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NEW JERSEY CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING
VIDEO RECORDING

Location: New Jersey Casino Control Commission
Arcade Building
1325 Boardwalk & Tennessee Avenue
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023
Time: 11:00 a.m.

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1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

2

3 DIANNA HOUENOU, Chair

4 SAMUEL DELGADO, Vice Chair

5 KRISTA NASH, Commissioner

6 CHARLES BARKER, Commissioner

7 JEFF BROWN, Executive Director

8 DANIEL SAID, Board Secretary

9 WESLEY MCWHITE, Director of Diversity and Inclusion

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

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3 CLAUDIA POST, Member of the Public

4 DIANA MCELROY, Member of the Public

5 NIKIA RIVERA, Member of the Public

6 WEDEEHA JACKSON, Member of the Public

7 HUGH GIORDANO, Member of the Public

8 TODD EDWARDS, Member of the Public

9 CHRISTOPHER RODMAN, Member of the Public

10 ALBERTO NICASIO, Member of the Public

11 FRUQAN MOUZON, Member of the Public

12 TIYAHNN BRYANT, Member of the Public

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1 CHAIR: Good morning everyone. Welcome to
2 the Cannabis Regulatory Commissions meeting of the
3 Board of Commissioners. The time is 11:04 a.m. and I
4 call this meeting to order. Mr. Said, can you please
5 read the notice of the Public Meeting?

6 THE SECRETARY: Chair Houenou, this is a
7 regularly scheduled meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis
8 Regulatory Commission's 2023 annual meeting schedule.
9 Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in
10 accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public
11 Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was provided to
12 the Asbury Park Press, Atlantic City Express, Bergen
13 record, courier post star Ledger, and the Trenton Times
14 on January 11, 2023.

15 The agenda and information regarding the
16 virtual nature of the meeting was also posted on the
17 CRC website. The meeting time and location has also
18 been posted on the website of the New Jersey Cannabis
19 Regulatory Commission and with the office of the
20 Secretary of the State.

21 CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Said, can we --
22 can you take roll call please?

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

24 MR. BARKER: Present.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Del Coso (ph)

1 is absent. Commissioner Nash?

2 MS. NASH: present.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

4 VICE CHAIR: Present.

5 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

6 CHAIR: Present.

7 THE SECRETARY: We now have a quorum. The
8 first order of business is for the commission to go
9 into executive session to discuss legal matters and
10 litigation updates. These are discussions that are not
11 shared with the public. We believe the executive
12 session should take about 60 minutes.

13 CHAIR: Thank you. I will ask for a
14 motion to go into executive session.

15 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair Houenou, I move
16 that we go into executive session.

17 CHAIR: Is there a second?

18 MR. BARKER: Second that Madam Chair.

19 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Barker.

20 Is there any discussion on the motion to go into
21 executive session? Hearing no discussion, all those in
22 favor say, hi.

23 TOGETHER: Yea.

24 CHAIR: All those opposed say, nay? Any
25 abstentions? Hearing none, the motion passes. We will

1 now go into executive session. Again, the executive
2 session is anticipated to last approximately one hour.
3 So we will resume the public portion of this meeting
4 around 12:07 p.m. Thank you for your patience
5 everyone.

6 (Pause)

7 CHAIR: All right. The time is 12:55 p.m.
8 and we will resume this -- the public portion of this
9 meeting. Apologies for the extra delay for the
10 executive session, we know that there -- we try to --
11 we try our best to -- to stay on our estimated timeline
12 for executive session. But sometimes there are just a
13 lot of really important things that we have to unpack
14 and make sure that we thoroughly discuss as necessary.
15 So I thank you all for your patience with the extra
16 executive session time.

17 But with that said, we will dive right in
18 to -- to our next item. And I believe that Mr. Said
19 has an update to the notice of the public meeting to
20 share before we start with the -- the meaning of our
21 program.

22 THE SECRETARY: Yes, Chairwoman Houenou,
23 this is an amendment to the opening statement. The
24 commission meeting has been re-noticed in the newspaper
25 -- in two newspapers on -- on July 13th in accordance

1 with the Senator Byron M. Bearer, Open Public Meetings
2 Act.

3 CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Said. All right.
4 And can you please announce the next item?

5 THE SECRETARY: Yes. Next up on the
6 agenda is approving the minutes of both the commissions
7 open sessions and executive sessions held on June 1st
8 and June 21st. The minutes have been shared with the
9 members of the commission prior to this meeting.

10 CHAIR: Thank you. If there are no
11 requested changes or amendments to the meeting minutes,
12 I will ask for a motion to adopt the public meeting --
13 public meeting minutes for the June 1st and June 21st
14 public meeting.

15 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
16 we accept the public meetings minutes for June 1st and
17 what was the other date?

18 CHAIR: June 21st.

19 VICE CHAIR: June 21st, thank you,
20 meetings.

21 CHAIR: Thank you.

22 MR. BARKER: Second, that Madam Chair.

23 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado,
24 seconded by Commissioner Barker. Is there any
25 discussion on this motion? Hearing none, all those in

1 favor say, Hi.

2 TOGETHER: Yea.

3 CHAIR: All those opposed, say, nay. Any
4 abstentions? Hearing none, the motion passes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Next on the agenda is the
6 Chair's report.

7 CHAIR: Thank you. For today's Chair's
8 report, I really don't have much of substance. I just
9 want to thank the -- the New Jersey Casino Control
10 Commission for letting us use their space for today's
11 board meeting. And I'm glad to see so many people were
12 able to attend and -- and fill in here down in -- down
13 in Atlantic City. So thank you to the commission for
14 their generosity and lending of their staff to help us
15 conduct this meeting.

16 But the next public board meeting is at
17 present anticipated to be back in our regular --
18 regular meeting place on Clinton Avenue --

19 THE SECRETARY: Uh-huh.

20 CHAIR: -- in Trenton, right next to the
21 train station. So be on the lookout on our website for
22 details in the agenda for that meeting. And that's all
23 I have for today's chair's report.

24 THE SECRETARY: Next on the agenda is the
25 Executive Director's Report.

1 CHAIR: Director Brown, you have the
2 floor.

3 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Chairwoman
4 Houenou. So just a couple things to touch on today;
5 Number one, since we've concluded fiscal year 23, I'm
6 going to present fiscal year 2023 present on some
7 delegated authorities, gonna cover, ATC ID cards,
8 cannabis business ID cards, patients and caregivers.
9 And then at our next meeting once all of our finances
10 have been reconciled for the fiscal year, we'll present
11 on any, you know, final purchases related to the last
12 fiscal year, so -- and then provide a licensing update.
13 And then I'm going to turn it over to Director McWhite
14 to talk about some things that his office is doing,
15 both related to recreational and medicinal cannabis.

16 So looking at last fiscal year which
17 concluded on June 30th, throughout the year, we issued
18 close to 6,000 alternative treatment center
19 identification cards. These are cards that allow
20 people to work at alternative treatment centers. 2,737
21 went to new employees and 2,938 went to employee
22 renewals. The industry is growing, so we're issuing
23 more cards. We additionally launched the issuance --
24 we launched our cannabis Business ID platform I believe
25 in April and thus far I've issued 141 cannabis business

1 ID cards to employees of exclusively recreational
2 businesses.

3 Looking at the medicinal cannabis program,
4 the number of patients enrolled in FY23, we issued over
5 40,000 cards to patients in the year. That includes
6 both new patients and renewals. And our total
7 enrollment still remains over 100,000 and 102,908. For
8 caregivers, we issued 2,736 caregiver cards during
9 fiscal year 2023 and have over 5,000 caregivers 5,342
10 caregivers enrolled at the end of the fiscal year. I'm
11 gonna just pause there and see if there's any question
12 from the -- the board before I proceed to the licensing
13 update.

14 CHAIR: No questions from the board.

15 MR. BROWN: Great. So looking at our --
16 our licensing update, we've now received 2,118
17 applications for cannabis business licenses. Most of
18 those remain applications for conditional licenses.
19 We've approved 1,309 applications.

20 There are only 66 applications have yet to
21 advance to completeness review. And in important
22 statistic, we have -- there are 80 applications under
23 review in the Office of Licensing. There are also 350
24 applications in the Office of Licensing that have been
25 issued a cure and we're just waiting on a resubmission

1 from those applicants. So the majority of applications
2 that are under the Office of Licensing are pending a
3 cure.

4 One thing I want to highlight in those
5 statistics is that the -- the numbers for annual
6 applications and particularly for social equity
7 businesses. And this is where I'm later going to turn
8 it over to Director McWhite to talk a little bit about
9 the outreach he's doing, but we only received 24 annual
10 social equity business licenses. We've received far
11 more social equity business license applications for
12 conditional conversions. And of those 24, 22 are --
13 are in cure status. And so Wesley's office, he's going
14 to talk about, has been conducting some outreach there
15 to get them back in resubmitted and moving forward in
16 the process.

17 We are seeing more conditionals
18 submitting, which is good. We are seeing more social
19 equity business applications within that conditional
20 cohort. And as of today 330 conditional conversions
21 have been submitted. We still have well now 287
22 applications under review in the Office of Compliance
23 and Investigations. And that includes applications
24 that are being QC'd and ready to move forward to the
25 board at the -- at the next meeting.

1 So the team continues to work. We wanna
2 get through all of these applications. Everyone
3 that's, you know, ready to move forward, try to do so,
4 before we open up for -- for new license application
5 types. For consideration today, there's 40
6 conditionals, 35 conditional to annual conversions, 17
7 annuals, four expanded ATC certifications and then one
8 annual license renewal and with that, if there are no
9 questions, I'm going to pass it over to Wesley McWhite
10 to talk about some medicinal cannabis initiatives and
11 then outreach to applicants.

12 MR. MCWHITE: Sure. So Madam Chair,
13 through the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, we wanna
14 to continue to be a resource to individuals that need a
15 cure or that have already received a cure and need to
16 cure their application. As always, my contact
17 information is -- is at the bottom of Social Equity
18 Cures. For anyone else that does not have my direct
19 information at the bottom of your letter, you can
20 always reach us at odiatcrc@nj.gov or 6093767300. I
21 say that because me and -- and my team of two are
22 constantly calling our cure application -- applicants,
23 those individuals that are in the cure process to help
24 them and give them resources to in fact cure their
25 deficiencies. But folks still probably aren't calling

1 us back because they think we might be bill collector
2 'cause of the 609 number or not responding to our e-
3 mails.

4 So we implore folks to -- to always reach
5 out to us if you have not heard from us yet. And we're
6 gonna continue to make those calls and continue to make
7 those direct one-on-one sorts of outreach for folks
8 that need it most. But what we are still seeing is
9 still a high number of cures, individuals that are
10 applying under the wrong priority. So you wanna make
11 sure that you're filling out the portal correctly and
12 that you understand that you are applying as the right
13 priority with the right types of proof. Individuals
14 may not live in an EDA, are still trying to apply as
15 social equity.

16 And I wanna to say this to be very clear,
17 right? When we talk about social equity in the
18 cannabis space here in the state of New Jersey, the
19 definition for social equity is either those that have
20 specific types of past cannabis convictions or live in
21 an economically disadvantaged area. Social equity does
22 not mean I am a minority. You have certain
23 designations for folks that are of minority status but
24 may not be social equity.

25 So when you hear social equity, please --

1 please double check and make sure that you either live
2 in an economically disadvantaged area for five of the
3 last 10 years, or -- yes for five of the last 10 years,
4 or have passed cannabis criminal convictions. Does
5 that make sense to everybody in the room?

6 TOGETHER: (Inaudible).

7 MR. MCWHITE: All right. So folks are
8 still not providing those proofs of residency on the
9 social equity attestation form that has to be signed
10 and notarized on the third and fourth page after your
11 signature or resources, a list of resources to help you
12 pick out which proofs of residency you need for each
13 year. The individuals are still applying as wholesale
14 distributor, or delivery licenses. And as we know, the
15 portal has not been open for that, and that will be
16 opening in September.

17 Essentially people are submitting
18 incomplete applications. Submitting an incomplete
19 application does not get you reviewed before -- get you
20 in front of the board quicker, and in fact, it slows
21 your time down to get you through the approval process.
22 So try to think of the CRC of the DMV. You wouldn't go
23 to the DMV with the -- with the least amount of points.
24 You wanna to go with as many points as you can. I go
25 with more than enough points just in case they say

1 something doesn't work. So please take your time when
2 you are filling out the application. Use our website.
3 We have an application checklist, we have 10 ways to
4 double to -- to -- to prepare to complete an
5 application, we have a pre-application webinar that was
6 hosted by our executive director, and we have a social
7 equity attestation tutorial that walks you through this
8 process.

9 With that being said, we are excited to be
10 reaching out to our medical patient community. We'll
11 be doing onsite reviews for individuals who are of
12 active status. We are -- we'll be assisting folks that
13 want to create, or a patient or a caregiver portal and
14 registration. We'll be helping patient and caregivers
15 with renewals in person resubmitting documentation,
16 adding or changing a caregiver address changes and
17 payments. When are we doing this? We are doing this
18 in the month of August and we are doing this at three
19 onsite locations. And we'll have all this information
20 confirmed and sent out to you all a part of our e-mail
21 list and we'll be blasting on social media. We'll be
22 doing one in Trenton, Newark, and Bridgeton. But
23 remember your eligibility, you must be an active
24 status. You must have access to an e-mail, a personal
25 e-mail and you must have your proper documentation that

1 you would need to renew or to do some of these in-
2 person things that we are offering to the public.

3 So we are really excited to stay
4 connected. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion is
5 not to -- is to make sure that we are promoting the CRC
6 and the cannabis industry, not just on the adult side -
7 - adult youth side, but also on the medical side as
8 well. And so we're excited to be amongst the people, I
9 think we called it, we outside the Office of Diversity
10 and Inclusion. Diana -- Chairwoman Houenou we are
11 outside and so we're gonna to stay outside to help as
12 many people as we can. I'll turn it back over to Jeff.

13 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Director McWhite.
14 That concludes the ED's report and thank you, Director
15 McWhite for the efforts of you and your staff members.
16 Those in-person patient signups are gonna be really
17 great. And I do wanna note in addition to what Wesley
18 gave out, we also now have for any applicant that wants
19 to reach a live person on our website, there's a live
20 phone number to get a status update on your
21 application. If you can either use the -- the e-mail
22 address or you can call the number to get a live
23 person. So that is now live on our website and able to
24 be used. So with that, back to you Chairwoman Houenou.

25 CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown and

1 Director McWhite. Yes, we are not Bill collectors,
2 please pick up the phone when the Office of Diversity
3 and Inclusion is reaching out to you so that your
4 application can be completed and then get to the board
5 for approval. Any question for the board, for Director
6 Brown or Director McWhite?

7 VICE CHAIR: No question, but just a brief
8 comment. Just wanna -- again, if I may, Madam Chair?

9 CHAIR: Go ahead.

10 VICE CHAIR: I just wanna thank you,
11 Director McWhite, you and your team ODI, thank the
12 staff. I did hear, which I think is critical in-person
13 patient signups, we know that are medicinal numbers are
14 decreasing and that is a priority. And I do think it's
15 critical that we get into communities and remove the
16 stigma and meet them where they are. And so thank you
17 for going to the community, educating and potentially
18 adding and increasing our medicinal population and on -
19 - on -- in those efforts, just wanted to share that.

20 CHAIR: All right. With that, we will
21 move on to the next agenda item.

22 THE SECRETARY: Next item on the agenda is
23 the Permitting and Licensing committee report.

24 CHAIR: All right. So Commissioner Del
25 Coso typically gives the committee report for the

1 committee since she is a new mommy and is on leave, I
2 will be -- I'll be delivering this month's -- I'm
3 sorry. I will be delivering this committee report
4 today.

5 So in the month of June, the Permitting
6 and Licensing Committee, granted 96 extensions to
7 conditional license holders. These are folks who have
8 reached out to the -- the Permitting and Licensing
9 committee to request an extension due to a myriad of --
10 of reasons. However, the top three reasons that we
11 continue to see showing up in the extension requests
12 are lack of or delays with site control, delays with
13 municipal approval especially if the municipality has
14 imposed a really strict local licensing or local
15 approval process that requires businesses to get
16 approvals in a particular order.

17 Those municipalities -- we're seeing a lot
18 of requests for extension coming out of those
19 municipalities and lack of sufficient funding. Again,
20 all three of these are -- are outside of the
21 commission's control, but these continue to be the top
22 reasons that our conditional license holders are
23 requesting extensions. As we move on, the -- a total -
24 - since the Permitting and Licensing Committee started
25 granting extensions, a total of 561 extensions have

1 been granted and that is as of June 30th. Nearly 75%
2 are of our conditional licensees and 62% of the 2019
3 RFA award winners, like those medical operators have
4 requested extensions.

5 And I think this is important for the
6 committee to highlight because it demonstrates that
7 while the conditional license structure that is -- that
8 was created by the Cream Act, the -- the legislation
9 that established the framework for legal cannabis here
10 in New Jersey anticipated that conditional licenses
11 would be a temporary measure for -- that would allow
12 our cannabis business entrepreneurs to then take the
13 steps that were needed to then convert to an annual
14 license.

15 But we are seeing that because of the
16 reasons that we, you know, that are previously stated
17 that a number of them still continue to struggle with
18 getting municipal approval, property and funding that
19 allow -- that will allow them to -- to then convert to
20 an annual license, right? That coveted annual license
21 that we wanna see and even for our medicinal operators,
22 we see that this is a struggle too for them. So quite
23 high numbers, but we hope to that with time and as
24 municipalities continue to opt into allowing cannabis
25 businesses in their jurisdictions, we hope to see those

1 -- those percentages decrease.

2 The deadlines notably, the deadlines for
3 approximately 10 medical 2019 RFA winners to be permit
4 and operational have passed. If you are one of those
5 2019 RFA award winners, please -- please -- please
6 contact your assigned investigator immediately if you
7 need more time.

8 As -- as stipulated in the final ATC
9 decisions that are given to all of the medical RFA
10 award winners, there is a time period, you only have a
11 certain amount of time to be operational and get going.
12 But a number of folks have not contacted their -- their
13 inside investigators to give them updates on where
14 they're -- where they are and why they are not
15 operational. So reach out to you and signed
16 investigators. So missing these deadlines, it's really
17 important because missing these deadlines can result in
18 rescission of the award. So submit an extension
19 request as soon as possible if you find that you need
20 an extension.

21 The process for requesting extensions is
22 on our website, on our cannabis business page. You'll
23 see on the right hand side information about -- about
24 the extension request process, who qualifies to ask for
25 an extension, and then there is a button to complete

1 that will actually give you the, the form itself to --
2 to complete, to request an extension. And that is all
3 that I have for the permitting and licensing committee
4 report. So if there are any questions from the board,
5 I am happy to entertain those. All right, hearing
6 none, then we will move forward.

7 THE SECRETARY: Next item on the agenda is
8 the consideration of applications for name changes.

9 CHAIR: Director Brown, can you please
10 provide a summary of the applications that have been
11 received for name changes?

12 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
13 have three applications for name changes, all of which
14 have been previously awarded by the -- the commission
15 and are applying for name changes. The first is CSD
16 Manufacturing LLC, which seeks to be newly named Disco
17 Fries LLC, J and J Flowers, LLC seeks to be named J and
18 J Cannabis Dispensary LLC and then WR Wellness LLC to
19 Bay Street, Greener -- Greenery LLC. They've all
20 submitted the paperwork filed with treasury. Met our
21 requirements and are recommended for approval.

22 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
23 questions for Director Brown on the name changes -- the
24 information on name changes that he provided? All
25 right. Hearing none, I'll ask for a motion on this

1 matter.

2 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair Houenou, I move
3 that we approve the application of the name change, the
4 business names for adult use license awardees,
5 applicant names CSDE Manufacturing LLC, JJ Flowers LLC
6 and WR Wellness LLC.

7 CHAIR: All right. Moved by Vice Chair
8 Delgado, is there a second?

9 MS. NASH: Second.

10 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is
11 there any discussion on this motion? Hearing none, Mr.
12 Said, can you please call the vote?

13 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

14 MR. BARKER: Yea.

15 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

16 MS. NASH: Yes.

17 THE SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Delgado.

18 VICE CHAIR: Yea.

19 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

20 CHAIR: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

22 Next item on the agenda is the consideration of
23 applications for ownership changes for TerrAscend.

24 CHAIR: All right. Director Brown, I turn
25 it over to you for a summary.

1 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Chair Houenou. We
2 have two applications for ownership changes. One from
3 TerrAscend and then one from Verano. We're gonna cover
4 TerrAscend first. So TerrAscend proposes to change the
5 ownership of two licenses to two adult use retail
6 licenses while retaining a similar, you know, existing
7 ownership structure for other licenses and permits. In
8 short, this is not allowable pursuant to our
9 regulations. There's one person, one owner, one
10 license holder, one person, one principal one license
11 holder. And therefore, for that and another reasons
12 outlined in the memo before you, staff is recommending
13 denial for this ownership change.

14 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
15 questions from the board regarding the information
16 provided by Director Brown? Hearing none, I will ask
17 for a motion on this matter.

18 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve
19 the resolution denying the transfer of ownership for
20 two class five retailer licenses owned by TerrAscend
21 and JLLC and expanded ATC.

22 MR. BARKER: I second that.

23 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash,
24 seconded by Commissioner Barker. Is there any
25 discussion on this motion? I think that -- thank you,

1 Director Brown and -- and - and your -- for your team
2 on -- for the information and looking into the
3 potential issues here, of which there are -- there are
4 many, right? So for the -- as it pertains to our
5 regulations, New Jersey's regulations regarding
6 ownership is quite clear that this would not be
7 allowed.

8 Furthermore, on a practical standpoint, I
9 don't know how a business would operate to be in the
10 same facility in the same shop as an entirely different
11 entity and purport to -- to not have you be using the
12 same individuals, same employees, the same access to
13 security measures and -- and protocols. And so I think
14 there are a whole host of practical implementation
15 challenges to maintain separate businesses that are
16 operating out of one location. But at to me the -- the
17 concerns here, when I look at the information I'm --
18 I'm bit baffled by the -- the request. But, I think it
19 -- it's clear that the rules and regulations require
20 that any entity that wants to operate a cannabis
21 business and the state needs to submit an application
22 to do so and cannot be simply be created out of thin
23 air. So that is my comment on this item. Any other
24 discussion?

25 MR. BARKER: Go it.

1 CHAIR: All right, hearing no further
2 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

3 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

4 MR. BARKER: Nay.

5 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

6 MS. NASH: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

8 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

10 CHAIR: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

12 Next item on the agenda is the consideration of
13 applications for ownership changes for Verano.

14 CHAIR: Director Brown, I pass the floor
15 back over to you.

16 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Here,
17 Verano, simply proposes to remove an intermediary or
18 holding company from their ownership structure. The
19 ownership would otherwise stay the same. The
20 individuals and ultimate parent company remain the
21 same. Everyone involved has been appropriately vetted
22 and, you know, they've paid the requisite fees.
23 Therefore, staff recommends approving the ownership
24 change proposed by Verano.

25 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any

1 questions from the board regarding the information
2 provided by Director Brown?

3 TOGETHER: No.

4 CHAIR: Hearing no questions, I will ask
5 for a motion on this matter as it pertains to Verano NJ
6 LLC.

7 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve
8 the resolution for the transfer of ownership of Verano
9 New Jersey LLC from Verano NJ Holdings, LLC to Verano
10 Holdings LLC.

11 VICE CHAIR: I Second.

12 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash,
13 seconded by Vice Chair Delgado. Is there any
14 discussion on this motion? Hearing no discussion, Mr.
15 Said, can you please call the vote?

16 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

17 MR. BARKER: Yea.

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

19 MS. NASH: Yes.

20 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

21 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

23 CHAIR: Yes.

24 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

25 Next item for consideration is a medicinal cannabis

1 business, GTI requesting a satellite facility.

2 CHAIR: All right. Director Brown, I'd
3 give the floor to you to provide a summary of the
4 request from GTI.

5 MR. BROWN: Thank you Chair. So Green
6 Thumb Industries, GTI is applied to -- for a new
7 satellite cultivation facility. This satellite
8 cultivation facility is authorized by statute.

9 The statute says the commission shall
10 authorize, ATCs -- certain ATCs to have up to 150,000
11 square feet at up to two facilities. So GTI is
12 applying under that authority, they've submitted all
13 the requisite information to commission staff,
14 including site plans, the municipal approval, the
15 expansion justification, patient access plan. That,
16 you know, all the site control, documents as well as
17 labor peace agreement between GTI New Jersey and
18 quantified Labor Organization.

19 It -- it has been reviewed. Staff
20 believes it is compliant with our regulations for
21 medicinal cannabis facilities and therefore is ready
22 for permitting, in fact, it's -- we've already
23 inspected it and it is ready to go. So staff
24 recommends approving the permitting of GTI's
25 cultivation facility in Hackettstown, which just for it

1 -- it will additionally be -- it will start medicinal
2 only. This is for medicinal permitting only and then
3 could apply for under the expansion criteria and or
4 adult use rules in the future.

5 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Brown, are
6 there any questions from the board regarding the
7 information provided by Director Brown? Hearing none,
8 is there a motion on this matter as it pertains to GTI?

9 VICE CHAIR: Yes, Madam Chair Houenou, I
10 move that we accept the application by GTI New Jersey
11 LLC, for the permitting of a satellite cultivation
12 location for municipal cannabis in Hackett, New Jersey.

13 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
14 there a second?

15 MS. NASH: Second?

16 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash.
17 Commissioner Barker?

18 MR. BARKER: Yes.

19 CHAIR: Quicker than that. Is there any
20 discussion on this motion? Hearing none, Mr. Said, can
21 you please call the vote?

22 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

23 MR. BARKER: Yea.

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

25 MS. NASH: Yes.

1 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

2 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

4 CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

6 Next item for consideration is the conditional license
7 applications.

8 CHAIR: With respect to annual license or
9 adult use cannabis licenses. Mr. Director Brown, I
10 give the floor to you to provide a summary on the
11 license applications up for consideration.

12 MR. BROWN: Great. Thank you Madam Chair.
13 So I'm gonna to go over the process used for all of
14 these applications. And then we'll get into the -- the
15 specifics for each cohort, starting with conditionals,
16 then conversion to annual, and then finally annuals.
17 So in total we have 40 conditionals, 35 conversions,
18 two annuals from conditionals and 14 annuals up for
19 consideration.

20 The process when applications are
21 received, they're assigned a priority based on what
22 they apply as -- as -- as Director McWhite outlined.
23 That's critical start to the process because that
24 provides the order along with the time submitted for
25 which applications are reviewed. That priority is

1 verified to ensure they qualify either the social
2 equity business, diverse owned business impact zone
3 business or otherwise. Then staff conducts a
4 completeness review to make sure all the pieces of the
5 application required by statute and regulation are
6 there.

7 Finally, applications are scored. They
8 either get points or don't. It's kind of a pass, fail
9 and applications that score sufficiently high that get
10 the -- the full points are then able to move forward.
11 Staff then reviews applications that score sufficiently
12 high for qualification limitations as well as a review
13 of financial and management services agreements to the
14 extent they exist.

15 And this can include, when we're talking
16 about annuals and conditional conversions criminal
17 history, background check, as well as review of their -
18 - their financial sources. And then finally the -- the
19 qualification review quality control which, you know,
20 makes sure everything is -- is there that needs to be
21 there and then a recommendation to the CRC board.

22 So all the applications that are
23 recommended today have gone through all those steps.
24 The conditionals do not undergo a criminal history
25 background check, do not undergo the full qualification

1 review, but the other applications have and are
2 recommended for approval. So we'll start with the
3 conditionals. And I think they should be up on the
4 screen there and back to you.

5 CHAIR: All right. So again as we are now
6 doing -- thank you Director Brown. For those at home
7 or those unable to keep up with the -- the fine print
8 on the screen, I know my tired eyes can barely --
9 barely read anything. The -- this list of applications
10 that is being considered today is on our website. If
11 you go to the public meetings page under our agenda we
12 have hyperlinked the applications that are up for
13 consideration today.

14 So with that are there any questions from
15 the board for Director Brown about the conditional
16 license applications received? Hearing none is there a
17 motion on this matter?

18 MR. BARKER: Madam Chair, I move that we
19 consider the conditional license applications for
20 approval.

21 CHAIR: For approval? All right. Moved
22 by Commissioner Barker. Is there a second?

23 MS. NASH: Yea.

24 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is
25 there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no

1 discussion. Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

2 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

3 MR. BARKER: Yea.

4 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

5 MS. NASH: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

7 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

8 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

9 CHAIR: Yes.

10 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

11 Next item for consideration is the adult use cannabis
12 business application -- conversion license
13 applications.

14 CHAIR: Mr. Director Brown, I'll turn it
15 over to you to describe the conversion license -- the
16 licenses -- sorry. The applications to convert
17 conditional license to an annual license.

18 MR. BROWN: Thank you. So these
19 applications follow the exact process that -- that I
20 outlined before. They go through licensing, they are
21 complete, they have priority verification, they are
22 scored sufficiently high, and they undergo an
23 investigation for both criminal history as well as
24 financial sources. And then they're QC didn't
25 recommended for approval.

1 And so all of these conversion
2 applications before the board have gone through that
3 process and are recommended for approval, yes, back to
4 you.

5 CHAIR: Great. Thank you. Any questions
6 from the board regarding the applications to convert an
7 annual license to -- I'm sorry. A conditional license
8 to an annual license? New questions from the board.
9 Is there a motion on this matter?

10 MS. NASH: Yes, Madam Chair. I would like
11 to amend the resolution to remove 2583 for
12 consideration today?

13 CHAIR: There's a motion to remove
14 application number -- what was the application number
15 again?

16 MS. NASH: 2583, Cannabis Clubhouse

17 CHAIR: 2583, to remove that application
18 from consideration today, is that correct?

19 MS. NASH: That's correct.

20 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash is --
21 Commissioner Nash, would you care to detail what next
22 steps you see for the -- this particular application?

23 MS. NASH: I think we need to take a look
24 at the application a little more and come back after
25 we're satisfied that we have the answers to our

1 questions.

2 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash, is
3 there a second on this motion?

4 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair Houenou, I
5 second.

6 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.
7 Is there any discussion on this motion to remove
8 application number 2583 from consideration for further
9 -- for further review?

10 MR. BROWN: I just wanted -- I just wanted
11 to note on the record, staff does not object to -- to -
12 - to this motion, we're totally fine with it and
13 understand the concerns.

14 CHAIR: Great. Thank you, Director Brown.
15 Hearing no discussion on the motion to remove
16 application number 2583 from consideration for the time
17 being for further review, Mr. Said, can you please call
18 the vote?

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

20 MR. BARKER: Yea.

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

22 MS. NASH: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

24 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

1 CHAIR: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

3 CHAIR: So application number 2583 has
4 been removed and so we will revisit that at a later
5 date. Is there a motion as it pertains to the
6 remaining applications to convert a conditional license
7 to an annual license?

8 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I would like to
9 move to approve the resolution for consideration of
10 applications to convert from conditional to annual
11 class one cannabis cultivator, class two manufacturer
12 and Class five retailer.

13 CHAIR: Move by Commissioner Nash. Is
14 there a second?

15 VICE CHAIR: I second that.

16 MR. BARKER: I was (inaudible) defer to
17 you? Defer you, you lot wiser. You got it -- you got
18 it.

19 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.
20 Is there any discussion on this motion to approve the
21 remaining applications for conversion? Hearing no
22 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

24 MR. BARKER: Yea.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

1 MS. NASH: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

3 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

5 CHAIR: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

7 Next item for consideration is the adult use cannabis
8 business annual license applications.

9 CHAIR: And so I believe for these
10 applications we have to -- we have a few recusals and
11 so we will have to break this up into three parts. And
12 so with that, I will turn it over to Director Brown to
13 provide a summary on the application for an annual
14 license that have been received.

15 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. These
16 applications similar to the conditional conversions to
17 annuals went -- underwent priority assignment, priority
18 verification, completeness review, scored sufficiently
19 high to be considered by the commission have gone --
20 undergone review of qualification limitations,
21 financial management agreement review. We've conducted
22 quality control and there's been a -- and they're all
23 recommended to the Board of Commissioners for approval.
24 I believe there are 14 in the -- in the first cohort
25 here. All of them are recommended for approval and

1 they should be on the -- on the slide, I believe.

2 CHAIR: Next slide, please.

3 THE SECRETARY: There we go.

4 CHAIR: All right, perfect. Thank you.

5 All right. Any question from the board regarding the -

6 - the group of 14 applications for an annual license?

7 Hearing no questions from the board. Is there a motion

8 on this matter?

9 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve

10 the resolution for consideration of annual license

11 applications for Class one and Class two licenses.

12 CHAIR: Approved by commissioner -- I'm

13 sorry, moved by Commissioner Nash. Is there a second?

14 I will second the motion. Is there any discussion on

15 this motion? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, can you

16 please call the vote?

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

18 MR. BARKER: Nay.

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

20 MS. NASH: Yes.

21 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

22 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

24 CHAIR: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

1 Next item for consideration is the annual license
2 applications -- application numbers 1341 and 1360.
3 Chairwoman Houenou --

4 MR. BARKER: This -- this, yeah, oh, yeah
5 you have (inaudible).

6 THE SECRETARY: -- has recused herself
7 from application 1341 and 1360 for Stonehill
8 Manufacturing LLC. On account of her recusal, she will
9 remove herself from the public meeting while the board
10 considers this particular application. Afterward,
11 Chairwoman Houenou will come back in and will take up
12 the next order of business.

13 VICE CHAIR: Okay. And following
14 Chairwoman Houenou process, Commissioner Brown, I will
15 turn it over to you for a summary on Stonehill.

16 MR. BARKER: I got you.

17 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. So
18 these -- these two applications from Stonehill
19 Manufacturing LLC, followed the exact same process.
20 They've undergone a full review by staff, scored
21 sufficiently high, undergone the qualification review
22 quality control and are now recommended to the Board of
23 Commissioners for approval.

24 VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Director Brown.

25 MR. BROWN: You're welcome.

1 VICE CHAIR: Thank you. So with that
2 summary do I hear a motion on the floor to accept the
3 consideration -- annual license application for
4 Stonehill Manufacturing LLC?

5 MS. NASH: Vice Chair, I move to approve
6 the resolution for consideration of annual license
7 applications for Stonehill Manufacturing.

8 VICE CHAIR: Do I have a second?

9 MR. BARKER: I second that.

10 VICE CHAIR: Thank you very much,
11 Commissioner Barker. Is there any discussion on the
12 floor hearing briefly?

13 MR. BARKER: Briefly. I just would ask,
14 staff, could you please confirm the status of the
15 community agreements and the social equity initiatives
16 before license issuance for this applicant?

17 MR. BROWN: Yes.

18 MR. BARKER: Thank you.

19 MR. BROWN: And we will report back to the
20 -- to the board on that.

21 MR. BARKER: Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Commissioner
23 Barker. Thank you. With that call the vote?

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

25 MR. BARKER: Yea.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

2 MS. NASH: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

4 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

6 VICE CHAIR: Thank you. And call, Madam
7 Chair Houenou back. Madam Chair Houenou, I turn the
8 floor back to you.

9 CHAIR: Thank you, Vice Chair Delgado.

10 Mr. Said --

11 THE SECRETARY: Okay.

12 CHAIR: -- please announce the next item.

13 THE SECRETARY: Next item for
14 consideration is the annual license application number
15 2047. Commissioner Nash has recused herself from
16 application 2047 for Bridge City Collective Franklin
17 Township cannabis dispensary LLC. On account of her
18 recusal, she will remove herself from the public
19 meeting while the board considers this particular
20 application. Afterward, Commissioner Nash will come
21 back in and will take up the next order of business.

22 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Brown, I turn
23 it over to you for summary on application number 2047.

24 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Madam Chair, I'll
25 just note that this application has followed the exact

1 same process as previously explained on the record and
2 is recommended for approval by the commission.

3 CHAIR: Thank you. Any questions from the
4 board for Director Brown related to application number
5 2047? Hearing none, Mr. Said, I'm sorry.

6 THE SECRETARY: A motion?

7 CHAIR: Yes. Thank you.

8 THE SECRETARY: (Inaudible).

9 CHAIR: Is there a motion on this matter
10 as it pertains to application number 2047?

11 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair Houenou, I moved
12 it we accept application ID number 2047.

13 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
14 there a second? I will second the motion. Is there
15 any discussion on this motion to -- as it relates to
16 application number 2047 for approval? No discussion.
17 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

18 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

19 MR. BARKER: Nay.

20 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

21 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

22 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

23 CHAIR: Yes.

24 MR. BARKER: Resolution doesn't pass.

25 THE SECRETARY: The resolution does not

1 pass. The board has not taken action on this item.

2 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there --

3 MS. NASH: (Inaudible).

4 THE SECRETARY: I'm sorry.

5 CHAIR: -- is there -- is there another
6 motion on this -- on this matter -- on this agenda --
7 I'm sorry, on this application number 2047?

8 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair Houenou, I,
9 again, move that we accept application -- application
10 ID 2047.

11 CHAIR: Vice Chair Delgado would like to
12 move to -- again to accept the application, I'm sorry
13 to approve the application number 2047. Respectfully,
14 vice Chair Delgado, I think since we just had that --
15 that motion --

16 VICE CHAIR: Uh-huh.

17 CHAIR: -- your reiterated support is
18 noted. However, I don't believe it necessary to
19 entertain the -- the motions again.

20 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

21 CHAIR: However, if there is no other
22 motion on the matter, I believe this can be -- go back
23 to staff for reconsideration and further assessment and
24 then come back to the board for any additional or for
25 review and consideration for action.

1 VICE CHAIR: Very well. No discussion
2 though on my file.

3 CHAIR: So the board has not taken action
4 yet on this item, so it remains pending with the -- the
5 commission until we -- until we revisit it at a later
6 date. So Mr. Said, you can now announce the next
7 agenda item.

8 THE SECRETARY: The next item for
9 consideration is the Expanded Alternative Treatment
10 Center Certifications.

11 CHAIR: So we'll give Commissioner Nash a
12 moment to get back to her -- her seat, and then I'll
13 turn it over to Director Brown for summary remarks on
14 this item. Director Brown?

15 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. So we
16 have four alternative treatment center adult use
17 expansion certifications for review. As an overview of
18 what we look at here, what's required by statute and --
19 and by regulation and guidance are municipal approval
20 to expand into adult use or recreational sales, proof
21 of sufficient supply to continue to meet patient demand
22 after expansion. Plans to ensure patient access even
23 with while serving recreational consumers and plans to
24 address social equity and safety.

25 Our consideration of these expansions is

1 focused on patients. The number of patients enrolled
2 statewide, patient enrollment at the specific ATC
3 inventory, both statewide and at the ATC sales. At --
4 at the ATC current Medicinal Cannabis Canopy, canopy
5 needed to serve enrolled patients in the ATCs
6 production capacity in the event they are cultivator or
7 manufacturer.

8 The four expansion today are all retailers
9 two of which are the class are -- going for class five
10 retailers. First as part of vertically integrated
11 entities and then the other two are class standalone
12 class five retailers. These are Aunt Mary's in
13 Flemington, Brute's Roots in Egg Harbor Township,
14 Designed 710 right here in Atlantic City and URB'N
15 Dispensary in Newark and so all of these staff
16 recommends accepting their certification.

17 They've showed municipal approval, they've
18 showed they can meet both patient need as well as
19 recreational demand. And they've shown that they have
20 processes in place to comply with the requirements of
21 expansion, which include continuing to prioritize
22 patients even amidst recreational sales.

23 So all four of them are recommended for
24 approval. And I think I'll just turn it over to Mr.
25 Said, but we'll back to you, Madam Chair, but he can

1 just call the -- call each vote. And if there are any
2 questions for any of them, I'm happy to answer them.

3 CHAIR: Any questions from the board
4 regarding the information provided by Director Brown?

5 TOGETHER: No.

6 CHAIR: Hearing none, Mr. Said -- well.
7 Mr. Said, can you please announce the entity -- the
8 expanded ATC certification up first for consideration
9 for the board?

10 THE SECRETARY: Up first for consideration
11 is Aunt Mary's.

12 CHAIR: For Aunt Mary's. Is there a
13 motion as it relates to Aunt Mary's expanded ATC
14 certification?

15 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair Houenou, I move
16 that we accept Aunt Mary's standard ATC certification.

17 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
18 there a second?

19 MS. NASH: Second.

20 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is
21 there any discussion on this motion as it relates to
22 Aunt Mary's? Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please
23 call the vote?

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

25 MR. BARKER: Nay.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

2 MS. NASH: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

4 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

6 CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

8 Next up -- next item for voting is Brute's Roots.

9 CHAIR: With respect to Brute's Roots, is
10 there a motion as it relates to brute roots request to
11 be an expanded ATC?

12 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I move that
13 we accept the certification for Alternative Treatment
14 Center to Brute's Roots to expand to adult personal
15 cannabis roots market.

16 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
17 there a second?

18 MS. NASH: Second.

19 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is
20 there any discussion on the motion as it relates to
21 Brute's roots expanded ATC certification? Hearing none,
22 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

24 MR. BARKER: Nay.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

1 MS. NASH: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

3 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

5 CHAIR: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

7 Next item for a vote is Design 710.

8 CHAIR: For Design 710, is there a motion
9 on their request to become an expanded ATC?

10 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve
11 the resolution to accept the certification for URB'N,
12 was it URB'N? Oh, I'm sorry.

13 THE SECRETARY: Design 710.

14 MS. NASH: (Inaudible) Design 710, to
15 expand operations to the adult personal use cannabis
16 market.

17 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash. Is
18 there a second?

19 VICE CHAIR: I second that.

20 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.
21 Is there any discussion on this motion as it relates to
22 Design 710? Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please
23 call the vote?

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

25 MR. BARKER: Yea.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

2 MS. NASH: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

4 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

6 CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

8 Next item up for voting is URB'N.

9 CHAIR: Is there a motion as it relates to
10 the request to become an expanded ATC from URB'N
11 Dispensary?

12 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to approve
13 the resolution for acceptance of the certification of
14 URB'N Dispensary to expand operations to adult personal
15 use cannabis market.

16 CHAIR: Moved by Commissioner Nash. Is
17 there a second?

18 VICE CHAIR: I second.

19 CHAIR: Seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.
20 Is there any discussion on this motion as it relates to
21 URB'N Dispensary? Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you
22 please call the vote?

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

24 MR. BARKER: Abstain.

25 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

1 MS. NASH: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

3 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

5 CHAIR: Yes.

6 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

7 Next item for consideration is the Annual License
8 Renewals.

9 CHAIR: Director Brown, you have the floor
10 to provide a summary of the applications to renew the
11 annual Cannabis Business License.

12 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
13 have one annual license renewal, it's from Columbia
14 Care's Class one cultivator in Vineland, New Jersey.
15 Columbia Care's other locations we're up for renewal at
16 a previous meeting. We are looking at the renewal
17 application.

18 Columbia Care had to submit certification
19 as the continued material accuracy of the expanded ATCs
20 previous approved at ATC License act application, and
21 its compliance of the provisions of the act regarding
22 its operations concerning cannabis and cannabis items.

23 Updated written approval from the
24 municipalities in which the expanded ATC is located,
25 approving the continued operations as a cannabis

1 business. Additionally, staff reviews ongoing
2 compliance with the -- our full range of rules
3 including requirements that they submitted social
4 equity plans as part of their ATC expansion service --
5 certifications and Director McWhite's office is very
6 involved with getting monthly or quarterly reports from
7 them on their progress.

8 Columbia Care is recommended for renewal.
9 They certified and staff recommends accepting their
10 certification of the continued material accuracy
11 including they submitted the updated written approval.
12 They've updated their LPA, their Labor Peace Agreement
13 and we don't see any areas of concern at the moment for
14 compliance there.

15 Additionally, director McWhite's office,
16 office of Diversity and Inclusion has said that they do
17 not have any concerns with the renewal. Therefore
18 Columbia Care is recommended for renewal for their
19 Class one license in Vineland.

20 CHAIR: Thank you. Are there any
21 questions from the board with respect to the
22 information provided by Director Brown? Hearing none,
23 is there a motion on this matter as it relates to,
24 Columbia Care, New Jersey LLC?

25 VICE CHAIR: Ma'am, Chair Houenou, I move

1 to accept the renewal of adult use cannabis business
2 license for expanded alternative treatment center for
3 Columbia Care, New Jersey LLC.

4 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
5 there a second? I will second the motion. Is there
6 any discussion on this motion?

7 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, may -- may?

8 CHAIR: You may.

9 MS. NASH: I -- I just -- I have -- I have
10 staff's recommendations with respect to the compliance
11 with the labor provisions and I'm not so sure that I'm
12 satisfied with the information that was provided. So,
13 I will be abstaining from this vote.

14 CHAIR: Is there any other discussion --
15 any further discussion on this motion? Hearing none,
16 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

17 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

18 MR. BARKER: Nay.

19 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

20 MS. NASH: Abstain.

21 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

22 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

23 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

24 CHAIR: Yes.

25 THE SECRETARY: The resolution does not

1 pass. The board has not taken action on this item.

2 CHAIR: Thank you. Is there -- I'll ask
3 again for a motion on -- on this item as it relates to
4 Columbia Care New Jersey LLC, and their application to
5 renew their annual license.

6 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chairwoman, I once
7 again move that we renew the adult use cannabis
8 business license for Columbia Care.

9 CHAIR: Commissioner -- Vice Chair Delgado
10 moves again to accept the renewal -- the license
11 renewal for Columbia Care. I will second the motion
12 and ask for if -- for any discussion.

13 MS. NASH: Yes, I would like to ask can we
14 place conditions on this license to perhaps take a look
15 at where they are at in their labor. I know they have
16 an LPA, but I would like to get an update from staff
17 maybe in a month as to what progress they're making in
18 terms of their labor peace agreements, their
19 negotiations with CBAs.

20 CHAIR: So Commissioner Nash, you're
21 asking -- you're requesting an update in a -- in one
22 month, is that right?

23 MS. NASH: Yes. Could we get that?

24 CHAIR: Okay.

25 MS. NASH: That would be helpful.

1 CHAIR: Director Brown?

2 MR. BROWN: Yes. Madam Chair and -- and
3 Commissioner Nash, if the understanding is that we
4 would approve the renewal with the condition that --
5 that we get that update and provide it to the
6 commission for review staff would support that?

7 MS. NASH: That would be fine.

8 CHAIR: Is there -- was that the only con
9 condition Commissioner Nash that you were proposing for
10 this item?

11 MS. NASH: Yes.

12 CHAIR: Okay. So I think that the
13 condition -- I think, the condition approval, I think
14 sounds reasonable. And so then the motion still is --
15 the motion currently on the -- the table is still to
16 accept the renewal of the license for this entity. So
17 any further discussion as it pertains to this motion?

18 MS. NASH: Nope.

19 CHAIR: All right. Hearing none, Mr.
20 Said, can you please call the vote?

21 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

22 MR. BARKER: Nay.

23 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

24 MS. NASH: Yes. With a condition.

25 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

1 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: And Chairwoman Houenou?

3 CHAIR: Yes.

4 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

5 Next we have the open public comment period.

6 CHAIR: So before -- the time is 1:54.

7 Before we start the public comment period, I wanna give
8 folks an opportunity for a quick break. If folks need
9 it, folks feel like they need it? Yes, okay. I see
10 some head nodding, great. So I'll give folks -- we'll
11 -- we'll resume -- we'll take a short recess of five
12 minutes. We'll resume at the top of the hour at 2
13 O'clock.

14 (Pause for break)

15 CHAIR: Time for public comments --
16 members of the public can submit public comments -- I'm
17 sorry. Members of the public can submit comments both,
18 during or after, this meeting via our website,
19 nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. The deadline for submitting
20 written comments for today's meeting is 5:00 p.m.,
21 tomorrow, Wednesday, July 19th. Written comments will
22 be shared with the public, with the commission members
23 and will be made public.

24 Speakers will be limited to three minutes
25 each. There will be a timer here counting down your

1 time, and you'll hear once the buzzard go off when time
2 is up.

3 The public comment period really is meant
4 for the commission to -- to hear from members of the
5 public about issues and matters that the commission
6 should be aware of. It's not a place for people to
7 simply advertise private businesses, so please be
8 mindful of that.

9 And so we have -- one of our staff members
10 will call out the registered speakers. When your name
11 is called, you'll be able to come to the front, sit
12 down, the microphone is already on, and once the timer
13 is set, you will be able to provide your remarks With
14 that, Mr. Said, please call on our first set of
15 speakers.

16 THE SECRETARY: Thank you. Chair Houenou,
17 as a reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's
18 public comment period will be limited to three minutes.
19 Please be respectful and concise during your comments.
20 The first three are Alberto Nicasio, Bo Nehr and Chief
21 Vincent Mann, if you're here in the room, please step
22 up? Awesome. Just, you know, repeat --

23 MR. NICASIO: Hello, how you doing?

24 THE SECRETARY: -- reiterate your name,
25 please?

1 MR. NICASIO: My name's Alberto Nicasio.
2 Good afternoon, members of the CRC. My name is Alberto
3 Nicasio, and I'm the CEO and co-founder of Cannahigh
4 Transports LLC. A Cannabis Delivery Company based out
5 of Atlanta County, New Jersey. Thank you for hosting
6 this public meeting in South Jersey and thank you for
7 all the work you put in thus far.

8 As a social equity business, Cannahigh
9 transports is preparing to apply for a Class six
10 delivery license. We've been working on partnerships
11 with repeatable dispensaries and working to obtain
12 local approvals. We're eager to contribute to the
13 growth and success of New Jersey Cannabis industry.

14 However, I would like to bring up some
15 concerns regarding the delivery model. Is there a
16 centralized live sync inventory management system that
17 connects dispensaries to the would be e-commerce
18 infrastructure of delivery companies? Additionally, we
19 would like to inquire whether the CRC has explored the
20 possibility of granting delivery companies access to
21 the cannabis supply -- supply chain.

22 States like California, New York and
23 Massachusetts have implemented regulations that allow
24 delivery companies to maintain their own inventory.
25 This approach provides more control and flexibility for

1 delivery companies while ensuring compliance with
2 regulatory requirements. The current delivery model
3 poses unfavorable margins for delivery companies as
4 they're essentially only generating revenue through
5 delivery fees. If delivery companies could acquire
6 products at wholesale prices, maintain their own
7 inventory and sell at retail prices with an added
8 premium for delivery, it would significantly improve
9 profitability and allow for more sustainable business
10 model.

11 Delivery Companies can maximize their
12 potential for -- for financial success. By allowing
13 delivery companies to store their own inventory, it
14 would empower us to serve customers efficiently and
15 maintain a diverse product selection. This model has
16 been successfully implemented in other states and could
17 be considered a way to foster innovation and
18 competition within New Jersey's cannabis delivery
19 market. As we prepare to submit our application, we
20 eagerly await the release of the updated notice of
21 application acceptance guidelines from the commission.

22 We're fully prepared to comply with all
23 necessary requirements. We encourage the commission to
24 explore granting delivery company's access to the
25 supply chain, enabling us to maintain our own

1 inventory. This proven approach from other states
2 offers substantial benefits to both delivery companies
3 and consumers.

4 Cannahigh Transports is committed to
5 creating a unique and distinctive brand identity
6 separate from dispensaries. We aim to create a
7 personalized customer experience that reflects our own
8 values, standards, and commitment to service. Thank
9 you for your time. We appreciate the opportunity to
10 speak to you today.

11 THE SECRETARY: I'll -- I'll just go over
12 the names again. Bo Nehr, Chief Vincent Mann? All
13 right. The next three are Christopher Rodman, Claudia
14 Post and David Feder?

15 MR. MOUZON: I'm sorry.

16 THE SECRETARY: You can go ahead.

17 MR. MOUZON: I actually have a -- a group
18 that wants to come up together, if it's okay, we're all
19 signed up, but if that's all right with you.

20 CHAIR: With which, sorry?

21 MR. MOUZON: With this young man, but this
22 young man.

23 THE SECRETARY: What's his name?

24 MR. MOUZON: His name is Tiyahnn Bryant
25 and my name is Fruqan Mouzon.

1 CHAIR: Did you call out?

2 MR. MOUZON: No.

3 CHAIR: And did you know that they hasn't
4 been called yet.

5 MR. MOUZON: Well, some of them did,
6 that's why I'm like (inaudible).

7 CHAIR: Oh, so sorry. Which ones were
8 called?

9 MR. MOUZON: We called Claudia and we
10 called Chris.

11 CHAIR: Okay.

12 MR. MOUZON: If you could do all four I
13 got.

14 CHAIR: That's fine, okay.

15 MR. MOUZON: One extra chair.

16 CHAIR: Okay.

17 MR. MOUZON: Sorry for pull up
18 (inaudible).

19 CHAIR: Hold on, go ahead.

20 THE SECRETARY: Just before you all start,
21 can you just each say your names please?

22 MR. MOUZON: Fruqan Mouzon.

23 THE SECRETARY: (Inaudible).

24 MS. POST: Claudia Post.

25 MR. BRYANT: Tiyahnn Bryant.

1 THE SECRETARY: Okay. Thank you.

2 MR. RODMAN: Christopher Rodman.

3 THE SECRETARY: Thank you.

4 MR. MOUZON: Good afternoon everyone. My
5 name is Fruqan Mouzon, I'm a partner at a law firm, Fox
6 Rothschild.

7 THE SECRETARY: Go ahead.

8 MR. MOUZON: How I got involved in the
9 marijuana business was more by force than by choice. I
10 was the general counsel for the Senate majority office
11 2015 to 2019. And during that time was when we
12 actually put the meat to the bones to try and figure
13 out how to make marijuana legal in the state of New
14 Jersey.

15 Originally the plan was simple regulate
16 tax legalize. Senator Kataris (ph) said, let's just do
17 that 50 page legislation. Then the late great, mentor
18 of mine, Ryan Rice (ph), walks in and says, I don't
19 like it because rich white people from out of state are
20 going to come in, take all the money and leave. So we
21 thought it was dead in the water at that time, but we
22 figured it out. That's why you see conditional
23 licenses for people that aren't wealthy. Micro
24 licenses for people that are local.

25 Consumption areas are in place because a

1 lot of towns have a lot of public housing and apartment
2 complexes and people can't partake in their residence.
3 So we have to have consumption lounges for them to
4 participate. Impact zones, goals for minority owned
5 women -- minority and women owned businesses. I think
6 it's the best legislation in the country. Not just
7 because I worked on it, but I think it's the best
8 legislation in the country and I think you guys are
9 doing a great job in implementing the plan. And it's
10 pretty much rolling out exactly how we had envisioned
11 it.

12 Now since returning to private practice, I
13 have all levels of clients. Two of the MSOs are mine,
14 countless numbers of women and minority owned
15 businesses and quite a few social equity businesses.
16 So I think I have a very good understanding of what it
17 takes to get a license approved and to operate in the
18 state of New Jersey.

19 Now, while I totally understand the
20 commission's instinct to want to help social equity
21 applicants, we all do, but preventing others from being
22 allowed to apply for delivery distribution or wholesale
23 license does not help social equity candidates, it just
24 hurts everybody else.

25 So I'm here to ask the commissioner,

1 reconsider not allowing everyone to apply on day one as
2 you've done with all the other license types. Now, as
3 I mentioned, I got quite a few social equity
4 applicants. One of my clients is Jersey Leave Social
5 Equity applicant in Jersey City. I'm happy to report
6 they will be open probably before the end of the year.

7 That's a success story, but many social
8 equity applicants are struggling for sure, but the
9 problem is not the competition. And the problem is not
10 the CRCs unwillingness to review their applications
11 first or to award the licenses. There are four major
12 obstacles to getting a license in New Jersey.

13 Number one, location -- location --
14 location. You have to find a town that hasn't opted
15 out, that lets you do the type of license that you
16 want. Oh, and by the way, you can only find a location
17 in this part of town. That's a major obstacle, sorry,
18 a couple more minutes. Second, obtaining a local
19 approval for the government body and get a resolution,
20 which is particularly difficult with the license limits
21 most municipalities have. And having some expertise in
22 business I think is crucial.

23 And last, but certainly not least enough
24 money to execute the plan. So in other words, not
25 letting everyone apply for a delivery license at the

1 same time as was done with every other license type,
2 does not help social equity applicants get open, it
3 only hurts everyone else.

4 Now, what I brought here is three people
5 that are affected by that rule that's gonna to make
6 people wait an extra year. First up is Tiyahnn Bryant,
7 he's from Roll Up Life. Now Tiyahnn Bryant is not a
8 client of mine, but he's a good friend of mine. And I
9 would say delivery licenses came from Assemblyman
10 Holly. Like he actually came in the room and he said,
11 these things are going to be expensive. I wanna a
12 license that young people can get that doesn't cost a
13 whole lot of money prototype Tiyahnn Bryant and he's
14 here to speak about his experience and how it's been a
15 problem for him.

16 CHAIR: So I'm sorry, before you -- before
17 you speak Mr. Bryant, just be mindful, you got the
18 timer here, so you'll each get your three minutes, as a
19 registered speakers. Go ahead.

20 MR. BRYANT: Yes, ma'am. So to everybody
21 that doesn't know me, good afternoon. My name is
22 Tiyahnn Bryant, I'm the founder and CEO of Roll Up Life
23 Inc. where our mission is to provide the world a
24 seamless solution to cannabis.

25 We are a cannabis technology company where

1 we leverage our Roll Up Life platform to execute our
2 current CBD deliveries as well as optimizing the way
3 that cannabis is sold and transformed through the state
4 of New Jersey and hopefully beyond. We are in full
5 control of our own app suite, so our delivery service
6 software, our order management system, as well as our
7 consumer side of the business, all concluded under our
8 cloud-based infrastructure.

9 All of this through the last five years of
10 building Roll Up Life for delivery primed for September
11 was all for not, it seems right. When I first met you,
12 Senator Charles Barkley, you worked for Senator Cory
13 Booker.

14 I was probably like barely 21 at the time
15 when I first was telling you about the idea of
16 Roll Up Life and here we are right now, and it's you and
17 me, right? Like ironically, right? So the thing about
18 it is, I -- so I'm from the city of East Orange, which
19 is -- which half of the city qualifies as an EDA and
20 half of it doesn't. I fall in the border of living
21 next door to a building that's in the EDA, but my
22 building does not qualify for the EDA, even though it's
23 owned by the same properties, right?

24 All of the same things that we go through
25 in the city of East Orange, there's no barrier in

1 between us, right? Like as the barrier as the barrier
2 that's becoming between the social equity companies and
3 minority owned businesses. The only difference is --
4 is I didn't go to jail and I don't live next door.

5 So now something that I've been preparing
6 for longer than anybody in the state of New Jersey, if
7 we're being completely honest, now I -- I won't be in,
8 which will probably dramatically affect our economy
9 here as most of the companies are under contract with
10 Roll Up Life anyway, if we're being specific.

11 So my thing is -- is while we're -- we're
12 understanding that we need to help people in the social
13 equity lane, as for all of the things that we've done
14 in the community, I understand that thoroughly, my
15 older brother's in jail currently right now. But do we
16 also have to do that in spite of companies like mine
17 where the only thing that's, that doesn't qualify me or
18 make me a social equity company is I don't live next
19 door or I wasn't arrested.

20 And these are the things that I believe
21 Fruqan Mouzon was saying, that while we're -- we want
22 to help some people, we're hurting the industry in a
23 whole. And then secondly, if we're thinking about
24 where New Jersey is opened up, right? Most of these
25 areas aren't EDA areas, correct? Right? So if we're

1 thinking about the operating pool that we actually
2 have, where are these applicants gonna come from? And
3 that's my piece.

4 MS. POST: Thanks. Good afternoon and
5 thank you for allowing me to address you today.

6 THE SECRETARY: And please -- I'm just,
7 sorry, just please repeat your name again?

8 MS. POST: Oh, I'm sorry, Claudia Post.

9 THE SECRETARY: Thank you.

10 MS. POST: Again, thank you for allowing
11 me to address you today. I come to you with a 20 year
12 plus background in transportation, logistics, supply
13 chain, and chain of custody. If I ask people to raise
14 their hand in this audience and -- and ask them, have
15 you ever delivered a package? Have you ever delivered
16 a Schedule one narcotic? I know this because I've
17 asked many people who want to go out for the license.

18 My role is to help educate people as to
19 not only the cannabis rules at regs, but the
20 transportation rules and regs. I operated companies up
21 and down the East Coast, that's warehousing,
22 distribution, pick pack ship, all anything that has to
23 do with delivery, I have done it and I'm a subject
24 matter expert.

25 Now, 3 years into cannabis, I have a

1 unique, I call myself a unicorn. I don't know anybody
2 that has -- maybe I'm -- there must be somebody that
3 has both all of those years of experience in cannabis
4 and in transportation.

5 I am here today to offer my services, to help people
6 stand up their companies, be successful, and employ
7 people. I myself am going out for two licenses,
8 distribution and last mile -- I will call that last
9 mile direct to consumer. I have had 100 of drivers on
10 the road, I know all the rules, the regs. I know all
11 of the technology that's important to report to metric.

12 What I wanna to do is spare people losing
13 their licenses because they're out of compliance. I am
14 here to help people stay compliant, to help people
15 stand up in their businesses, support the American
16 dream, which is real, right? Small business, I'm a
17 small business person entrepreneur and I would love to
18 be able to do that.

19 I am advocating for the reversal of the
20 decision of the June 1st public meeting and request
21 that the logistics licenses are prioritized according
22 to the same schedule as other classes of licenses, so
23 that I too can have a business and I can help others
24 stay in business because I have all that industry
25 knowledge. And I'm here today, and I thank you so much

1 for your time, more to say, but look how good I was,
2 okay.

3 THE SECRETARY: Thank you.

4 VICE CHAIR: (Inaudible)

5 THE SECRETARY: Yeah, I have had a couple
6 of minutes, sorry about that Christopher Rodman.

7 MS. NASH: Yeah.

8 CHAIR: Take Yeah, if you can --

9 MR. RODMAN: Good afternoon, my name is
10 Christopher Rodman.

11 CHAIR: -- (inaudible) sorry, if you can
12 get a little closer to the -- to the microphone, we've
13 got a court reporter that's using the --

14 MR. RODMAN: -- I got you.

15 CHAIR: -- the recording, so thank you.
16 Go ahead, yeah.

17 MR. RODMAN: Good afternoon. My name is
18 Christopher Rodman, I am one of -- one of the founders
19 and shareholders in the company called Emunio
20 Logistics. Excuse me, Emunio has been preparing to
21 apply for this license for over two years and doing so
22 we got private investors, some of which are my family
23 members.

24 To date, we've spent over \$200,000 in
25 renting a warehouse that we acquired in Garfield.

1 Understandably all my investors are growing anxious
2 because like I said, it's been two years and we just
3 got a little backed off by the June 1st, I mean by the
4 June meeting. And -- the, I'm sorry, I got a little, I
5 was good to go up until I actually sat in front of the mic.

6 MALE VOICE: Take your time -- take your time,
7 man.

8 MR. RODMAN: A little about myself, I am
9 African American and I have a history that I've been
10 affected by -- by the criminal justice system. In
11 fact, I spent a little over a decade in prison. Ever
12 since my release I've worked -- worked -- worked so
13 hard and let me just say this, let me stop looking at
14 this. After my release, I -- I, all I've done is
15 worked, I worked in the liquor industry, working in
16 warehouses, driving trucks. I worked in the auto parts
17 industry doing management and sales, now I'm currently
18 a truck driver, I have my -- I just acquired my CDL
19 license last year.

20 As much as I like driving a truck, it's
21 not what I want to do with my life. I do not want to
22 work for somebody for the rest of my life, especially
23 somebody that doesn't look like me.
24 Again, I have a wife and five children at home to be
25 hired as a CEO of a company like Emunio, it's one of my

1 biggest dreams come true. To look back and see that
2 the progress I've made to come to this point through
3 all the railroads and roadblocks that I've hit because
4 of my past. I felt like the board making that decision
5 was also a slap in my face and as well as my team
6 members, because I felt like we didn't do anything but
7 work towards us to come. But being pushed back a whole
8 other year, you're asking us to spend \$180,000 in rent
9 of money of my investors, give me 20 seconds.

10 I'm asking that you all overturn it
11 because I'm tired of running in the roadblocks, I'm
12 used to being let down and being disappointed. But in
13 this case, I'm begging because this is what I saw for
14 my future and my family and me growing and to provide
15 and do good things and now I hit another roadblock with
16 the June decision. I just ask that you overturn it and
17 I thank you all for letting me speak and I am hot now.

18 CHAIR: Okay. Thank you -- thank you.

19 MR. RODMAN: Can I say one more thing?
20 May I?

21 CHAIR: Can you put it in writing?

22 MR. RODMAN: Yeah, sure. I also second,
23 we can (inaudible) transport said about the access to
24 the supply chain, by the way, but that's for a
25 different issue.

1 THE SECRETARY: Now next group of
2 speakers, David July, Dharsh Casinathen and Diana
3 McElroy, next group.

4 MS. MCELROY: It's kind of hard to follow
5 that. Hi there, Diana McElroy. My company is Higher
6 High and I'm here as a patient advocate today. I am
7 here because things got real for me recently when a
8 friend of mine got diagnosed with cancer, I'm sorry, I
9 didn't expect this, I blame this on menopause. I feel
10 like we need more education in the state.

11 This product could help a lot of people,
12 but they're afraid because pharmacists are not trained,
13 doctors don't know, and we don't have -- my friend
14 can't swallow. We don't have suppositories, I feel
15 like we can't forget the patients and we have to be
16 mindful, as much as I want everyone to make the -- the
17 money they're looking to make, I think that we need to
18 in the core remember that it is a plant-based medicine.
19 Thank you and I'm sorry about the tears.

20 THE SECRETARY: Next group is Dylan
21 Youngclaus, Eduard Linetskiy and Gabriel Barajas. Next
22 group is Hugh Giordano, James Rogovich and Jason Bacon.

23 MR. GIORDANO: Okay. Hello, commission,
24 Hugh Giordano the United Food and Commercial Workers
25 Union. We are the official labor union of cannabis

1 workers under the guise of the AFLCIO. When I speak,
2 it's just to update the commission of where we're at on
3 labor standards and give some suggestions based on what
4 we're seeing from workers and what we're hearing
5 directly from workers as we speak to workers every day.

6 One of the things that I think is
7 important to realize is that layoff is happening not
8 only in New Jersey, but around the country and in
9 Canada. It's an issue that we are dealing with in this
10 industry and I think it's something that we need to get
11 more data on and understand why layoffs are happening?
12 What causes layoffs? You know, we hear things such as
13 too many licenses, so you look at Oregon, you look at
14 Oklahoma, but we also know that there's also an issue
15 where we have too much product and that's not selling.
16 Those are just a couple points that I make, but it
17 affects workers.

18 At the end of the day, when we can't get
19 the product out, when there's not enough opportunity to
20 make profits, at the end of the day, it falls on the
21 working class people and we have to find out what's
22 doing it. I know we can't avoid layoffs, I understand
23 that its part of business, it's gonna happen,
24 businesses are going to fail, businesses will not
25 produce, but we have to find a way to make sure that

1 these workers are okay.

2 I know the commission has found ways to
3 speak with employers to make sure that they give you
4 notice and we're happy about that, and we know that
5 companies are now starting to do so. I think that one
6 of the things that we're seeing, not only in New
7 Jersey, but also around the country with companies, is
8 that they lay off workers and they might give them a
9 couple weeks of severance, but then they have them sign
10 papers that say that you can never work again for that
11 company. Those workers did not ask to be laid off.
12 They would've worked there for the rest of their
13 career, and I think that -- that's not fair to the
14 workers, I know employers are trying to have recall
15 language thanks to our discretion in getting involved
16 and having partnerships that we have.

17 Layoffs are bad and we need to have more
18 data and we need to make sure that the cushion is there
19 for the workers and that the future opportunity is not
20 destroyed for them. Also I would like to say that
21 labor peace. What is labor peace? If labor Peace
22 agreements don't have neutrality, card check and access
23 is not a labor peace agreement. And it goes against
24 exactly what the state wants what the CRC wants and
25 what the mission was (inaudible) of the law, that's our

1 point.

2 Good news is we had some good things
3 happen, update commission. We have finalized our
4 collective bargaining agreement with Columbia Care.
5 They have chosen us, we have worked hard, the workers
6 voted on the contract. Columbia Care workers and --
7 and Deford now have a collective bargaining agreement,
8 they have wages guaranteed healthcare, and they can see
9 improvement.

10 I think that is it that I have, thank you
11 again. The UFCW is always gonna be here for the
12 mission of protecting workers. Thank you.

13 THE SECRETARY: The next group of speakers
14 is Jesse Marie Villars, Jordan Ellis and Lonnie
15 Affrime, okay. Next group is Matha Figaro, Mollie
16 Hartman Lustig, Nikia Rivera.

17 MS. RIVERA: I'm here now.

18 THE SECRETARY: Okay.

19 MS. RIVERA: Hello, my name is Nikia
20 Rivera. I came prepared to discuss something else, but
21 I have to admit, I'm taken aback by the events that
22 have occurred today. So I would like to say that I am
23 a current worker in a dispensary, I'm not gonna
24 disclose which dispensary because I don't have
25 permission to speak on their behalf. I am here solely

1 to express my own opinions and thoughts.

2 With that being said, the CRC has access
3 to acres of diamonds like me, like myself in the
4 industry already. Why not mine from there to get your
5 social equity businesses and to -- to reach all the
6 quotas that the CRC has set in place. Because for me,
7 myself personally, I live in a area and I -- I check
8 all the boxes. I work currently at a dispensary, but
9 no one has ever come to any of the dispensary workers
10 because we educate both the medical patients and the
11 adult use patients every single day on all of our
12 products, 'cause the first question they ask us is,
13 have you tried it? What do you think? So I'm
14 literally sitting here as a first person, per first
15 contact with the people you're trying to educate.

16 Why not go back -- come back to us, you
17 have our background, we've already satisfied your
18 require -- some of your requirements to be in the
19 industry already. Why not come back to us to see if we
20 qualify to get assistance for the -- to be a owner of a
21 business or to help with educating the public outside
22 of our regular work schedules?

23 And again, I wasn't planning on saying
24 that, but there it is. My name again is Nikia Rivera
25 and thank you very much for your time.

1 THE SECRETARY: Next group of speakers is
2 Paul Josephson, R. Todd Edwards and Rahmell Dash.

3 MR. EDWARDS: How are you doing? My name
4 is R. Todd Edwards, I am the political action Chairman
5 and I'm representing the NAACP State Conference today.
6 This is a tough -- tough one for me, first of all, I
7 would like to, you know, introduce, like I said myself,
8 Todd Edwards, President Smith is our state president,
9 I'm acknowledging him.

10 First I would like to compliment the CRC
11 staff for what you guys are doing. God bless you, you
12 have been dealt a hell of a hand and you are -- you are
13 working with it. And I appreciate you guys for that, I
14 would like to acknowledge my Mayor, my current Mayor is
15 here from Bridgeton New Jersey, Mayor Albert Kelly.
16 He's been very diligent in what's going on in the
17 cannabis industry, obviously he's here in doing a
18 wonderful job in our city of Bridgeton.

19 But I am here not just to give you guy's
20 compliments and all that, I'm here also about the June
21 1st meeting. And I'm sort of torn because I've been at
22 this game trying to get legalization in New Jersey
23 since 2015 with the NAACP. And when I was at the
24 table, I literally fought for the people who, what you
25 guys are classifying or what we classify as social

1 equity.

2 The people who were arrested for smell
3 selling small amounts, the people who were embarrassed
4 sat on the curves and handcuffs. They are the people
5 that I literally sat at the table and fought for. So
6 I'm torn because I know Fuqua, I love Fuqua, I love
7 what he's fighting for, but these individuals I'm torn
8 because do they need a license? Should they have a
9 license? Absolutely. But do the people who are
10 actually harmed and affected who I fought for need to
11 step up in life in an opportunity.

12 So the June 1st decision to give social
13 equity license holders a one year head start. I called
14 a mentor my guy, a guy who we -- we fight in this fight
15 together, Reverend -- Reverend Boyer(ph), salvation of
16 Social Justice, I'm sure some of you guys know him.
17 Reverend Boyer also agreed he wrestled with this
18 because he's with me on it. It -- it's affecting our
19 people and we got people in the audience that this is
20 literally affecting and I feel for him. But at the
21 same time, there's people that I represent because my
22 (inaudible) is a -- is a consultant for this.

23 But I consult the social equity guys, the
24 guys who -- who won't need this leg up. And so we came
25 up with not just the June 1st plan, but if there's a

1 way that you could tweak the June 1st plan and even --
2 because the people who were arrested, majority were
3 black males in -- in the industry.
4 That's who I was sitting down black and brown men,
5 that's, they were taken away from their kids. But left
6 behind were the women to raise the kids and now we're
7 telling them that if they're a minority business owner,
8 they can't get it, they also got to wait a year. So
9 our tweaked plan was to bring them over -- sorry,
10 excuse me, a few more seconds to bring them over to the
11 June 1st decision, give them also a head start for the
12 year.
13 But in my president's words, and I -- I agree with them
14 wholeheartedly, we are giving these social equity
15 license holders a car without an engine because you can
16 give them the license all day, but I'm out here
17 fighting for these people to get represented and get
18 money. Get all the things Fuqua name that they need,
19 but they're not getting it easily.
20 So to get a year head start, we're giving them a car,
21 but we're not a motor, but we're -- we're fighting on
22 that, I testified with you guys to our judiciary to try
23 to get funding behind it. So that's where we are with
24 that. And just 'cause my time is up, also wanna give
25 you a guy's courtesy a heads up that I'm working with

1 Atlantic City's Cannabis Director Cash, trying to get
2 legislation passed for -- let's call them the same way
3 a -- a liquor license can take off-premise permits. We
4 would like the license holders in Atlantic City to also
5 take off premise and go through the commission, pay
6 their fees, do whatever.

7 We gotta figure out how we can regulate
8 it, but we want to be able to have, say the MPXs of the
9 world be able to apply and get an off permit premise
10 for the day. If they want to host something at a
11 offsite per, and they get all the proper way or
12 whatever. So just know that's coming down the pike and
13 'cause there's partnerships in cannabis that you don't
14 have to grow, you don't have to touch the -- the -- the
15 leaf one way. But in our community, there are people
16 who are lined up, ready to go to make money on
17 different ways and that would be a way that will help
18 Atlantic City. So thank you very much.

19 THE SECRETARY: Next group of speakers is,
20 Sergio Barraza-Ingstrom, Shavonda Sumter, Sonia
21 Mangalick, all right. The next group is Steven Young,
22 Travis Ally and Wadeha Jackson.

23 MS. JACKSON: Okay. I was like to
24 (inaudible), okay. Hi, my name is Wadeha Jackson, I
25 am an advocate for delivery License six, but lease

1 delivery based in Maplewood, New Jersey. My background
2 is in regulatory compliance and technology related to
3 anti-money laundering laws and provisions. My desire
4 was to bring my expertise on this -- on this side of
5 the tech side for logistics, for delivery, but I'm
6 gonna speak to the social equity as aspect of it.

7 As you've seen most of my counterparts
8 spoke today, social equity is not just restricted to
9 just a location --

10 CHAIR: Gentlemen -- gentlemen, if you can
11 keep it -- keep it down a little bit. Thank you.

12 MS. JACKSON: -- it's not only impacted --
13 impacted by a location, although I have not been to any
14 incarceration or jail or anything. I have been social
15 equity impacted. I am a resident, former resident of
16 Jersey City, New Jersey, orange and East Orange. My
17 mother was a recovering -- is a recovering drug addict.
18 My father has been in the, you know, well, you know,
19 I'm not going to say so much.

20 However, I have been socially impacted. I
21 have worked very hard and also done plenty of research,
22 networking, building, interviewing in this cannabis
23 field since 2015, looking at various legislations,
24 tracking it before it came to New Jersey. So the
25 impact I understand wanting to provide a leg up for

1 individuals that I truly support, I volunteer for the
2 state of New Jersey. I am a court appointed advocate
3 for foster care kids 'cause I don't want them to be
4 advocated. I -- I want to advocate for them 'cause
5 they are impacted what we are trying to help and
6 assist.

7 So this will impact the market space that by not
8 allowing minority owners, minority women owned
9 businesses, veterans that can potentially, if you
10 revert back to the exclusivity period, back to your
11 original thought process to allow us to come in
12 December, possibly giving them that 90 day. I do
13 believe in incentivizing that group participant in
14 social equity, but I do think we need to consider that
15 it will impact indirectly minority-owned, women-owned
16 businesses, veterans that want to also expand into the
17 market space as well. Thank you.

18 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou, that
19 completes the list of speakers, do you want me to go
20 over the list of people that didn't show up?

21 CHAIR: If you could that would be great -
22 -

23 THE SECRETARY: Sure.

24 CHAIR: -- just in case the folks stepped
25 out for -- at the time that their name was called.

1 THE SECRETARY: Bo Nehr -- Bo Nehr, Chief
2 Vincent Mann, David Feder, David July, Dharsh
3 Casinathen, Dylan Youngclaus, Eduard Linetskiy, Gabriel
4 Barajas, James Rogovich, Jason Bacon, Jesse Marie
5 Villars, Jordan Ellis, Lonnie Affrime, Matha Figaro,
6 Mollie Hartman Lustig, Paul Josephson, Rahmell Dash,
7 Sergio Barraza-Ingstrom, Shavonda Sumter, Sonia
8 Mangalick, Steven Young and Travis Ally.

9 MR. RODMAN: Nobody spoke. Can I just
10 say one thing?

11 CHAIR: I'm sorry. We do have a -- a
12 formal process for having folks register to -- to
13 speak. But anybody who would like to share their
14 thoughts with the commission, we invite you to provide
15 your -- your comments in writing to us. At that time
16 window for submitting written comments to us doesn't
17 close until tomorrow afternoon till 5:00 p.m. tomorrow.
18 So you -- so if you didn't get a chance to speak please
19 go to our website --

20 MR. RODMAN: -- I'll be speaking at the
21 next one.

22 CHAIR: Okay. Perfect.

23 THE SECRETARY: So this concludes the
24 registered speakers we have for today's meeting.

25 CHAIR: Thank you and thank you to all of

1 our speakers who shared their -- their thoughts and
2 their personal experiences. Thank you for -- for
3 sharing. This concludes the business that is before us
4 today, I want to open the floor for any new business
5 for the board to consider, I have got one myself. Oh,
6 all right, vice chair, Delgado.

7 VICE CHAIR: Yeah, Madam Chair Houenou and
8 the board, I would like to move that we do reverse our
9 June 1st amendment to the notice of application of
10 acceptance for the new classes, the wholesale, the
11 distributor, and the delivery services back to the
12 original recommendation of staff, which was 90 days as
13 opposed to 365 days.

14 CHAIR: Okay. Moved by -- by Vice Chair
15 Delgado, is there a second? I will second that motion.
16 Is there any discussion on this motion?

17 VICE CHAIR: Yeah, I would like to
18 discuss.

19 CHAIR: Go ahead.

20 VICE CHAIR: I -- I would just like to say
21 that the marketplace is telling us after the folks that
22 came up and talked, I think the marketplace is telling
23 us that moving that -- making my motion to reverse --
24 this reversal is the right thing to do. And I hope
25 that when we are call upon to vote that we do vote for

1 the -- the reversal. Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 CHAIR: Thank you, vice Chair. I
3 wholeheartedly agree I think the -- the individuals who
4 spoke today illustrate that diversely owned businesses
5 are impacted here. They are impacted by the decisions
6 that the board makes and these impacts are very real.
7 As I mentioned during the June 1st board meeting, when
8 this item was being considered and discussed, I noted
9 that there is a difference between diversely owned
10 businesses and social equity businesses.

11 And social equity businesses is a very
12 specific, designation that has certain criteria that a
13 lot of people simply don't meet and if we want to see
14 inclusion of our -- our communities that have been
15 underrepresented in the cannabis industry. I think it
16 is well intentioned though not quite hitting the mark
17 to exclude diversely owned businesses from being able
18 to submit applications to the CRC in a timely manner
19 that will allow them to be able to get and running.

20 I think especially when we hear people who
21 are personally impacted by the entanglements in the
22 criminal justice system, I think we have recognized
23 that in the state as a whole through the letter of our
24 law. But the -- the commission in particular has
25 recognized that we need to divorce the idea of

1 entanglement in the criminal justice system from your
2 ability to provide from your, for yourself and your
3 family and your ability to start a business and run it
4 well.

5 And so I'm heartened by, well I'm
6 disheartened at the -- the impact and the
7 disappointment that our prospective applicants have
8 felt by the decisions. But I -- I agree with you
9 chairman, I'm sorry -- Vice chair Delgado, that I -- I
10 think it is important and I think it is the right thing
11 to do to go back to the -- the original --

12 THE SECRETARY: Plan

13 CHAIR: -- yeah, the original proposal.

14 And so before I leave the floor for any other
15 discussion, I want to ask Director Brown, if he could
16 summarize for us the original proposal for the Notice
17 of Application Acceptance amendment so that way folks
18 are -- are clear --

19 MR. BROWN: Absolutely (inaudible).

20 CHAIR: -- the motion that is on the
21 table.

22 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank
23 you members of the commission. So the original
24 recommendation was for essentially staggered
25 acceptance, starting with social equity businesses for

1 three months, then adding in diversely owned businesses
2 for another three months resulting in a -- a six months
3 exclusive, you know, application acceptance for social
4 equity businesses and diversely owned businesses. And
5 then beginning the rest of the applications at the end
6 of that six month period.

7 Social equity businesses would have the
8 first 90 days then adding in diversely owned businesses
9 for these new -- these new business types. Part of the
10 reason for the recommendation was just in the original
11 -- the original acceptance. We did see, you know, it
12 took us some time to get through the social equity
13 business application. So we wanna make sure people are
14 on notice that it will probably take us at least 90
15 days anyway to get through those, but we're -- we're
16 still supportive of that original staff recommendation.

17 I think that -- that provides --
18 staggering provides a leg up to social equity
19 businesses while also allowing diversely owned
20 businesses to begin submitting in -- in you know,
21 before other applications can submit.

22 CHAIR: Thank you. Director Brown, any
23 other -- any further discussions?

24 MR. BARKER: I do.

25 CHAIR: Commissioner Barker.

1 MR. BARKER: This was a great meeting and
2 I thank you all for the comments. First and foremost
3 to Brother Chris and Brother Tiyahna, whole heartedly
4 understand your stories, I understand that please,
5 personally and anecdotally.

6 For me, I'm gonna just make a point to
7 Commissioner Delgado when you said the (inaudible) I'm
8 gonna just disagree respectfully. You said "The market
9 place is telling us this is the right thing to do,"
10 with all due respect this is just a micro-chasm of the
11 marketplace. The individuals that spoke, they don't
12 reflect the entire marketplace.

13 Chair Houenou, you said that, that "This
14 is not quite hitting the mark", I disagree with that.
15 This consideration, we haven't even seen it play out
16 yet. So we don't know that it's not hitting the mark.
17 And understand that this was based on precedent, other
18 states have done this in the lack of inclusion of black
19 and brown businesses. That is the point of this.

20 We legalized cannabis to address those
21 most harmed. People are still incarcerated for this
22 stuff. I could have -- it hurts me that we have these
23 conversations and we're moving the goal post now right,
24 at the impetus of all of this. Brother Mouzon --
25 Counselor Mouzon you touched on -- you were at the --

1 you were at the table when this was happening. This
2 was to tax, regulate and sell, this was not to include
3 initially black and brown businesses.

4 The advocacy community fought for years to
5 address the harms done to those like myself like others
6 who look like me disproportionately, discriminatorily -
7 - discriminatorily, excessively and legalization was to
8 answer that. And the social equity business
9 designation was specifically created in New Jersey and
10 in other states to target those most harmed. So now
11 that we're saying we should not be considering them and
12 we should be considering everybody? That is a tough
13 pill to swallow.

14 We have seen in New Jersey since
15 legalization has happened, are we improving? Yes. Are
16 our staff done a great job? Yes. But at the end of
17 the day, I think Brother Bryant touched on it, we still
18 are not seeing businesses overwhelmingly intercity
19 communities.

20 We still do not have a handful of
21 businesses opened by minorities, but let me rephrase
22 that, I'm sorry because we do have a lot opened by
23 minorities, but we do not -- we are lacking -- severely
24 lacking in businesses opened by black and brown
25 Africans in the whole east. And so here we are with a

1 -- a data set that shows since we legalized we are not
2 getting businesses that we intend to get into business.
3 Now, with a new opportunity for new license classes,
4 we're trying to address that, we're trying to get those
5 most harmed.

6 Trust me, I'm gonna share this, there are
7 people that are struggling so much, I'm -- I'm -- I'm
8 in the hood man, I'm gonna just say that and I was just
9 in the hood. There are people struggling. There are
10 people that really think they have a shot that it just
11 -- it is such a disconnect between what we're trying to
12 ask for and this sense of including everybody as if --
13 as if that is -- that's not working, I'm just gonna say
14 that.

15 Including everybody is not working. It's
16 leading to injustice and it's leading into getting
17 overwhelmingly non-Black and non-Hispanic and non-
18 indigenous applicant through the portal up for
19 consideration and awarded and it's not fair. And so
20 we're just trying to offer a new thing. And I think
21 that that is very fair. I think we haven't even played
22 it out. Massachusetts implemented it because they were
23 seeing their numbers lacking. I believe the city of
24 Denver implemented this as well for all of their
25 license classes.

1 And so, we're just trying to make sure
2 licenses go to those people who were most harmed,
3 period. Legalization is not about making money as I
4 understand it. I thank you Ms. McElroy for touching on
5 the -- the patient need right. When you touched on
6 that, you said "This is not about making money, it's
7 about helping patients get their medicine so they could
8 survive and it's about righting the wrongs of the
9 failed drug war," period or stop. Yeah, I'll -- I'll
10 give that more time.

11 CHAIR: Thank you Commissioner Barker. I
12 think that the -- the passion with which you -- you
13 share your remarks is palpable. So thank you for
14 bringing that, you know, bringing your heart to it.

15 MR. BARKER: (Inaudible).

16 CHAIR: And I think it's -- when we're
17 talking about letting black and brown businesses be a
18 part of this -- the -- the -- the black and brown
19 owned businesses be a part of this industry, we had
20 black and brown businesses tell us today that they're
21 being left out by our decisions. And I don't think
22 that --

23 MR. BARKER: (Inaudible).

24 CHAIR: I think that there is a difference
25 between exclusion of -- setting up a process to prevent

1 and exclude or mitigate potential loop-holes, right?
2 To mitigate the instances of actors acting in bad faith
3 and taking advantage of other individuals just for
4 pecuniary games. I think there's a difference between
5 that and setting up a process that promotes and fosters
6 inclusion of the communities that we do want to see
7 represented, right?

8 Certainly, those who have been directly
9 impacted themselves, those who have been entangled in
10 the criminal justice system for marijuana offenses,
11 they will always have priority here in New Jersey.
12 They will always have their applications reviewed
13 first, approved first and with the -- under the
14 proposed change to the notice of application acceptance
15 as described by Director Brown, they would have
16 priority and exclusivity for a period in time.

17 Now -- and I think that is -- I think that
18 is fair because we're not excluding people from the
19 process in a way that is overly burdensome. We would
20 not be excluding businesses from being able to prepare
21 and feel like they do have a shot to get involved in
22 this industry and not have to wait a year or two years.
23 So I think it's -- I -- I think the -- the proposal
24 that -- that had put forward is fair. I think it
25 disposes the values of equity.

1 Certainly I think we can all agree that
2 there -- we wish that there were more things that we
3 could do to advance people, to help people out, right?
4 We've talked -- this board has talked about access to
5 capital extensively, right? And because we see that as
6 a real need for businesses to be able to have a chance
7 to be successful that's why we partner with the
8 economic development authority to give -- to give
9 grant.

10 Certainly I -- and I know that
11 Commissioner Barker you share this -- you shared this
12 value as well I wish we could see many -- many -- many
13 more such programs. I wish we could see more dollars
14 viable and accessible for business entrepreneurs to --
15 to get up and running 'cause that's really where the
16 rubber meets the road. If these businesses can't
17 operate, what good is a license? Okay.

18 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, may I have the
19 floor?

20 CHAIR: Commissioner Nash, please.

21 MS. NASH: I was in support of
22 Commissioner Barker's motion at the June meeting and
23 we've had to -- extensive discussions about the reasons
24 why he wants to prioritize social equity businesses. I
25 was moved today by the speakers here, some who when --

1 I first started, we had meetings with to learn more
2 about, you know, their need and how we could create
3 programs for access to capital in the business action
4 center to move them along.

5 So I -- I can support Vice Chair Delgado's
6 motion for the reasons that I think each person that
7 spoke really has an understanding of the communities
8 that they're in and whether it's the formerly
9 incarcerated or currently incarcerated or you know
10 people that have family members that were incarcerated
11 or just have experienced living in an economically
12 disadvantaged area. So those are all really tough
13 things to navigate and I feel that we should help those
14 people too.

15 My one concern and it's something that I
16 guess is a legislative fix is that we see teams put
17 together of diversely owned businesses that really
18 aren't necessarily reflective of the people that sat
19 here and I don't know how we work around that. There's
20 people that will always find a way to get into this
21 industry for the wrong reasons and that's not -- the
22 reasons are for money and not helping people -- not
23 helping to elevate people in disadvantaged communities.

24 So that's what I -- that's, you know, what
25 I have to say. I -- I would be fine with supporting

1 Vice Chair Delgado's motion today, for those reasons.

2 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioner Nash. Any
3 further discussion?

4 MR. BARKER: Just I do wanna express just
5 to respond Commissioner Nash because trust me I am
6 moved by everything that was said today. I have
7 people, family, friends, loved ones who are going
8 through what was said and more. And I will say though
9 social equity people, social equity businesses are
10 currently going through what people may no longer be
11 going through and so that is the focus. Making sure
12 that those most harmed are prioritized and given a fair
13 full shot to make it through the process to completion
14 and be the first in their class to open. Thank you.

15 CHAIR: Any additional thoughts from the -
16 - from the board?

17 VICE CHAIR: Just -- I'll make this real
18 quick. Yeah, I live in the hood too --

19 CHAIR: As -- as do I -- as do I.

20 VICE CHAIR: -- and I just wanna say I've
21 made enough money in my life that I can live anywhere
22 in the state, in Newbourne and Summit and Westfield,
23 but I choose to live in the hood because I think I make
24 a difference and I've always lived in the hood whether
25 it's you know, New York for 26 years or Melfort

1 (inaudible), I make a difference. And I -- I like -- I
2 try to walk -- the walk because I can come at it in
3 moral -- with moral authority. And look it's never
4 going to be perfect. What we do here is never ever
5 going to be perfect.

6 All we can do is try to make the best of
7 it and I think, you know, myself making this motion, is
8 a step in that direction and that's all I have to say.
9 Let's -- let's take the vote.

10 MR. BARKER: Just to point of clarity
11 Commissioner Delgado, living in a city that may be a
12 hood and connecting with the people on a daily basis,
13 on a weekly basis, and communicating with the hood
14 members is totally different and I want that to be
15 clear on the record.

16 VICE CHAIR: Okay.

17 MR. BARKER: It is totally different.
18 Living in a place and connecting with the people of
19 that place, is different.

20 VICE CHAIR: Hey Charles I'm not --
21 Commissioner Barker, I'm not going to keep going on
22 this fix, we have to -- we have to go, but you don't
23 know that I don't. You've never been arrested and
24 spent time in jail, I have, so for -- for cannabis. So
25 I think I come from a good -- I think I can speak with

1 some authority. That's all I have to say, different.

2 CHAIR: I also Vice Chair Delgado, I also
3 live in the hood. And so I hear exactly what you're
4 saying and I think it is important 'cause we -- we
5 (inaudible) that every day. We communicate with our
6 neighbors, we help them with small tasks and large
7 tasks whatever it may it may be, but it -- it makes a
8 difference --

9 MR. BARKER: Yeah.

10 CHAIR: -- it does (inaudible).

11 MR. BARKER: Just so you know that this
12 feels insulting to some -- to some people, the
13 (inaudible) conversation. It's just a disconnect --
14 it's a disconnect -- this evidence is a disconnect
15 between those underground that brother Edwards was
16 talking about that he's consulting and dealing with
17 every day and where we're coming from that's if, you
18 know, in a different approach. And I'll leave it there
19 on my end respectfully.

20 CHAIR: Thank you. Speaking from my own
21 experience, day to day where I talk to my elderly
22 neighbor and I assist her with getting her benefits,
23 right? I talk to my neighbor's every day and I help my
24 neighbor's put together their suitcase because they're
25 going on a trip and they've got a bad hip, right? So

1 these are things that I do and that's what I would
2 speak to. So I think that --

3 MR. BARKER: Just one more point?

4 CHAIR: I think --

5 MR. BARKER: One point.

6 CHAIR: -- I think we would -- what I
7 might be --

8 MR. BARKER: Please Madam Chair -- please
9 Madam Chair because you made that. What I'm talking
10 about is somebody that's an ex-felon coming up to you,
11 somebody that's currently in the midst of a legacy and
12 -- and giving you dynamics and sharing with you their
13 hopes and their dreams for entering the cannabis
14 industry. You gotta tell him, "I can't talk to you, go
15 to a website". It's -- it's opportunity for you, go to
16 the website, go look at the resources. It's a
17 disconnect from that and what we're talking about right
18 here at these dates.

19 CHAIR: Any further discussions on this
20 motion? Hearing none. On the motion to reverse the
21 June 1 action to go back to the original recommendation
22 of staff with respect to the notice of application
23 acceptance, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

24 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Barker?

25 MR. BARKER: Nay.

1 THE SECRETARY: Commissioner Nash?

2 MS. NASH: Yes.

3 THE SECRETARY: Vice Chair Delgado?

4 VICE CHAIR: Yes.

5 THE SECRETARY: Chairwoman Houenou?

6 CHAIR: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: The resolution passes.

8 CHAIR: Is there -- thank you. Is there
9 any additional new business for the commission to
10 consider today? Okay. Hearing none, is there a -- is
11 there a motion to adjourn?

12 VICE CHAIR: Madam Chair Houenou, I move
13 that we adjourn.

14 CHAIR: Moved by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
15 there a second on the motion to adjourn?

16 MS. NASH: Second.

17 CHAIR: Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is
18 there any discussion on this motion to adjourn?
19 Hearing none, all those in favor, say, yea?

20 TOGETHER: Yea.

21 CHAIR: All those opposed say, Nay?

22 MR. BARKER: Nay.

23 CHAIR: Any exemption?

24 MR. BARKER: I'm sorry.

25 CHAIR: Any exemptions? All right the

1 time is 3:02 p.m. and we are adjourned, thank you
2 everyone for your patience and your participation in
3 today's meeting, please stay tuned to the website for
4 additional details on upcoming meetings of the
5 commissioners.

6 THE SECRETARY: Thank you.

7 (Meeting concluded)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

AVI NOAM TAUB

Dated: July 28, 2023

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