first person on the list I have is -- is
3 Esteven Canell. Just give me a second to find them.
4 Esteven Canell, if you're in the room, please raise
5 your hand. And if you're calling in, it is star nine
6 to raise your hand, and star six to unmute. So is
7 Esteven Canell? I don't see that person. The next
8 person is Thomas Norcia. If you're in the room -- all
9 right, I see you Thomas. Give me one second. Thomas,
10 you have the floor.

11 MR. THOMAS NORCIA: Thank you. I'm Thomas
12 Norcia, Grow Works, New Jersey Hemp Growers
13 Association. I've been -- I'm gonna address the
14 psychoactive hemp ban. I've been licensed by the New
15 Jersey Department of Agriculture since 2020. Licensees
16 licensed by the Department of Ag., we're never allowed
17 to handle psychoactive materials. We were never
18 operating under the Farm Bill loophole that gas
19 stations and smoke shops were using. Hemp farmers
20 agree with the psychoactive hemp ban to a certain
21 extent, but not at the expensive farmers that were
22 never breaking laws.

23 I'm operating a cannabis business in a
24 town that's opted out. Why? Because I was here for
25 two years before the CRIM Act was created. Hemp

1 farmers should receive municipal exemption. We were
2 established. We can't just pick up a farm and move it
3 to another town. I sell full-spectrum CBD products at
4 a 50 to 1 -- 15 to 1 ratio. At that ratio, hemp is
5 non-intoxicating.

6 Now, after April 13th, I can't sell any of
7 my products. I'm allowed to grow hemp, but I can't
8 sell it anymore. How does that make sense? I guess
9 the state is licensing me for an expensive hobby at
10 this point. Yet, you guys are letting your
11 manufacturers bring in hemp inputs and products over
12 state lines. That's interstate commerce on a state run
13 program. That shouldn't be happening.

14 You have over 150 SKUs with hemp
15 ingredients. It's unfair business practices. If the
16 state's going to allow something to be sold in the
17 state, we should be able to make it in the state. I
18 keep hearing Bill Caruso say, "Other states are
19 watching what New Jersey's doing." We are the Garden
20 State. We should be showing other states how an adult-
21 use program can work with hemp farmers. If all states
22 follow New Jersey's path, where will your manufacturers
23 get the hemp inputs that they are currently bringing in
24 over state lines for their products? Jersey needs to
25 do better for farmers that weren't breaking laws.

1 I feel like you guys are false advertising
2 cannabis businesses. You have THC businesses.
3 Cannabis is full-spectrum THC, CBD, CBG. That's like
4 walking into a hardware store and all you could buy is
5 nails. That would be a nail store. It doesn't make
6 sense. I'm gonna finish off by saying, you know, the
7 state went from arresting dealers to being the dealer.
8 At least try to be a good dealer. Thank you.

9 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Thomas. The
10 next person I have on the list is James DiJon Thompson.
11 James DiJon Thompson, if you're in the room, please
12 raise your hand. And just as a reminder, it's star
13 nine to raise your hand, and star six to speak. James
14 DiJon Thompson? All right. I don't see that person.

15 The next person is Katherine Burgos.
16 Katherine Burgos, if you're in the room, please raise
17 your hand. I don't see that person.

18 The next person on the list is Chief
19 Vincent Mann. If you're in the room, please raise your
20 hand. Chief Vincent Mann? I don't see that person.

21 The next person is Andrea Raibel. If
22 you're in the room, please raise your hand. Okay. I
23 see you, Andrea. Andrea, you have the floor.

24 MS. ANDREA RAIBLE: Hello. My name is
25 Andrea Raibel. I'd like to welcome the new

1 commissioner, and I'd like to say I appreciate your
2 opening statements. I agree that we're getting to
3 phase two of the CRC. We're moving from rolling out
4 the program to finally refining the program. But I do
5 have one more comment related to phase one, before I
6 wanna move on and talk about refining.

7 I need to take a minute to give Chairwoman
8 Houenou her flowers. Your composure and resilience is
9 admirable. You're tough in a good way. You have to be
10 to stand up to a multimillion dollar market and still
11 hold space for patients. People are quick to notice
12 when things go wrong, but they take for granted all the
13 things that went right. Even having the ability to
14 testify remotely today was an accomplishment under your
15 leadership. You faced pressure, tough decisions, novel
16 situations, heavy scrutiny. It could be argued that
17 I'm one of the sources of pressure and scrutiny, which
18 is why it's important for me to take the time to say
19 this. I am tough on your industry, because you built
20 an industry strong enough to take it.

21 As a patient, I couldn't risk raising
22 concerns if it would kill the industry or send
23 legalization backwards. I wouldn't be asking to keep
24 building on a foundation that I didn't believe in.

25 Cannabis progress has been a fight every

1 step of the way, from prohibition to now. This
2 industry isn't simply shaped, it's forged, welded, and
3 ground down into refinement. There are hard questions
4 waiting to be addressed about hospital access,
5 consistent labeling, safety, hemp. Where are patients
6 gonna get their full-spectrum CBD? This isn't going to
7 be easy, but I need to acknowledge that Commissioner
8 Houenou, Commissioner Nash, the staff, everyone who's
9 been here for years, you helped make it possible. So,
10 thank you for embracing discomfort and encouraging your
11 fellow commissioners to do the same. I hope we
12 continue to see progress, and I wish you all good luck
13 in your next endeavors. Thank you.

14 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Andrea. That's
15 the entire list. I'm just gonna go over one more time
16 for the people that didn't get a chance to speak.
17 Michael Odenwald? I don't see Michael. A. Steven
18 Canello? A. Steven Canello? I don't see that person.
19 James DiJon Thompson? James DiJon Thompson? Katherine
20 Burgos? Katherine Burgos? Chief Vincent Mann? Chief
21 Vincent Mann? I don't see that person.

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

24 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said, and thank you
25 to everyone who -- who spoke and shared their -- their

1 thoughts, their experiences, and their suggestions for
2 the Commission.

3 This concludes the business we have before
4 us today. And for that -- with that, for the last
5 time, I move that we adjourn. Is there a second?

6 MR. LAUFER: Second.

7 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Laufer.
8 Is there any discussion on this motion?

9 MR. LAUFER: Congratulations.

10 CHAIR: Thank you.

11 MS. MAPP: Seconded.

12 CHAIR: Thank you. Hearing no -- any
13 further discussion? Hearing no further discussion, all
14 those in favor of adjourning, say, aye.

15 ALL: Aye.

16 CHAIR: All those opposed say, nay. Any
17 abstentions? The motion passes. The time is 2:07 and
18 we are adjourned. Thank you so much everyone and hope
19 to see -- I can't wait to see you all again in another
20 life.

21 (Meeting concluded)

22

23

24

25