NEW JERSEY CANNABIS

REGULATORY COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

HARRIS LAUFER, Chair.
CHRISTOPHER RIGGS
SEAN KENNEDY
JACQUELINE FERRARO, Vice Chair
AMELIA MAPP
KRISTA NASH
DANIEL SAID

ROLL CALL:

MR. SAID: Commissioner Kennedy?
MR. KENNEDY: Here.
MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?
MS. MAPP: Here.
MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash.
MS. NASH: Present.
MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro.
VICE CHAIR: Here.
MR. SAID: Chair Laufer.
CHAIR: Here.

MS. KRISTA NASH: Can you hear me?
CHAIR: Yes.
MR. SAID: Yes, we can hear you
MS. NASH: Good morning.
MR. SAID: Good morning. So I hear all three of you clearly.
MS. NASH: Thank you.
MR. SAEED: Commissioner Mapp, can you hear me?
MS. AMELIA MAPP: Yes, I can.
MR. SAEED: Okay. And I hear you clear.

So thank you.

MS. MAPP: All right. Thank you.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Laufer, can you hear me?

CHAIR: Yes, I can.

MR. SAID: Okay. Perfect. Thank you so much.

CHAIR: Mr. SAID, can you hear me?

MR. SAID: Yes, I can hear you. Thank you.

CHAIR: All right. Sorry for the delay. I want to call this meeting to order. Mr. SAID, can you please read the statement of compliance.

MR. SAID: Good morning, Chair. This is a rescheduling of a regularly scheduled public meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission 2026 annual meeting schedule. Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was posted to the NJ-CRC Legal Notices webpage in accordance with the -- with Public Law 2025 Chapter 72.

The agenda and information regarding the virtual nature of the meeting, and the ability to live stream was posted on the CRC website. The meeting time

and location has also been posted on the website of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission, and with the Office of the Secretary of the State.

CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Said Can you please call the roll?

MR. SAID: Commissioner Kennedy?

MR. SEAN KENNEDY: Here.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?

MS. MAPP: Here.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash.

MS. NASH: Present.

MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro.

VICE CHAIR: Here.

MR. SAID: Chair Laufer.

CHAIR: Here.

MR. SAID: We now have a quorum.

CHAIR: Okay. It looks like the first order of business is going into closed session. Which is going to last approximately 45 minutes. Is there a motion to go into closed session?

MS. MAPP: So moved.

VICE CHAIR: Second.

CHAIR: I'll second the motion. All in favor?

ALL: Aye.

CHAIR: All right. You know, you guys didn't get me a gavel for my office, so I'm just going to hit the table. Hearing closed.

VICE CHAIR: Thank you.

(BREAK INTO CLOSED SESSION)

(BACK TO PUBLIC SESSION)

CHAIR: All right. I want to give credit to Mr. SAID, I can tell he got the gavel. So well done. I just want to make sure we're all back. Is everybody back? I see vice chair, Commissioner Mapp, Commissioner Nash, Commissioner Kennedy. Mr. SAID, are you here?

MR. SAID: Yes.

CHAIR: Director Riggs? We'll wait a couple minutes for Director Riggs. Chief Counsel? We'll give it a minute.

MS. ARUNDHATI MOHANKUMAR: We're here.

CHAIR: Both of you?

MS. MOHANKUMAR: No, just me.

CHAIR: Okay.

MS. MOHANKUMAR: I'm here.

CHAIR: Well, we're here was very misleading.

MS. MOHANKUMAR: Legally, it's not.

Legally, as a unit, is here.

CHAIR: Yeah.

MS. MOHANKUMAR: I'm the representative.

CHAIR: Okay. We'll give Director Riggs a second.

MR. CHRISTOPHER RIGGS: Chair, I'm here.

CHAIR: All right. We are good to go. All right. Next, we have the approval of prior meeting minutes. Is there a motion to approve our prior meeting minutes?

MR. KENNEDY: Motion.

CHAIR: Motion Kennedy.

MS. MAPP: Second.

CHAIR: Second Mapp. All in favor?

ALL: Aye.

CHAIR: All right. I think that's unanimous.

VICE CHAIR: Yes.

CHAIR: Next is gonna be a brief Chair's report. So I wanna let everybody know, you know, kind of, where we are in terms of the calendar every year. The CRC has to evaluate the level of the social equity excise fee. And for the past -- for the past 5 years since the Commission's inception, we have made the deliberate decision not to raise it. And I just want

to let the public know, let the industry know that we are going to be evaluating as we are statutorily have, you know, have to do.

We're going to be -- we're going to be re-evaluating the level of the social equity excise fee. I invite members of the industry to reach out to us, give their opinion. We've already got some outreach. We'll continue to get more.

I want to commend Commissioner Mapp, Commissioner Nash, who sit on the committee that holds the SEEF hearings. And I welcome you guys. If you'd like to do another one, you're more than welcome to, that is -- that's in part, me, you know. I leave that in your capable hands.

But I just want to let the industry and the public know, we are going to be evaluating the SEEF at our October meeting which is going to be October 29th. And that's for lack of a November meeting. So it's either October or December.

So we're going to -- we're going to be really taking a close look at the social equity excise fee for the coming year. And again, I just want to commend Commissioner Mapp, Commissioner Nash on their work with that.

That concludes my Chair's report. I'm

going to turn it over to Director Riggs for NED's report.

MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair. Next slide, please. As always, we'll go through some licensing update data, and some patient numbers update data, with the more robust data reporting coming up in our October meeting. For licensing update, total licenses approved as of September 1st, 2026. Now, the Commission has approved 3,267 applications that have been submitted. Of those, 2,568 of those applications have been approved. They've been reviewed and approved.

There's only four applications that are under review in our Office of Licensing. So I do want to commend our licensing team, and Director of Licensing Megan Tagliaferri for really moving through those licenses quickly. There are only four that are really onto reviewing in the Office of Licensing, which is a really low number compared to the early days of the CRC.

With 122 applications that are pending resubmission following a cure, and then 96 applications are under review in our Office of Compliance and Investigations. Adult use licenses that have been approved as of September 1st of 2026, the Commission has approved 1700 conditional licenses, 504 conditional

to annual conversion licenses, 363 annual licenses, and 93 expanded alternative treatment centers.

Applications up for consideration today, we have seven ownership changes before the Board. One site modification, which is a canopy modification for a cultivator, one location change, two conditional annual conversions, and four annual licenses. Next slide, please.

Current patient enrollment data as of September 3rd of 2026, a little over 43,000 patients still enrolled in the program. We have 2,800 caregivers and a little over 1,500 doctors involved in our medical cannabis program.

CHAIR: All right. Thank you, Director Riggs.

MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR: Next item on the agenda is applications for permitting or licensing change. First on deck -- first on deck is ownership changes. Director Riggs?

MR. RIGGS: We have several cannabis businesses that are proposing a transfer and ownership, seven in total. We'll take the first six here. ABCO Garden State, St. Mary's Dispensary LLC, Authorized Dealer, and Fort LLC, Garden Green LLC, Got Your Six of

New Jersey LLC, Liberty City Weed Deliveries. Each of these entities have satisfied their regulatory criteria for an ownership change.

The owners and the individual that are required to be background checked and vetted by the Office of Compliance and Investigation, all of that work has been done. They have been deemed qualified entering into the adult use market, and therefore we are recommending that the Board approve these six ownership changes today.

CHAIR: Thank you very much, Director Riggs. Is there any questions on behalf of the commissioners? Seeing none, I just want to comment. Some of these names are just absolutely fantastic. Kudos to Got Your Six. But is there a motion to approve these six ownership change applications?

MR. KENNEDY: A motion.

CHAIR: Motion, Kennedy.

VICE CHAIR: Second.

CHAIR: Second, Ferraro. Mr. SAID, please call the roll.

MR. SAEED: Commissioner Kennedy?

MR. KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?

MS. MAPP: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash.

MS. NASH: Yes.

MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro.

VICE CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: Chair Laufer.

CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: The motion passes.

CHAIR: Next, we have a ownership change application. I believe there's a recusal on this?

MR. SAID: Yes, sir.

CHAIR: Yep. Mr. SAID?

MR. SAID: So next on the agenda, we have consideration of an ownership change for the Next Chapter Market LLC. Commissioner Ferraro has recused herself from this ownership change application for the Next Chapter Market LLC, due to an ongoing professional relationship. On account of her recusal, she'll step out of the while the Board considers this particular application.

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

CHAIR: Okay. Director Riggs, floor is yours.

MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair. This entity has satisfied the regulatory criteria for an ownership.

The owners, the individuals, they've been vetted and background checked by our Office of Compliance and Investigations. And the individuals involved with this business have been deemed qualified to enter into the adult use market. So therefore, we are recommending at this time that the ownership change application be approved.

CHAIR: Okay. Is there a motion to approve the ownership change application for the Next Chapter Market, LLC?

MS. NASH: I have a question for Executive Director Riggs.

MR. RIGGS: Go on.

MS. NASH: So on this one, I posed a question and I was waiting to hear back from legal. So there is an individual that has ownership in a couple other dispensaries through another company, three separate companies. So my question to legal was whether or not they were an 8415 investor -- 8415 investor -- 84151 investor. And so I don't have an answer. But if we move this forward, can we get clarification on that?

MR. RIGGS: Absolutely. We can provide clarification either in close session or after the public meeting related to that question, Commissioner

Nash.

MS. NASH: Thank you.

CHAIR: Okay. So we have a -- we have a motion from --

MS. MAPP: I did.

CHAIR: Yeah, it was Mapp. And I'm waiting on a second.

MR. KENNEDY: Second.

CHAIR: Second Kennedy. Mr. SAID, please call the roll.

MR. SAEED: Commissioner Kennedy?

MR. KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?

MS. MAPP: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

MS. NASH: Yes. Subject to review by legal.

CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro is recused. Chair Laufer?

CHAIR: Yes. And, Krista, before we sign the FAD, we'll make sure to get your question answered. So thank you.

MS. NASH: Thank you, Chair.

MR. SAID: The motion passes.

CHAIR: Next, let's make sure Vice Chair Ferraro is back in the room. Don't wanna -- don't wanna move too quickly here. All right. We're back. Next is site modification for the Fireplace, New Jersey. Director Riggs, floor is yours.

MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair. This is an increase in canopy size. The Fireplace New Jersey LLC is requesting to add hoop houses to increase their total canopy up to close to 40,000 square feet. Their current cultivation canopy Tier 5 allows for additional mature canopy square footage without requiring a tier change. However, because it is a site modification, they have accurately reported it to the Commission as required by the regulations, and that means that it requires board approval.

The site plan standard operating procedures have been reviewed, and deemed satisfactory by our Office of Compliance and Investigation. And we are recommending that the Board approve this site modification for the Fireplace New Jersey, LLC. And kudos to them for reporting a canopy increase that didn't require necessarily a canopy tier change.

CHAIR: Yeah, a 100 percent. I also want to point out, we love to see businesses that are looking to expand in the state. They're obviously

doing something right, so kudos to the Fireplace New Jersey, another great name, for the record. Are there any -- are there any questions regarding this site modification? Seeing none. Is there a motion to approve the site modification for the Fireplace New Jersey, LLC?

MR. KENNEDY: Motion.

CHAIR: Motion, Kennedy.

VICE CHAIR: I second.

CHAIR: Second --

VICE CHAIR: I'm very excited to have extra hoop houses here in New Jersey.

CHAIR: 100 percent.

VICE CHAIR: All aboard.

CHAIR: 100 percent. Motion. Motion, Kennedy. Second, Vice Chair Ferraro. Mr. SAID, please call the roll.

MR. SAEED: Commissioner Kennedy?

MR. KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. SAEED: Commissioner Mapp?

MS. MAPP: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

MS. NASH: Yes.

MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro?

VICE CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: Chair Laufer?

CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: The motion passes.

CHAIR: Another stupendous name. A location change application. Next is location changes. Director Riggs, you have the floor for the Elevated Herb LLC.

MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair. Elevated Herb LLC is proposing to change their location. Just moving right up the road, from 1846 Route 23 to 1856 Route 23. The application has been reviewed by our Office of Compliance and Investigation to confirm that the new location satisfies all of our regulations.

They've provided their municipal support, and therefore we are recommending that this location change be approved at this time.

CHAIR: Any questions regarding the Elevated Herb, LLC? Seeing none, is there a motion to approve?

MR. KENNEDY: Motion.

CHAIR: Motion, Kennedy. Second?

MS. NASH: Second.

CHAIR:Second, Nash. Mr. SAID, please call the roll.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Kennedy?

MR. KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?

MS. MAPP: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

MS. NASH: Yes.

MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro?

VICE CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: Chair Laufer?

CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: The motion passes.

CHAIR: Next on the agenda is cannabis business applications. First category, conditional to annual conversions. Director Riggs.

MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair. We have two conditional annual conversion applications. One cultivator, and one retailer. They have followed our licensing process. They've been given a priority assignment where we've confirmed that each application is assigned to the appropriate priority review level. That priority has been verified.

Completeness review is conducted by our Office of Licensing team to make sure not only that every document is contained in the application, but that those documents are filled out correctly, and the required information is provided.

Those applications are then scored. A qualification review is conducted for the individuals, financial sources, and any other agreements to review for regulatory compliance. We then do a quality control assessment with our Licensing Office of Compliance and Investigation and legal teams. And now we are recommending that both licenses be approved today by the Board.

CHAIR: Thank you very much, Director Riggs. Are there any questions regarding these two conversions from conditional to annual license conversions? Again, we really love seeing conditionals convert to annuals. They get to enter the market at what is a really good time. Are there any questions surrounding these two applications? Seeing --

MS. MAPP: Especially, in micro business.

CHAIR: Yes. 100 percent. Yes, two of them. So is there a motion to approve the conversions?

MR. KENNEDY: Motion.

CHAIR: Motion, Kennedy.

MS. MAPP: Second.

CHAIR: Second Mapp. Mr. SAID, please call the roll.

MR. SAEED: Commissioner Kennedy?

MR. KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?
MS. MAPP: Yes.
MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?
MS. NASH: Yes.
MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro?
VICE CHAIR: Yes.
MR. SAID: Chair Laufer?
CHAIR: Yes.
MR. SAID: The motion passes.
CHAIR: Next is moving on to annual applications. Director Riggs, floor is yours.
MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair. There are four total. We'll go with the first three here. We have one cultivator, one manufacturer, and one retailer. You'll see their standard businesses, T-Verde LLC, T-Verde LLC, and Nutra Leaf LLC. They followed the same licensing process that I just articulated with priority assignment, then that priority being verified. There was a completeness review. The applications were then scored.
The qualification review was conducted and then quality control assessment was also conducted. And we are, therefore, recommending that these three applications be approved by the Board today.
CHAIR: Okay. Are there any questions

surrounding these three applications? Seeing none. Is there a motion to approve?

MR. KENNEDY: Motion.

CHAIR: Motion, Kennedy. Second, Laufer. Mr. SAID?

MR. SAID: Commissioner Kennedy?

MR. KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?

MS. MAPP: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

MS. NASH: Yes.

MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro?

VICE CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: Chair Laufer?

CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: The motion passes.

CHAIR: All right. Next, the --

MR. SAID: (Inaudible).

CHAIR: Yeah. We have an annual license manufacturer, which I believe there is a recusal.

MR. SAID: So next on the agenda, we have consideration of an annual license for Valley Wellness LLC. Commissioner Ferraro has recused herself from this annual application for Valley Wellness LLC, due to an ongoing professional relationship.

On account of her recusal, she will step out of the room while the Board considers this particular application. Afterward, Commissioner Ferraro will come back in and will take up the next order of business.

CHAIR: All right. Director Riggs, floor is yours.

MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair. This application followed the same licensing process that I just articulated. It's been deemed satisfactory by our Office of Compliance and Investigations, legal team, and the licensing team. It's been reviewed, scored, and is now recommended for approval by the Board. Thank you.

CHAIR: All right. Are there any questions surrounding Valley Wellness LLC's consideration with the annual license application? Seeing none, is there a motion to approve?

MS. MAPP: So moved.

CHAIR: Motion, Mapp. Second?

MR. KENNEDY: Hey.

CHAIR: Kennedy?

MR. KENNEDY: Yes, second.

CHAIR: Oh, second, Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY: Sure.

CHAIR: Danny --

MR. KENNEDY: She beat me to it.

CHAIR: Mr. SAID, please call the roll.

MR. SAEED: Commissioner Kennedy?

MR. KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?

MS. MAPP: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

MS. NASH: Yes.

MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro is recused. Chair Laufer?

CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: The motion passes.

CHAIR: All right. Let's get Jackie back in the room. Commissioner -- Vice Chair Ferraro is back. Next is cases, claims, and petitions. We are going to move -- we're going to have a change in program. We're going to give the floor to Chief Counsel Mohankumar, who's going to discuss waiver requests.

MS. MOHANKUMAR: Thank you, Chair. We have two waiver requests that the Board will be considering today. The Commission's regulations give the Commission the authority to waive a regulatory requirement. And if it meets the three factors

enumerated under N.J.A.C 17:30-3.7 or N.J.A.C 17:30a-7.11.

These provisions generally state that the Board may waive a regulatory requirement regarding the operations of a business if the waiver is necessary to achieve the purposes of the act, is necessary to provide greater access to cannabis and or medical cannabis to consumers and patients, and does not create a danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.

The first waiver request the Board will be considering is WR071, and that's from Restore NJ, LLC. And that entity has requested a waiver of N.J.A.C 17:30-7.17 D5 III, which requires medicinal cannabis dispensaries to pay $100,000 expansion fee. With that, I turn it back over to you, Chair, for a board vote.

CHAIR: Yeah. So are there any questions surrounding this waiver request? Seeing none, I'm going to ask one question to Chief Counsel. So we can't grant a partial waiver request. It's either all or nothing, is that correct?

MS. MOHANKUMAR: That is correct.

CHAIR: And the second question is to -- as a commission, we have not granted a fee waiver today, is that correct?

MS. MOHANKUMAR: That is my recollection,

because for --

CHAIR: Okay.

MS. MOHANKUMAR: Because of the all-or-nothing nature of it.

CHAIR: Correct.

MS. MOHANKUMAR: Yes.

CHAIR: Correct. So I would like to make a motion to deny this waiver request. Is there a second?

MS. MAPP: Second.

CHAIR: Mr. Saeed?

MR. SAEED: Commissioner Kennedy?

MR. KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. SAEED: Commissioner Mapp?

MS. MAPP: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

MS. NASH: Yes.

MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro?

VICE CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: Chair Laufer?

CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: The motion passes.

CHAIR: Next is WR074. Chief Counsel, the floor is yours.

MS. MOHANKUMAR: Thank you. So the next

waiver request, as Chair Laufer mentioned, is WR074. Niche LLC has requested a waiver of N.J.A.C 17:30a-7.2 and N.J.S.A 24:6I-17.1. To waive background check requirements for employees of alternative treatment centers, while continuing to require background checks for owners, directors, board members, officers and significantly involved persons.

While the background check for ATC employees is in both the medical regulations and statute, it should be noted that N.J.S.A 24:6I-23 authorizes the Commission to waive requirements set forth in CUMMA, or the New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act, if the waiver satisfies the same factors as previously recited. And with that, I turn it back over to you, Chair, for a board vote.

CHAIR: Yeah. So I just want to point out for the public, we did this as it pertains to the adult use market. And should the Board vote to approve the waiver request, we would just be making the two marketplaces congruent with one another in terms of their background check criteria. With that, is there a motion to approve the motion?

MR. KENNEDY: Motion.

CHAIR: Motion, Kennedy. Second?

MS. MAPP: I'll second.

CHAIR: Second Mapp. I thought it was going to be Ferraro. Mr. Said, please call the roll.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Kennedy.

MR. KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp.

MS. MAPP: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash.

MS. NASH: Yes.

MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro.

VICE CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: Chair Laufer.

CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: The motion passes.

CHAIR: So before we move on, I just want to read the following -- I just want to read the following statement. The Commission has considered Niche LLC's waiver request and agrees that a waiver of the cited provisions of N.J.A.C 17:30A-7.2 and N.J.S.A 24:6I6-1 through 7D1 is necessary to achieve the purposes of the Act and integrate -- sorry -- is necessary to provide greater access to medical cannabis patients and does not create a danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.

As noted, the Board has the authority to waive the statutory requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A

24:61-23, the waiver satisfies the same factors. At the May 4th, 2026 meeting the Board granted a similar waiver request for cannabis businesses operating specifically in the adult use market.

In accordance with the Resolution 2026-514-07, the Board waived the background check requirements for employees and volunteers of a cannabis business or testing laboratory license applicant or license holder participating in the adult use industry.

The Board sees no reason not to extend the waiver to ATCs and clinical registrants operating in the medical use space as well. Accordingly, the Board grants this waiver of the background check requirements set forth in N.J.A.C 17:30A-7.2 and N.J.S.A 24:61 through 7D1 for employees and other individuals who are not owners, principals, directors, board members, officers, or are significantly involved.

As a reminder, this decision does not waive the general requirements for these individuals to satisfy other regulations governing their participation in the industry, including but not limited to possesses an ATC identification card. So I just want to make that delineation abundantly clear for people who are listening. Now, we're going to move on to litigation matters, settlements. Chief Counsel?

MS. MOHANKUMAR: Chair, staff issued a notice of violation to OG's Brands LLC, which was INV 1472025. The Board subsequently imposed a penalty to that entity. The Board is now voting to act consistent with the discussion it had in executive session to resolve, and settle this matter. With that, I turn it back over to you, Chair, to vote -- for vote.

CHAIR: Thank you very much, Chief Counsel. Are there any comments? If not, would somebody please make a motion to approve the settlement?

MS. MAPP: Motion.

MR. KENNEDY: I'll second. CHAIR: Mr. SAID.

MR. SAEED: Commissioner Kennedy?

MR. KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. SAEED: Commissioner Mapp?

MS. MAPP: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

MS. NASH: Yes.

MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro?

VICE CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: Chair Laufer?

CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: The motion passes.

CHAIR: Next, settlement.

MS. MOHANKUMAR: Yep. Thank you, Chair. The staff issued a notice of violation to Columbia Care New Jersey LLC, which was NOV-04-2023. The Board subsequently imposed a penalty to that entity. The Board is now voting to act consistent with the discussion it had in executive session to resolve and settle this matter. With that, I turn it back over to you, Chair, for a vote.

CHAIR: Thank you very much. Are there any questions, comments, concerns surrounding this settlement? If not, would somebody please make a motion to approve it?

MR. KENNEDY: Motion.

CHAIR: I'll second it. Mr. SAID, please call the roll.

MR. SAEED: Commissioner Kennedy?

MR. KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp.

MS. MAPP: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash.

MS. NASH: Yes.

MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro.

VICE CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: Chair Laufer.

CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: The motion passes.

CHAIR: All right. Determination of rehabilitation. Chief Counsel?

MS. MOHANKUMAR: Okay. So we've received three applications from ATC employees for rehabilitation determination. These employees, each, received notice that their criminal history background check revealed a disqualifying conviction. And the employee was given an opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the results or to request a determination of rehabilitation. Each of these employees ultimately requested a determination of rehabilitation.

Staff reviewed the submissions and we recommend approval for all three. With that I turn it back over to you, Chair, for a vote on this matter.

CHAIR: Sure. Any questions, comments, concerns on the notices of rehabilitation? Seeing none. Is there a motion to approve them?

MR. KENNEDY: Motion?

VICE CHAIR: Second.

CHAIR: Second, Mapp. Mr. SAID? VICE

CHAIR: That was Ferraro.

CHAIR: Oh, sorry for -- I'm so sorry. Ferraro.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Kennedy?
MR. KENNEDY: Yes.
MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?
MS. MAPP: Yeah.
MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?
MS. NASH: Yes.
MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro?
VICE CHAIR: Yes.
MR. SAID: Chair Laufer?
CHAIR: Yes.
MR. SAID: The motion passes.
CHAIR: Next are notices of enforcement actions. Before we get to that, I have altered the list of notices of enforcement actions with the goal of removing all notification -- I mean, all enforcement actions pertaining to laboratories as we have possibly -- possible pending action, and possible evaluations of fines. So there's only one notice of enforcement. Director Riggs, please take it away.
MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Chair. Next slide, please. We have one notice of enforcement action today, it's under NOV investigation Number 134-2025 for Garden State Exotics, LLC.
Essentially, Garden State Exotics failed to adhere to the adult use regulations because they

opened the final sealed flower product that they had. They created a new product with the flower that is essentially considered unusable for cannabis once it is opened in the final product form to a consumer.

And they used it to make a new final product and made that product available in a new metric tag for consumers, which is a blatant violation of our regulations. And therefore, at this time we are recommending that the Board take enforcement action against this entity.

CHAIR: Yep. Any questions pertaining to this NOV, INV 134-2025? Seeing none. I am going to make a motion to assess a $10,000 fine for this violation. I lost my paper, so I apologize. But -- yeah, $10,000 fine -- oh, I have it. Sorry. For a violation of NJAC 17-30-16.2G, Garden State Exotics opened sealed packages resisted -- retested the flower, and created a new metric product under a different name.

Once a finished customer package is opened, it is considered unusable and the seal cannot be broken -- cannot be repurposed as a new product. And for that reason, I seek to assess a $10,000 fine. Is there a second?

MR. KENNEDY: Second.

CHAIR: Second, Kennedy. Mr. SAID, please call the roll.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Kennedy?

MR. KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Mapp?

MS. MAPP: Yes.

MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

MS. NASH: Yes.

MR. SAID: Vice Chair Ferraro?

VICE CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: Chair Laufer?

CHAIR: Yes.

MR. SAID: The motion passes.

CHAIR: Next is Mr. Saeed's second favorite part of the meeting, which is public comment. Mr. SAID, the floor is yours.

MR. SAID: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR: Nobody is (inaudible).

MR. SAID: Thank you, Chair. As a reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's public comment period will be limited to three minutes. Please be respectful and concise during your comments.

The first person I have on the list is Osbert Orduna. Osbert Orduna, if you're in the room, please raise your hand. And as a reminder, if you're

calling on Zoom, it's star, nine to raise your hand and star, six to unmute. Star, nine to raise your hand, star, six to unmute. Osbert. I see you, Osbert. Give me one second. Osbert, the floor is yours.

MR. OSBERT ORDUNA: Hello, can you hear me?

MR. SAID: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. ORDUNA: Good morning, commissioners. My name Osbert Orduna, I'm the Founder and CEO of the Cannabis Place Dispensary in Jersey City. I am here before you today as a Marine Combat Veteran. I am a 9/11 responder, a certified service-disabled veteran, and this is a minority business enterprise certified by the state. So I want to make a statement here, and to be completely clear, I want to share that we're pro-labor.

We built our dispensary using union labor. I personally developed New Jersey's very first and only cannabis pre-apprenticeship training program to date. Many of these program graduates are still on our team today, and now occupy key leadership roles.

I believe in creating opportunities. That's why I opened our store in the Greenville area of Jersey City, an area that was disproportionately impacted during cannabis prohibition.

When New Jersey passed the CREAMMA, it promised real opportunity for social equity operators. We took that promise to heart. I poured my life savings, and sweat and equity and dedication into building a business that directly serves our community, and provides honorable, well-paying jobs for the 20 incredible employees that we have on the -- on our team, and for their families.

Today, that entire dream and those 20 working class families are on the brink of total devastation due to an administrative catch-22 that's completely beyond our control.

The CREAMMA mandates Labor Peace Agreements as an ongoing condition of licensure. However, our original union LPA partner repeatedly engaged in conduct that violated our LPA, while attempting to weaponize, improperly, the Commission's authority against us.

Following that breakdown, we acted diligently and in complete good faith to secure a replacement LPA. We reached out to the only other two unions executing LPAs in New Jersey's cannabis space, and neither one of them is willing to execute an LPA agreement with us. So I asked this commission, what relief is there for a licensee when a private

third-party union acts as a gatekeeper and refuses to sign an LPA?

A company should not suffer licensing consequences because third parties have been given complete and autonomous control to, in essence, veto anyone's state-issued license renewal, and to determine whether a business lives or dies.

Federal courts in this jurisdiction have already warned that the State cannot condition licensure on agreements that intrude upon federally protected labor relations --

MR. SAID: 30 seconds.

MR. ORDUNA: We wrote to the CRC and -- for guidance and received silence. When our counsel called Director Wallace, he was told that he couldn't speak to us because of pending litigation. What pending litigation? We not suing the state. Is the state suing us? I served my country in uniform. I answered the call on 9/11. I built this this business because of what the CREAMMA promised to protect.

I ask you today, commissioners, do not allow private gatekeepers this unions to dismantle the equity market of New Jersey cannabis market. Step in, allow our renewal application to move forward, so we can continue to serve our community, receive our

license renewal in October, and be able to be a provider, not only to our employees, but for our state as well. I thank you and look forward to your review.

CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Orduna.

MR. SAID The next person I have on the list is Thomas Norcia. Thomas Norcia, if you're in the room, please raise your hand. All right, I see you, Thomas. The floor is yours. It's star, six to speak -- to unmute yourself. Just unmute yourself, Thomas.

CHAIR: Once again star, six is to unmute yourself. Star six, if you're on the phone.

MR. SAID: Thomas, I see you. I'm just going to come back to you until you can figure the unmuting out. I will move on to the next person. Thomas, I will come back to you. The next person I have on the list is Nicholas Scarpulla. Nicholas Scarpulla, if you're in the room, please raise your hand. Last four of the telephone numbers is 3701. Nicholas Scarpulla.

I don't see Nicholas. The next person on the list is Corrina Giakouminakis. If you're in the room, Corrina, please raise your hand. It is star, nine to raise your hand if you're calling and star, six to unmute yourself. Corrina Giakouminakis. All right. I don't see that person raising their hand.

The next person is Andrea Raible. Andrea Raible, if you're in the room, please raise your hand. Last four of the telephone number is 0229. I don't see Andrea, but I do see Corrina, so I will give Corrina her chance. Corrina, you have the floor.

MS. CORRINA GIAKOUMINAKIS: Okay. Can you hear me?

MR. SAID: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. GIAKOUMINAKIS: Oh, wonderful. I apologize.

MR. SAID: No. No worries.

MS. GIAKOUMINAKIS: Good afternoon. Thank you to the Chair and commissioners for this opportunity. My name is Corrina Giakouminakis, and I am the CEO of Anthea Labs, a cannabis testing laboratory in Parsippany, New Jersey. I am here to raise a concern that affects every license holder, every testing laboratory, and ultimately every consumer in this market. That concern is the New Jersey Metrics --

CHAIR: Did somebody kick her out?

MR. SAID: Corrina?

MS. GIAKOUMINAKIS: Wait, can you hear me now? Did anybody not hear anything?

CHAIR: We heard the initial --

MR. SAID: Yes, go ahead.

CHAIR: Let's start -- let's start her time from the beginning, Corrina.

MS. GIAKOUMINAKIS: I apologize.

CHAIR: Yeah. Okay. And start your testimony from the beginning, Corrina.

MS. GIAKOUMINAKIS: Again, I'm saying good afternoon. Thank you to the Chair and commissioners for this opportunity. My name is Corrina Giakouminakis, and I'm the CEO of Anthea Labs, a cannabis testing laboratory in Parsippany, New Jersey. I am here to raise a concern that affects every license holder, every testing laboratory, and ultimately every consumer in this market. That concern is the New Jersey metric fee-to-sale system.

Metric is not a peripheral tool. It is the operational backbone of New Jersey cannabis compliance, inventory tracking, testing submissions, product categorization, and reporting all flow through it. When it works, the market functions. When it doesn't, the consequences fall entirely on licensees who are left to diagnose problems in a system they did not build and cannot fix. Let me give you some specific examples.

The most recent Metric New Jersey CSV lab

testing update of required tests instructs laboratories to submit residual solvents and mycotoxins R&D results and CFE per grams.

Using that unit of measurement as published by Metric causes the upload to be rejected. Operators are somehow expected to realize the official bulletin is wrong and adjust. There are currently five variations of the milligram per gram per package field name that are active in Metric. They only differ in capitalization and punctuation.

A lab using an automated system that submits the wrong variation will have its entire upload rejected until the error is manually identified and corrected. Last week, laboratories received an e-mail informing us that Metric CSV upload format had changed. That e-mail arrived the day after the change was implemented.

As a result of being unaware of the change, our lab and, likely, others experienced failed uploads. I also want to flag a product classification concern. There is genuine ambiguity in how certain products should be categorized in Metric, and this must be -- and metrics -- and the Matric selected determines which tests are required. For example, lozenges are currently classified as infused non-edibles.

In addition, the most recent Metric bulletin for updated categories doesn't include all product types available in New Jersey. It's situations like these that cost labor hours, it delays samples, and ultimately delays getting products to market, and demonstrates the need for stronger communication and better coordination.

I'm asking the CRC for three things. An independent order of Metric's accuracy, advance notice to licensees before system changes are implemented, and clear classification guidance for product categories where ambiguity currently exists.

MR. SAID: 30 seconds.

MS. GIAKOUMINAKIS: New Jersey cannabis operators are doing their part. They deserve the infrastructure that needs to stay in standard. Thank you. And I appreciate your time today.

MR. SAID: Thank you so much, Corrina.

MS. GIAKOUMINAKIS: Thank you.

MR. SAID: I'm going to go over the list of people again. Thomas Norcia, I see you raising your hand. I'm going to give you a chance to speak. Please try to unmute yourself. Thomas, can you unmute yourself? If you're calling in, it's star, six to unmute yourself. Thomas, we can't hear anything you're

saying. If you're saying something, we can't hear you. So I'm just going to give you the opportunity.

Always, if you want to send your comment in writing, we'd be happy to hear it. I'm going to move on to the next person that didn't get a chance to speak. Nicholas Scarpulla. Last four of the telephone number is 3701. Nicholas Scarpulla. I don't see that person. And the next person is Andrea Raible, last four of the telephone number is 0229. Andrea Raible.

I don't see those people. Chair, this will conclude the registered speakers we have for today's public meeting.

CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Mr. SAID. I want to give Thomas one more chance, maybe the third time is the charm, and then we'll -- and then move -- and then we can adjourn. So do you want to --

MR. SAID: Sure. Absolutely.

CHAIR: One more -- just give him one more go. I want to, you know, public input is important.

MR. SAID: Absolutely. All right. So I'm asking Thomas to unmute. Thomas, if you can unmute, please try to. Thomas, are you able to unmute yourself? If you can, please do so. And it is star, six to unmute yourself.

CHAIR: We don't have the ability to

unmute, do we?

MR. SAID No, I checked.

CHAIR: Okay. Thomas, I apologize. All right. Now, we're going to Director Riggs' favorite part of the meeting, which is a motion to adjourn. Is there a motion?

MS. MAPP: So moved.

CHAIR: Motion, Mapp.

VICE CHAIR: Second.

MS. NASH: Second.

CHAIR: We have a second. Either Nash or Ferraro. I'm going to -- so I'm going to do an all in favor. All in favor?

ALL: Aye.

CHAIR: All right. We are adjourned. And since Danny gave me the gavel, I'm going to use it. We're closed.

VICE CHAIR: Thank you.

CHAIR: Thanks guys.

MS. MAPP: Thank you all.

MR. SAID: Thank you, everyone.

(Meeting ended)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Avi Noam Taub, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the testimonies at the time, place and on the date hereinbefore set forth, to the best of my ability.

I do further certify that the transcriber and editor who worked on this transcript are neither a relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any of the parties to this action, and none are a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, and that I'm not financially interested in the action.



_____

AVI NOAM TAUB

Dated: September 15, 2026

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