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CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

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JEFF BROWN, *Executive Director*

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CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION
VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

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9 **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

10 SAM DELGADO, Vice Chairman

11 CHARLES BARKER, Commissioner

MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, Commissioner

12 KRISTA G. NASH, Commissioner

JEFF BROWN, Executive Director

13 WESLEY McWHITE, Director of Diversity and Inclusion

DEPUTY DIRECTOR KELLY ANDERSON THOMAS

14 TONI-ANNE BLAKE, Director of Communications

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CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION
VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

- SAM DELGADO, Vice Chairman
- CHARLES BARKER, Commissioner
- MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, Commissioner
- KRISTA G. NASH, Commissioner
- JEFF BROWN, Executive Director
- WESLEY McWHITE, Director of Diversity and Inclusion
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR KELLY ANDERSON THOMAS
- TONI-ANNE BLAKE, Director of Communications

1 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Good afternoon,
2 everyone. This is Vice Chair Delgado of the New Jersey
3 Cannabis Regulatory Commission. It is now 1:01 in the
4 afternoon. And I'd like to bring this meeting to order.

5 So without further adieu, Ms. Blake, please read the
6 notice of the public hearing of the public meeting.

7 Just a note before we go on, Vice Woman -- excuse me.
8 Chairwoman Houenou is away, and I as Vice Chair will be
9 chairing this meeting. So again, Ms. Blake, please read
10 the notice of the public meeting.

11 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Good afternoon, Vice
12 Chair. This is a special meeting of the New Jersey
13 Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Adequate notice of
14 this meeting has been provided in accordance with
15 Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act. Notice
16 of the meeting was provided to the Asbury Park Press,
17 Atlantic City Express, Bergen Record, Courier Post,
18 Star Ledger, and the Trenton times on August 11, 2022.
19 The agenda and information regarding this virtual --
20 the virtual nature of this meeting due to the Covid 19
21 pandemic was also provided for publication and posted
22 on the CRC website. The meeting time and location has
23 also been posted on the website of the New Jersey
24 Cannabis Regulatory Commission and with office of the
25 secretary of the state.

1 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you very
2 much, Ms. Blake. Can you please take the roll so we
3 can get going?

4 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

5 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Present.

6 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del
7 Cid-Kosso?

8 COMMISSIONER DEL SID-KOSSO: Present.

9 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?
10 Commissioner Nash, you're muted.

11 COMMISSIONER NASH: Present.

12 MS. BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

13 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Present.

14 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Chairwoman Houenou?

15 VICE PRESIDENT DELGADO: She's absent.

16 DIRECTOR BLAKE: We now have a quorum.

17 Chairwoman Houenou is absent for today's meeting.

18 However, in accordance with Section 4.05 of the

19 Commission's bylaws, Chairwoman Houenou is designating

20 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso as her proxy to vote on

21 agenda items. The designation will expire upon the

22 adjournment of the September 9th public board meeting.

23 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you very

24 much, Ms. Blake.

25 DIRECTOR BLAKE: The first order of

1 business is for the Commission to go into Executive
2 Session to discuss legal matters and litigation
3 updates. These are discussions that are not shared
4 with the public. We believe that the Executive Session
5 will last about 30 minutes today.

6 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Again, thank you
7 very much, Ms. Blake. Do I have a motion to go into
8 Executive Session?

9 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: So moved,
10 Vice Chair.

11 COMMISSIONER NASH: Seconded.

12 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you very
13 much. Are there any discussions? Okay, hearing none,
14 all those in favor say "aye."

15 (All responded "aye.")

16 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: All those opposed
17 say "nay." Any abstentions? There are no abstentions,
18 the motion passes. The Commission will now go into
19 Executive Session. We expect that the Executive
20 Session to last approximately 30 minutes. We'll leave
21 the live stream running during that time. And we'll
22 return once Executive Session is done. We can expect
23 to resume the open public hearing at about 12:30.
24 Excuse me. 1:30, 1:35. Thank you for your patience.

25 (There is a recess.)

1 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Okay. I want to
2 thank the public for your patience. The Executive
3 Session has ended. It is now 1:36 p.m. We will now
4 resume the public portion of this meeting. Ms. Blake,
5 can you announce the next agenda item, please?

6 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Next up on the agenda
7 is approving the minutes of both the Commission's Open
8 Session and Executive Session held on July 28, 2022.
9 The minutes have been shared and reviewed by the
10 members of the Commission prior to the meeting.

11 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you. If
12 there are no questions, I'd like for a motion to adopt
13 the meeting minutes for July 28, 2022.

14 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: So moved,
15 Vice Chair.

16 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you very
17 much, Commissioner. Can I have a second?

18 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Seconded, Vice
19 Chair Delgado.

20 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you,
21 Commissioner Barker. Are there any discussions? Okay.
22 Hearing none, all those in favor of approving the
23 July 28th meeting minutes say "aye."

24 (All responded "aye.")

25 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: All those opposed

1 to approving the minutes say "nay." The "ayes" have
2 it. The motion's carried.

3 MR. BARKER: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair.

4 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Next on the agenda is
5 the Executive Director's report.

6 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: All right.

7 Director Brown, I give you the floor to provide your
8 report.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,
10 Mr. Vice Chair. Thank you, Commissioners. Next slide,
11 please. On today's agenda I'm going to cover a few
12 things. First, update on a new patient registry that
13 the CRC is launching on Monday, an update on some of
14 our compliance operations here, an update on cannabis
15 business license applications and the reviews of those,
16 finally, the release of workplace impairment guidance.
17 And then we have a quarterly report on data on
18 conditional license holders from Wesley McWhite, our
19 Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion here
20 at the CRC. Next slide, please.

21 On Monday, September 12th the CRC's
22 going to be launching a new patient registry. This has
23 been in development for several years. It replaces a
24 ten-year old system that was developed by the
25 Department of Health when the program first launched

1 back in 2012. So it was an outdated system. It needed
2 to be replaced. Our team has done an excellent job
3 building a new one. And so the new system -- you know,
4 understanding that we plan to launch in September, we
5 began outreach to alternative treatment centers,
6 patients, caregivers, and healthcare practitioners in
7 July. We've continued that for two months. We've over
8 the last couple weeks really focused in on high
9 priority individuals, some of our patients who have
10 more debilitating conditions, caregivers, physicians,
11 and healthcare practitioners who see more patients than
12 others. And you know, we continue to roll out
13 educational materials on this which will all be
14 available on our website. The new registry improves
15 patient experience in a number of ways. The most
16 important one -- and I think one of the best ones -- is
17 that patients will no longer have to wait for their
18 identification card, new patients, to go and make a
19 purchase. In fact, they can take the authorization
20 from their physician once they create an account in the
21 system, and then just simply go to a dispensary to make
22 an initial purchase while they wait for their ID card.
23 So that's really going to streamline access to the
24 medical program, continued improved access to the
25 medical program. The new system also gives patients

1 and caregivers the ability to check their application
2 status, view their purchase history and amounts, and
3 add or change caregivers by themselves. Previously to
4 do any of those things they would have to call our
5 customer service unit in order to get that data. So
6 this is launching on the 12th. The system is offline
7 from now until the 12th. It is not impacting
8 purchases. Patients can still purchase. They can
9 still go to ATCs. They can purchase up to one ounce in
10 the meantime. So, that's the new patient registry.
11 There's more information on our web side. Next slide,
12 please.

13 So I wanted to provide an update to the
14 Commission on compliance. We received some questions,
15 and wanted to make sure everybody has an update. So,
16 you know, our Compliance and Investigation Unit is the
17 core function here at the CRC. Compliance and
18 Investigations is one of the biggest -- is the biggest
19 office at the CRC. Our goal is really a safe, well
20 regulated market. And to give you some stats on, you
21 know, the great work that our team does, in the run up
22 to April 2022 when the first ATCs were approved to
23 expand to recreational use, our staff was on site 48
24 times collectively at those ATCs in the previous six
25 months. And they've been on site again almost as many

1 since expansion. We conduct inspections at all ATCs,
2 all new permit holders, licence holders prior to
3 licensure. And so, you know, we're very hands-on with
4 licence holders. And we want to help people through
5 the process, but also make sure they're complying with
6 the rules. Next said, please.

7 Aside from those, you know, inspections
8 prior to licensure or prior to renewals, we do periodic
9 site visits which include sample collection for
10 testing, spot checks for security and ID cards, review
11 of inventory management, and investigation of any
12 complaints. Next slide, please.

13 So when we do have violations,
14 significant violations we take swift action. And I can
15 tell you that since expansion we took quick action when
16 there were patient access violations issuing more than
17 \$300,000 in fines levied for those violations to five
18 ATCs. And in the four years that I've -- over four
19 years now, almost four and a half years that I was at
20 the Department of Health and now with the CRC, whenever
21 we found legitimate instances of a mold or other
22 product quality issues, we've been swift to order
23 destruction, quarantine, and/or recalls if necessary.
24 Thankfully, there have only been a couple recalls.
25 Because of, you know, the hard work of our team, I can

1 tell you that we've had zero reported major adverse
2 events related to legal products either medical or
3 recreational. And a huge piece of this, you know,
4 prior to Covid which seems like lifetimes ago, but
5 there was the vaping EVALI, vaping related lung injury.
6 And Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso's shaking her head. We
7 were both at the Department of Health. And it was, you
8 know, all hands on deck for that even before Covid.
9 And I'm proud to say that we had zero cases of vaping
10 related lung injury linked to any legal products in New
11 Jersey. So, you know, that comes from compliance.
12 That comes from making sure we have a well regulated
13 market. And that's something that we're going to
14 continue do. Next slide, please.

15 Looking ahead in compliance, Metric, our
16 state-wide inventory tracking system, is going to
17 launch in October. That's going to improve our ability
18 to ensure compliance. Our team's to going have
19 realtime tracking throughout the entire market in one
20 system. And it will enable us to take statewide
21 instantaneous actions by our compliance staff when
22 authorized. That will be a huge benefit to the State
23 of New Jersey, huge benefit to compliance, and a huge
24 benefit to the safety of our market. Next slide,
25 please.

1 Moving on to the license application
2 update. I just wanted to review -- and I had this
3 slide up last month -- or in July as well. Our
4 licensure system has two paths to annual licenses. And
5 annual licenses are what the type of license a business
6 needs to actually operate, actually possess, grow,
7 manufacture, dispense, sell cannabis, and cannabis
8 products. That's conditionals which have to get --
9 applying for a conditional license and then apply to
10 convert to an annual. And then annual licenses which
11 just go right to applying to annual. Conditionals do
12 not have to have site control or municipal approval
13 when they apply for a conditional license. Annual
14 license -- license applications do need to have those
15 things in place. Next slide, please.

16 To show you some data about where we
17 are, our licensure system is based on two things,
18 priority, what type of application you submit, and the
19 time it's submitted. And conditional social equity
20 business applications are the highest overall priority
21 which means they get reviewed first. The second
22 highest is conditional diversely owned businesses.
23 Those are minority owned, women owned, or disabled
24 veteran owned. I have up here the breakdown of the
25 type of applications we've received since we opened up

1 for applications in December of 2021 and March of 2022.
2 And as you can see, over 75 percent, over
3 three-quarters of the now 1,300 applications that we've
4 received fall into those first two priority categories,
5 conditional social equity, and conditional diversely
6 owned. This is important context because that's where
7 the lion share of those applications were. And that's
8 why it's taken some time to move through all of those
9 applications that are in those categories. When you
10 get to the bottom categories, it only amounts to, you
11 know, about a quarter of the overall applications.
12 Next slide, please.

13 So to give you a sense for where we are
14 right now, we have 1,300 applications submitted. All
15 applications have started the review process. Last
16 time I spoke to the Commission, I explained that our
17 goal was to get through everything by the fall. And I
18 can tell you that we're going to do it. Of those 1,300
19 applications, only 88 still need to go to completeness
20 review. That means the step of the process they get
21 reviewed for priority, make sure they're actually the
22 type of business, type of application they say they
23 are, then they're reviewed for completeness and
24 scoring. So there's only 88 out of that 1,300 that
25 have not been reviewed for completeness yet. There are

1 some that are still, you know, still pending in the
2 various levels for different reasons, but we're making
3 really tremendous progress. Next slide, please.

4 And to give you a sense for what our
5 team has been doing, out of those 1,300 applications,
6 prior to this meeting 313 conditional licenses have
7 been awarded and 932 application CURE letters have been
8 issued. Those are letters issued to applicants
9 explaining what they need to do to fix their
10 application so that they need to get approved. Next
11 slide, please.

12 So today there's -- and we'll get to it
13 a little later in the agenda -- but we have a large
14 number of conditional license applications, the largest
15 ever in a meeting up for approval. And if they are
16 approved, this would be -- we will have approved over
17 500 conditional licenses. And that's 40 percent --
18 roughly 40 percent of the total applications that we've
19 received. Next slide, please.

20 So if we look at conditional
21 conversions, those are conditional licensees who've
22 applied to convert to annual applications, and thus
23 operate. We have now received 34 of those. So that's
24 roughly 11 percent of all of our conditional license
25 holders. 90 percent have not submitted, but, you know,

1 our Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion
2 here at the CRC is going to provide more details, more
3 data on license holders. I'm pleased to announce that
4 the CRC which we've covered before is releasing
5 Workplace Impairment Guidance today. It's going to be
6 available on our website under Business Resources. You
7 can click that on the main bars, nj.gov/cannabis. This
8 guidance is a first step in moving to permanent
9 regulations for Workplace Impairment Recognition
10 Experts. The guidance leverages processes employers
11 should already have in place for establishing
12 reasonable suspicion of impairment. So, you know, what
13 the statute says is that employers can longer take
14 adverse action against employees simply because there
15 are cannabis metabolites in that person's system, in
16 that person's bodily fluids. But, you know, they can
17 develop reasonable suspicion using evidence, using
18 objective means to, you know, determine that somebody
19 is reasonably suspected of being impaired while at
20 work. And they can use that with a drug test, with
21 other evidence based means like a cognitive impairment
22 test to, you know, bolster that case. And so this
23 guidance provides, you know, clarity for employers on
24 what they can do now while they wait for regulations on
25 Work Place Recognition Experts. And basically, what

1 we, you know, what we provide in the guidance is that
2 employers can designate a staff member or staff members
3 who are responsible for assisting with the terminations
4 related to impairment. They should have training that,
5 you know, is related to that. So whether it be, you
6 know, human resources or otherwise, be provided a
7 mechanism to document evidence or proof of impairment
8 in the workplace to support the use of a drug test to
9 confirm reasonable suspicion. We've provided -- we
10 will provide a sample form to help employers do that, a
11 Reasonable Suspicion Observed Activity Report, a book.
12 Employers can also develop forms of their own. There
13 are many of these forms already in use in -- by
14 employers all around the country. So the form is not
15 cannabis specific. It can be used for cannabis and
16 other impairing substances. And we note in the
17 guidance that employers that are using things like
18 cognitive impairment testing which has shown promise
19 particularly in safety sensitive positions for noting
20 when somebody may be impaired in the workplace, they
21 can do that. And that provides, you know, additional
22 evidence that employers can use to help uphold, you
23 know, a drug free workplace. The guidance also it
24 doesn't create or restrict any statutory rights. And
25 so, you know, we make very clear that the new law of

1 the land is that employers cannot unless they meet a
2 certain carve out for federal contracts take adverse
3 action against an employee simply based on the presence
4 of cannabis metabolites in their blood. And certainly,
5 you know, we've learned how to live with legal alcohol
6 for quite sometime. And, you know, employers deal with
7 people on other substances in the workplace. And this
8 is an evidence objective based manner to do that while
9 we develop those permanent regulations for Workplace
10 Impairment Recognition Experts. So it will be on our
11 website at nj.gov/cannabis under Business Resources.
12 And with that, next slide, please. And I'm going to
13 turn it over to Wesley McWhite to cover some data.

14 MR. McWHITE: Good afternoon, everyone.
15 Good afternoon, Commissioners, Vice Chair Delgado,
16 Commissioners Del Cid-Kosso, Commissioner Nash and
17 Commissioner Barker. Thank you to Executive Director
18 Brown for this awesome opportunity to share our
19 quarterly metrics. Next slide.

20 I want to start by sharing some very
21 high level take-aways from the numbers we are sharing
22 day. And Jeff mentioned a few of those. So as of
23 today, one-third of awardees are majority owned
24 individuals with qualifying criminal history.
25 Two-thirds of awardees are majority diversely owned

1 businesses. And two-third of awardees are social
2 equity businesses. And from these numbers, right, we
3 see today we're not only meeting but exceeding our
4 statutory benchmarks which is a great thing. We've
5 made and continue to make great strides forward as we
6 realize a truly diverse and inclusive market, but
7 there's more work to do. And so on top of these
8 accomplishments and in partnership with stakeholders
9 and community by increasing outreach, expanding
10 partnerships, and building on already established
11 community trust, to move potential business owners from
12 applying, to getting them ready to apply for an annual
13 license and eventual operational. During our last
14 public meeting and in our state quarter engagements,
15 there was a request to provide metrics that separate
16 certified women owned businesses and certified disabled
17 veterans owned business. And although they're written
18 together in statute, we're honoring that request today.
19 So again, I want to thank Executive Director Brown,
20 Deputy Director Kelly Anderson Thomas, Lynn who runs
21 our data team and all of our staff for helping put this
22 together. Next slide.

23 Social equity businesses defined as by
24 the CRC are business that are majority owned by
25 individuals who have lived in an economically

1 disadvantaged area or who have a past marijuana or
2 hashish related offenses. And as of August 10th in our
3 current awardees of 313, over 50 percent of those are
4 social equity businesses. And according to licensed
5 types, as you see off to the right, there is about an
6 even split between cultivators and retailers. 34
7 manufacturers and zero testing laboratories so far as
8 of the August 10, 2022. Next slide.

9 As of August 10, 2022, and out of the
10 313 current awardees, 34 percent are majority owned by
11 individuals from impact zones or economically
12 disadvantaged areas. Next slide.

13 Out of the current 313 awardees
14 33 percent are majority owned by individuals with
15 qualifying criminal history. Next slide.

16 Out of the 313 current awardees, 200 or
17 64 percent are diversely owned. And according to
18 license type, 76 are cultivators, 40 are manufacturers,
19 and 84 are retailers, and no testing laboratories so
20 far. Next slide.

21 So as you can see here, according to
22 statute we are to see no less than 15 percent of
23 licenses to minority businesses and no less than 15
24 issued to certified women's and disabled veterans'
25 owned businesses. And as you can see here, we are

1 exceeding those benchmarks for both minority owned and
2 disabled veteran and women owned businesses. But
3 there's more collaborative work to do which we talked
4 about earlier because the CRC, this Commission cannot
5 do this alone. And so far we have not and will not do
6 this alone moving forward. So understandably as you
7 can see here, our disabled veterans awardees and
8 disabled veteran proposed September awardees, those
9 numbers are a little low, but we are optimistic about
10 the progress that we are seeing. We will continue to
11 engage and partner and collaborate with disabled
12 veterans' communities so that they understand more
13 broadly that they are welcome and there is more room --
14 that there is room for them in the market. Next slide.

15 Also written in statute is benchmarks
16 there for us to see no less than 25 percent of licenses
17 issued to micro businesses. And we are far and ahead
18 exceeding that benchmark coming in at 54 percent. Next
19 slide.

20 So here we have an overview of the
21 proposed September awardees. There are 192 up for
22 consideration to the Commission today. And out of
23 those, 91 are minority owned, 10 are disabled veteran,
24 and 97 are women owned. But please note that the
25 proposed awardees some of them held certifications in

1 multiple categories. Next slide.

2 And the last slide. So lastly, the work
3 continues in our three interagency work groups. They
4 are the Access to Capital Work Group, the Workforce
5 Development and Business Development Work Group which
6 were established to further explore initiatives for
7 providing individuals support -- with support and
8 access to the cannabis industry. But as you can see
9 from the numbers, the work that we have already done
10 using our social equity framework so far we are seeing
11 strides in not just meeting our benchmarks but
12 exceeding them. And so currently an access to capital
13 and technical assistance program are both being
14 developed through our interagency work groups. And we
15 are working in collaboration with the Business Action
16 Center of New Jersey -- great partners -- on our
17 technical assistance program. And we are making a lot
18 on progress on that front. And so we are continuing to
19 work extremely hard to make sure that these programs
20 address the needs of the communities that need it most.
21 We are optimistic, very optimistic that both programs
22 will provide individuals with support and access to the
23 cannabis industry. That is it for me. Thank you,
24 Commissioners and Executive Director Jeff Brown, for
25 this time this afternoon. And go team CRC.

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,
2 Director McWhite. Mr. Vice Chair, I'm going to pass
3 the baton back over to you.

4 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you,
5 Executive Director Brown, Director McWhite. Very good
6 reports on your part. Thank you again. Before I go on
7 to Ms. Blake, are there any Commissioners that have any
8 questions, need the floor for any questions? If none,
9 Ms. Blake, next up on the agenda is?

10 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Next up on the agenda
11 is the consideration of conditional licensees.

12 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you.
13 Director Brown, can you please provide a summary and
14 staff recommendations for the applications for those
15 conditional licenses?

16 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Absolutely. Thank you,
17 Mr. Vice Chair. Thank you, Commissioners. So before
18 you you have recommendation to approve 192 conditional
19 license holders. This is the largest number of
20 conditional licenses we've ever had up for approval at
21 meeting. Director McWhite went through some of the
22 statistics related to this cohort. We are -- the
23 reviews, you know, have progressed. And we have a team
24 of roughly 15 people working on this at any given time.
25 And you could see the fruits of their labor here.

1 These applications have been reviewed for priority.
2 That priority has been verified. They've passed
3 completeness. They've passed scoring. They've been
4 reviewed for, you know, high level qualification issues
5 or financial limitations. They've been -- there's been
6 a quality control check. And they are all recommended
7 for approval. I'm going to ask Danny who's running the
8 slides to just go through the list and just pause for
9 roughly 20 seconds on each. There's about -- maybe
10 15 seconds. There's about ten -- ten slides given the
11 number. And this list will be available online after
12 the meeting. So Danny, please run through the list
13 here. Thank you. Thank you. Mr. Vice Chair, I'll
14 turn it back over to you. These 192 conditional
15 license applications are recommended for approval by
16 the Commission which would bring the total number of
17 approved conditional licenses to over 500.

18 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Well, thank you,
19 Executive Director Brown. And thank you, Danny, for
20 going through the slides. Appreciate it. So do I hear
21 a motion by the Commission to approve these conditional
22 licenses?

23 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Vice Chair, I move
24 to approve the conditional licenses.

25 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Moved by

1 Commissioner Barker. Do I have a second?

2 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second,
3 Vice Chair.

4 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Seconded by
5 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Any discussions by the
6 Commissioners? Hearing no further discussion, Ms.
7 Blake, can you please call the vote?

8 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

9 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

10 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del
11 Cid-Kosso?

12 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

13 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

14 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

15 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

16 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

17 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del
18 Cid-Kosso for Chairman Houenou?

19 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes. For
20 the record, per the CRC bylaws I have been designated
21 by Chairwoman Houenou as her proxy to vote on this
22 agenda item. And her vote is yes.

23 DIRECTOR BLAKE: The resolution passes.

24 Next item for consideration is the extension of
25 conditional licenses.

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Sorry, Mr.
2 Vice Chair.

3 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: That's all right.
4 Don't let it happen again there.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: I won't.

6 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: I get to say things
7 the like now that I'm Acting Chair. Thank you, Ms.
8 Blake. Director Brown, can you please provide a
9 summary and staff recommendation for extending the
10 conditional licenses which you referred to prior in
11 your Executive Director report.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.
13 Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. To keep it short and sweet,
14 the Commission's regulations provide that the
15 Commission can extend conditional licenses based on
16 cause. There's certainly cause to extend the
17 conditional licenses given challenges in finding and
18 obtaining municipal approval, finding real estate, as
19 well as other challenges that license holders are
20 facing in the market in moving on to conditional
21 conversions. Therefore, we recommend extending
22 conditional licenses by an additional 45 days pursuant
23 to our regulations and the statute. The first
24 conditional licenses are slated to expire on
25 October 1st. So this will give any applicants that

1 haven't been able to convert yet additional time to
2 hopefully get what they need to do to file a conversion
3 application. So we recommend approving this resolution
4 to extend conditional license by an additional 45 days.

5 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Okay. Thank you,
6 Executive Director Brown. Do I hear -- Commissioners,
7 do I hear a motion to extend the conditional license?

8 COMMISSIONER NASH: Vice Chair Delgado,
9 I move to extend the conditional license phase for
10 conditional licenses previously issued by the
11 Commission.

12 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you,
13 Commissioner Nash. Do I have a second?

14 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

15 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: And seconded by
16 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Thank you very much. Any
17 discussion on the floor?

18 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Vice Chair
19 Delgado, can I have the floor for a brief minute?

20 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: You may absolutely
21 have the floor there, Commissioner Barker.

22 COMMISSIONER BARKER: One second. I'm
23 having an issue with my computer right now. Can you
24 all see me?

25 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: No, Commissioner

1 Barker, we cannot see you. Now we --

2 COMMISSIONER BARKER: How about now?

3 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: I can see you now.

4 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Okay. Do I have
5 the floor, Vice Chair?

6 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: You have the floor.

7 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Thank you. Just
8 want to encourage briefly conditional license holders
9 to please stay positive and committed to this
10 opportunity. This extension reflects the struggles
11 that you're facing with local municipalities. And we
12 do hope that more cities and towns across New Jersey
13 especially our most impacted ones opt in so that we can
14 develop a healthy and diverse industry. We are
15 partners and we must work together to help perspective
16 applicants realize this generational opportunity.
17 Please feel free to reach out with your municipality
18 with concerns so we can help you anyway we can. Thank
19 you.

20 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Is that it,
21 Commissioner Barker?

22 COMMISSIONER BARKER: That's all, Vice
23 Chair.

24 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you very much
25 for those remarks. Ms. Blake, can you please call the

1 vote?

2 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

3 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

4 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del

5 Cid-Kosso?

6 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

7 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

8 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

9 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

10 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

11 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del

12 Cid-Koss for Chairwoman Houenou?

13 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: By the --

14 per the CRC bylaws I have been designated by Chairwoman

15 Houenou as her proxy to vote on this agenda item. And

16 her vote is yes.

17 DIRECTOR BLAKE: The resolution passes.

18 Next item for consideration is the expansion

19 certification for Ascend, New Jersey.

20 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you, Ms.

21 Blake. Executive Director Brown, can you please

22 provide a summary and staff recommendations for

23 Ascend's expansion certification?

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.

25 Next slide, please. Expanded ATCs are required to

1 submit a certification to the Commission. The required
2 conditions include municipal approval, proof of
3 sufficient supply to continue to meet patient need
4 after expansion, plans to ensure patient access, and
5 plans to address social equity and safety. Next slide,
6 please.

7 Our consideration is focused on a number
8 of factors established by regulation which you can see
9 here which I've presented on before which enumerate
10 those core things that I went over on the previous
11 slide. Next slide, please.

12 So up for consideration is Ascend, Fort
13 Lee. Ascend has previously been approved for expansion
14 both at their -- at two dispensaries on two separate
15 occasions as well as their cultivation and
16 manufacturing. Next slide, please.

17 The certification for Fort Lee, the
18 recommendation from CRC staff is to approve this.
19 They've submitted a certification of adequate supply.
20 That is still accurate. A certification for patient
21 access. That is still accurate. And they've submitted
22 new materials for this location which we recommend
23 accepting. And then finally, they've submitted
24 everything they need to submit pursuant to our regs for
25 municipal compliance and approval. So our

1 recommendation is to approve Ascend's Fort Lee
2 dispensary as a class five -- to expand to a class five
3 retailer. Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair.

4 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you,
5 Executive Director Brown. Do I hear a motion for
6 Ascend's expansion certification?

7 COMMISSIONER NASH: Vice Chair, I move
8 to adopt the motion for acceptance of the certification
9 of Ascend, New Jersey, LLC to expand cultivation
10 operations to the adult personal use cannabis market.

11 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Moved by
12 Commissioner Nash. Do I have a second?

13 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

14 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Seconded by
15 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Any discussions on the
16 floor?

17 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Yes, Mr. Vice
18 Chair. May I have the floor for a brief moment?

19 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: You may have the
20 floor, Commissioner Barker.

21 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Thank you.
22 Expanded ATCs, as a whole you are not upholding your
23 commitments to patient access, social equity and
24 collective bargaining agreements at this time. This
25 must change. It must. There needs to be more proof of

1 compliance with the ATCs' commitment to these core
2 values especially, especially given the amount of
3 revenue being generated so far. Upwards of
4 \$100,000,000 or more has been generated since our
5 rollout in April. Yet, expanded ATCs as a whole have
6 not equitably evidenced their commitment to social
7 equity with their dollars in a significant manner.
8 There are not enough connections to local communities
9 that have been most impacted by the failed drug war,
10 not enough partnerships with organizations that assist
11 these same communities, too few expungement clinics,
12 and definitely not enough dollars being committed to
13 the people and communities most harmed by the failed
14 drug war. I challenge my fellow Commissioners to hold
15 expanded ATCs more accountable so that New Jersey's
16 cannabis marketplace can truly reflect the diversity
17 and inclusion that we all want to see especially for
18 our black and brown people, families and communities.
19 Thank you.

20 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you,
21 Commissioner Barker. Is there any other further
22 discussion on the floor? Okay. Hearing no
23 discussions, Ms. Blake, can you please call the vote?

24 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

25 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Nay.

1 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del

2 Cid-Kosso?

3 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

4 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

5 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

6 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

7 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

8 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del

9 Cid-Kosso for Chairwoman Houenou?

10 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: No.

11 DIRECTOR BLAKE: The resolution passes.

12 The next item up for consideration is the expansion
13 certificate for Ascend, New Jersey.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: We already
15 covered that, Ms. Blake.

16 DIRECTOR BLAKE: I'm so sorry.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Next is
18 authority delegation.

19 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: I think that was
20 a --

21 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Yes. Yes. It was a
22 typo. I apologize. The next item up for consideration
23 is the delegation of authority to the Audit Committee
24 to approve expenditures to support interagency
25 programs.

1 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you, Ms.
2 Blake. I'm going to call on Deputy Executive Director
3 Anderson Thomas to provide summary and staff
4 recommendation for this delegation of authority.

5 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THOMAS: Thank
6 you, Vice Chair. Since its establishment, the
7 Commission has collaborated with multiple state
8 departments and authorities to explore ways to make the
9 regulated cannabis industry more accessible to
10 individuals from communities that have historically
11 lacked access to government supports for business
12 ownership. With this in mind as Director McWhite
13 mentioned earlier, the Commission has established
14 interagency work groups with the goal of developing
15 programs aimed at bolstering New Jersey's budding
16 cannabis industry. Specifically, work groups have
17 focused on efforts to develop the cannabis workforce
18 and connect existing or perspective cannabis industry
19 business owners to supportive resources. The
20 Commission's work groups engage in research,
21 brainstorming, and information sharing to devise
22 effective solutions to overcoming typical barriers to
23 the cannabis industry. It is for this reason that
24 staff recommend where appropriate the Commission should
25 provide funds from its budget to support programs or

1 projects developed in collaboration with other state
2 departments or authorities that expand access to
3 entering the regulated cannabis industry within the
4 State of New Jersey. Having the Commission partner
5 with the state agencies to create or maintain
6 programming to advance economic, racial and social
7 justice within the industry is consistent with the
8 Commission's mission statement.

9 As such, where these interagency
10 discussions result in proposed state programming that
11 need funding support, the Commission should consider
12 contributing monies from its budget where appropriate
13 for its implementation and maintenance of the state
14 program. While such expenditures of the Commission's
15 budget would ordinarily require formal approval from
16 the Board of Commissioners at a public board meeting,
17 the Audit Committee has requested that the Commission
18 -- excuse me. Has requested that the Commission
19 delegate its authority to review and act on expenditure
20 request to the Audit Committee to ensure timely funding
21 of important state programs that offer new
22 opportunities to individuals looking to participate in
23 the cannabis industry. The spectrum of potential
24 projects is wide and includes but is not limited to the
25 development and implementation of the Cannabis Business

1 Technical Assistance Program, collaboration with other
2 agencies to support access to capital, workforce
3 development, and other support resources. And so it's
4 for this reason that the Audit Committee has brought
5 this to the Commission's attention. Thank you, Vice
6 Chair.

7 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: And thank you,
8 Deputy Director Anderson Thomas. Do I hear a motion to
9 approve the Audit Committee expenditure to support
10 intra-agency programs?

11 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Vice Chair,
12 I move this resolution concerning delegation of
13 authority to the Audit Committee to act on any
14 expenditure in support of intra-agency projects.

15 COMMISSIONER NASH: I second.

16 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Any discussion?
17 Okay. Hearing no further discussion, Ms. Blake, can
18 you please call the vote?

19 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

20 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Nay.

21 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del
22 Cid-Kosso?

23 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

24 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

25 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

1 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

2 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

3 MS. BLAKE: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso
4 for Chairwoman Houenou?

5 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

6 DIRECTOR BLAKE: The resolution passes.
7 The next item for consideration is delegation of
8 authority to the Executive Director for certain actions
9 and approvals.

10 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: All right. Thank
11 you, Ms. Blake. Executive Director Brown, can you
12 please provide a summary and staff recommendation for
13 this delegation of authority?

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.
15 Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. Thank you, Commissioners.
16 So up for consideration by the Commission are a slate
17 of authority delegations to the Executive Director to
18 undertake various actions on behalf of the Commission
19 that are part of our daily operations. This is the
20 same set of authority delegations that was up in July.
21 They include review and decision making on MSAs,
22 Manifest Services Agreements and Financial Source
23 Agreements as part of our application review process,
24 the issuance of ATC identification cards, the issuance
25 of cannabis business identification cards, the issuance

1 of notices of violation. And many of these are
2 included in our rules and in our Plan of Organization.
3 And as well as review and approval of location changes
4 for entities that are not yet permitted or licensed
5 that are in the permit or licensing process. You have
6 the resolution. You have the recommendation memo. We
7 recommend approving this. These will continue to allow
8 us to streamline operations at the Commission. And I
9 do just want to say that, you know, we will be
10 proactive and frequent with our communication back to
11 the Board as far as what's happening related to these
12 delegations, but they will enable us to continue to act
13 expediently and efficiently in relation to getting this
14 market up and running. Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Well, thank you,
16 Executive Director Brown, for your summary. And in
17 light of your saying that you will be in constant
18 communication to the Commission in delegation authority
19 to Executive Director, do I hear a motion to approve?

20 COMMISSIONER NASH: Vice Chair, I motion
21 to approve the delegation of authority to Executive
22 Directo and staff.

23 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you very
24 much. Moved by Commissioner Nash. Do I hear a second?

25 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

1 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Seconded by
2 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Any discussion on the
3 floor? Okay. Hearing no further discussion, Ms.
4 Blake, can you call the roll?

5 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

6 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Nay.

7 DIRECTOR BLAKE: I'm sorry, Commissioner
8 Barker, could you repeat that, please?

9 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Nay.

10 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del
11 Cid-Kosso?

12 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

13 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

14 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

15 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

16 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

17 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del
18 Cid-Kosso for Chairwoman Houenou?

19 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

20 DIRECTOR BLAKE: The resolution passes.

21 Next item for consideration is an application to change
22 a business name.

23 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Okay. Thanks a lot
24 for that, Ms. Blake. Executive Director Brown, can you
25 please provide a staff summary and recommendations for

1 name change?

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.

3 Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. The Commission has before
4 it a proposal by a 2019 awardee, Altice, New Jersey, to
5 change their name from Altice, New Jersey, LLC to Aunt
6 Mary's Dispensary, LLC. They've submitted a letter
7 with the request. They filed the amendment with the
8 New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue
9 and Enterprise Services. There are no, you know,
10 regulatory issues with the name. And so, therefore, we
11 recommend approving this name change.

12 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Okay. Thank you,
13 Executive Director Brown. Do I hear motion a to
14 approve?

15 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Vice Chair, I move
16 to approve the name change.

17 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you,
18 Commissioner Barker. Do I have a second?

19 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

20 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Seconded by
21 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Thank you. Any
22 discussion? Okay. Hearing no further discussion, Ms.
23 Blake, can you please take -- call to vote?

24 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

25 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

1 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del

2 Cid-Kosso?

3 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

4 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

5 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

6 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

7 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

8 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del

9 Cid-Kosso for Chairwoman Houenou?

10 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

11 DIRECTOR BLAKE: The resolution passes.

12 The next item for consideration is a change of

13 ownership for iAnthus Capital Holdings.

14 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you, Ms.

15 Blake. Executive Director Brown, can you please

16 provide a summary of staff recommendation for change of

17 ownership for iAnthus Capital Holdings?

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Absolutely.

19 Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. So the Commission has

20 before it a recommendation to approve new owners of

21 iAnthus Capital Holdings which is the parent company to

22 iAnthus, New Jersey which is the 100 percent owner of

23 MPX, New Jersey. IAnthus was approved as the owner of

24 MPX, New Jersey in January of this year. There are

25 three new owners representing all over five percent

1 equity in iAnthus Capital Holdings who by way of the
2 internship of iAnthus, New Jersey and the ownership of
3 MPX, New Jersey, LLC would be interest holders in MPX,
4 New Jersey. They have undergone vetting, criminal
5 history background checks, complied with all of our
6 regulations. This is related to a recapitalization
7 transaction. It is not our duty or our goal to approve
8 that recapitalization transaction, but the result of it
9 is the addition of these new ownership groups as part
10 of iAnthus. And given that they've complied with our
11 regulations, no disqualifying information or otherwise
12 have been found, we recommend approval of these new
13 owners -- new interest holders in the permit holder,
14 MPX, New Jersey, LLC.

15 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Very good. And
16 thank you again, Executive Director Brown. Do I hear a
17 motion to approve the change of ownership for iAnthus
18 Capital Holdings?

19 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Vice Chair,
20 I move to adopt the resolution concerning the change of
21 ownership for iAnthus Capital Holdings.

22 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Okay. Moved by
23 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Do I hear a second?

24 COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

25 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Seconded by

1 Commissioner Nash. Any discussion? Okay. Hearing no
2 further discussion, Ms. Blake, can you please call the
3 vote?

4 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Barker?

5 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Nay.

6 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del
7 Cid-Kosso?

8 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

9 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Nash?

10 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

11 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Vice Chair Delgado?

12 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

13 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Commissioner Del

14 Cid-Kosso for Chairwoman Houenou?

15 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

16 DIRECTOR BLAKE: The resolution passes.

17 Next we have the open public comment period.

18 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you very
19 much, Ms. Blake. As Chairwoman Houenou has mentioned
20 in the past, members of the public can submit public
21 comments during and after this meeting in writing via
22 our website. That's nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. The
23 deadline for submitting written comments is by 5:00
24 p.m. Monday, September 12th. Written comments will be
25 shared with the Commission members and will be made

1 public along with meeting minutes. Speakers during
2 this afternoon's public comment period will be limited
3 three minutes. And you will have a time clock up on
4 the screen to help you along. Please be mindful and
5 precise during your comments. Please note that the
6 comment period is meant to give members of the public
7 an opportunity to address the Commission about matters
8 that the Commission should be aware of. It is not a
9 space for people to simply market or advertise private
10 businesses. Please keep remarks focused on matters
11 that pertain to the Commission's work or items that the
12 Commission should be aware of.

13 Ms. Blake will call out the names of the
14 speakers three at a time. When it's your turn to
15 speak, Ms. Blake will ask you to unmute yourself. If
16 you are dialing in on the phone, you will press star
17 six to unmute yourself when told to do so. In order
18 for our staff to unmute individuals who sign up to
19 speak, your full name or your phone number as it
20 appears on Zoom must match the name or phone number you
21 used to register to speak. So remember that. If your
22 full name or phone number doesn't appear on Zoom you
23 will not be able to speak. Please ensure that your
24 name matches the name you used to sign up. If you need
25 to change your name on Zoom's platform, exit the Zoom

1 meeting and immediately relaunch the Zoom meeting which
2 should prompt you to enter your name. If you are
3 joining us by phone, the phone from which you are
4 calling must match the number you used to sign up. We
5 will not be able to correctly identify you as a speaker
6 if your name or phone number does not match what you
7 used to sign up. Ms. Blake, I turn it over to you.

8 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Thank you, Vice Chair
9 Delgado. To reiterate, there will be a timer on
10 screen. It will be three minutes. But I will be
11 calling the names five at a time in fact.

12 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Oh. That's even
13 more efficient. Thank you.

14 MS. BLAKE: So if you hear your name,
15 please raise your hand and I will call you as I see
16 you. We're waiting for the clock, but in the interim I
17 will keep my eye on a timer. First five names, Ron
18 Riley, Junior, Scheril Murray Powell, Chirali Patel,
19 Robin Gulino, Paul Campano. Ron Riley, Junior, Scheril
20 Murray Powell, Chirali Patel, Robin Gulino and Paul
21 Campano. I see Scheril Murray Powell. Go ahead.
22 Scheril, go ahead.

23 MS. POWELL: Yes, good afternoon. This
24 is Scheril Murray Powell, Esquire. I'm a cannabis,
25 agricultural, dietary supplement, and trade attorney.

1 I also work for CSI. We do background screenings for a
2 number of commissions as well as license holders. And
3 I'm the COO of the JustUs Foundation which is based in
4 Harlem but an international organization. I just
5 wanted to commend the CRC for the diversity report that
6 was just presented. Well done. The number of people
7 who had formerly been incarcerated that got licenses,
8 one-third of the community, says a lot about the time
9 that was put into gathering public input as well as
10 developing the regulations. I think this is definitely
11 a role model opportunity for other states. So thank
12 you for that. On the last call I did speak about the
13 incomplete application issue that you guys have
14 encountered. And I want to volunteer our organization,
15 the JustUs Foundation. We work with legacy and social
16 equity to provide free support for their license
17 application. So I'm going to reiterate that point,
18 that we are available to support everyone in New Jersey
19 submitting for a license with their application for
20 free. Our websites is JustUs, J-U-S-T-U-S, dot
21 Foundation. And we are available to provide
22 application support. We have a number of application
23 grants available. We would love to work with existing
24 organizations that are doing this work. And I just
25 love the fact that we can contribute to building a very

1 robust, healthy, growing cannabis industry.

2 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Thank you, Scheril.

3 MS. POWELL: Thank you so much.

4 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Are any of the other
5 four, Chirali Patel, Robin Gulino, Paul Campano or Ron
6 Riley? Not seeing any of those individuals here I will
7 go on to the next five. Jade Sancho-Duser, Amanda
8 Fortuna, David Feder, Lonnie Affrime, Timothy
9 Andresini. I see Jade. Go ahead.

10 MS. SANCHO-DUSER: Hello. Thank you for
11 having me. I'm known in the population, the cannabis
12 New Jersey community, as RX Mary Jade. So I'm just
13 going to put that out there for anybody who knows me
14 and what I'm going to speak on today. I thought it was
15 interesting last time, last meeting you showed a little
16 bit of a pyramid. And in the corner of the pyramid was
17 customer service and patient care altogether. And it
18 couldn't help but spark a Bob Marley quote that I'm
19 sure we'll all appreciate: That the stone that the
20 builder refused will always be the head cornerstone.
21 And I really feel like we are being refused adequate
22 patient care, access and safety. Now, part of what I
23 do as an influencer in this community is I bring light
24 to problems. Now, among doing that I have actually
25 been approached by individuals who work for Air

1 Wellness, their staff members, the dispensary stating
2 patients take too long to order; they need to know
3 what's going on. And it just seems as though patients
4 are being bullied throughout this process because we
5 are the cornerstone. And before, you know -- the last
6 time I spoke at the end was a suggestion to reach out
7 to customer service. Now, I would prompt you to do
8 that yourself and try that and see how customer service
9 helps the patient who actually needs the service. I'd
10 like to see how having individuals having to sign some
11 type of non-disclosure form when they work at Zen Leaf
12 so that they aren't able to whistle blow about unsafe
13 materials or patient conditions or lack of patient
14 care, how they're actually being silenced. So there's
15 a lot going on that's just not even being presented to
16 the public that I've had the misfortune or fortune I
17 should actually say to be able to have access to
18 certain people who know certain things. And how are
19 they supposed to whistle blow if they can't even come
20 on a CRC meeting without their first and last name?
21 I'm really curious as to also where is all of this
22 money going to? Because, like, patient care is top
23 priority. Top priority. This entire program would not
24 exist without us. So what are we also doing about the
25 doctors that are just leaving the program? Leaving

1 patients without a doctor? Like, this is just not
2 acceptable. So it's great that these MSOs can expand.
3 However, who are they serving? Not us. And we are the
4 cornerstone. Bob said it first. We are the
5 cornerstone. And that's my time.

6 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Thank you very much.
7 The rest of that lot is Amanda Fortuna, David Feder,
8 Lonnie Affrime, Timothy Andresini. Any of those
9 individuals are present, please raise your hand. Next
10 five, Paul Josephson, John Marchetti, Buddy Greenberg,
11 Diana McElroy, Osbert Orduna. Paul Josephson, John
12 Marchetti, Buddy Greenberg, Diana McElroy and Osbert
13 Orduna. Buddy Greenberg, go ahead.

14 MR. GREENBERG: Hi, everybody. My name
15 is Buddy Greenberg. And I'm an aspiring cannabis
16 entrepreneur in New Jersey. The CRC's guiding
17 principles in creating this marketplace are equity and
18 safety. And despite regulations being over a year old
19 and license applications being accepted for nine months
20 now, there's been an abject failure to deliver. There
21 is no equity in the current marketplace. And primarily
22 due to the CRC's week performance on getting new
23 businesses licensed, the CRC is likely doing -- harming
24 not helping social equity, diversity and small business
25 applicants. The adult use market is an oligopoly of

1 eight MSOs not even from New Jersey who have the
2 political clout to get their ATCs expanded to adult use
3 ahead of everyone else. Those guys got fast tracked
4 and opened within two weeks of the New Jersey senate
5 hearing. No one else and no one from New Jersey has
6 been granted an annual license to operate in the adult
7 use market. The CRC likes to tout how many licenses
8 you've awarded and how most have been issued within
9 90 days. That's all been conditionals. And
10 regulations say 30 days to review conditionals. Three
11 times longer than expected shouldn't be a bragging
12 point. And a conditional license is a license that
13 grants you nothing. Nada. Wesley McWhite touting a
14 number of social equity diversity license awardees all
15 conditional is a giant red herring. I would hardly
16 call this success. A conditional grants nothing but
17 the opportunity to reapply and convert to an annual
18 license, starting a long waiting game all over again
19 before you have a license to open your doors and
20 operate. When I heard Jeff Brown say conversions and
21 annuals would take more like 180 days, I chocked. The
22 regulations say 90 days for annuals. Have you already
23 thrown in the towel in meeting your own targets in the
24 regulations? Come on, CRC, step it up. This is
25 important stuff. By delaying the openings of these new

1 businesses you're sending applicants into financial
2 ruin. The site control requirement for a real license
3 requires a lease or a purchase. Those real estate
4 carrying costs without the cash flow of an operational
5 business can be devastating financially. The longer
6 the CRC takes on license review the more businesses
7 will fail and the less equitable the market will be.
8 So in fact, the people you're charged with trying to
9 help the most you're causing potential lifelong harm
10 to. You're also extending the current oligopoly
11 indefinitely. And cannabis consumers will suffer as
12 well. Without increased competitive pressure those
13 MSOs are more likely to continue to charge high prices
14 for mediocre products. And repeatedly saying that
15 licenses will be reviewed quicker once the initial
16 surge of applications are processed is disingenuous.
17 I've done the analysis available at
18 crcaccountability.org. And the CRC saw a growing
19 backlog in just conditional applications to get through
20 as of mid July. Again, that's crcaccountability.org.
21 Thanks and God bless every applicant who has busted
22 their ass and put it all on the line here to help make
23 New Jersey's cannabis market an equitable and safe one.

24 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Thank you. John
25 Marchetti, go ahead.

1 MR. MARCHETTI: Hi. Thank you. My name
2 is John Marchetti. I'm the owner/operator of Scarlet
3 Reserve Room in Red Bank, New Jersey. We are awaiting
4 on our tier one license to be issued. I'd first like
5 to congratulate the Committee on the progress made so
6 far. And secondly, I'd like to thank the Committee for
7 the chance to voice my opinion today. A lot of what I
8 had to say was just covered from the previous caller,
9 but I will say as per what Commissioner Barker said
10 earlier, as business owners in this new industry we are
11 dealing with uneducated municipalities, the predatory
12 landlords, unrealistic general contractor timelines,
13 ATCs, and MSOs. Speaking of municipalities and powers
14 that they hold, some of these municipalities are making
15 it so hard and expensive that the small businesses and
16 micro businesses don't even have a chance. They're
17 making you go to community support. And some of the
18 people behind the community support are literally
19 asking for equity in the company. This is nothing but
20 legal extortion that I hope you guys are aware of and
21 take a closer look at. Another issue is the
22 aforementioned MSOs. MSOs are sneaking into the New
23 Jersey industry and there's no way the CRC doesn't know
24 about it. With all the due diligence and paperwork
25 that had to be submitted to the CRC for the

1 applications, you have to know the majority of the
2 micro licenses that were given out so far are backed by
3 MSOs. That gives independent businesses like mine no
4 chance. This is an industry about to first market.
5 The MSOs are sneaking in their social equity, then
6 going to the landlords, inflating the property prices
7 and the rent so that small businesses like myself gets
8 priced out. If my license was issued earlier, I'd have
9 the property and be locked in prior to the game that
10 these MSOs are playing. In addition to the MSOs, the
11 ATCs are turning the market into an all out cash grab
12 with lines around the block and customers waiting for
13 an hour sometimes only to get into the facility and all
14 the products are sold out. Again, as per Commissioner
15 Barker, the ATCs took full advantage of the CRC using
16 medical to get into recreational, and now we're leaving
17 the medical patients high and the dry. Excuse the pun.
18 This must be addressed and stopped. It was referenced
19 earlier by Commissioner Barker, so the CRC has to be
20 aware of it. In addition, I'd also like to touch on
21 what's going on with the consumption lounge licenses.
22 There's been no updates on this. And similar to other
23 licenses pending, there are business owners like
24 ourselves out here holding property notes waiting on
25 some guidance. Thank you for your time. And I hope

1 you take these issues seriously and make immediate
2 changes to address this.

3 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Thank you. Osbert
4 Orduna, go ahead.

5 MR. ORDUNA: Good afternoon,
6 Commissioners. First I'd like to wish congratulations
7 to the conditional license recipients that received
8 their licenses today and also to wish good luck to
9 those conditional applicants that were extended today
10 that have been going through the struggle of trying to
11 secure real estate, municipal approval, and to clear
12 some many of the other hurdles that exist in this
13 process. My name is Osbert Orduna. I am the owner of
14 the Cannabis Place 420 Corp. We're a class five adult
15 use dispensary applicant that has both municipal
16 approval and site control of our proposed retail
17 location. We have made history as the first Latino and
18 disabled veteran owned business to successfully
19 complete the Jersey City municipal approval process.
20 Yet, we are part of the pile of 932 application CURES
21 which equal according to the CRC stats 72 percent of
22 all of the applications that have been received.
23 That's a crazy statistic to see that 72 percent of the
24 applications have been unsuccessful in completing the
25 process on a first review. That shows that there's a

1 lack of potentially understanding, training and
2 additional resources that are needed by primarily
3 applicants who come from black and brown communities
4 and socially disadvantaged backgrounds which require
5 additional assistance to be able to successfully
6 complete a process. Over six weeks ago we immediately
7 responded to our CURE notice and were disappointed to
8 not see our name on the list of approved conditional
9 applicants. We stand ready to move forward and look
10 forward to the opportunity to launch our disabled
11 veteran owned and certified minority business as a
12 union shop dispensary which will be the first in the
13 state to do so; the first completely union staffed
14 dispensary shop. We stand by, we continue to look
15 forward to potentially October as the opportunity to
16 join the ranks of conditional licensed applicants
17 remains open to us. We thank you for your time. We
18 thank Commissioner Barker for his outstanding comments
19 today. And we look forward to the opportunity to join
20 the ranks of the opportunity that cannabis has brought
21 to the State of New Jersey. Thank you.

22 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Thank you. The next
23 five, Timothy Michael James, Eugene Laverne, Tanya
24 Tripi-Weiss, Robert Wilder Samson and Barry Doll. Are
25 any of those people present? Timothy Michael James,

1 Eugene Laverne, Tanya Tripi-Weiss, Robert Wilder
2 Samson, Barry Doll. A reminder that if you don't have
3 a full name that matches the name that you registered
4 to speak with or a phone number that matches we cannot
5 identify you as a registered speaker. Summer
6 Westerubr, Scott Carter, Lorenzo Richardson, Gabriella
7 Wilday, Eric Brody. Summer Westerubr, go ahead. Go
8 ahead, Summer.

9 MS. WESTERUBR: Sorry. Thank you,
10 Commissioners, for the work that has gone into
11 establishing this regulated cannabis framework for New
12 Jersey. My name is Summer Westerubr representing
13 Devine Greens. I'm applying for a social equity woman
14 owned class five license. I also own an insurance
15 agency specializing in cannabis business in multiple
16 states including New Jersey. And in that role I've
17 spoken with many other license hopefuls. I wanted to
18 share my experience as a woman with prior cannabis
19 convictions navigating this process. Firstly, I'm
20 grateful that you carved out categories prioritizing
21 people like me. One area that could be approved is the
22 wait times for obtaining woman owned certification and
23 appeals. I think that what was meant to help women is
24 actually holding many of us back. My conditional
25 application was ready to be submitted May 4th. And

1 without that obstacle of woman owned certification
2 appeal we would have been submitted on May 4th. One
3 consequence was that we actually lost our real estate.
4 I now do have that certification. And I'm in the
5 process of property negotiations in an impact zone, but
6 it is incredibly challenging. And I just wanted to
7 share that comment for future women who are applying.
8 In contrast, the New Jersey State Cannabis application
9 has been very accessible, simplified. I appreciate the
10 ability to submit documents online. The office is very
11 responsive to questions and issues. One maybe (sic) I
12 had was maybe the cannabis division could handle future
13 women owned certifications just for these licenses so
14 that people like my partner and I who are just two
15 women would not be waiting months to submit our
16 application setting us pretty far behind the
17 competition. But, again, I just want to thank you for
18 prioritizing social equity in women applicants. Other
19 states have obviously not been so progressive. And
20 it's deeply appreciated in an industry that continues
21 to see women owned business decline. And we look
22 forward to helping New Jersey show the country and the
23 world that the regulated cannabis industry can be used
24 to create equity for women, victims of the drug war,
25 and other marginalized communities. Divine Greens

1 hopes to become the example of success for your social
2 equity program prioritizing people whose lives were
3 damaged by the drug war like me. And I just wanted to
4 share with you the challenges that I faced. So thank
5 you.

6 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Thank you. Gabriella
7 Wilday, go ahead. Gabriella? Going once. Gabriella
8 Wilday? Okay. Please try again if you work your audio
9 issues out. Moving on to Hugh Giordano, Orville Carlos
10 McNally and Kevon Carter. Hugh Giordano, go ahead.
11 Hugh?

12 MR. GIORDANO: Yes, hello. Hugh
13 Giordano from the United Food and Commercial Workers
14 Union, Local 360. I first want to congratulate all the
15 conditional license winners. As the official labor
16 union that represent cannabis workers along with the
17 guys of the AFL-CIO, we can't wait to work with you. I
18 also want to say thank you to Commissioner Barker for
19 his comments today. It really struck home because
20 yesterday there was an article released through NBC
21 where here in the United States there is human
22 trafficking for undocumented citizens happening in
23 (inaudible.) So when we say (inaudible) bargaining
24 agreement that means workers rights, safety,
25 protections. The fact that we have these immigrant

1 workers being treated the way that they're being
2 treated still and this industry's happening,
3 strengthens the message of why social equity, economic
4 justice must come along with worker rights more than
5 ever. So I want to commend Commissioner Barker for
6 bringing that up today. And then of course the rest of
7 the Commissioners who always speak up for workers'
8 rights. You have no idea how important that is. I
9 also want to say thank you for the expansion of Ascend.
10 I'm a realist. And we know that in these partnerships
11 we have bumpy roads. And there's no doubt that the
12 employers must do better for working class people. But
13 Ascend has done a good and valid job in working with
14 us. We have good conversations. They are very decent
15 when it comes to following the rule of the law, when it
16 comes to labor peace agreements, and activating those
17 agreements. They give us proper access, access to the
18 workers. It is a good relationship. And it's getting
19 better day by day. And so we appreciate that. But
20 Commissioner Barker's comments almost must stay
21 relevant in that conversation because we can do better,
22 but we are doing what we must do. We are trying our
23 best as a union which I mean the workforce to make sure
24 that these are valid points going forward. So we're
25 happy to see Ascend in the expansion mode and happy to

1 see those workers have the opportunity to have more
2 hours. In saying that, we appreciate everything you do
3 from the UFCW, from the AFL-CIO, also the building
4 trades. Good jobs is social equity. Economic justice
5 is making sure that people can put food on their table,
6 pay their bills. And we hope to see more of that
7 leadership. Thank you.

8 DIRECTOR BLAKE: Thank you. Gabriella
9 Wilday, let's again. Gabriella? Gabriella, we can't
10 hear you. Okay. Vice Chair Delgado, that ends the
11 list of registered public speakers for today.

12 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you very
13 much, Ms. Blake. And to the public, thank you for your
14 input this afternoon. This concludes the business
15 before today. Commissioners, do I have a motion to
16 adjourn?

17 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Vice Chair,
18 if I may before we conclude, I just would like the
19 floor for a few minutes.

20 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Absolutely. You
21 have the floor, Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso.

22 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Well, first
23 of all, Happy Friday. I know we're not going to meet
24 until October 20th. So I'd like to just take this time
25 to recognize that Hispanic Heritage Month is

1 September 15th, a month-long celebration where we get
2 to honor and highlight a lot of the contributions of
3 the Hispanic community in the U.S. and New Jersey. New
4 Jersey is home to about 1.7 million Hispanics, one of
5 the largest minority groups in the U.S. and the second
6 fastest growing group in the nation right behind Asian
7 Americans, many of whom are entrepreneurs, educators,
8 medical professionals, legal professionals, factory
9 workers, farmers, service members or veterans. And the
10 list of strong contributions continues. So with that,
11 I'd like just to close off by saying I'm wishing
12 everyone a Happy Hispanic Heritage Month. Thank you.

13 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you,
14 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. That's from Thursday,
15 September 15th through Saturday, October 15th.

16 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Correct.

17 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Do I have a motion
18 to adjourn?

19 COMMISSIONER NASH: Vice Chair Delgado,
20 may I have the floor? I just have a couple comments.

21 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Absolutely,
22 Commissioner Nash.

23 COMMISSIONER NASH: First I would just
24 to acknowledge Atlantic City, Plainfield and Ewing for
25 their robust and equitable cannabis programs. And I

1 would encourage municipal leaders maybe at the League
2 this year to catch up with the teams from those towns
3 to maybe take a page from what they're doing. On
4 another note, just adding to Commissioner Barker and
5 also Mr. -- Commissioner Barker and Mr. Giordano's
6 comments, the labor peace agreements that are part of
7 the applications are not just an item to check the box.
8 They're a mutual -- it's a mutual contract. And we
9 want to see labor protections in this market. And we
10 want to ensure that when you submit those agreements
11 that you're complying with those terms like allowing
12 the unions to access the properties and meet with the
13 majority of the employees, when the union
14 representatives request employee information that that
15 is provided. So again, it's not a one-and-done. And
16 we want to see everyone succeed and workers have
17 protections. So I encourage you to comply with the
18 terms of those documents. And lastly, I just wanted to
19 touch on WIRES for a minute. We offered some guidance.
20 And according to the regulations, we must provide regs
21 at some point regarding the Workplace Impairment
22 Recognition Experts. I attended an overdose awareness
23 vigil last month for Overdose Awareness Day. And I saw
24 a lot of names and pictures of people who died from the
25 opioid epidemic. And what I find ironic is that in

1 safety sensitive jobs like construction there is a
2 heightened look to ensure that we get these WIRES
3 guidance out. But people are not dying from marijuana.
4 They're dying from much harder drugs that they go to
5 work every day and use and that they are being
6 prescribed. And ironically, people that are in
7 construction who get hurt they would benefit from
8 having marijuana prescribed or given to them in lieu of
9 addictive painkillers and opioids. So just a takeaway.
10 We need to really focus on the stigma of cannabis and
11 hopefully one day remove that. Thank you, Vice Chair.

12 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you,
13 Commissioner Nash for those comments. Much
14 appreciated. So before I ask for a motion to adjourn
15 for the third time, Commissioner Barker, do you have
16 anything to say? Do you want the floor?

17 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Mr. Chair, no
18 comments. I'm prepared. I would echo the sentiments
19 from Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso in highlighting
20 Hispanic Heritage Month. In the same vein, I would
21 highlight Commissioner Nash's comments. Thinking
22 through real quick, I just really would like to expand
23 upon what Director McWhite touched on what. Access to
24 capital technical assistance are not lost on us. We
25 hear you, public. We hear you, organizations, advocacy

1 groups. You know, just really went through ACLU's
2 latest recommendation report. Trust please that we are
3 working on -- we have been working on those programs.
4 And we're confident that when we roll them out soon the
5 public advocacy groups and organizations will see that
6 we really put our committed efforts behind what we're
7 rolling out. And we also want your feedback when you
8 do see it. And so know that we are committed to this.
9 And we're going to see it through as best we can. We
10 want to thank you for your feedback in holding us
11 accountable. That's all, Vice Chair.

12 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you,
13 Commissioner Barker. So for the third time this
14 afternoon do I have a motion to adjourn?
15 Commissioners?

16 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Vice Chair, I move
17 to adjourn this meeting.

18 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Do I have a second?

19 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

20 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Moved and second.
21 I don't think have to discuss it any further, but are
22 there any discussions out there? Any further
23 discussion? None. Hearing none, all those in favor
24 say aye to adjourn.

25 [All responded "aye."]

1 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: All those opposed
2 say nay. Any abstentions? No abstentions. The motion
3 passes. Thank you, all, for joining the meeting this
4 afternoon. I tell the public to please visit our
5 website to view information about upcoming meetings.
6 Our meetings will continue to be conducted virtually
7 until further notice. The time is 2:56. And we are
8 now adjourned. Have a good afternoon and have a good
9 evening, ladies and gentlemen.

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11 (The matter is adjourned at 2:56 p.m.)

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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 **September 9, 2022**.



Daniel Said

Christopher Riggs
Chief Counsel

Daniel Said
Board Secretary

Date: September 14, 2022

Date: September 14, 2022