



**State of New Jersey**  
**CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
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*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

DIANNA HOUENOU, *Chair*  
SAMUEL DELGADO, *Vice Chair*  
KRISTA NASH, *Commissioner*  
MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, *Commissioner*  
CHARLES BARKER, *Commissioner*  
JEFF BROWN, *Executive Director*

**Public Meeting Minutes**

**June 30, 2022**

**DIANNA HOUENOU - Chair**

**SAMUEL DELGADO - Commission Co-Chair MARIA DEL  
CID-KOSSO - Commissioner KRISTA NASH - Commissioner  
CHARLES BARKER - Commissioner JEFF BROWN -  
Executive Director**

**WESLEY McWHITE - Director of Diversity and Inclusion**

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Good afternoon,  
2 everyone. My pleasure to welcome you to the public  
3 meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory  
4 Commission. The time is now 1:04 p.m. on my watch,  
5 and I am calling this meeting to order.

6 As we begin, I want to remind everyone, as we  
7 always do, that public comments can be submitted to  
8 the Cannabis Regulatory Commission during and after  
9 this meeting, in writing via our website,  
10 [www.nj.gov/cannabis/meetings](http://www.nj.gov/cannabis/meetings). The deadline to  
11 submit written comments for this meeting is  
12 tomorrow, Friday, July 1st at 5:00 o'clock p.m.

13 Director McWhite, please read the notice of  
14 the public meeting.

15 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Good afternoon,  
16 Madam Chairwoman. This is a special meeting of the  
17 New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Adequate  
18 notice of this meeting has been provided in  
19 according with the Senior Byron M. Baer Open Public  
20 Meetings Act.

21 Notice of the meeting was provided to the  
22 Asbury Park Press, Atlantic City Press, Bergen  
23 Record, Courier Post, Star Ledger and the Trenton

24 Times on April 4th, 2022.

25 The agenda and information regarding the

1 virtual nature of the meeting, due to the COVID-19  
2 pandemic, was also provided for publication and  
3 posted on the CRC website. The meeting time and  
4 location has also been posted on the website of the  
5 New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission and with  
6 the Office of the Secretary of the State.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Can  
8 you please take roll call?

9 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Commissioner.  
10 Barker?

11 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Present.

12 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Commissioner Del  
13 Cid-Kosso.

14 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Present.

15 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Vice Chair Delgado?

16 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Present.

17 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Commissioner Nash?

18 COMMISSIONER NASH: Present.

19 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Chairwoman Houenou?

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Present.

21 DIRECTOR McWHITE: All members of the

22 Commission are present and we now have a quorum.

23                   The first order of business is for the  
24           Commission to go into executive session to discuss  
25           legal matters and litigation updates. These are

1 discussions that are not shared with the public, and  
2 we believe the executive session should take about  
3 30 minutes.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you,  
5 Director McWhite. Do I have a motion to go into  
6 executive session?

7 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I  
8 move to go into executive session.

9 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: I second  
10 that.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by  
12 Commissioner Barker -- Barker and seconded by  
13 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

14 Thank you. Is there any discussion on this  
15 motion? Hearing none, all those in favor of going  
16 into executive session say aye?

17 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER NASH: Aye.

20 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Aye.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Aye.

22 All those opposed say nay. Are there any

23 abstentions? All right, the motion passes.

24 The Commission will now go into executive

25 session. As Director McWhite mentioned, we expect

1 the executive session to last approximately 30  
2 minutes. We will leave this live stream running  
3 during that time and will return once the executive  
4 session is done. So we can expect to complete -- we  
5 can expect to resume the open public session at  
6 about 1:37 p.m.

7 Thank you, everyone, for your patience.

8 (Executive session was held.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All right. We are  
10 back. Thank you all for your patience. The  
11 executive session has ended, it is now 1:39 and we  
12 will resume the open public portion of this meeting.

13 Director McWhite, can you please announce the  
14 next agenda item?

15 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Sure, Madam Chair.

16 But first, at this time I would like to correct the  
17 record. Original notice for the public meetings  
18 went out late 2021 that the new date and time for  
19 today's meeting was provided on June 23rd, 2022.  
20 Thank you.

21 So, the next item on today's agenda is  
22 approving the minutes of both the Commission's open



23 session and executive session held On May 24th,  
24 2022. The minutes have been shared and reviewed by  
25 the members of the Commission prior to this meeting.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. If  
2 there are no requests for corrections to the meeting  
3 minutes, I will ask for a motion.

4 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: So moved,  
5 Madam Chair.

6 COMMISSIONER NASH: Seconded.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by  
8 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso to adopt the meeting  
9 comments for May 24th, and seconded by Commissioner  
10 Nash.

11 Is there any discussion on this motion?  
12 Hearing none, all those in favor of approving the  
13 May 24th meeting minutes say aye.

14 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER NASH: Aye.

17 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Aye.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Aye. All those  
19 opposed to approving the minutes say nay. Are there  
20 any abstentions? All right. Hearing none, the ayes  
21 have it and the motion is carried.

22 Director McWhite, could you please announce

23 the next item?

24 DIRECTOR McWHITE: The next item on

25 today's agenda is the Chair's report.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.

2 I just have one piece of news to share with  
3 everyone today, this being the -- in advance of  
4 that, before I share that news, I want to wish  
5 everyone a happy pride and happy end of the fiscal  
6 year 2022.

7 So the CRC plans to move our public board  
8 meetings from in virtual only, to in person starting  
9 this fall, starting with our September 22nd board  
10 meeting. The remainder of this year's regular  
11 meetings will be held in person.

12 I'll be working with the executive director to  
13 finalize the board meeting logistics. The details  
14 of those -- details for those in-person meetings  
15 will be shared once they're confirmed. They will be  
16 updated to our website and notice publicized as  
17 appropriate.

18 And that is all I have for today's Chair's  
19 remarks.

20 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you for that  
21 notice, madam chairwoman.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Of course, Vice

23 Chair.

24 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Next item on the

25 agenda, we have our executive director's report.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.

2 Director Brown, you have the floor.

3 DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you, Madam

4 Chair. Thank you, members of the Commission,

5 everybody who's joined to watch the meeting.

6 Next slide, please. So on the agenda for

7 today's report are four things. Number one, an

8 update on license and permit applications. Number

9 two, gonna present some high-level information on

10 the CRC's proposed budget; this is in accordance

11 with the governor's proposed budget and the budget

12 being considered by the -- the legislature.

13 Given that this is -- we're near the end of

14 the second quarter of 2022, as I've previously

15 shared, we'll be presenting some data on

16 recreational licensees today, and then finally gonna

17 be going over some anticipated future releases here,

18 some high priority future releases.

19 So -- next slide, please. First we're gonna

20 cover update on permit and license applications.

21 Next slide. So starting with medicinal cannabis

22 permits, and gonna talk about the 2019 RFA, I'm

23 happy to report that the Commission has issued the  
24 first 2019 permit from that RFA.  
25 These were issued towards the end of last

1 year, so congratulations to Hillview Med, they're a  
2 cultivator in the northern region, they were issued  
3 the first permit from the 2019 RFA and they  
4 actually, you know, now hold the record for the  
5 fastest implementation from both the 2018 and 2019  
6 RFAs as far as the timeline from award to permit  
7 issuance. So congrats to Hillview Med. And that's  
8 the first of -- of many here to -- to come in the  
9 future.

10           Otherwise on the 2019's investigations and  
11 applicant verification are progressing. I know  
12 entities who are -- were awarded or focused on  
13 building out their facilities and working with our  
14 team to make sure we have everything that we need.

15           We have received some inquires, and I wanted  
16 to note, you know, the deadlines in those FADs and  
17 those deadlines for getting operational were  
18 included in the original RFA that was issued back in  
19 2019; those deadlines are the deadlines, and so  
20 applicants need to adhere to those.

21           Next slide, please. Turning now to  
22 recreational business applications. We've shown



23 this before, this shows the applications submission  
24 over time. You can see that, you know, there was  
25 initial rush on December 15th, another big rush on

1 March 15th when we opened up for retailers, and then  
2 there's been a pretty steady submission thereafter.

3 Next slide, please. We have roughly 200 --  
4 1,200 applications received so far. There're only  
5 350 that have not received an initial review; so  
6 staff are moving through these as quickly as  
7 possible.

8 We are still seeing that we're issuing more  
9 cure letters than approvals, so, i.e., there're  
10 applications that are coming in that need to cure  
11 deficiencies before they can move forward in the  
12 process.

13 But, one thing I did want to share, because I  
14 know there -- there are a lot of -- you know, 350 is  
15 still a big number, there are a lot applicants who  
16 are -- who are waiting to hear one way or another.

17 That -- you know, we do expect to -- to wrap  
18 up reviews of all the remaining applications over  
19 the coming months here. We've put a strong team on  
20 this, you know, people who are working on  
21 applications normally, as well as a -- a team of  
22 folks who -- who are jumping in to assist to get

23 these processed, get them reviewed and get those  
24 that are eligible approved as -- as quickly as  
25 possible. So we're going all hands on deck over the

1 summer here; as I've said to the staff, it's the  
2 summer of licensing.

3 Next slide, please. I do want to talk about a  
4 few things, because these are factors that are  
5 impacting our overall review time and able to get  
6 through that full list.

7 So we are still seeing a lot of incomplete  
8 applications. So -- so applicants are submitting  
9 without all the required information. We've  
10 highlighted this before, but we have a lot of  
11 information on our website.

12 The notice of application acceptance is -- is,  
13 you know, kind of the -- the tome here, the guiding  
14 document, that's what you want to start with, and  
15 then look at all the other resources on our website  
16 to -- to find out what you need to submit.

17 Secondly, we're seeing a number of  
18 applications attesting to a priority designation,  
19 i.e., saying they're a social equity business or a  
20 diversely owned business without submitting either  
21 the proof that they qualify as a social equity  
22 business; or, in the case of a diversely owned

23 business, applying without having the certificate --  
24 the certification from the Division of Revenue and  
25 Enterprise Services in hand.

1           So when you apply you need to have the  
2           requisite information to prove your priority. That  
3           includes, if you're a social equity business, the  
4           attestation that's on our website, as well as the  
5           underlying proof that you qualify as noted in that  
6           attestation.

7           And then for a diversely owned business, the  
8           actual certification as minority owned, women owned  
9           or disabled veteran owned per the Division of -- of  
10          Revenue and Enterprise Services.

11          They are able to process applications fairly  
12          quickly; and, in fact, you can get a certification  
13          even when you're not generating revenue. I know  
14          that we've certainly received some feedback that  
15          there -- folks believe that you can't, but you can.  
16          So contact DORES and -- and make sure you have that  
17          certification in hand when you submit, if you're  
18          submitting for a diversely owned business  
19          application.

20          Another thing that we're seeing is -- and this  
21          isn't a huge number, but certainly there are a  
22          number of applicants who received a cure lever --

23 letter and then -- and then resubmit without  
24 actually curing the deficiencies and so that -- you  
25 know, they come back in, we re-review, that's time

1 spent.

2 So, you know, I -- I just encourage all  
3 applicants, the -- the -- one of the main reasons we  
4 went to rolling application review with this  
5 priority destination, is so that people didn't have  
6 to rush to meet a specific deadline, that you can  
7 come and apply to us when you're ready to apply.

8 So don't rush it, make sure you have all your  
9 ducks in a row, make sure you have everything that  
10 you need to -- to submit that application, because  
11 if you do, then you will ultimately be recommended  
12 for approval. So just a -- a little plea there.

13 And again, you know, really spend some time  
14 going through our website and Director McWhite is  
15 on, his office is -- is certainly available to help  
16 and has been doing outreach with potential  
17 applicants and doing, you know, educational events  
18 and such.

19 So next slide, please. Next I'm gonna cover  
20 projected fiscal year 2023, CRC's budget. Next  
21 slide, please. And again, this is in accordance  
22 with what's -- you know, was proposed by the



23 governor was being considered by the -- by the

24 legislature.

25 So for fiscal year 2023, the Cannabis

1 Regulatory Commission has an expected appropriated  
2 budget of \$17 million. That's up from close to  
3 about 10 million, I think we'll end this fiscal year  
4 around \$10 million.

5 A breakdown of the budget is there's  
6 approximately 11.5 million for staffing,  
7 approximately two million for administrative program  
8 costs, such as technology, customer service, legal  
9 service, office supplies, a host of everything we  
10 need to make the operationals -- operations of the  
11 Commission go.

12 Approximately two million -- two million for  
13 work group planning and development -- which I'll  
14 cover on the -- on the next slide in more detail.

15 Approximately a million for software systems. This  
16 includes seed to sale tracking, reporting systems,  
17 case management systems, and then half a million  
18 dollars for communication and outreach campaigns.

19 Next slide, please. Some notes here. The CRC  
20 has more than tripled our -- our original staff of  
21 six to over 50 during the 2022 fiscal year to  
22 accommodate the expanding program. So we've

23 increased that 264 percent over this fiscal year,  
24 and that expansion is only slated to continue  
25 heading into FY '23.

1           The budget as proposed would allow for  
2 continued pers -- personnel expansion. This will  
3 help us ensure timely licensing review, compliance,  
4 evaluations, investigations, and make sure we have  
5 everything we need from an operational perspective  
6 to be successful in our work.

7           That -- that \$2 million I mentioned for work  
8 group planning, that is gonna be used -- it's  
9 dedicated in the form of -- to support work that --  
10 a lot of which is being coordinated through Director  
11 McWhite's office, but work groups to address access  
12 to capital, business development and workforce  
13 development programmings.

14           We did a -- a lot of really good preliminary  
15 work over this -- this fiscal year; that's only  
16 gonna -- gonna expand through next fiscal year, as  
17 is the office of -- the regional office of Diversity  
18 and Inclusion here at the CRC.

19           Not included in this budget, but noted here,  
20 is the -- the fact that now that we're generating  
21 tax revenue, there's money that's going into what's  
22 called The Underage Deterrence and Prevention Fund.

23 That's a fund that is able to be used for  
24 initiatives to deter underaged use, fund prevention  
25 efforts.

1           And so that's something that we're gonna be  
2 delving into very quickly. That is outside of the  
3 CRC's budget, that is -- that is money that the CRC  
4 will be -- certainly be providing input on and --  
5 and, you know, assisting with -- with what it's used  
6 for.

7           Next slide, please. And I will -- I will note  
8 that the -- the detailed budget has been provided  
9 to -- detailed projected bucket has been provided to  
10 the Audit Committee for review, and once it is  
11 finalized, then we'll provide -- provide that to  
12 the -- to the full Commission.

13           Okay. Next is data reporting on license  
14 holders and -- and awardees. So again we're at the  
15 end of a quarter here, we're doing quarterly  
16 reporting on -- on New Jersey's market and -- and  
17 who's been issued licenses, how things are going.

18           So to start off looking at the licenses  
19 issued, and these are -- these are all conditional  
20 licenses so far. I can tell you that we do have  
21 conditional conversion applications under review  
22 currently.

23                    But thus far the lion's share, two thirds have  
24                    been cultivators. Of those approved, 92, 30 percent  
25                    manufacturers; and 11, or 8 percent retailers. Now,

1 we did only start accepting retailers in March, so  
2 that's why that number is much lower. We expect  
3 that to go up as -- as -- as we move forward here.

4 Next slide, please. Thinking about how many  
5 of these applicants qualify as social equity  
6 businesses, those are applicants who either have  
7 past cannabis convictions or are owned by  
8 individuals who have lived in economically  
9 disadvantaged areas around the state; ZIP codes with  
10 lower than average median household income, higher  
11 than average rates of uninsurance, health  
12 uninsurance. They are about 64 percent of these  
13 license -- the conditional licensees do qualify as  
14 social equity businesses.

15 Next slide, please. Those who attest to being  
16 diversely owned, those -- there it's a little less  
17 than half, so 69 out of the 148 do attest to being  
18 diversely owned.

19 Next slide, please. Looking within that a  
20 little bit, 22 percent minority owned, 12 percent  
21 woman owned and 12 percent woman and minority owned.

22 Next slide. When we break it down by majority



23 owner, the race and ethnicity of majority owner --  
24 the majority owners, this is the breakdown. You can  
25 see one majority owner, American Indian or Alaska

1 native; ten Asian; 52 black or African American; and  
2 21 Hispanic or Latino; and then some that have noted  
3 "other", or a combination of different owners making  
4 up the majority; and then 36 white.

5 Next slide, please. And I will note, these  
6 slides will be available post -- after the meeting  
7 on our website to review, so don't worry if you're  
8 moving quickly through here, because we've got a  
9 pretty packed agenda. But these slides will be  
10 available for review on our website, as well as the  
11 recording of this -- of this meeting.

12 As far as those who attest to having past  
13 marijuana convictions and have -- have shown that as  
14 part of the social equity business designation,  
15 approximately 38 percent of our conditional  
16 licensees do attest that they have past marijuana  
17 convictions.

18 Next slide, please. And again, broken down by  
19 the different categories of license, this is how  
20 that -- that -- that shakes out.

21 Next slide. So, important to note, the CREAMM  
22 Act contains a number of benchmarks that the

23 Commission has to meet, and these are related to  
24 micro businesses, they're related to conditional  
25 licenses, they're also related to minority owned

1 businesses, as well as woman owned and disabled  
2 veteran owned business.

3 So we're gonna run through how, with these the  
4 conditional licensees, we're doing against those  
5 benchmarks. So when it comes to micro businesses,  
6 they represent 39 percent of the current license  
7 holders; that's 14 percent over the -- the benchmark  
8 that's in the statute of 25 percent. There's a  
9 benchmark of also 15 percent for each license  
10 category, and we are beating that as well in each  
11 license category.

12 Next slide, please. When it comes to minority  
13 owned or woman or disabled veteran owned, there we  
14 are -- we are beating those benchmarks as well;  
15 34 percent to a 15 percent benchmark for minority  
16 owned, and a 24 percent to a 15 percent benchmark  
17 for women or disabled veteran owned.

18 Next slide, please. When we're talking about  
19 conditional licensees given that they're prioritized  
20 in the licensure process, you know, this is as we  
21 would expect to see, they do represent 97 percent of  
22 the licenses issued right now.

23                   The only issue -- license issued by the CRC  
24           right now that are not conditional, are the testing  
25           laboratory licenses. We do expect that to start

1 changing in the near future here.

2 Next slide, please. Okay. So looking ahead,  
3 there're certainly some high priority items that are  
4 still on our agenda, and I wanted to highlight some  
5 of those.

6 So you can go to the next slide. So, you  
7 know, one of them -- and we've certainly heard from  
8 stakeholders that there's a lot of concern about  
9 sort of guidelines or regulations around how to deal  
10 with -- with workplace impairment.

11 So, you know, we're in the process of  
12 finalizing some guidance that would be effective  
13 immediately upon issuance that we'll outline to  
14 employers exactly the steps that they can take today  
15 to protect their right under the law to have a drug  
16 free workplace and to ensure that their employees  
17 are not using cannabis while at work. So that is  
18 coming very imminently here.

19 Secondly, we do expect in -- you know,  
20 sometime, either by the end of July or early August,  
21 to release April to June, essentially the second  
22 quarter of 2022, but the first quarter of

23 recreational sales, sales total, from the market.

24 And then finally, we'll have our next licensee

25 data reporting in September, so we'll release

1 similar data to that we released today in September  
2 again.

3 And again, the slides that I presented today  
4 will be available following this meeting so  
5 interested parties can download them, look at them,  
6 and certainly, you know, submit any questions to us  
7 as -- as appropriate.

8 So thank you, Madam Chair; thank you, members  
9 of the Commission. With that, that concludes my  
10 report for today.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you,  
12 Director Brown. Great to see that we -- the budget  
13 does propose some funds -- some funding for some of  
14 our work group initiatives, because we know that  
15 this Commission has been putting a priority and put  
16 a -- put in a lot of work for -- towards, you know,  
17 creating efforts, creating initiatives that can help  
18 boost equity and representation within the cannabis  
19 industry, so I want to thank all of our  
20 Commissioners and all of our staff who have been a  
21 part of that. And it's great to see that some  
22 funding -- we hope to see some funding be put



23 towards those efforts in making those things a

24 reality.

25 Director McWhite, can you please announce the

1 next agenda item?

2 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Yes. The next item  
3 on today's agenda is consideration of proposed  
4 readoption of rules and proposed new rules  
5 concerning adult personal use cannabis.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.  
7 We have both Executive Director Brown and  
8 Chief Counsel Chris Riggs to -- who will be  
9 presenting details about these proposed rules.

10 So, Executive Director Brown, please proceed.

11 DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you, Madam  
12 Chair. And, as our Chair mentioned, I'm joined by  
13 Chief Counsel Chris Riggs; we're gonna tag team  
14 this.

15 So -- next slide, please. So our -- our  
16 initial rules were -- which were effective for one  
17 year, were adopted in August of 2019 pursuant to the  
18 statute.

19 Our -- our -- our authorizing statutes are  
20 Jake Honig Compassionate Use Medical Cannabis Act  
21 and the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Enforcement  
22 Assistance and Marketplace Modernization Act; and

23 then under those acts we have the regulations

24 established by the Commission.

25 So the regulations adopted last year were

1 effective for one year, so they expire this August;  
2 and the regulations under consideration today, if --  
3 if approved, would be proposed for -- for -- would  
4 be proposed for adoption in -- in the New Jersey  
5 Register at a future date, and Chief Counsel Riggs  
6 will cover that process in more detail. It does  
7 differ than the process we had when -- when the  
8 Commission adopted the rules in August of 2021, and  
9 Chief Counsel Riggs will -- will talk about some of  
10 those differences.

11 Next slide, please. So as far as -- as I  
12 mentioned, the initial rules were adopted last year;  
13 they're only in effect for a period not to exceed  
14 one year. There is a little bit of flexibility  
15 there which Chief Counsel Riggs will -- will cover.

16 But essentially after that, these rules and  
17 regulations, the ones initially adopted will be  
18 adopted, amended or readopted, and then the -- the  
19 rules today will follow the standard Administrative  
20 Procedure Act process.

21 So, I'm gonna cover some -- some very high  
22 level aspects of these rules, and Chief Counsel

23 Riggs will -- will cover some others, and he'll --  
24 he'll talk a little bit about the APA process and --  
25 and essentially what we can share today and why

1 we're sharing it and -- and when the public can  
2 expect more detail.

3 Next slide, please. So some important -- some  
4 key points from what's under consideration from the  
5 Commission today. So the rules up for proposal,  
6 importantly they -- they codify our licensing  
7 process, including the priority review and approval  
8 for applications from target groups, like those with  
9 past marijuana convictions.

10 We have heard from stakeholders from day one  
11 that it is vital to ensure that people with past  
12 marijuana convictions have a leg up in this market.  
13 The data that I presented showed that our process is  
14 giving them that. Granted, it's preliminary, we  
15 need to make sure people can convert and -- and get  
16 full annual licenses, but initially promising.

17 So it ensures that our licensing process can  
18 continue to work the way that it is working. We  
19 continue low application fees and competitive  
20 licensing fees. We have some of the lowest  
21 application fees in the country. That will  
22 continue.

23                    Adds -- it adds details for new license types,  
24                    which Chief Counsel Riggs will cover; wholesalers,  
25                    distributors and delivery services.

1           Next slide, please. One of the things that we  
2 propose to do is expand flexibility for micro  
3 businesses. One example is by clarifying that  
4 things like bathrooms and break rooms don't factor  
5 into the 2,500 square feet consideration, codifying  
6 regulation purchase limits that we've issued via  
7 guidance for recreational consumers, which is one  
8 ounce of flower equals four grams of concentrates  
9 equals 1,000 milligrams of THC in edible form.  
10 That's what a recreational consumer can purchase  
11 in -- in -- purchase in one transaction.

12           And they improve safety by making THC and CBD  
13 levels clearer on labels and requiring retailers to  
14 provide info on safe use to consumers at the point  
15 of sale.

16           Next slide, please. Importantly, the -- the  
17 proposed rules would also fully establish the Social  
18 Equity Excise Fee as -- as passed by the  
19 legislature, signed by the governor as -- as is in  
20 law, and as the retail price of cannabis drops over  
21 time, then the excise fee charged on cultivation per  
22 ounce will increase in accordance with this -- this



23 fee schedule.

24 So right now, and Vice Chair Delgado's gonna

25 cover this a bit later when -- with the Social

1 Equity Excise Fee Report, but right now it's set at  
2 a low level, which is good, and it will increase  
3 over time as -- as prices decrease.

4 Next slide, please. And with that, I'm gonna  
5 pass it over to Chief Counsel Riggs. And I do want  
6 to acknowledge for the Commission, and for those  
7 listening, just the exceptional work by the chief  
8 counsel, as well as his team, I want to especially  
9 note Deputy Counsel Dave Toyson, as well as  
10 Regulatory Officer Noah Mamber, who put in a lot of  
11 work on this, and, you know, put together a really  
12 solid proposal. So Chief Counsel Riggs?

13 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Executive  
14 Director Brown.

15 Madam Chair, may I proceed?

16 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Absolutely. The  
17 floor is yours.

18 MR. RIGGS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

19 And I echo those thanks to -- to my team here  
20 in the Office of Chief Counsel. Very good work by  
21 Deputy Counsel Toyson, Regulatory Officer Noah  
22 Mamber and our now director of investigations and

23 compliance, Paul Urbish.

24 Before I get into the general and review the

25 three license types, I want to first make a note

1 that because of the administrative rule-making  
2 process, the CRC cannot make these proposed draft of  
3 rules public on the website, these regulations will  
4 not be on the website immediately, but we will make  
5 them available to the public as soon as possible  
6 when they're posting in the register, or if -- if  
7 there's a time before that, as soon as possible.

8 So to go over these three new license classes,  
9 just -- just to note, this is gonna be a high level  
10 overview, it's not an exhaustive list of everything  
11 that these new license types can or cannot do, it's  
12 just basically a quick summary to give the public an  
13 idea of where we're going.

14 First, the Class 3 wholesaler license. A  
15 wholesaler can purchase usable cannabis, cannabis  
16 products from another cannabis wholesale, cultivator  
17 or manufacturer for the purpose of resale to another  
18 wholesaler, manufacturer or retailer. They can  
19 store and warehouse cannabis and they can transport  
20 usage cannabis and cannabis products to a  
21 wholesaler, manufacturer or retailer.

22 A Class 3 wholesaler cannot cultivate or

- 23 package cannabis on their own, they cannot produce,
- 24 manufacture cannabis products, and they cannot
- 25 transport, transfer, sell cannabis or cannabis

1 products or paraphernalia directly to a consumer.

2 For Class 4 distributors, what they can do is  
3 transport unusable and usable cannabis between  
4 cultivators and manufactures. They can transport  
5 usable cannabis and cannabis products between other  
6 cannabis establishments, and they can possess and  
7 engage in temporary storage of unusable and usable  
8 cannabis and cannabis products as necessary to  
9 carry -- carry out their transportation activities.

10 What a Class 4 distributor cannot to is  
11 cultivate, manufacture or package cannabis or  
12 cannabis products, they cannot sell cannabis  
13 products paraphernalia directly to consumers, and  
14 they cannot purchase or resell cannabis products.

15 And a Class 6 delivery service can -- based on  
16 a purchase order from a consumer, can obtain  
17 cannabis items, cannabis paraphernalia and related  
18 supplies from a cannabis retailer to deliver it to a  
19 consumer, they can transport that usable cannabis  
20 and cannabis products directly to a consumer, and  
21 they can return unsold usable cannabis and products  
22 and paraphernalia back to its original cannabis

23 retailer.

24 What the delivery service cannot do is

25 cultivate, package, manufacture cannabis products,

1 they can't transport, transfer or sell cannabis  
2 products or paraphernalia to other cannabis  
3 businesses, other than a return to the cannabis  
4 retailer where the purchase order was filled, and  
5 they cannot store any cannabis or cannabis products  
6 at their administrative office.

7           And just to note, that these are just some --  
8 some highlights of what these license classes can  
9 do. There's also some other technical edits in the  
10 existing regulations that were effective upon filing  
11 that were -- we made some edits and and changes to  
12 make -- for clarity purposes. So I encourage, you  
13 know, the public to review all the regulations and  
14 feedback after they're published in the New Jersey  
15 Register.

16           Next slide, please. So this is -- as far as  
17 the timeline and the process goes, as Executive  
18 Director mentioned, our rules became effective upon  
19 filing on August 19th of 2021. They're set to  
20 expire on August 19th of this year.

21           What the CREAMM Act requires is that those  
22 rules be amended or readopted prior to their



23 expiration date, which is August 19th of 2022.

24               So today, on June 30th, we're gonna file them

25 on -- with the Office of Administrative Law they'll

1 be filed the Office of Administrative Law, and under  
2 the Administrative Procedures Act, what that does is  
3 it triggers 180 day extension on the rules as they  
4 exist.

5 So those rules will still be effective for 180  
6 days, which extends that -- that timeline to  
7 February 15th of 2023. During that time period --  
8 during the process once they're published in The  
9 Register, about 30 days from now on August 1st;  
10 that's when the -- the public comment period opens  
11 up. And the public comment period will remain  
12 opened up for about 60 -- for 60 days. It's set to  
13 expire on September 30th of 2022.

14 So during that time period, that is when, you  
15 know, the public'll be able to comment, provide  
16 feedback on the rules, and they'll be -- we'll  
17 provide the website, it'll be electronic form  
18 comments, but you can also provide them via regular  
19 mail to our P.O. box. We'll provide all that  
20 information once they're published in The Register  
21 so that we can get comments to the rules.

22 So lastly, I just want to say that the

23 regulations are just another milestone for the CRC,  
24 these -- these are foundational regulations that,  
25 you know, staff did extensive research on, they

1 talked to various stakeholders and -- and basically  
2 we just wanted to ensure that the regulations  
3 continued to lay the foundation that we've laid for  
4 a safe and equitable cannabis market, and we're  
5 gonna continue to -- to monitor that, monitor the  
6 comments, and move forward through that process.

7 And with that, I will turn it back to you,  
8 Madam Chair.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Chief  
10 Counsel, and thank you, Director Brown.

11 Yes, our legal team has done tremendous work  
12 to help us get to this place where we can now  
13 consider our permanent rules with -- you know, in  
14 just over a year, so -- so thank you to the legal  
15 team and all the folks who have helped the CRC get  
16 to this monumental place.

17 So with that, do I hear a motion to adopt the  
18 resolution concerning the approval of proposed  
19 readoption of the specially adopted rules with  
20 amendments and new rules?

21 COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chair, I move  
22 to approve the resolution for proposed readoption of

23 the specially adopted new rules with amendments.

24 COMMISSIONER BARKER: I second that,

25 Madam Chair.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All right. Moved  
2 by Commissioner Nash and seconded by Commissioner  
3 Barker.

4 Is there any discussion on this motion?  
5 Hearing none, Director McWhite, can you please call  
6 the vote.

7 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Commission Barker?

8 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

9 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Commissioner Del  
10 Cid-Kosso?

11 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

12 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Vice Chair Delgado?

13 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

14 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Commissioner Nash?

15 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

16 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Chairwoman Houenou?

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

18 DIRECTOR McWHITE: The resolution  
19 passes.

20 Next up on today's agenda is consideration of  
21 the Commission's report on recommended uses of  
22 Social Equity Excise Fees.

23 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you,

24 Director McWhite.

25 This item is being presented to the Commission

1 by the Audit Committee, which includes staff, myself  
2 as the chair of the Commission, and the vice chair  
3 of the Commission, the honorable Vice Chair Delgado,  
4 and he has offered to -- to provide a summary for  
5 the full board, as well as the public, about this  
6 recommend -- about this report on recommended uses  
7 of the Social Equity Excise Fee.

8 So with that, Vice Chair Delgado, you have the  
9 floor.

10 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you, Madam  
11 Chairwoman.

12 I'd like to start with the first slide,  
13 please. It's the -- our statutory requirement.  
14 Because the CREAMM Act requires cannabis revenues,  
15 including revenues from the Social Equity Excise Fee  
16 to be the deposited into the Cannabis Regulatory  
17 Enforcement Assistance and Marketplace Modernization  
18 Fund, 15 percent of the moneys in the fund is  
19 required to be dedicated to a subaccount within the  
20 fund known as the Underage Deterrence and Prevention  
21 Account, which Director Brown mentioned earlier in  
22 his presentation.



23                    Going on to the next slide. So I'd like to  
24                    explain the Social Equity Excise Fee very briefly  
25                    for the -- the public. In addition, the CREAMM Act

1 names the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission  
2 as the entity required to make recommendations to  
3 the governor and legislature with social equity  
4 appropriations for any revenue collected during the  
5 current fiscal year for the Social Equity Excise  
6 Fee.

7 The Social Equity Excise Fee is a per ounce  
8 flat fee assessed on all cannabis cultivated and  
9 sold in the Garden State in the Garden State  
10 recreational cannabis market.

11 The New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission  
12 adopted the regulations last year, on August 19th,  
13 that set the social equity fee at the statutory  
14 required rate of one third of one percent of the  
15 average retail price of cannabis.

16 We also, on April 21st, issued guidance based  
17 on the analysis of past sales and established the  
18 initial Social Equity Excise Fee as \$1.10 per ounce.

19 The New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission  
20 estimate -- estimates, and again this -- these are  
21 estimates, that the equity excise fee will bring in  
22 roughly \$191,250 before the end of the year --

23 fiscal year 2022.

24 Now, keep in mind that this is -- these are

25 the sales between April 21st of 2022 and June 30th,

1 which ends our fiscal year 2022. And we also  
2 estimate 3.5 million in fiscal year 2023.

3           So if we can go on to the next slide? We --  
4 the Commission held three regional meetings, which  
5 were required -- which were required, according to  
6 the law, we -- North Jersey, Central Jersey and  
7 South Jersey to solicit input from community  
8 members, organizations, and other key stakeholders,  
9 with regional meetings completed, this -- this  
10 report, the report that we will be turning in,  
11 summarizes the public input received during those  
12 meetings.

13           The -- I want to say that the regional  
14 hearings generated a -- a wide variety of ideas and  
15 considerations, and we thank the public and our  
16 stakeholders for that. However, it is noted that  
17 all hearings demonstrated some common themes  
18 throughout those -- the input.

19           The Commission has organized the common themes  
20 communicated by the participants of the regional  
21 hearings into the following four key public policy  
22 categories in recommending the distribution of

23 revenues from the Social Equity Excise Fee.

24 Those themes are: One, economic development;

25 two, justice reinvestment; three, public health; and

1 four, workforce development and education.

2 So let's go to our core -- the next slide,

3 which is our core recommendation. Based on public

4 comments received and the projected amount of

5 expected revenue to be raised by the Social Equity

6 Excise Fee, the Cannabis Regulatory Commission

7 recommends investing the funds from fiscal year 2022

8 and fiscal year 2023 in grants and lo-interest loans

9 for aspiring entrepreneurs in impact zones and

10 economically disadvantaged areas, or areas with

11 other economic designations that overlap with impact

12 zones, or such as urban enterprise zones.

13 We can go on to the next slide, please. So

14 let's look at the -- our first recommendation, first

15 category, economic development. Every public

16 hearing featured participating high -- high lined

17 that the challenges involved in assessing capital

18 for cannabis business, the need to assist aspiring

19 entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds, with past

20 marijuana convictions with starting capital, and the

21 need to target such efforts to individuals'

22 geographic regions and communities most negatively

23 impacted by marijuana prohibition.

24 That is why the Commission is prioritizing

25 financial assistance as a key priority in its

1 recommendation by investing cannabis revenue in a  
2 program to provide grants and low-interest loans to  
3 social equity applicants or to other individuals.

4 New Jersey would -- could extend already  
5 successful equity initiatives to spur a diverse and  
6 equitable cannabis industry. We prioritize -- we  
7 want to prioritize targeting revenue to support  
8 individuals and communities, grants, and alleviate  
9 expenses such as rents, mortgages and utilities, and  
10 also utilize place base qualifiers and other  
11 criterias.

12 Included in our economic development  
13 recommendation, we are recommending funding a  
14 housing component through homeownership  
15 opportunities program for first time home buyers  
16 program for families most harmed by the war on  
17 drugs.

18 Let's go on to our next category, justice  
19 reinvestment. I have to say that many  
20 participants -- excuse me -- in the regional  
21 hearings expressed opinions that no revenue should  
22 fund law enforcement efforts.



23                    While law enforcement is critical -- is a  
24                    critical element of public safety and criminal laws  
25                    are written to be race neutral, advocacy groups

1 noted that arrest data indicate disparate  
2 enforcement of those laws.

3 So points to be made. No -- no money for law  
4 enforcement; however, only use revenue for cannabis  
5 sales to fund law enforcement purposes where  
6 statutory required.

7 Special consideration efforts to disrupt  
8 cycles of violence, diffuse confrontations and offer  
9 healing and support services, and also re-entry  
10 services, such as housing needs, job trainings and  
11 skill development.

12 Let's go on to our next public slide, which is  
13 the public health category. We know that healthcare  
14 is one of the most fundamental necessities.

15 Participants shared insights into a range of  
16 healthcare services that can be funded through  
17 revenue from cannabis sales, including but not  
18 limited to the creation of -- of black maternal  
19 healthcare centers, the expansion of post -- post --  
20 pre and postnatal services to support overall  
21 improvement of wellness and healthcare needs.

22 Members of the public also discussed the

- 23 creation of restorative health -- healthcare centers
- 24 that offer mental health, conflict resolution, harm
- 25 reductions therapy and other services, and support

1 expansion of HIV services were also raised. So  
2 those are -- are the recommendations they were  
3 making.

4 Next slide. Because our -- because our core  
5 value is in equity and -- and safety, public health  
6 and safety messages outlining through Public Service  
7 announcements, data collection for educational  
8 health resources, clinical research studies, and  
9 creation of technology -- support creation of -- of  
10 technologies to identify cannabis impairment, was  
11 some of our recommendations in the report.

12 We can go on to the next slide, which is the  
13 workforce development and education slide.  
14 Participants in our public -- during those public  
15 hearings expressed significant interest in seeing  
16 revenue go towards a host of educational services,  
17 they shared suggestions for services that offered  
18 people opportunities to learn more about cannabis  
19 and the different career paths within the cannabis  
20 industry, whether they are plant touching or  
21 ancillary in nature.

22 As a point of reference, I want to point out

23 that according to a 2022 Leafly job report, there  
24 are currently 428,059 cannabis related jobs in  
25 America, and over 3,000 cannabis related jobs here

1 in New Jersey, with the latter number expected to  
2 grow with the expansion of the -- the personal use  
3 market here in New Jersey.

4 With that in mind, the Commission recommended  
5 funding programs that promote personal and  
6 professional development through scholarships,  
7 vocational training, professional certification,  
8 apprentices program, -- thank you Labor Director  
9 Bill Wells for that suggestion -- business  
10 development, and finally financial literacy.

11 Also we're suggesting youth services by  
12 funding at least one community resource center in  
13 each county, with wraparound services, which include  
14 recreational tutoring, mental services and after  
15 school enrichment.

16 That concludes my presentation, but I do want  
17 to thank Commissioner Nash and Commissioner Barker  
18 for their insights and hard work in establishing the  
19 foundation for this important report, and also the  
20 heavy lifting of Chairwoman Houenou, Director Brown  
21 and his staff in getting this report over the goal  
22 line. Thank you very much.

23

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Vice

24

Chair Delgado.

25

And, yes, I'll -- I'll echo those -- that

1 appreciation for Commissioner Nash and Commissioner  
2 Barker for getting the regional hearings done,  
3 executed, and a reminder to folks, those hearings  
4 are available on our website on our public meetings  
5 page, at the top you'll see a tab for the regional  
6 hearings.

7 And thank you to all of the participants who  
8 submitted comments, whether it be orally during the  
9 regional hearings, or in writing.

10 So with that, do I hear a motion to adopt the  
11 resolution concerning the approval of the  
12 Commission's report on the recommended uses of  
13 Social Equity Excise Fees?

14 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam  
15 Chair, I move to adopt this resolution concerning  
16 the approval of the Commission's report on  
17 recommended uses of Social Equity Excise Fees.

18 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chair, I  
19 second that.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All right. Moved  
21 by Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso and seconded by Vice  
22 Chair Delgado.



23 Is there any discussion on this motion?

24 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Yes. Madam

25 Chair, may I please have the floor briefly?

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Commissioner

2 Barker, yes, you may.

3 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Thank you, Madam

4 Chair. I want to also piggyback on the sentiments

5 that Commissioner Delgado said, and thank

6 Commissioner Nash and the staff here at the CRC for

7 all of their hard work and input drafting this

8 recommendation memo, especially the Audit Committee

9 and the public engagement and indication committee

10 members.

11 There is still significant financial need to  
12 support our cannabis industry, and as you will read,  
13 the Social Equity Excise Fee is just a small start.

14 It is encouraging to see the latest actions by the  
15 legislature to assist EDA in their attempt to serve  
16 the industry.

17 I believe that the governor and legislature  
18 understand the significant capital required to apply  
19 for and maintain a sustainable cannabis business or  
20 ancillary opportunity, and I hope, I sincerely hope  
21 that both the branches consider seriously allocating  
22 additional revenue from the potential tens and

23 hundreds of millions of dollars in the CREAMM fund  
24 and overall budget to meet this need, especially for  
25 people in communities that have been most harmed,

1 and continue to be most harmed, by the failed war on  
2 drugs.

3 I am also confident that the public will  
4 continue to monitor how text revenue is allocated to  
5 ensure that our cannabis industry lives up to our  
6 core values of equity and safety, while reflecting  
7 the homegrown diversity in our Garden State.

8 Thank you, Madam Chair. I yield my -- the  
9 floor.

10 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.

11 Is there any further discussion on this  
12 motion?

13 All right. Hearing no further discussion,  
14 Director McWhite, can you please call the vote?

15 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Commissioner Barker?

16 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Nay.

17 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Commissioner Del

18 Cid-Kosso?

19 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

20 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Vice Chair Delgado?

21 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

22 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Commissioner Nash?

23 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

24

DIRECTOR McWHITE: Chairwoman Houenou?

25

CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

1                                   DIRECTOR McWHITE: The resolution  
2 passes.

3                                   Next up on today's agenda is considering of  
4 applications for conditional licenses.

5                                   CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you,  
6 Director McWhite. Director Brown, can you please  
7 provide a summary of the conditional license  
8 applications received the recommendations from  
9 staff?

10                                  DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely. Thank  
11 you, Madam Chair.

12                                  And thank you to everyone who worked on the  
13 SEEF report, glad to see that -- that passed and  
14 is -- is on its way to -- to the governor and  
15 legislature, so appreciate all the hard work from  
16 all the commissioners and -- and staff who -- that  
17 went into that. And, as our Chair mentioned, to  
18 everybody who commented.

19                                  So looking at these recreational cannabis  
20 applications, so the Commission has before it 81  
21 additional applications up for approval. These are  
22 broken down: 41 percent standard businesses,

23 59 percent micro businesses. Next slide, please.

24 All conditional license -- licenses today.

25 Looking at the different license types, 22 of

1 these applications are Class 1 cultivators, 11 are  
2 Class 2 manufacturers, and 48 are Class 5 retailers.

3 So these applications have gone through the  
4 standard review, they've been assessed for priority,  
5 reviewed for completeness, scored. There's been an  
6 initial look at financial limitations and, you know,  
7 qualifications for the owners and -- and the  
8 entities involved in the funding or operation of  
9 these entities.

10 We've undertaken quality control processes,  
11 and these are all deemed compliant with our regs,  
12 with the notice of application and ready for  
13 approval by this -- this -- by the Commission and  
14 ready to move forward in the process and ultimately  
15 work to get a -- an annual license.

16 So I'm gonna ask that we run through the list  
17 of applicants up for consideration today. We're  
18 gonna go through the slides. Again, these slides  
19 are gonna be available after, so we'll just pause  
20 for about 30 seconds on each slide, and there are, I  
21 believe, four -- four or five slides covering the  
22 81, and then we'll turn it back over to our Chair



23 to -- to move to the vote.

24 So next slide, please. Next slide, please.

25 Next slide please. Next slide, please. And one

1 more. There might be one more after this. There we  
2 go.

3 All right. As you can see, our staff's doing  
4 a tremendous job, 81 more conditional licenses up  
5 for approval today.

6 With that, I'll hand it back to you, Madam  
7 Chair.

8 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you,  
9 Director Brown. I'm happy to see that we are, you  
10 know, chugging through all those applications that  
11 have been submitted by our New Jersey aspiring  
12 entrepreneurs that want to get involved in this  
13 space.

14 Do I hear a motion to adopt the resolution  
15 concerning the conditional license applications for  
16 Class 1, cannabis cultivator; Class 2 cannabis  
17 manufacturer; and Class 5, cannabis retailer  
18 licenses?

19 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chair, I  
20 move that we adopt the conditional licenses  
21 proposed.

22 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Second that,

23 Madam Chair.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice

25 Chair Delgado, seconded by Commissioner Barker, who

1 was the first to get to that second.

2 Is there any discussion on this motion?

3 Hearing no discussion, Director McWhite, can you  
4 please call the vote?

5 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Commissioner Barker?

6 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

7 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Commissioner Del  
8 Cid-Kosso?

9 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

10 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Vice Chair Delgado?

11 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

12 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Commissioner Nash?

13 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

14 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Chairwoman Houenou?

15 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

16 DIRECTOR McWHITE: The resolution  
17 passes.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Congratulations to  
19 those 81 applicants. We expect great things.

20 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Next we have the  
21 open public comment period.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All right. So as

23 we move into the comment -- public comment period, I  
24 want to remind everyone again, members of the public  
25 can submit their public comments both during and

1 after this meeting in writing via our website,  
2 [www.nj.gov/cannabis/meetings](http://www.nj.gov/cannabis/meetings). The deadline for  
3 submitting written comments is tomorrow,  
4 5:00 o'clock on Friday, July 1st. Written comments  
5 are shared with the Commission -- Commission members  
6 and are made public along with the meeting minutes.

7 We will here from those individuals who have  
8 signed up to speak in the order in which they signed  
9 up. Public speakers, per usual, will be limited to  
10 three minutes. Please keep your remarks focused on  
11 matters that pertain to the Commissions work or  
12 items that the Commission should be aware of.

13 Director McWhite will call out the names of  
14 the speakers, and when it is your turn to speak, we  
15 will ask that you unmute yourself, if you are  
16 dialing in by phone. We don't have anybody joining  
17 us by phone, it seems, so that's great. It's a  
18 little bit easier.

19 But for everyone else, in order for our staff  
20 to unmute you, your full name, as it appears on  
21 Zoom, must match the name or -- that you used when  
22 you registered to speak.

23                    If you need to change your name on the Zoom  
24 platform, exit the Zoom meeting and immediately  
25 relaunch the Zoom meeting, which should prompt you

1 the enter your name. We will not be able to  
2 correctly identify you as a speaker if your name  
3 does not match what you used to sign up.

4 So, for example, I see several Allens, several  
5 Daves, we can never have too many Michaels. So if  
6 you have a -- a name that you have used to sign up  
7 that does not match the name that appears on Zoom,  
8 I'm so sorry, we are not telepathic just yet, but we  
9 will not be able to identify you as a speaker.

10 So with that, I will turn it over to Director  
11 McWhite to call on our first set of speakers.

12 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Good afternoon  
13 again. I will be calling out the first five  
14 speakers. When you hear your name, please raise  
15 your hand so that you may -- so that I may unmute  
16 you. And if you can please state your name, first  
17 and last name for the record before you begin;  
18 greatly appreciate that.

19 So the first five are Gaetano Lardieri, Joseph  
20 Waters, Edward Grimes, Ronald Murphy and Hrishikesh  
21 Vimadalal. That's Gaetano Lardieri, Joseph Waters,  
22 Hrishikesh Vimadalal, Edward Grimes and Ronald



23 Murphy.

24 Again, Mr. Gaetano, I believe, you have to

25 sign out and sign back in with your first and last

1 name. Seeing none of those participants, we'll move  
2 on to the next five.

3 Michael Lawrence Zalewski, Paula Patrice,  
4 Chirali Patel, Shergoh -- Shergoh Alkilani and David  
5 Feder.

6 I see Chirali Patel. And you may proceed.

7 MS. PATEL: Thank you, Director. Good  
8 afternoon, members of the Cannabis Regulatory  
9 Commission. Thank you for the updates. A lot of  
10 exciting news. A little bit troubling because I got  
11 a lot of social equity folks that got conditional'd  
12 today.

13 But my name is Chirali Patel on behalf of  
14 Blaze Responsibly. I really wanted to request the  
15 consideration of potentially expanding the timeframe  
16 to convert for conditional licenses, solely based on  
17 the fact that the real estate market in New Jersey  
18 has become predatory for really anybody seeking out  
19 cannabis property.

20 And I understand that regulating the real  
21 estate industry from, you know, price gouging is  
22 beyond the scope of the CRC's regulatory authority,

23 but extending the timeframe for individuals to  
24 convert to account for these present conditions  
25 would be extremely beneficial for many applicants,

1 and so I hope that's taken into consideration as we  
2 get closer to end of that timeframe and individuals  
3 are asking for the CRC to use their discretion to  
4 extend that time.

5 There's also plenty of municipalities that  
6 continue to set their own rules, despite CRC  
7 guidance. For example, the CRC doesn't exclude  
8 applicants from being within a mini or a strip mall  
9 setting, but a -- a town just told someone that they  
10 can be in a mini mall, but that they can be in a  
11 strip -- strip store, which I don't know the  
12 difference.

13 And the client found an affordable spot within  
14 an appropriate zone in a mini mall, but then was  
15 told of another multimillion dollar property that  
16 was being built elsewhere that's probably gonna be  
17 unaffordable for this social equity applicant and is  
18 gonna take months to complete the build-out.

19 So either the social equity applicant  
20 (indiscernible) now, pays out of pocket for an  
21 unknown period of time, or waits for the property to  
22 be done to secure, but now is beyond that

23 conditional timeframe to convert.

24 So I think that we still need a lot of

25 education in place, specifically for municipalities,

1 because they're not sure how to proceed. And to  
2 their credit, it is still new territory for a lot of  
3 people, and so if the education doesn't stream down  
4 from the state budget, I hope that the CRC  
5 considered continued more county wide informational  
6 sessions, in person to educate council members,  
7 mayors on what this industry is supposed to look  
8 like and how it's meant to work.

9 So I know there's a lot on your plates with  
10 (indiscernible), but if we don't get municipalities  
11 to regulate at the local level with accurate and  
12 equal standards across the board, we're just setting  
13 people up to fail.

14 So I just wanted to mention that. But thank  
15 you for everything that you are doing and for all  
16 the progress.

17 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Chirali Patel, can  
18 you just state your name really quickly, and spell  
19 it for the record?

20 MS. PATEL: Yep. Chirali Patel,  
21 C-H-I-R-A-L-I, P-A-T-E-L.

22 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Thank you.

23 MS. PATEL: Thank you.

24 DIRECTOR McWHITE: So again that is

25 Shergoh Alkilani, David Feder and Scott Paul and

1 Paula Patrice. Seeing none of those, we'll move on  
2 to the next five.

3 It's Jason Irizarry, Tracy McHugh, David Matis  
4 and Russ Hudson. I see Scott -- Scott Paul, you may  
5 proceed.

6 MR. PAUL: Okay, great. Can you hear  
7 me?

8 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Yes. Please state  
9 your name for the record.

10 MR. PAUL: Great. This is Scott Paul.  
11 Yes, and I'm -- so I'm the -- I'm the owner of  
12 Newton Agriculture an application -- an applicant  
13 for a cultivator license, and I just had a question.

14 I know that there was a -- there was a -- a  
15 breakdown of all the approved applications and, you  
16 know, the demographic breakdown of everybody.

17 So have all the licenses approved so far, have  
18 they all been priority applications, social equity  
19 or diversely owned? Because I -- I -- we put in our  
20 application over five months ago. I've been told  
21 for a couple months that we're being -- that the  
22 application is being reviewed.



23                    But like every month I'm just like confused as  
24                    to why, you know, ours hasn't been -- there's no  
25                    decision on ours yet. I have municipal approval

1 already, I had a letter from the mayor endorsing our  
2 application.

3           It's just, you know, as a -- as a minority  
4 business, I know a major consideration is that black  
5 applicants generally don't have the immediate access  
6 to capital as others might, and the -- the license's  
7 like sort of a golden ticket to be able to confirm  
8 investors.

9           So as, you know, someone mentioned earlier,  
10 there's a lot of predatory behavior going on from  
11 business owners and -- and just real estate. And  
12 now like we're in a position where we're getting  
13 boxed out of the space that we had because we can't  
14 pay for it because we don't have the license.

15           And -- and -- yeah, I just -- I don't really  
16 understand what the holdup is. I don't know if  
17 everybody is waiting, you know, five months for  
18 their applications to go through.

19           I know you guys are going through a lot of  
20 applications, and there's a lot of stuff to consider  
21 there, I'm just kind of at a loss and I don't know  
22 what to tell anybody, I don't know what else to do.

23                   Yeah. I'm a certified minority business  
24           and -- yeah. Yeah, that was -- that's my -- my  
25           question, just: Are all of the applications that

1 have been approved so far, have they all been social  
2 equity, have they all been diversely owned, and is  
3 everybody, you know, waiting this long.

4 Or I guess what can I do to have mine actually  
5 be reviewed? Because I've been told the last couple  
6 months that it's being reviewed.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.

8 MR. PAUL: Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you for your  
10 comment Mr. Paul. Just the note for questions  
11 respect -- regarding your particular application,  
12 all applicants are directed to submit their inquiry  
13 to the CRC licensing email address. And staff check  
14 that on a regular basis, and so that is the -- the  
15 best way to get information specific to your --  
16 specific to your application. So that is  
17 [CRC.licensing@crc.nj.gov](mailto:CRC.licensing@crc.nj.gov).

18 DIRECTOR McWHITE: I see David Matis.  
19 You may proceed.

20 MR. MATIS: Hi. Can you guys hear me?

21 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Yes.

22 MR. MATIS: Awesome, thank you. My

23 name is David Matis, M-A-T-I-S. I am the co-owner  
24 and president of Dirty Jersey Kids. First I would  
25 just like to thank the Commission for approving our

1 conditional licensing today, it is a dream come  
2 true, definitely.

3 I did have a question, though, for the  
4 Commission. There is a -- an issue that seems to be  
5 going around the entire state, as far as pop-up  
6 shops with gifting, particularly in the town of  
7 Sussex Borough where we are gonna be setting up  
8 shop.

9 There has already been one store that has been  
10 fined for illegally selling cannabis. There has  
11 been a store raided and arrested an individual for  
12 setting up shop and selling. There is another store  
13 that just currently opened up last week.

14 My question is, is what is the CRC doing, if  
15 anything, to stop these stores from popping up? I  
16 find that it is turning a lot of potential customers  
17 in the future off to real legal stores and it's  
18 gonna really cause an issue for our -- our  
19 businesses when we do open up.

20 And if there's something that we can do, how  
21 do we combat these illegal stores opening up and,  
22 quote, unquote, gifting their products?

23 Thank you. That's the question I had.

24 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Thank you.

25 The next five on our list are is Robert Carp,

1 Hugh Giordano, Jennifer Condron, Aleksandr  
2 Kleynshvag and Kristofer Marsh. If those  
3 individuals are here, please raise your hand so that  
4 we may unmute you. I believe I see Aleksandr.

5 So, Aleksandr, it looks like you're using an  
6 older version of Zoom and it won't allow you to  
7 talk. You can dial in and follow the instructions  
8 that the Chair gave us -- gave you earlier. Let me  
9 just see if I can -- yes.

10 So you want to dial in and press six to unmute  
11 yourself, and we'll get you right in. But you're  
12 using an older version of Zoom and it won't allow  
13 you to talk.

14 So I also see Hugh Giordano.

15 MR. GIORDANO: Hello. Can you hear me?  
16 Can you hear me?

17 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Yeah.

18 MR. GIORDANO: Excellent. Thank you,  
19 Vice Chairperson -- Vice Director. I want to say  
20 first hello to Executive Director Brown, Chairperson  
21 Houenou, Vice Chair Delgado and Commissioner Nash,  
22 Barker and Del Cid-Kosso. Hugh Giordano H-U-G-H,



23 Giordano, G-I-O-R-D-A-N-O of the UFCW Local 360.

24 I first want to say congratulations to the 81

25 conditionals approved today. As the official

1 cannabis labor union under the guise of the AFL-CIO,  
2 we look forward to working with you.

3 I also want to say it was nice to hear that  
4 the Commission has hired more workers for the  
5 Commission directly, very proud of that, because I  
6 know that the CWA, our brother and sisters at the  
7 CWA represent the public sector workers, so thank  
8 you to the Commission for keeping your word on  
9 equity and justice in creating more good union  
10 careers at the Commission itself. You should be  
11 applauded for that.

12 Wanted to give just an update to the  
13 Commission and to the public, because I think it's  
14 important for the Commission to know who -- which  
15 employee -- employer partners are actually following  
16 the LPA laws and also bargaining in good faith, and  
17 I actually have some really good news, and some  
18 happy news.

19 We are begin the card-check process for  
20 Harmony Dispensary. So Harmony go -- soon enough  
21 the workers have already chosen under our LPA  
22 legislation, to join and form a union with the UFCW,

23 so we're happy to announce that Harmony workers have  
24 chosen to do that, and that will be solidified ASAP  
25 with Harmony, so I want to thank Shia and Yosef and

1 Rob Maroney for their leadership and doing the right  
2 thing. And we're proud of those workers for  
3 standing up for social equity and justice.

4 We're beginning negotiations with GTI and the  
5 botanists as well, who have been good partners so  
6 far and good conversation. Again, abiding by the  
7 labor peace requirements of the state. We will  
8 beginning conversations with the cannabis soon  
9 enough.

10 I wanted to also say that we've been having  
11 lots of conversations with our union members and --  
12 in these dispensaries in regards to patient access,  
13 and we're having conversations to make sure that  
14 patients access is protected, workers are the first  
15 line of defense.

16 Very excited about the future. Want to thank  
17 everybody for the hard work at the CRC. I want to  
18 thank specifically the good employers who are coming  
19 forward. We have a lot coming down the pipe in  
20 regards to not only LTAs, but project labor  
21 agreements with our union brothers and sisters at  
22 the trades. You know, thank you for -- to

23 Commissioner Nash and Barker for caring about  
24 apprenticeship programs. Thank you very much.  
25 Bye-bye.



23 present to the Committee that the Laboratory Testing  
24 Committee is here to help the CRC with lab shopping,  
25 if -- if so desired. The concept of lab shopping

1 exists in many states and markets where cannabis and  
2 marijuana is -- is legal, both medically and  
3 recreationally.

4 This is something like if -- you know,  
5 whoever -- whichever lab produces the highest THC or  
6 CBD numbers, or maybe the lowest failure rates, is  
7 the one that, you know, most clients go to and  
8 whether that lab is right or wrong.

9 And that practice, you know, it really does  
10 not ensure that patients are getting safe and  
11 effective products. And so multiple states have  
12 developed mechanisms to identify such testing,  
13 including looking at trending of statewide data,  
14 looking for atypical results, the state providing  
15 blinded samples to laboratories, sort of a  
16 secret-shopper kind of program, if you will. And  
17 the creation of state testing laboratories to  
18 operate as a reference lab.

19 We think it's very important that the state  
20 and the CRC and everyone involved at the LTC work  
21 together to ensure that labs are generating accurate  
22 and reliable data in order to ensure patients and



23 customers get safe and effective medicines.

24 So with that, I want to thank you for your --

25 the time today, and thank you for the work you're

1 doing.

2 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Thank you so much.

3 The next three on the list will be Robert  
4 Allen, Raymond Cantor, and Chris T. I see Ray --  
5 Raymond Cantor. If you could just state your first  
6 and last name for us for the record.

7 MR. CANTOR: Thank you. My name is  
8 Raymond Cantor with the New Jersey Business and  
9 Industry Association. I want to thank you for the  
10 opportunity to allow me to speak here today.

11 NJBIA is the largest state employer  
12 organization in New Jersey and we have, and have  
13 had, a keen interest the issue of workplace  
14 impairment. We were working with the legislature  
15 when the law was first enacted and we've been  
16 working with this Commission and its staff since  
17 that point in time to try to come up with workable  
18 workplace impairment regulations and for the  
19 certification of wires.

20 We are disappointed that the regulations that  
21 were approved here today do not include the  
22 regulations to certify wires. We -- we do

23 appreciate all the work that the Commission has been  
24 doing in setting up a new industry, in doing the  
25 impossible by adopting regulations that -- now twice

1 within a short period of time.

2 But the issue of workplace impairment, as I am  
3 sure you all recognize, is significant, not only to  
4 the employer community, but also to the public at  
5 large. We do not want accidents to happen on our  
6 work sites, especially in areas where we have a  
7 significant potential for harm. We want to make  
8 sure the community is protected and we need those  
9 regulations in place.

10 We are encouraged by Director Brown's  
11 statement today that the Commission will be issuing  
12 guidelines very eminently. We would ask that the  
13 Commission and staff meet with NJBIA before those  
14 guidelines are issued to make sure that we  
15 understand what they are and that we could hopefully  
16 clarify any types of problems that may be, you know,  
17 in that, and they are as workable as possible.

18 We will also remind the Commission that while  
19 we appreciate that you are moving forward with  
20 guidelines to try to solve some of the employer, you  
21 know, issues that we were having, that guidelines  
22 are not the same as regulations, you know, we

23 understand that -- again, guidelines will be  
24 helpful, and we've asked for them, you know, in the  
25 interim.

1           But regulations are legally binding, they are  
2           what is expected, you know, through the  
3           Administrative Procedure Act, and required by law.  
4           So while guidelines may be helpful in the short  
5           period of time, we would still recommend that the  
6           Commission work on a longer term regulatory fix.

7           And again, we would, you know, like to know  
8           when will we see those guidelines and when we could  
9           expect those regulations.

10          And again, as always, we offer our assistance.  
11          I look forward to working with the Commission and  
12          its staff.

13                           DIRECTOR McWHITE: Thank you.

14          So I see Alex -- Aleksandr, rather,  
15          Kleynshvag. See if you are good to go. Ah, there  
16          we are. You may proceed, just please state your  
17          first and last name.

18                           MR. KLEYNSHVAG: Sure. How are ya?

19          Can you guys hear me?

20                           DIRECTOR McWHITE: Yes.

21                           MR. KLEYNSHVAG: It's Aleksandr

22          Kleynshvag. Good afternoon, honorable CRC, my

23 name's Aleksandr Kleynshvag, I am a veteran who  
24 served as a Navy FMF corpsman during Operation  
25 Unified Protector, and now I am the president of

1 North Lake Supply, LLC.

2 We are a conditional Class 1 cultivation  
3 applicant. We are majority woman owned, currently  
4 have land secured that's shovel ready, have all of  
5 the necessary township and zoning approvals, and we  
6 also have signed labor peace agreements with the  
7 Local UFCW 152.

8 As well as bonus point, including state  
9 residency of over five years, because we are an  
10 actual local business looking to enter the New  
11 Jersey recreational market.

12 We first submitted our conditional application  
13 on December 15th, which was the first day allowed  
14 for submissions. In 90 days later we were notified  
15 that we needed to (audio distortion) and we needed  
16 to provide personal history disclosures of our  
17 passive investors.

18 Seven days later we had all of the information  
19 submitted. It is now over six months since we have  
20 submitted our conditional approval. So far the  
21 people from New Jersey's recreational sales and all  
22 of the previous MSOs, while all the small business



23 owners, minority business owners and female business

24 owners are once again being left behind.

25 We would all greatly appreciate more

1 communication and clarity on how applications are  
2 being reviewed and how each individual's merits are  
3 being evaluated.

4 New Jersey has a historic opportunity to  
5 create an industry that benefits its disadvantaged  
6 communities and small businesses. Our hope is that  
7 this does not get turned into the hands of large  
8 corporations whose only goal is to enrich their out  
9 of state (audio distortion.) Thank you so much.

10 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Thank you.

11 I to call one more time registered speakers,  
12 folks that have registered with their first and last  
13 name that might have missed their opportunity to  
14 speak. That is Joseph Waters, Hrishikesh Vimadalal,  
15 Edward Grimes, Ronald Murray, Michael Lawrence  
16 Zalewski, Paula Patrice, Shergoh Alkilani, David  
17 Feder, Jason Irizarry, Tracy McHugh, Russ Hudson,  
18 Robert Carp, Jennifer Con -- Condron, Robert Allen,  
19 Chris T. I see Robert Allen. You may proceed.

20 MR. ALLEN: Thank you, everyone. My  
21 name is Robert Allen, my professional affiliation is  
22 with Canna Pop-up, but I'll be speaking as a medical

23 cannabis patient today.

24 I'd like to wish my entire cannabis family a

25 very happy 4th of July holiday weekend.

1           I have two concerns today. One is regarding  
2           the dispensary's websites. Most of the dispensaries  
3           are not keeping their websites up to date with  
4           current availability.

5           I know many patients are using the website,  
6           not to necessarily place online orders, but to -- to  
7           figure out what they want in advance so they don't  
8           have to spend extra time once they reach the  
9           dispensary.

10          There are many dispensaries that are just not  
11          displaying product that they have, they're not  
12          displaying current THC levels consistently, some  
13          dispensaries are displaying them, some are not. And  
14          it makes it very, very difficult.

15          So I would like, if possible, for someone at  
16          the CRC to take an occasional look at the websites  
17          to make sure that they are, indeed up to date and  
18          accurate.

19          When I've inquired at the dispensaries, I've  
20          been told that there's a third-party company that --  
21          that handles that and it's very difficult for them  
22          to keep the website up to date. Unfortunately, I

23 don't believe that to be a valid reason.

24 My second concern is regarding a product that

25 I believe, and please correct me if I'm wrong, a

1 product that was pulled by your governing body,  
2 which are the PAX pods vaporizer pods, and I'm not  
3 sure if that's accurate, but according to my  
4 dispensary, they've been pulled for whatever reason.

5 Which I find dismaying, because it is  
6 currently the only delivery method that is actually  
7 measurable by dose. Okay? So for -- you know, if  
8 indeed that it's accurate that the CRC has pulled  
9 the PAX pods from availability, I am very concerned  
10 about that and would -- would love to hear any input  
11 that you might be able to share regarding that  
12 particular product.

13 And I'd like to wish all of you a very happy  
14 holiday weekend as well.

15 So it's there anyone that -- you know, I don't  
16 know if you have any information about that or  
17 anything regarding that, but if you could share  
18 that, that would be great.

19 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Thank you. Thank  
20 you for your comments.

21 So I'm going to call on Gaetano Lardieri. And  
22 please state your first and last name for the

23 record.

24 MR. LARDIERI: Gaetano Lardieri. Can

25 you hear me?

1                                   DIRECTOR McWHITE: Yes. You may  
2 proceed.

3                                   MR. LARDIERI: Chair Houenou, Executive  
4 Director Brown and Commissioners, these public  
5 comments today are followup to public comments made  
6 to the CRC at its meeting on the 24th of May.  
7 Comments today in general are to advocate for the  
8 advancement of cannabis research in New Jersey, as  
9 specifically relating to the clinical registrant  
10 application permits referenced by Senator President  
11 Scutari in the senate judiciary hearings held in  
12 Trenton on May 12th.

13                                   In response to Senator Scutari's question in  
14 reference to the status of clinical -- clinical  
15 registrant permits, Director Brown pointed out that  
16 this was on the CRC list of high priorities.

17                                   Selection of diverse clinical registrants  
18 should be a high priority. This application permit  
19 process is complex and capital intensive. These  
20 make for intensive barriers for -- of entry.

21                                   It has been well documented that racial bias  
22 exists in healthcare field, it is one of the



23 underlining factors preventing diversity in clinical  
24 research. Diversity in cannabis research is  
25 important, as you are all well aware and strongly

1 support.

2 Diversity in research will help break these  
3 barrier to address and provide answers and solutions  
4 to the harms done by the war on drugs and other very  
5 important socioeconomic questions of inequity and  
6 inequality.

7 Through the guidance of the CRC, New Jersey  
8 should be a leader in cannabis technology, science,  
9 education and development. Let's work together and  
10 try to have New Jersey's clinical registry program  
11 as robust as our neighbor to the west. Pennsylvania  
12 currently has seven major institutions up and  
13 running in their program.

14 Also, may I add, am well aware that at this  
15 time it is not within the CRC's purview that in  
16 conjunction with legislators and with the next draft  
17 of regulation, what should be taken into serious  
18 consideration is entheogenic medicines; that is,  
19 plant medicines. And yes, you heard it here first,  
20 psychedelics.

21 In my opinion, from the research I have  
22 reviewed out of John's Hopkins, Harvard, Yale, and

- 23 other prestigious institutions, these plant
- 24 medicines will have a profound and major impact on
- 25 all of mental health in general.

1 I believe we have several potential New Jersey  
2 champions in this respect. The first being from my  
3 own city of Newark, and our junior senator from New  
4 Jersey, Cory Booker. Senator Bookkeeper recently  
5 sent a letter to the acting director of the NIH and  
6 commissioner of the FDA advocating for psychedelic  
7 research.

8 Our second is a New Jersey senate president,  
9 Nicholas Scutari, who recently filed a Suicide  
10 Behavior Access Services Act.

11 Champion number three is Governor Phil Murphy  
12 who, back in February of 2021 signed -- signed the  
13 (indiscernible) bill to immediately reduce penalties  
14 for possession.

15 We encourage you to objectively consider the  
16 recent research and strong political advocacy for  
17 entheogenic medicine within the purview of patient  
18 advocacy.

19 The future of the industry lies in a full  
20 spectrum of research and development that is  
21 inclusive of diversity from the farmer to the nail  
22 technologist.

23                    Everything you need is right here in front of  
24                    you in the talent and diversity of the people of New  
25                    Jersey. In this light, calls the -- the action for

1 the CRC arc to form a diversive inclusive advisory  
2 board expeditiously, include New Jersey subject  
3 matter experts in the areas of research,  
4 pharmaceuticals, (indiscernible) business and  
5 advocacy, consider research for entheogenic  
6 medicines in the next legislative and regulatory  
7 guidelines.

8 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Thank you far your  
9 comments. Thank you.

10 And lastly, I see SetivaCross.org. I believe  
11 that is Edward Grimes. Just for future public  
12 meetings, please register with your full name and  
13 not your affiliated organization.

14 Please state your name for the record before  
15 you proceed.

16 MR. GRIMES: Good afternoon. This is  
17 Edward Lefty Grimes. Sorry about that, I actually  
18 changed it again, but it wasn't correct. Sorry  
19 about that.

20 Thank you for all your hard work. You're kind  
21 of up against it sometimes with the legislature, and I  
22 get that. So one thing I'd like to say though,

23 we -- well, first of all, we'd like to invite you  
24 all to the State House on July 10th, it's for  
25 cannabis patient awareness day, it's gonna be a

1 national holiday. We're trying to make it a  
2 national holiday where patients get the  
3 representation they deserve here in New Jersey and  
4 across the other states.

5 We're having the State House from Oregon take  
6 part and the State House of California taking part.

7 And we're also in New Jersey. So we'd like to  
8 invite you all to come out to the State House on  
9 7-10 to celebrate cannabis patients.

10 Because my 501(c)(3) -- we're SteviaCross  
11 501(c)(3), advocating for patients' rights and for  
12 wheelchair access. We have been rallying at Senator  
13 Scutari's office trying to encourage him to be  
14 (audio distortion) cannabis bills up for a vote.

15 The bills I'm talking about are the Home Grow  
16 bills and the Insurance Coverage bills. And I guess  
17 after today it's gonna have to wait, but hopefully  
18 in September you'll put those up for a vote.

19 Now, here's -- here's the deal, though, what  
20 I'm not -- (audio distortion). I have a sign, it's  
21 a huge license plate and it says Home Grow, hashtag  
22 Jeff's Law. And when I have the sign up, a lot of



23 people are coming up to me and they're asking me,  
24 why are you here protesting? It's legal. We voted  
25 for it, it's legal.

1 I'm like, no, you go to jail if you grow weed.

2 And every person I talk to in Linden couldn't  
3 believe that you go to jail for growing weed and  
4 selling weed, because they didn't vote for that.

5 And they feel like they've been bamboozled and

6 hoodwinked, because this is not what we voted for.

7 We voted for -- I voted for Constitutional right to

8 grow. So what's happening is, the social justice

9 we're talking about is creating a whole new class of

10 Jim Crow -- Jim Grow, where people think you can

11 grow weed, and you actually can't.

12 And like the guy was just talking about, the

13 mushroom bill, the mushroom bill includes home grow

14 for mushrooms. (audio distortion).

15 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Mr. Grimes, I'm

16 sorry, we -- we're unable to hear you. Thank you,

17 Mr. Grimes, we -- we're really unable to hear you.

18 Thank you for your comments. You can submit written

19 comments to us as well.

20 I see Paula Patrice. You may proceed.

21 MS. PATRICE: Hi. Thank you. Good

22 afternoon, members of the CRC. My name is Paula

23 Patrice, P-A-T-R-I-C-E, I'm representing Illtown

24 Growers, a cultivation applicant.

25 We submitted December 15th as a social equity

1 business. I'm looking for clarity on how to  
2 communicate with the Commission as far as  
3 applications status and how to update documents.

4 I have attended all of the webinars, I am up  
5 to date on information and recommended ways to  
6 communicate.

7 In my case, when the Commission came back at  
8 the beginning of March and asked for additional  
9 documentation to many applicants for the SEB  
10 affidavit, there was one tax form that I had been  
11 missing. So in my case I waited a couple of weeks  
12 and then thought, because we always have this  
13 rolling process, that I would be able to reopen my  
14 portal and update my documents.

15 That did not seem to be the case. I have not  
16 been successful in requesting that the portal be  
17 reopened, and given that we have had, you know, six  
18 months now of time, of course there are documents  
19 that we want to update or submit with our  
20 application.

21 So I'm just wondering, what is the best way to  
22 up those -- update those documents? Because I've

23        been sending tax returns and other documents by  
24        email; this does not seem like a secure channel of  
25        communication.

1           And then additionally, I do see that my emails  
2           are read, but I don't get any replies. So just to  
3           manage expectations, can you tell me how quickly new  
4           documents are applied to an application? And maybe  
5           just illustrate the rolling process a little bit  
6           better by -- by rolling does it mean, you know, a  
7           couple of -- a couple of months later, you know, my  
8           social equity standing would have gone back into  
9           place? Or, you know, how -- how does that priority  
10          process work when an SEB updates documents that  
11          purportedly should put them higher up in the  
12          priority where other, you know, applicants who  
13          aren't an SEB or maybe just a standard applicant,  
14          are getting their conditionals?

15                           CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Miss  
16          Patrice. Since your question is specific to your  
17          application, we'll have staff our follow up with you  
18          off line.

19                           DIRECTOR McWHITE: Last, but certainly  
20          not least, is Hrishikesh Vimadalal. Please state  
21          your name -- first and last name the record. And  
22          you may proceed.

23 MR. VIMADALAL: Hi. My name is  
24 Hrishikesh Vimadalal, I'm speaking on behalf of A  
25 Greater Purpose as one of the co-founders and the

1 CEO.

2 Greater Purpose has applied for a Class 2  
3 processing condition license. Greater Purpose is a  
4 minority owned business with over 80 percent equity  
5 owned by long time New Jersey residents. We have a  
6 signed resolution from our town that supports our  
7 application. We have a zoning permit from -- for  
8 the proposed location from the town. We have  
9 complete control of the proposed location. We have  
10 everything else that we need to get started.

11 But what we do not have is an update on the  
12 status of our application. It's been over 134 days  
13 since our application was submitted on February  
14 10th, 2022. We've-- we've sent several emails  
15 asking for status, or at least any indication on how  
16 long we would have to wait to here back about our  
17 application, but we've not received anything.

18 We -- we really hope there is a way -- a  
19 better way for us applicants to find out how long  
20 before we have to get everything else ready to get  
21 going, this would really help applicants that were  
22 not able to submit right away and have no idea how



23 long they have to wait. And thank you.

24 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Thank you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Again, since your

1 question was about a specific application, we'll ask  
2 our staff to follow up with you off line. Thank  
3 you.

4 DIRECTOR McWHITE: Madam Chair, this  
5 concludes the public comment portion of today's  
6 agenda.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you,  
8 Director McWhite, and thank you to everyone who  
9 spoke today. This concludes the business that we  
10 have before us this afternoon.

11 Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

12 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I  
13 move to adjourn today's meeting.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you,  
15 Commissioner Barker. For a moment there I thought  
16 everybody wanted to stick around for a little bit  
17 longer. So moved by --

18 COMMISSIONER NASH: I second it.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: -- Commissioner  
20 Barker -- Barker, seconded by Commissioner Nash.  
21 Thank you.

22 Is there any discussion on this motion to

23 adjourn? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye.

24 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER NASH: Aye.

2 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Aye.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Aye. All those

4 opposed say nay. Are there any abstentions?

5 Hearing none, the ayes have it and the motion

6 passes.

7 Thank you all for joining today's meeting,

8 congratulations again to the 81 conditional license

9 awardees. For members of the public, please visit

10 our website to view the approved 2022 calendar of

11 meetings, and again, beginning in September our

12 meetings are planned to be in person, so more

13 details on that will follow.

14 The time is now 3:11 and we are adjourned.

15 Have a great evening, everyone.

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**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes represent a true and complete summary of the public meeting held by the Cannabis Regulatory Commission on **June 30, 2022**.



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Christopher Riggs  
Chief Counsel

Date: July 6, 2022



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Daniel Said  
Board Secretary

Date: July 6, 2022