



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

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

NEW JERSEY
CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, April 23, 2026

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

2

3 HARRIS LAUFER, Chair

4 JACQUELINE FERRARO, Vice Chair

5 KRISTA NASH, Commissioner

6 AMELIA MAPP, Commissioner

7 DANIEL SAID, Secretary

8

9

10 A P P E A R A N C E S:

11

12 CHRIS RIGGS, Director

13 DAVE TAUSON, Chief Counsel

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 MS. KRISTA NASH: Good morning, everyone.
2 Welcome to the April 23rd virtual meeting of the New
3 Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission. The time is
4 11:02, and I call this meeting to order. Mr. Said,
5 can you please read the notice of the public meeting?

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner, 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 meeting was provided to
12 the Asbury Park Press, Bergen Record, Courier-Post,
13 Star-Ledger, and The Trenton Times on December 8th,
14 2025. The agenda and information regarding the virtual
15 nature of the meeting and the ability to livestream was
16 also posted on the CRC website. The meeting time and
17 location has also been posted on the website of the New
18 Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission and with the
19 Office of the Secretary of the State.

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

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

23 MS. JACQUELINE FERRARO: Present.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

25 CHAIR: Present.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

2 MS. AMELIA MAPP: Here.

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

4 MS. NASH: Present.

5 THE SECRETARY: We now have a quorum.

6 MS. NASH: The first order of business
7 today are the elections of chair and vice chair.
8 Pursuant to S4847, a new vice chair shall be elected
9 upon the expiration of the current vice chair's term,
10 even if that member remains on the Commission until
11 that member's successor is duly appointed and
12 qualified. The law authorizes the Commission members
13 appointed by the Senate president or the Speaker of the
14 General Assembly to hold the Office of Vice Chair and
15 since I am currently in holdover status. Commissioner
16 Ferraro is the understandable choice for vice chair.
17 As such, nominations are now in order for the Office of
18 Vice Chair and I would like to nominate Commissioner
19 Ferraro. Are there any other nominations for vice
20 chair? Hearing none, the nominations are now closed.
21 I would like to recognize at this time Commissioner
22 Ferraro if she would like to make any remarks before we
23 proceed to voting.

24 MS. FERRARO: Thank you very much, vice
25 chair. I certainly want to take a second to thank you

1 so much for your service as a commissioner and also
2 vice chair. We owe you a great deal of gratitude for
3 your work. You have served with dedication,
4 commitment, integrity, and just pure grace. And for
5 that, I'm very grateful, as I know our broader
6 community is just as grateful and thank you so much for
7 laying down this foundation as we continue to build on
8 that.

9 MS. NASH: Thank you for the kind words,
10 Commissioner Ferraro. Okay. So there being no other
11 nominations for vice chair, is there any discussion on
12 this matter? Any abstentions? Hearing none, Mr.
13 Sayeed, can you please call the vote?

14 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Ferraro?

15 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

17 THE SECRETARY: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

19 MS. MAPP: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

21 MS. NASH: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

23 MS. NASH: Congratulations, vice chair.

24 MS. FERRARO: Thank you for your

25 confidence, all of you.

1 MS. NASH: Absolutely.

2 MS. FERRARO: I appreciate that.

3 MS. NASH: We will now turn to the next
4 item of business, which is the election of a chair.
5 Nominations are now in order for the Office of Chair.
6 Do I have any nominations?

7 MS. MAPP: Commissioner Nash, I would like
8 to nominate Commissioner Laufer. Who comes to the
9 Board with a great amount of experience, having worked
10 in Trenton within the legislative process. He brings a
11 significant amount of experience regarding legislation.
12 Hence, it is my pleasure to nominate him as Chair of
13 the CRC.

14 MS. NASH: Thank you, Commissioner Mapp.
15 Commissioner Laufer is nominated as chair. Are there
16 any other nominations? Hearing none, the nominations
17 are now closed. I would like to recognize Commissioner
18 Laufer for any remarks before we proceed to voting.

19 CHAIR: I would like to, you know, thank
20 Commissioner Mapp for nominating me, and I hope that I
21 can serve the Commission well. And should I get
22 elected, I'll give a little bit more of a proper remark
23 later but I just hope that the -
24 the Commission well and we're going to grow the -- hope that I'll serve
25 industry and do great things together.

1 MS. NASH: Thank you, Commissioner Laufer.
2 There being no other nominations for Chair, is there
3 any discussion on this matter? Any abstentions?
4 Hearing none, Mr. Sayeed, can you please call the vote?

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Laufer?

6 CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

8 MS. MAPP: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

10 MS. NASH: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

12 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

13 MS. NASH: Congratulations, chair.

14 CHAIR: Thank you.

15 THE SECRETARY: Okay.

16 MS. NASH: There is -- the next order of
17 business is executive session. If we have a motion to
18 go into executive session.

19 MS. MAPP: (Inaudible)

20 CHAIR: Motion --

21 MS. NASH: I didn't get that. Who was
22 that?

23 MS. MAPP: So moved, Amelia.

24 MS. NASH: All right.

25 CHAIR: -- second, Laufer.

1 MS. NASH: Okay. Thank you very much,
2 both of you. Is there any discussion on this motion?
3 Hearing no discussion, all those in favor of motion to
4 go into Executive session say aye?

5 MS. MAPP: Aye.

6 CHAIR: Aye.

7 MS. FERRARO: Aye.

8 MS. NASH: All those opposed say nay? Any
9 abstentions? The motion passes. We expect the
10 Executive session to last approximately 30 minutes. We
11 will leave the livestream running. We can expect to
12 resume at about 11:45, and then we will return to the
13 meeting. Thank you.

14 (Executive Session Held Off the Record.)

15 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer, I think
16 we're ready.

17 CHAIR: All right. Awesome. So before we
18 -- we're back in session, just so the public is aware.
19 Before we start, I want to give Vice Chair Ferraro a
20 couple minutes and then I'll take a couple minutes, and
21 then we'll move over to approve the prior meeting
22 minutes.

23 MS. FERRARO: Thank you very much, chair.
24 This is certainly a very exciting moment here in New
25 Jersey, the CRC. I just want to thank the Board for

1 the confidence in electing me as vice chair. I'm
2 honored to step into this role at such a pivotal moment
3 for our Board. With expiring terms and leadership
4 evolving, this moment calls for clarity,
5 accountability, and steady leadership and it's an honor
6 to be here. My focus is simple; support Chair Laufer,
7 keep the Board grounded, and work to ensure that we're
8 advancing cannabis market that is responsible,
9 sustainable, and accessible, one that works for
10 businesses and consumers across the board. So I'm
11 really looking forward to getting to work and chair, I
12 want to take a second to congratulate you. This is a
13 very exciting moment, and I -- there's no question in
14 my mind you will bring exceptional leadership to our
15 Board, especially during this time. So thank you.
16 Looking forward to working together.

17 CHAIR: Thank you, vice chair. I just
18 want to take a couple more minutes, thank my -- thank
19 the commissioners for having confidence in me. I want
20 to give a shout out to Jackie, who's gonna -- who, you
21 know, we're taking over a new leaf. I look forward to
22 working with you very closely. I want to also thank
23 Krista for being a steward from our previous chair.
24 She is and continues to be a wealth of knowledge about
25 cannabis in the state, and I look forward to working

1 with you for many meetings to come. And Amelia, you
2 know, Amelia's the best. She knows I love her and she
3 and I are, you know, we've known each other a while and
4 I, as always, I continue to look forward to working
5 with you and having this industry grow with everybody
6 on this call, to the staff, Director Riggs, all of the
7 directors, chief counsel. I look forward to ushering
8 in a new era of collaboration and cooperation, and I
9 want this industry to grow and continue to flourish and
10 operate better. I want to thank my family for their
11 support. I want to thank the Senate president,
12 Governor Murphy, for his appointment. Dan and Jess,
13 you guys know who you are and I'm looking forward to
14 getting this moving. And with that, is there a motion
15 to approve the prior meeting minutes?

16 MS. NASH: Moved.

17 CHAIR: I'll second it. All in favor?

18 MS. NASH: Aye.

19 CHAIR: Aye.

20 MS. MAPP: So let's back up for a second.

21 I couldn't -- I was still on mute at the time.

22 CHAIR: Sorry about that.

23 MS. MAPP: But I wanted to -- I wanted to
24 congratulate both, Commissioner Laufer, and
25 Commissioner Ferraro, and Commissioner Nash.

1 Commissioner Ferraro and Commissioner Nash both come --
2 are new commissioners to the Board, but they both come
3 with a wealth of knowledge in different aspects and I
4 look forward to working with both of you. Both of you
5 as we continue to move this Board forward. I also must
6 really thank Krista for her dedication and grace while
7 serving in your role as chair. I know that Krista has
8 transferred a lot of information to all of us and with
9 that, Commissioner Laufer, Commissioner Ferraro, I
10 strongly believe that this Board will reach new
11 heights. Thank you.

12 CHAIR: 1000 percent agree.

13 MS. FERRARO: Amelia, thank you.

14 CHAIR: 1000 percent agree.

15 MS. NASH: Thank you.

16 CHAIR: Do we have a -- do you have a
17 motion to approve the prior meeting minutes?

18 MS. MAPP: I second. I think --

19 CHAIR: So now if we may --

20 MS. NASH: I have moved.

21 CHAIR: -- yeah. It was Nash, then Mapp
22 for the move and the second. All in favor?

23 MS. FERRARO: Aye.

24 MS. MAPP: -- aye.

25 CHAIR: Aye.

1 MS. NASH: Aye.

2 CHAIR: All right. Prior meeting minutes
3 are approved. Next is a committee report. I want to
4 give the floor over to Commissioner Mapp to talk about
5 her tremendously important work.

6 MS. MAPP: Well thank you, Commissioner
7 Laufer -- Chair Laufer. Today I'm going to present the
8 SEEF report. I will give you some details about how
9 the report has come to fruition. The official launch
10 of the CRC occurred on April 12, 2021, and the mission
11 remains the same safety, equity, and inclusion. As of
12 December 25th, staff received a total of 3,112
13 recreational cannabis applications which were submitted
14 by the public across all license categories. 69
15 percent of our awardees are diversely owned businesses
16 and 23 percent of the awardees are social equity
17 businesses.
18 What is the social equity fee? The Social Equity Fee
19 is a per ounce flat rate fee assessed on all usable
20 cannabis cultivated and sold in New Jersey's adult-use
21 cannabis market. As a result of a reduction in the
22 average price of cannabis, the social equity excise fee
23 as of January 2026 remains the same as it was in 2025,
24 which is \$2.50 per ounce. This fee is collected from
25 cannabis cultivators when they sell or transfer product

1 to other license classes.

2 By the end of fiscal year 2026, the Social
3 Equity Fee is estimated to generate \$12.4 million, and
4 is also projected to generate \$14.1 million for fiscal
5 year 2027. By law, 15 percent of this revenue is
6 required to be deposited into the Underage Deterrence
7 Fund, leaving a projected balance of \$10.5 million to
8 be spent on programs recommended to the legislature and
9 the governor.

10 The mandate; by statute, the CRC is
11 required to host three public hearings per year
12 throughout the state in order to solicit input from the
13 public pertaining to the use of the Social Equity Fees.
14 The hearings for 2026 were held on January 15th, 21st,
15 and 29th respectively, and were advertised on the
16 Commission's website and social media pages and via the
17 Commission's media list beginning in the month of
18 November 2025. There were a total of 25 speakers and
19 37 written comments were submitted. All recordings for
20 these previous meetings and any CRC meetings can be
21 found at www.nj.gov/cannabis.

22 As public recommendations; here are some
23 of the recommendations from this year's hearings;
24 Educational support including GED preparedness
25 assistance, vocational training, extended learning time

1 programs, and financial literacy training, job
2 readiness training and community activities to
3 stimulate economic growth and increase or preserve
4 residential amenities, social support services
5 including food assistance, mental health services,
6 treatment and recovery for substance use disorders,
7 youth recreation, and services for adults and juveniles
8 being released from incarceration. The public health
9 sector recommended insurance coverage for patients who
10 qualify for medical cannabis but lack the ability to
11 pay the current out-of-pocket costs. They also
12 suggested that revenue from cannabis sales support the
13 expansion of healthcare services in communities most
14 impacted by cannabis prohibition and to ensure that New
15 Jersey is building healthy infrastructure, healthy
16 people, healthy communities, and a healthy society.

17 At this point, I must remind you that
18 under the law, the governor and the legislature,
19 through the annual appropriations process, have the
20 sole authority to allocate, or distribute revenues
21 generated from the excise fee. The CRC does not have
22 any authority on the distribution of any funds.

23 Economic and technical assistance
24 recommendations were from the public. It was suggested
25 that using the revenue to provide increased access to

1 capital for diversely owned and social equity business,
2 additional funding options including grants and loans
3 from New Jersey Economic Development Authority's
4 Cannabis Equity Program to help new entrants in the
5 cannabis market with particular focus providing -- on
6 providing grants -- on providing grant funding to
7 social equity businesses, supporting fledgling
8 enterprises, breaking cycles of poverty, and offering
9 opportunities to individuals previously affected by the
10 inequities in the criminal justice system. Ongoing
11 technical assistance is necessary for both cannabis
12 applicants and current license holders, especially
13 understanding the dynamic nature of New Jersey's
14 cannabis law regulations. The New Jersey Business
15 Action Center, NJBAC, and the Cannabis Training
16 Academy, the CTA, are highlighted for their roles in:
17 one, educating participants about the safe cannabis
18 licensing procedures, and two, ensuring regulatory
19 compliance. Promoting business success and
20 contributing to state economic development. Support
21 for higher education and public libraries was also
22 suggested. Some additional recommendations included
23 allocating funding to community college to enhance
24 resources for underserved communities. These
25 institutions are critical for bridging resource gaps

1 and supporting residents across the state, especially
2 those in the underserved communities, thereby bringing
3 resources to individuals of all backgrounds.

4 Some criminal justice reform investments -
5 - suggest -- reinvestment suggested programs to assist
6 in creating pathways to opportunities for those
7 communities harmed by prohibition. Reentry support
8 services in the form of educational and vocational
9 programs which will enhance employment opportunities to
10 returning citizens who were formerly incarcerated,
11 specifically those in impact zones. Research has shown
12 that it will reduce recidivism and increase self-
13 esteem, further ensuring successful reintegration into
14 the community after incarceration.

15 For Work Development and Youth Services;
16 the public interest was expressed in using revenue for
17 critical educational support services.

18 Vocational training, cannabis-specific
19 apprenticeship programs, business development, and
20 financial literacy; support for youth services came in
21 the form of lunch programs, after-school and out-of-
22 school support, by offering safe spaces to help protect
23 children, developing healthy life habits while
24 simultaneously offering safe recreational
25 opportunities, specifically those in vulnerable

1 communities.

2 And in the public health services,
3 commenters suggested that revenue from cannabis sales
4 support expansion of healthcare services in communities
5 most impacted by cannabis prohibition to ensure that
6 New Jersey continues building that healthy
7 infrastructure, healthy people, healthy communities,
8 therefore building a healthy society.

9 Providing insurance coverage in the form
10 of a grant to patients who qualify for medical cannabis
11 but find the out-of-pocket cost prohibitive; if
12 cannabis was covered by medical insurance and
13 administered by anyone with prescriptive privileges in
14 the state of New Jersey, hospitals and other medical
15 institutions, impoverished patients would be better
16 served. Additional recommendations were that revenues
17 should support both resources for, and education of
18 maternal health issues. It was stated that providing
19 funding to maternal child health can improve chronic
20 disease outcomes for vulnerable populations, thereby
21 saving lives and reducing health disparities.

22 Education for physicians, monies should be
23 used to teach physicians more about the endocannabinoid
24 system to better serve patients in the State of New
25 Jersey.

1 Harm reduction services. Provide
2 investments in local health agencies where a large
3 percentage of indigent care is provided. Offer
4 training to healthcare providers to counsel patients,
5 thereby avoiding accidental harm, educating parents and
6 caregivers on the safe storage of cannabis and
7 cannabis-infused products. Underage prevention and
8 safe use messaging were also suggested.

9 The current SEEF fund status; in summary,
10 with a balance of \$3.667 million in the undisbursed
11 SEEF funds plus the estimated \$5.9 million to be
12 generated for the main -- the remainder of 2026, the
13 NJCRC expects roughly \$9.6 million to be available from
14 the Social Equity Excise Fee in fiscal year 2027. And
15 recommends that revenue be invested in grants and low-
16 interest loans to small businesses attempting to gain
17 licensure as a cannabis business, especially those
18 owned and operated by individuals from economically
19 disadvantaged areas, and individuals with past
20 marijuana convictions.

21 The final recommendations and next steps
22 would be investing in our youth, healthcare, education,
23 harm reduction grants, low-interest loans, thereby
24 creating pathways for opportunities and community
25 resources are ways that SEEF can benefit those

1 communities most harmed by the war on drugs.

2 Now I'd like to thank the Commission --
3 thanks to the Commission -- the Commission thanks
4 everyone who shared their ideas with the CRC and we
5 also thank the governor and legislature for considering
6 the recommendations provided herein. The Commission
7 looks forward to continued collaboration with
8 stakeholders, the members of the public, the
9 legislature, and the governor to ensure that the voices
10 of New Jerseyans are heard and wishes are granted so
11 that those most harmed by the war on drugs will benefit
12 from the funds collected from the Social Equity Fees.
13 And finally, we would like to thank the staff of the
14 CRC for their continued dedication to task and their
15 commitment to transparency. Your support is greatly
16 appreciated. Thank you all. I now return the meeting
17 to the chair. Thank you.

18 CHAIR: Thank you very much, Commissioner
19 Mapp. I want to commend you on the work that you've
20 done leading this -- leading this committee, running
21 these -- got -- running these virtual forums. Got the
22 privilege to sit in on a couple of them. They were
23 really well done. So Keep up the tremendous work. All
24 right. Moving right along. We have applications for
25 permit or licensing changes, Director Riggs.

1 MR. CHRIS RIGGS: Thank you, chair. And
2 congratulations to both you and Vice Chair Ferraro on
3 the recent election, I do look forward to working with
4 both of you as we continue to roll out one of the
5 premier cannabis markets here on the East Coast in New
6 Jersey. The first item up for consideration are
7 ownership changes, we have six of those today. There
8 are six cannabis businesses that are proposing a
9 transfer in ownership presented here on the slide for
10 you. Each of these entities has satisfied all the
11 regulatory criteria for an ownership change. These
12 individuals and owners have been vetted by our Office
13 of Compliance and Investigation and they've been
14 qualified to be in the adult use marketplace. And
15 therefore, we're recommending that these ownership
16 changes be approved today. Thank you.

17 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
18 questions from the Board? Is there a motion to approve
19 the ownership changes on the floor?

20 MS. MAPP: So moved.

21 MS. FERRARO: Second.

22 MR. RIGGS: Mr. Sayeed, please call the
23 roll.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

25 MS. MAPP: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

2 MS. NASH: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

4 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

6 CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

8 CHAIR: Applications for location changes,
9 Director Riggs.

10 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, chair. We have two
11 location changes proposed for the Board today. Next
12 slide, please. Both of these location changes have
13 been reviewed by our Office of Compliance and
14 Investigation. We've confirmed that these new
15 locations satisfy the regulatory criteria, and we are
16 recommending that they be approved today.

17 CHAIR: Are there any questions from the
18 Board? Seeing none, is there a motion to approve the
19 location change applications?

20 MS. MAPP: I make the motion that the
21 location changes be approved as recommended by Director
22 Riggs.

23 CHAIR: Is there a second?

24 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Mr. Sayeed?

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

2 MS. MAPP: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

4 MS. NASH: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

6 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

8 CHAIR: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

10 CHAIR: All right. Moving right along, we
11 have site modifications, Director Riggs.

12 MR. RIGGS: That's correct, chair. We
13 have one site modification or physical plant change.
14 The regulations require an increase in canopy to be
15 approved by the Board. This Lucky Buds LLC is
16 requesting to move from a Tier 1 to a Tier 6 canopy
17 space up to 150,000 square feet for cultivation grow,
18 and we are recommending that they be approved today by
19 the Board.

20 CHAIR: Okay. Any questions from the
21 Board? Seeing none, is there a motion to approve Lucky
22 Buds LLC location -- a site modification?

23 MS. MAPP: So moved.

24 CHAIR: Is there a second?

25 MS. FERRARO: Second.

1 CHAIR: Mr. Sayeed?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

3 MS. MAPP: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

5 MS. NASH: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

7 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

9 CHAIR: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

11 CHAIR: Next on the agenda is cannabis
12 business applications. Next is conversions to --
13 microbusiness conversions, Director Riggs.

14 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, chair. We have one
15 micro to standard business conversion presented to the
16 Board today. They need to be operational for at least
17 1 year prior to applying to convert to a standard
18 business. This entity has been operational for that
19 time period. We've conducted our review in the Office
20 of Compliance and Investigation. And we are
21 recommending that this business, Hearth Wellness LLC,
22 be approved to convert to a standard business
23 operation. Thank you.

24 CHAIR: Okay. Any questions from the
25 Board? Seeing none, can we have a motion?

1 MS. MAPP: So moved.

2 MS. NASH: Second.

3 CHAIR: Mr. Sayeed?

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

5 MS. MAPP: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

7 MS. NASH: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

9 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

11 CHAIR: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

13 CHAIR: Okay. Moving right along.

14 Conditional to annual conversion applications.

15 Director Riggs.

16 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair Laufer. We
17 have two conditional to annual conversion applications
18 to be approved today. These have followed a licensing
19 process. They've been submitted into the licensing
20 portal. Priority assignment has been confirmed and
21 verified. A completeness review has been conducted by
22 our Office of Licensing. Those applications were then
23 scored by our Office of licensing. A qualification
24 review of the owners and any other individuals that
25 need to be vetted by the Office of Compliance and

1 Investigations was conducted. We've had a quality
2 control review with our licensing, compliance, and
3 legal team and we are now therefore recommending that
4 these two applications be approved by the Board today.
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIR: Okay. Next slide. Okay.

7 MR. RIGGS: Here they are.

8 CHAIR: Yep. Are there any questions on
9 these 2 applications, RRB Extraction and HoneyGroove
10 Elmwood Park? Seeing none, is there a motion to
11 approve the conditional to annual license conversions?

12 MS. FERRARO: Move.

13 MS. MAPP: Second.

14 CHAIR: Mr. Sayeed?

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

16 MS. MAPP: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

18 MS. NASH: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

20 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

22 CHAIR: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

24 CHAIR: Awesome. Now we have annual
25 license -- annual applications, sorry. Director Riggs,

1 do your thing.

2 MR. RIGGS: Thank you. We have five
3 annual licenses up for consideration for the Board
4 today. One manufacturer, four retailers. They have
5 followed a similar licensing process that I just
6 previously articulated for the conditional annual
7 conversions. Those five licenses are now up on the
8 screen for you. Hashery, Indigo Belvidere, Marest NJ,
9 Troy Hills Club LLC, and The Vault Dispensary
10 Millville. We are recommending that they be approved
11 by the Board today. Thank you.

12 CHAIR: Are there any questions about the
13 -- are there any questions about the applications?
14 Seeing none, is there a motion to approve?

15 MS. NASH: Moved.

16 MS. MAPP: Seconded.

17 CHAIR: Awesome. Mr. Sayeed?

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

19 MS. MAPP: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

21 MS. NASH: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

23 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

25 CHAIR: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

2 CHAIR: Next, we have expanded ATC
3 certification applications, Director Riggs.

4 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, chair. We have two
5 expanded alternative treatment center applications up
6 to expand into the adult use space. NJ Leaf, which is
7 a Class 5 retailer in Aberdeen. NJ Nectar Ventures LLC
8 in Ewing. Both of these applications or
9 certifications, we've received zoning and municipal
10 approvals. We've confirmed that the labor requirements
11 are met, and they have certified that they have
12 sufficient quantities of medical cannabis and medical
13 cannabis products available to meet the reasonably
14 anticipated needs of registered qualifying patients in
15 accordance with the law. Therefore, we are
16 recommending that both of these applications to expand
17 into the adult use space are approved today. Thank
18 you.

19 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
20 questions on the two applications? Seeing none, is
21 there a motion to approve the two expanded ATC
22 certifications?

23 MS. FERRARO: Move.

24 MS. MAPP: Second.

25 CHAIR: Mr. Sayeed?

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

2 MS. MAPP: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

4 MS. NASH: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

6 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

8 CHAIR: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

10 CHAIR: All right. Next is to approve NJ
11 Leaf expansion certification, right? No --

12 MR. RIGGS: No. Both are approved.

13 CHAIR: -- no, you're right. Both are
14 approved, my bad.

15 MR. RIGGS: Okay.

16 CHAIR: Annual renewal applications,
17 Director Riggs.

18 MR. RIGGS: We're going to take these in
19 two tranches.

20 CHAIR: Yep.

21 MR. RIGGS: The first tranche is 22
22 renewals. We have them listed on the screen, and we'll
23 try to go through them a little bit slowly so everybody
24 can see them. These licenses are effective for 1 year
25 from the date of issuance. They're required to submit

1 a renewal. I am going to say that, you know, we need
2 folks -- the regulations require you to submit your
3 renewal application 90 days in advance of the
4 regulations. And that's so that staff has adequate
5 time to review them, present them to the Board, and so
6 that we can get them approved so that they don't lapse.
7 Please, please, please timely submit your renewals.
8 Things have gotten a little bit better since we've made
9 some of these statements, but they can be a lot better
10 and we're looking for 100 percent compliance. If you
11 don't submit 90 days in advance, you run the risk of
12 getting a notice of violation for not complying with
13 the regulations. We don't want folks getting notices
14 of violations just because they can't meet a deadline.
15 Please, please, please look to meet your deadline. So
16 we don't have to go that route. We're looking for
17 compliance here, but we are recommending that these 22
18 businesses that have submitted be renewed today by the
19 Board. Thank you, chair.

20 CHAIR: So are there any questions on
21 tranche one of annual license renewals? Seeing none,
22 is there a motion to approve tranche one?

23 MS. FERRARO: Moved.

24 MS. MAPP: So moved.

25 CHAIR: Is there a second?

1 MS. FERRARO: Second.

2 CHAIR: Mr. Sayeed, you know the drill.

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

4 MS. MAPP: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

6 MS. NASH: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

8 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

9 CHAIR: Chair Laufer?

10 CHAIR: Yes.

11 MS. NASH: Chair Laufer?

12 CHAIR: Yes.

13 MS. NASH: May I add a few words here?

14 CHAIR: Please.

15 MS. NASH: Thank you. I also want to echo

16 Director Riggs' thoughts on, or recommendations on

17 these renewal applications, that you must get your

18 applications in pursuant to the statutory record -- the

19 regulatory requirement. Not only does it cause issues

20 here with our staff where, you know, we're running

21 around trying to get these reviewed, but you don't want

22 to get a fine. It's probably my least favorite thing

23 to do for at this Commission is to issue a monetary

24 penalty. But I do want to say some of us here hold

25 professional licenses, and there's no wiggle room in

1 other agencies. You either get it in or you don't get
2 your license. So -- or you get a daily fine. So just
3 please get it in. This is your task, it's on you.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIR: 100 percent.

6 MS. NASH: I'll give the floor back to
7 you.

8 CHAIR: 100 percent. Mr. Sayeed, I
9 believe we have a recusal on tranche number two. Do
10 you mind doing your thing?

11 THE SECRETARY: Yes, sir. Next on the
12 agenda, we have consideration of an annual license
13 renewal application for The Honorable Plant LLC.
14 Commissioner Ferraro has recused herself from this
15 application due to an ongoing professional
16 relationship. On account of her recusal, she will step
17 out of the Zoom meeting while the Board considers this
18 particular application. Afterward, Commissioner --
19 well, Vice Chair Ferraro will come back into the room
20 and will take up the next order of business.

21 CHAIR: Okay. Commissioner Ferraro, is
22 she exited?

23 THE SECRETARY: Yes, sir.

24 CHAIR: Okay. Is there a -- can we move
25 to the next slide? Is there a motion to approve the

1 annual license renewal for The Honorable Plant LLC?

2 MS. MAPP: So moved.

3 CHAIR: I'll second it. Mr. Sayeed.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

5 MS. MAPP: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

7 MS. NASH: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro is
9 recused, Chair Laufer?

10 CHAIR: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

12 CHAIR: All right.

13 THE SECRETARY: Let's just hold off.

14 CHAIR: Yep. We're gonna take a beat. So
15 Vice Chair Ferraro can reenter the meeting. All right.

16 THE SECRETARY: Just one more minute.

17 Just -- all right. We should be good now.

18 CHAIR: Jackie, are you in?

19 MS. FERRARO: Yes, sir.

20 CHAIR: There we go. See not that many
21 awkward silences on Zoom meetings, this is great. All
22 right. Cases, claims, and petitions. Chief Counsel
23 Tuason?

24 MR. DAVE TAUSON: Tauson. Thanks.

25 CHAIR: Tauson? I got it. Okay. I'm

1 sorry.

2 MR. TAUSON: Thank you, chair. Just
3 wanted to take a moment to congratulate you, Chair
4 Laufer, and Vice Chair Ferraro. I think you both bring
5 a wealth of knowledge to this industry. I think the
6 industry is in great hands and looking forward to
7 continue working with you both. So this agenda item is
8 the determination of rehabilitation. We received two
9 applications for rehab for two ATC employees. They
10 both received notice that their criminal history check
11 revealed a DQ, a disqualifying conviction, and these
12 employees were given the opportunity to challenge that
13 or apply for rehab. They did apply for rehab and staff
14 reviewed and we recommend approval for both. Thank
15 you.

16 CHAIR: Okay. So we've all reviewed the
17 materials for the recommendation on rehabilitation.
18 Are there any questions about the recommendation?
19 Seeing none, is there a motion to approve the
20 recommendation of rehabilitation?

21 MS. FERRARO: Moved.

22 CHAIR: Is there a second?

23 MS. NASH: Second.

24 MS. MAPP: Second.

25 CHAIR: All right. Mr. Sayeed?

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

2 MS. MAPP: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

4 MS. NASH: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

6 MS. NASH: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

8 CHAIR: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

10 CHAIR: All right. Next is a vote to
11 approve -- sorry. Next is notices of an enforcement
12 action. The first one on the docket is Hashery. Chief
13 Counsel.

14 MR. TAUSON: So we're considering three
15 different enforcement actions today. The first is INV-
16 09-2026. Entity name is Hashery. We issued an NOV to
17 the entity for failure to adhere to the regulations by
18 using an unapproved RV and allowing cannabis
19 paraphernalia to be visible to the public, storing
20 cannabis in an unsecure area. With that, I turn it
21 back over to you, Chair Laufer for a vote.

22 CHAIR: Yep. So let's open up discussion
23 on the -- from the Board. As you know, Hashery has
24 been in front of the Board a couple times. That's
25 right, Chief Counsel?

1 MR. TAUSON: That's correct. This is the
2 third enforcement action in the last couple of months.

3 CHAIR: And typically, in order to receive
4 an NOV, there has been previous communication with
5 their compliance officer and with the Office of
6 Compliance and Investigations. We don't just go out
7 and willy-nilly issue violations, correct?

8 MR. TAUSON: That is correct. Compliance
9 officers does site visits, communicates with the
10 entity, generally recommends.

11 CHAIR: Yep.

12 MR. TAUSON: Certain things to come into
13 compliance.

14 CHAIR: So Hashery has a total of six
15 violations. I think the easiest way would be to --
16 would be to assess an amount and allow staff to
17 attribute values for each violation. Is there any
18 considerations from the Board? Okay. I'll move
19 forward. Unless anybody else would like to? I'll
20 recommend that we issue a \$20,000 fine for the myriad -
21 - the six violations in total, seeing that this is
22 their third time in front of the Board and there have
23 been multiple violations involving inventory control
24 and security issues, and I'll just leave it there.
25 There's anybody to second that motion?

1 MS. FERRARO: I second that.

2 CHAIR: Is there any discussion, or are we
3 ready to vote?

4 MS. FERRARO: Chair, I recognize, if I
5 may.

6 CHAIR: Yeah, please.

7 MS. FERRARO: I recognize advertising is
8 probably something we should look at. However,
9 unapproved activities, the six violations, the third
10 time coming in front of the Board becomes concerning,
11 especially for those operators who are trying to do the
12 right thing and I think that \$20,000 is a fair fine as
13 much as I do not like to have to fine operators. We
14 want to see operators thrive, but stay within the rules
15 and the regulations and yeah -- so I move for the
16 \$20,000 fine.

17 CHAIR: Okay. I guess I'll second it.
18 Mr. Sayeed?

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

20 MS. MAPP: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

22 MS. NASH: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

24 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

1 CHAIR: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

3 CHAIR: Before we move on to INV-10-26,
4 Green Oasis Dispensary. I, you know, what Vice Chair
5 Ferraro said is 1000 percent right. None of us like to
6 assess fines. None of us like to be the bad guy and
7 inhibit business but we have an Office of Compliance
8 and Investigation. Each entity is assigned a
9 compliance officer and that is their, you know, I --
10 it's the first time I'm going to say this, please
11 listen to your compliance officer. They are the base
12 level resource for all of these cannabis entities. So
13 moving on to INV-10-26, Green Oasis. Chief Counsel.

14 MR. TAUSON: We issued an NOV to Green
15 Oasis for failure to adhere to the regulations to
16 restrict dispensary access to authorized personnel,
17 failing to maintain complete, accurate, and
18 confidential records of all cannabis sales.
19 Effectively one of the co-owners or co-owners had, you
20 know, entered the premises, and it was a violation of
21 security regulations. That I turn it back over to you,
22 Chair Laufer.

23 CHAIR: Yeah. So upon reading the
24 materials and speaking with OCI staff, you know, this
25 is, you know, it is incredibly important to make sure

1 that product and security controls are there. I would
2 move for a \$1,000 fine on this.

3 MS. NASH: I'll second that.

4 CHAIR: Okay. Is there any further
5 discussion? Mr. Sayeed?

6 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

7 MS. MAPP: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

9 MS. NASH: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

11 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

12 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

13 CHAIR: Yes.

14 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

15 CHAIR: All right. Moving on to INV-17-
16 26, which is the third and final enforcement action
17 that we're going to make today. Chief Counsel Tauson?

18 MR. TAUSON: Thanks, chair. This one, an
19 NOV was issued to CREAM Retail Dispensary for failing
20 to sell cannabis items directly to a consumer. You
21 know, the facts here were a co-owner used an employee's
22 point of sale login to complete the transaction for the
23 sale of cannabis items in the name of another co-owner
24 and with that, I turn it back over to you, chair.

25 CHAIR: So for me, you know, this industry

1 is built on selling direct to consumer. You know, that
2 is a, you know, tenet of the industry and we're not
3 supposed to buy cannabis for other people and I
4 consider this offense to be severe. I would like to
5 hear -- sorry. I consider these two offenses to be
6 severe. I would like to open it up to the Board, see
7 if anybody else would like to add, or if they have a
8 number in mind that they would like to bring up?

9 MS. NASH: Chair, I would like to issue a
10 \$5,000 monetary penalty.

11 CHAIR: Is there a second?

12 MS. FERRARO: Chair, I would agree with
13 that. However, if I may just make a comment on --

14 CHAIR: Please.

15 MS. FERRARO: -- it took many -- it took a
16 long, long time for us -- meaning the State of New
17 Jersey, to allow for adult use and I just -- just a
18 friendly reminder. It wasn't easy by the way, right?
19 And so just a friendly reminder to our operators and
20 the broader community how important it is that we
21 operate in good faith and we maintain our integrity.
22 Consumers and those that aren't totally familiar with
23 our program, maybe consumers who are on the fence,
24 looking to walk into a dispensary. When this -- when
25 they read about stuff like this, it compromises all of

1 us, the state, the agency, and obviously the operators.
2 So I just ask just to be mindful that in what -- the
3 actions that are taken in one with -- for one operator
4 affects everybody, including us. So I just wanted to
5 get that on the record. Thank you.

6 CHAIR: Absolutely. So we have a motion
7 and a second on assessing CREAM Retail Dispensary a
8 \$5,000 fine. Mr. Sayeed, can you call the roll?

9 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

10 MS. MAPP: Yes. The fact that the person
11 who used the ID to purchase this product. The ID that
12 was used was not an online purchase, or was that person
13 present in the store? So I do agree with the \$5,000
14 fine.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

16 MS. NASH: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

18 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

19 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

20 CHAIR: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

22 CHAIR: So before we go into public
23 comment, we are adding an agenda item as it pertains to
24 delegated authority. Mr. Sayeed, is there a slide for
25 that, or are we just going?

1 THE SECRETARY: I think we're just going.

2 CHAIR: Okay. So I would like to motion
3 that we delegate authority in the same manner in which
4 we delegate for management service agreements and
5 franchise service agreements as it pertains to
6 renewals. Furthermore, I would like to afford staff
7 the ability to offer an administrative extension in
8 certain circumstances. Obviously the resolution will
9 be public as it's ready. So the public will get a
10 chance to speak on it but I do want to make that
11 motion.

12 MS. NASH: Second.

13 CHAIR: Mr. Sayeed, is there any
14 discussion before we go? Is there any discussion?
15 Okay. Mr. Sayeed, do your thing.

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Mapp?

17 MS. MAPP: Yes.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

19 MS. NASH: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Ferraro?

21 MS. FERRARO: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: Chair Laufer?

23 CHAIR: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: The motion passes.

25 CHAIR: All right. Mr. Sayeed, your

1 favorite part of the meeting public comment.

2 THE SECRETARY: Okay. Thanks. As a
3 reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's
4 public comment period will be limited to three minutes.
5 Please be respectful and concise during your comments.
6 So the first person I have to speak that registered to
7 speak is Angel Fernandez. If you're in the room,
8 please raise your hand. The last four of the telephone
9 number is 1859. And just as a reminder, it is star 9,
10 to raise your hand and star 6 to unmute. Angel
11 Fernandez? Last four of the telephone number is 1859.
12 Okay. I don't see that person. The next person is
13 Thomas Norcia. If you're in the room, please raise
14 your hand. Last 4 of the telephone number is 2406.
15 Thomas Norcia, 2406? I don't see that person. The
16 next person is Andrew Siceloff. Last four of the
17 telephone number is 3016. Andrew Siceloff? I don't
18 see that person. The next person is George Sanchez.
19 Last four of the telephone number is 2749. George
20 Sanchez, 2749? I don't see that person. The next
21 person on the list is Jhiyra Rawlins. Jhiyra Rawlins?
22 Last four of the telephone number is 0802. I don't see
23 that person. The next person is Jarid Turner. Last
24 four of the telephone number is 7954. Jarid Turner? I
25 don't see that person. The next person is Christopher

1 Schultz. Last four of the telephone number is 6521.
2 Christopher Schultz? I don't see that person. I do
3 see the first person I did call, Angel Fernandez. So
4 I'm gonna give him a chance. Angel, you have the
5 floor.

6 MR. ANGEL FERNANDEZ: Hello, can you hear
7 me?

8 THE SECRETARY: Yes. We can hear you,
9 Angel.

10 MR. FERNANDEZ: Okay. Sorry I couldn't
11 join before because it wasn't letting me unmute on the
12 phone.

13 THE SECRETARY: No worries. Go ahead.
14 You have the floor.

15 MR. FERNANDEZ: Okay. Good afternoon,
16 members of the Commission. My name is Angel Fernandez,
17 and I'm an 18-year-old registered medical patient from
18 Newark. I'm here to address a direct conflict within
19 the current regulations. While the state recognizes my
20 legal right as a registered patient to use cannabis,
21 the current consumption lounge rule excludes me solely
22 based on my age. Despite my medical card, this creates
23 a significant barrier to safe access. My apartment
24 also prohibits indoor smoking. Furthermore, because of
25 my age, New Jersey law bars me from purchasing

1 vaporized products, which offers more of a discreet
2 alternative. Consequently, I am left without any legal
3 indoor space to use my medicine. I often find myself
4 outdoors, which makes me feel uncomfortable.
5 Additionally, the weather condition sometimes makes it
6 worse. It's New Jersey, after all. I'm requesting
7 that the Commission grant a regulatory waiver under the
8 NJAC 1730/37 to allow registered medical patients ages
9 18 to 20 to access consumption lounges at hybrid
10 dispensaries. The Commission has continually
11 emphasized its commitment to protecting patient access.
12 I am asking that this commitment extends to patients in
13 my demographic, ensuring that we're not denied a safe
14 legal space to consume our medicine. Thank you for
15 your time.

16 THE SECRETARY: Thank you, Angel.

17 CHAIR: Thank you very much. That is a
18 very fair point and we can discuss that with staff and
19 the proper regulatory counsels. Is there anybody else
20 Mr. Sayeed?

21 THE SECRETARY: No, that's it. That'll
22 conclude the registered speakers we have for today's
23 public meeting.

24 CHAIR: Sounds good. So after public
25 comment is probably Mr. Sayeed's true favorite part of

1 the meeting. Is there a motion to adjourn?

2 MS. MAPP: So moved.

3 CHAIR: Is there a second?

4 MS. FERRARO: Second.

5 CHAIR: All in favor?

6 MS. FERRARO: Aye.

7 MS. MAPP: Aye.

8 MS. NASH: Aye.

9 CHAIR: Aye. 12:49, we're adjourned.

10 Thank you very much, everyone.

11 MS. NASH: Thank you.

12 MS. FERRARO: Thank you.

13 MS. MAPP: Thank you all.

14 (Meeting concluded)

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25