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

NEW JERSEY CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

DIANNA HOUEYOU, Chairwoman
SAM DELGADO, Vice Chairman
CHARLES BARKER, Commissioner
MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, Commissioner(via phone)
KRISTA G. NASH, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT

Jeff Brown, Executive Director
Daniel Said, Board Secretary

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Good morning,
2 everyone. Welcome to today's NJCRC Board meeting. And
3 happy first day of Hanukah to anyone celebrating. The
4 time is 10:03, and I am calling this meeting to order.
5 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote? I'm sorry.
6 Can you please read the notice of the public meeting
7 before we do roll call?

8 MR. SAID: Chairwoman, this a regularly
9 scheduled meeting of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory
10 Commission's 2023 annual meeting schedule. Adequate
11 notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance
12 with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings
13 Act. Notice of the meeting was provided to the Asbury
14 Park Press, Atlantic City Express, Bergen Record,
15 Courier Post, Star Ledger, and the Trenton Times on
16 January 11, 2023. The agenda and information regarding
17 the in-person meeting and the ability to live stream
18 was also posted on the CRC website. Meeting time and
19 location has also been posted on the website of the New
20 Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission and with the
21 office of the Secretary of the State.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Can you
23 please take roll call?

24 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

25 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Present.

1 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: You may have to
3 repeat actually.

4 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

5 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Present.

6 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

7 COMMISSIONER NASH: Present.

8 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

9 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Present.

10 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

11 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Present.

12 MR. SAID: We now have a quorum. The

13 first order of business is for the Commission to go
14 into Executive Session to discuss legal matters and
15 litigation updates. These are discussions that are not
16 shared with the public. We believe the Executive
17 Session should take about 60 minutes.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Mr.
19 Said. Is there a motion to go into Executive Session?

20 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I
21 move that we go into Executive Session.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by
23 Commissioner Barker. Is there a second?

24 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

25 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by

1 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion on
2 this motion to go into Executive Session?

3 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chairwoman,
4 before we go into Executive Session I'd just like to
5 recognize that today's Pearl Harbor Day. We have
6 veteran entrepreneurs that are getting into the
7 cannabis business. And I want to recognize their
8 service for our country and those veterans who served
9 our country throughout the years. And today's a
10 special day, 3,500 American veterans from World War --
11 in the World War II era were -- died today in the
12 attack at Pearl Harbor. And I just want to recognize
13 that it is Pearl Harbor Day. Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Very well said,
15 Vice Chair. Thank you. Is there any further
16 discussion before we call the vote for Executive
17 Session? Hearing no further discussion, all those in
18 favor of adjourning into Executive Session say "aye".

19 [All responded "aye".]

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All those opposed
21 say "nay". Any abstentions? Hearing none, the motion
22 passes. As Mr. Said said, we expect the Executive
23 Session to last approximately one hour. And so we will
24 leave the live stream running during that time. There
25 will be select staff members who will remain in this

1 room during that time. However, those individuals will
2 not be able to answer any questions related to
3 information or matters that are pending before the
4 Board currently. So we can expect to resume the public
5 portion of this meeting at 11:07. Thank you.

6 [There is a recess.]

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Good afternoon.

8 Welcome back. The time is now 12:12. And we will
9 resume the open public portion of this meeting.
10 Apologies for the extended Executive Session. We do
11 our best to anticipate how long Executive Session will
12 last, but sometimes the conversation just needs to go a
13 bit longer to make sure that the Commission has all the
14 information and that it needs to then make its
15 decisions. Mr. Said, can you please announce the next
16 agenda item?

17 MR. SAID: Next up on the agenda is
18 approving the minutes of both the Commission's open and
19 Executive Sessions held on October 19th. The minutes
20 have been shared with the members of the Commission
21 prior to this meeting.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. If
23 there are no desired edits or changes to the meeting
24 minutes, I will ask for a motion.

25 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chair, I move

1 that we accept the October 19th minutes of the public
2 meeting.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair
4 Delgado. Is there a second?

5 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Second that, Madam
6 Chair.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by
8 Commissioner Barker. Is there any discussion on this
9 motion? Hearing none, all those in favor of approving
10 the October 19, 2023, meeting minutes say "aye".

11 [All responded "aye".]

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All those opposed
13 say "nay". Any abstentions? The motion passes. Mr.
14 Said, please announce the next item.

15 MR. SAID: Next on the agenda is the
16 Chair's Report.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. At the
18 top, I want to note that there are a couple of changes
19 to the agenda. One is the rule adoption for the
20 cannabis consumption area. That is being postponed and
21 will be reconsidered at a later date. And there are
22 also no adult-use cannabis business license renewals on
23 the agenda for today. So apologies for that inclusion
24 in error. Want to note couple of items now that we are
25 at the end of the year. So in January I highlighted a

1 few items that folks can anticipate coming from the
2 Commission this year including finalizing the new
3 regulations for personal use cannabis businesses, a
4 continued expansion of the medicinal cannabis program,
5 and more adult-use cannabis businesses opening up. And
6 so I'm proud to say that we did that and more. We also
7 proposed rules for clinical registrants. We opened the
8 applications for the last three classes of adult-use
9 licenses. We've expanded edible products for both
10 patients and adult-use consumers, and launched a robust
11 safe-use public messaging campaign. So I want to thank
12 staff for their indispensable work to make those things
13 a reality. Our legal compliance and investigations
14 licensing outreach customer service and I Teams make it
15 all a reality. We've also made clear that the NJCRC
16 Board will hold businesses accountable for their
17 actions when they don't follow the rules. As the Board
18 of Commissioners is responsible for setting regulatory
19 policies for the cannabis industry, we put the
20 Commission's rules in place for a reason, to say what
21 we mean and mean what we say. So as 2023 comes to a
22 close, I do want to note some of the impacts of the
23 Board's votes over the last two and a half years.
24 Today marks the 33rd public meeting for public
25 participation and transparency in the Agency's actions.

1 We've quadrupled the size of the medicinal cannabis
2 industry. We are now at nearly 50 dispensaries at
3 which patient's can get medical cannabis. We've
4 approved more than 1600 total adult-use cannabis
5 business licenses including more than 300 annual
6 licenses, 12 location changes, six ownership changes,
7 65 expansions of alternative treatment centers, and
8 more than 800 conditional license extensions to help
9 businesses move towards getting an annual license
10 application in.

11 In 2024, we'll continue building on our
12 successes this far. So we'll look to mirror the
13 accessibility and inclusion concepts of our adult-use
14 regulations and our medical regulations. We'll also
15 look to align the medical permits and adult-use
16 licenses for our expanded ATCs which will dramatically
17 improve the renewal process for both the businesses and
18 the Commission. We're also developing written policies
19 that explain the Commission's approach to compliance
20 and enforcement so that it establishes when and how
21 regulatory violations are documented, reflects the idea
22 that some violations rightly warrant a supportive
23 response from the Agency to encourage compliance, and
24 manages both internal and external expectations about
25 how regulatory issues are addressed. So as I mentioned

1 before, transparency and accountability are vital to
2 the success of -- to successful implementation of the
3 Commission's rules and ultimately to realizing the
4 vision of having a cannabis industry that is safe and
5 with responsible operators. Our investigators take the
6 time to interview complainants, review evidence, and
7 put together detailed reports. And the Board
8 recognizes these efforts and takes investigators'
9 assessments seriously. So my hope is that this written
10 policy on our approach to compliance and enforcement
11 will be finalized and implemented very soon.

12 And I will leave you lastly with a few
13 reminders for our applicants. First and foremost, when
14 it comes to the applications themselves, please
15 remember to answer every question fully and completely.
16 Too many times the Board receives applications that are
17 incomplete or have conflicting information. When this
18 happens, the Board has to request and wait for
19 supplemental information from you, the applicant. So
20 this can lead to delays in processing and approving
21 your application. The fastest way to get your
22 application approved is to fill it out -- is to fill
23 out the application completely and correctly the first
24 time you submit it. At the insistence of the Board,
25 the Commission is updating the disclosure forms that

1 are part of the applications to clarify the information
2 that applicants need to provide. So look for those on
3 our website when they are ready. Secondly and lastly,
4 the Commission still currently has a lot of inactive
5 applications just sitting in our application portal and
6 unable to advance through the approval process because
7 businesses aren't responding to NJCRC staff when they
8 reach out to fix deficiencies in their application. So
9 applicants, please, please, please ensure your contact
10 information is up to date and correctly listed in your
11 application. Check your spam folders and your
12 voicemail. We do still use telephones, yes. And
13 contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the
14 Office of Licensing or your assigned investigator if
15 you have questions about how to fix a deficiency in
16 your application. We want to make sure that everyone
17 who submits an application gets to see that application
18 move forward in the review approval process. And we
19 can only do that when you help us make sure that your
20 application is full and complete. That is all that I
21 have for today's Chair's Report.

22 MR. SAID: Next item up on the agenda is
23 the Executive Director's Report.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Director Brown, you
25 have the floor.

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,
2 Madam Chair. So today I'm going to cover a couple
3 things. Number one, a licensing update. I'm going to
4 also provide some information regarding sales for the
5 third quarter of 2023 as well as look back at the last
6 year and some of the statistics we see in the market
7 and then also look at a snapshot of our medicinal
8 cannabis program. So here we have a map showing and
9 listing some of the recent license approvals. These
10 are businesses that have passed inspection and been
11 issued their licenses. You can see a list of new
12 recreational-only dispensaries. These include Camden
13 Apothecary, Soulflora, Hackettstown Dispensary, The
14 Cannabis Place, 1634 Funk, Pure Blossom. New
15 expansions into recreational, downtown FLWR, Garden
16 State Botanicals, Yuma Way. And there are more. And
17 then we have new medicinal-only dispensaries that have
18 opened up, Monteverde in Red Bank. And not listed here
19 opening -- expected to be opening at the end of the
20 month is Sanctuary Medicinals. Next slide, please.
21 Looking at licensing, we now received close to 2400
22 total applications. Of those 2400, 1650 have been
23 approved. There are 293 applications still under
24 review in the Office of Licensing. 138 of those are
25 pending resubmission following a cure. That means

1 they've been issued a letter noting what they have to
2 do to move forward in the process and have not yet
3 responded. And there are 217 applications under review
4 in the Office of Compliance and Licensing. To date,
5 we've issued just one shy of 1300 conditional licenses,
6 208 conditional-to-annual conversions, 142 annuals, and
7 68 expanded ATCs. And the last number's the total
8 number of licences, not operating licenses. Operating
9 licenses would just be conditional to annual, annual
10 and expanded ATCs, but in total that's over 1700
11 licenses issued by the CRC. Today we have a slate of
12 27 conditional applications, 24 conditional-to-annual
13 conversion applications, nine annual applications, and
14 I believe four expanded ATCs.

15 And next I'm going to turn to a look at
16 sales for the last year and particularly for the third
17 quarter of 2023. I have some good news. New Jersey's
18 market continues to grow. For the first time in
19 history, legal cannabis sales in New Jersey eclipsed
20 200 million dollars in the third quarter of 2023. That
21 includes just shy of \$177 million of adult-use sales
22 and just shy of \$30 million of medicinal sales. We
23 continue to see medicinal sales come down slightly over
24 time. And then we continue to see adult-use sales grow
25 over time. In total, we're seeing at this point about

1 ten percent growth in the market quarter over quarter.

2 So that's three quarters of a billion dollars in total
3 cannabis sales in the last year. Looking month to
4 month, this is a list the 2023 year-to-date through the
5 end of October. You can see we started out with just
6 shy of \$50 million in adult-use sales in January and
7 ended October just shy of \$60 million in total sales.

8 So as more dispensaries open up, as more businesses,
9 you know, serve the market, we're seeing more consumers
10 come into the legal market and purchase legal cannabis.
11 And adult-use sales for the year -- and this doesn't
12 include medicinal -- at the end the October we're at
13 about \$550 million.

14 So looking at price, too, which we've
15 looked at before, but the last price update I gave
16 showed that prices were coming down. They continue to
17 gradually come down. We've seen prices drop from on
18 average just shy of \$14 per gram in January, and in
19 October we ended at about 12.50 per gram. The
20 year-to-date average is \$13 per gram. And this us for
21 adult-use. Next slide. One interesting piece of data,
22 because we're seeing prices come down, the growth in
23 overall sales numbers -- so when we look at total sales
24 revenue, it's gone up 27 percent. But when we look at
25 the number of -- or the percentage of the differences

1 sold in total grams of products, that's actually
2 increased by 40 percent. So because prices are
3 starting to come down, the growth in total sales is not
4 reflective of the total growth of the market. We are
5 seeing, you know, year-to-date 40 percent growth in
6 sales when it comes to grams. So, you know, that shows
7 as prices come down more and more, people are coming
8 into the legal market and are purchasing legal
9 cannabis. Next slide.

10 Here we see a breakdown of adult-use
11 sales mixed by product category. Flower continues to
12 be the most popular product category. About 40 -- just
13 over 40 percent of all sales are flower. Just shy of
14 30 percent are vape cartridges. That's, you know,
15 second highest purchase. And edibles come in third
16 just shy of 15 percent. Looking forward to 2024, we
17 expect to see that edible category grow especially
18 since the Commission approved a set of edible rules
19 that are now, you know, going through the publication,
20 public comment process, and also some waivers that have
21 expanded the ability for businesses to produce edibles.
22 Some of the lesser popular product categories are
23 concentrates. Pre-rolls at about 10 percent. And
24 shake and trim and capsules and pills under 1 percent.

25 Turning to the medicinal program, we

1 continue to see patient enrollment come down month over
2 month. We still have I think today 93,000 patients,
3 but that's a drop from over 120,000 patients in
4 September of 2022. So we are seeing people drop out of
5 the medicinal program. We have an agenda item today
6 that we'll get in a little bit that should hopefully
7 incentivize patients to stay in the medicinal program.
8 But as adult-use sales are available, we're seeing the
9 patient roles come down slightly over time.
10 Additionally, the sales lessening as well. I think our
11 high point for medicinal sales was \$60 million or just
12 shy of \$60 million before adult-use was launched. And
13 we're now at about \$30 million. So this is our current
14 snapshot of patient enrollment. 93,924 patients
15 enrolled in the program. 5,372 caregivers, and 1,538
16 healthcare practitioners serving patients. And with
17 that, I'll turn it back to you, Madam Chair.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director
19 Brown. Are there any questions from the Board
20 regarding the information presented? Commissioner
21 Barker.

22 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Thank you for that
23 update, Executive Director Brown. As you eluded to, as
24 Madam Chair eluded to, there has been significant
25 expansion in the last to eight to ten months. I

1 believe the slide said more than 70 medicinal and
2 recreational dispensaries at across 18 counties. So
3 hat tip to the work you and staff are doing. I believe
4 -- and I will get this exact -- but I believe since
5 March 2023 there have been about 40 or 50 operational
6 cannabis businesses open in New Jersey. My question is
7 can staff please share how many of those businesses are
8 majority owned by Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic
9 people?

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Yes. So I
11 would just point -- you know, we did our full quarterly
12 report in September on majority ownership in awardees.
13 We have not compiled a data update since then. But,
14 you know, what we can do is our next quarterly report
15 is in January, and we can look at, you know, awardee
16 versus operational. That should be pretty easy to put
17 together. So while I don't have that data today, I
18 would refer you back to the September numbers for
19 overall ownership of awardees. And then, you know,
20 when we report those numbers out again in January, we
21 can look at operational versus, you know, versus still
22 in process.

23 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Thank you. And
24 I'll review those numbers again from September, but I
25 think my specific request -- and I'll memorialize this

1 in an email. I'm going to get the exact number of
2 businesses that have been open since March. I believe
3 we had about 20-something for a while. We've been
4 accelerating that. We may be beyond 70 by the end of
5 the year. My question is for the 40 or 50 business
6 that have open since March, how many of those
7 businesses are Black, Indigenous, or Hispanic majority
8 ownership? And I think it's imperative that we
9 understand and monitor whether Black, Indigenous, and
10 Hispanic majority owned applicants are receiving an
11 equitable share of the awards that are being granted.
12 So I understand if you don't have that information
13 today. We can address it at a subsequent meeting.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Yeah. I
15 think when we looked at the awards in September we were
16 outpacing population for Black or African American and
17 I believe Asian ownership. And we were I believe not
18 consistent with population for Hispanic or Latino. And
19 I'm not sure from the others, but that report looked at
20 all of the awardees, both majority ownership total
21 number of persons of interest against all persons of
22 interest in the industry. And, you know, happy to
23 break that out in January by those that are operating
24 and who have been issued a license versus those who are
25 still in the implementation process.

1 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Thank you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Any other questions
3 from the Board regarding the information provided?

4 COMMISSIONER BARKER: One more question.
5 Do you see a significant increase in craft and local
6 cultivation awardees in 2024?

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: We don't have
8 a regulatory definition for craft. I could tell you
9 that, you know, certainly, you know, cannabis
10 connoisseurs are a discerning bunch. And, you know, I
11 -- I would look to, you know, consumers to determine
12 whether or not, you know, craft cannabis -- craft
13 cannabis is taking hold in New Jersey. You know, I
14 think our framework for licensing, for prioritizing,
15 you know, small independent businesses is working. You
16 know, my hope is that, you know, we continue to see
17 quality increase, continue to see price drop.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: If there's nothing
19 further, then, Mr. Said, please, we'll move on to the
20 next agenda item.

21 MR. SAID: Next item on the agenda is
22 the Permitting and Licensing Committee report.

23 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: And so I'll be
24 giving today's Committee report for the Permitting and
25 Licensing Committee. We do have Commissioner Del

1 Cid-Kosso joining us remotely via phone. And so at
2 various points I will ask Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso if
3 she wants to add anything throughout the Committee
4 report. So for the extension requests received in
5 October and November that have been reviewed by the
6 Committee, we have 176 that have been granted for a
7 grand total of more than 800 conditional license
8 extensions granted this year. And so if you are in
9 need of an extension of your conditional license, go to
10 our website under the cannabis businesses tab. On the
11 right-hand side circled in red you'll see the form for
12 requesting an extension. And please, when you are
13 submitting that form, make sure that you are including
14 any attachments that you need to provide further
15 explanation of your situation or documentation that you
16 want to provide the Committee so that the Committee can
17 make a decision. Next slide, please. Sometimes
18 technology does not want us to win. While we're
19 waiting for that, I'll state that at the last Board
20 meeting I did report that some of the top reasons for
21 -- oh, there we go. Some of the top -- oh. Guess not.
22 Some of the top reasons that businesses were requesting
23 extensions, those being municipal approval delays, lack
24 of or delays with site control, and issues with getting
25 sufficient funding, the approximate number of

1 businesses that are requesting extensions in October
2 and November, we see those numbers not budging very
3 much. So nearly 70 percent of businesses with
4 conditional licenses are needing extensions because of
5 issues with getting municipal approval. And a little
6 more than half of them are still having issues with
7 getting site control or property for their businesses.
8 And, again, these two items are mandated by statute.
9 And so businesses have to get -- have to secure both
10 municipal approval and property control before they
11 submit their application for an annual license to the
12 CRC. Some of the top municipalities in which licensees
13 are waiting for town decisions in October and November
14 were Jersey City and Newark. We do see a lot of other
15 municipalities across the state both in the northern,
16 central, and southern regions that are having longer
17 municipal approval processes the businesses are getting
18 caught up in. At this point, I want to ask
19 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso if she has anything else to
20 add before we move on.

21 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes, Madam
22 Chair. Thank you. I would just like to mention,
23 again, as you mentioned earlier that, you know, we are
24 seeing again and again the delays in municipal
25 approvals is a common reason for extension requests

1 made by the awardees. So we are seeing that as one of
2 our top issues that awardees are making these extension
3 requests to the Commission. I do want to take this
4 time to remind people to submit their extension
5 requests, there form 15 days prior to their respective
6 deadline. This deadline is very important to us
7 internally just because it gives the Committee
8 additional time to inquire -- to make any inquiries for
9 additional information from the awardee. So that's
10 very important to us. And finally, I would just like
11 to take the time to thank the staff that has been
12 assisting us with the Committee for the last year.
13 Your commitment to our mission doesn't go unnoticed.
14 But, again, thank you, Madam Chair, for allowing me to
15 speak the today.

16 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you,
17 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Moving on, I do want to
18 address a request that Commissioner Nash made at the
19 last Board meeting with an assessment or an analysis of
20 those businesses that are being approved for
21 extensions. And so I believe, Commissioner Nash, you
22 asked for information about how many of these
23 businesses were social equity businesses. Our -- and
24 as the Permitting and Licensing Committee reviewed the
25 information that we had, we did not have the ability to

1 readily generate that number of social equity
2 businesses. It would require us opening up all 800
3 extensions to the applications for 800 extensions to
4 discern whether those social equity businesses.
5 However, we do have a breakdown of micro businesses
6 versus standard businesses and the type of -- the
7 classification of licenses that are being sought by
8 these business. So I do want to share at least the
9 information that we do have available. So of the
10 extensions that have been approved, about 41 percent of
11 them are micro businesses with approximately 58 percent
12 being standard businesses. And among the classes of
13 licenses, about a quarter, 25 percent of the
14 extensions, the conditional licenses that are being
15 extended are for cultivators, 14 percent are for
16 manufacturer's, and 70 percent are for retailers. So
17 these are the numbers that we were able to readily
18 assess from the data that we had, but the Permitting
19 and Licensing Committee's constantly thinking about its
20 extension request form and how we can improve that to
21 make sure that we are making data analysis --
22 quantitative data analysis possible for us.

23 And then lastly, as we come to the end
24 of the Permitting and Licensing Committee's report, we
25 did want to note that there are a number of adult-use

1 annual license awardees who are approaching their
2 operational deadline. So these are businesses who have
3 had their applications approved for an annual or
4 conversion by the Board of Commissioners and now are
5 approaching their deadline as stipulated in the
6 regulations. You have 365 days from approval to
7 request your final on-site assessment. And that is
8 what is the benchmark to let us know that you are ready
9 to be operational, you are ready to open your doors and
10 finally commence your business activities as a licensed
11 cannabis business. So in this month, the month of
12 December we have 11 businesses that are coming up on
13 their operational deadline. We have 12 businesses that
14 are coming up on their operational deadline in January.
15 22 are coming up on their operational deadline in
16 February. And 17 are coming up on their operational
17 deadline in March. Again, we have 11 businesses whose
18 deadline is at the end of this month to request that
19 final on-site assessment. 12 have a deadline in New
20 January. 22 have a deadline in February. And 17 have
21 a deadline in March. So if you are in this bucket, if
22 you are in this group of businesses and you are
23 approaching your deadline and you feel like you don't
24 have enough time to complete everything that you need
25 to complete, be it construction, renovation, getting

1 final permits from the municipality or what have you,
2 please follow the process to request an extension. As
3 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso mentioned, getting that in
4 at least 15 days in advance is critical. And so we
5 want to make sure that all of these businesses are
6 aware that they are coming up on their deadlines, and
7 there's an avenue to get an extension if you need it.
8 Please utilize these options that we're making
9 available to you. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso, is there
10 anything else you'd like to add?

11 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: No. You
12 covered everything. Thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Are
14 there any questions -- so that's it for the Permitting
15 and Licensing Committee report. Are there any
16 questions from the Board? Hearing none, Mr. Said, I
17 will turn it back over to you.

18 MR. SAID: Next item on the agenda is
19 the consideration of the schedule for regular meetings
20 for year 2024.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.
22 Director Brown, would you like to provide any summary
23 remarks? If not, I will turn it over to Vice Chair to
24 talk through the proposed schedule.

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Madam Chair,

1 I have no remarks. We're obviously supportive of the
2 schedule. Looks good.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Vice
4 Chair.

5 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Very good. So as
6 everyone can see up on the board, this is the 2024
7 schedule. All regular scheduled meetings will be at 44
8 South Clinton Avenue here in Trenton. And all meetings
9 will start at 11:00 a.m. promptly. For the
10 January 17th meeting, it's going to be a virtual
11 meeting. As you could see through the schedule, every
12 meeting date except for the January 17th meeting and
13 the May 8th meeting will be on Thursday. The
14 January 17th meeting is Wednesday and the May meeting
15 on May 8th is also a Wednesday. And that's all I have,
16 Madam Chairwoman. It's pretty self-explanatory.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Indeed it is.
18 Thank you, Vice Chair Delgado.

19 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Are there any
21 questions from the Board?

22 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Brief comment,
23 Madam Chair.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Comment or
25 question?

1 COMMISSIONER BARKER: No question.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Okay. If you have
3 a comment, by all means, and then we'll move -- then
4 I'll ask a question motion.

5 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam
6 Chair?

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Commissioner Del
8 Cid-Kosso, just give me -- I will come to you in one
9 moment. Commissioner Barker.

10 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I can
11 wait until you make a motion and then ask if there are
12 any questions on the motion.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Understood. Thank
14 you, Commissioner Barker. Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

15 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: I want to
16 ask Commissioner -- Vice Chair Delgado if there was no
17 meeting in August and is he a hundred percent sure
18 about the schedule.

19 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Well, Commissioner
20 Del Cid-Kosso, as you can see there is no meeting in
21 August. However, you know, the Commission can always
22 place a meeting in August if one needs to be done just
23 like we can schedule a meeting in November if it needs
24 to be done. But right now there is no August meeting.
25 Nor is there a November meeting in 2024.

1 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: I noticed
2 that. Thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: You're welcome.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you,
5 Commissioner Del Cid. Any other questions from the
6 Board regarding the information that Vice Chair Delgado
7 shared? Hearing none, is there a motion on this
8 matter?

9 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chairwoman, I
10 move that we accept the 2024 meeting schedule.

11 COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair
13 Delgado and seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is there
14 any discussion on this motion?

15 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Brief discussion,
16 Madam Chair.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Commissioner
18 Barker, go ahead.

19 COMMISSIONER BARKER: We know and we've
20 heard from the public and from experience that
21 businesses need as many opportunities as possible to
22 move through the process. And so I hope we can
23 reconsider scheduling a meeting at least once every
24 month to continue to move applicants along. I wish we
25 could have included it during this motion. And I hope

1 we are open to amending the schedule before we get to
2 those months where there is no meeting scheduled.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: So Commissioner
5 Barker, are you making -- are you moving to amend the
6 schedule?

7 COMMISSIONER BARKER: I mean, I'm not
8 because I don't want to put anybody on the spot. I
9 don't believe I have the votes. So I'm willing to go
10 back to the table at the office and see if we can get
11 this course corrected and put it on the table in a
12 subsequent meeting in front of the public. I don't
13 want to just make a motion for the sake of making a
14 motion. But I do want to express and I think staff --
15 I mean the public has expressed to us and we have been
16 down this road it's important to have a meeting every
17 month. Applicants are waiting and burning cash. And
18 for us to not be meeting and to hold them up I, think
19 we should reconsider that.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All right. So
21 that's a comment. You're not moving to amend the
22 motion. Okay. All right. So with that, is there any
23 further discussion on this motion to accept the 2024
24 schedule? Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Said, can
25 you please call the vote?

1 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

2 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Nay.

3 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

4 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

5 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

6 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

7 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

8 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

9 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

10 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

11 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item

12 on the agenda are regulatory requirement waivers.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. And

14 here we have two -- I believe, yes, two regulatory
15 requirement waivers for the Board to consider. So I
16 will turn to Director Brown for any summary remarks.

17 Apologies. Just one waiver. My apologies. I
18 misspoke. There is only one regulatory requirement
19 waiver under consideration. Director Brown, please
20 provide -- the floor is yours for any remarks.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Yes. Thank
22 you, Madam Chair. You know, dating back to 2018 when
23 the governor issued his sixth Executive Order asking
24 the Department of Health to look at ways to improve
25 access to the medicinal cannabis -- at the time

1 medicinal marijuana program, we've looked for ways to
2 do just that, to help patients enrolled, help them stay
3 enrolled, and help them access the medicine that many
4 of them rely on. In the EO 6 response, the Department
5 of Health reduced fees for enrollment. At the time
6 they were \$200 for every two years or \$20 if you
7 qualified for a reduced fee. That was limited to
8 people on government assistance. At the Department of
9 Health we then reduced that two-year fee to 100, cut it
10 in half, and expanded eligibility for the reduced fees
11 to include seniors and veteran. This Board approved
12 further reductions in I believe it was the summer of
13 2022 reducing that \$100 fee to \$50 and keeping that \$20
14 fee for reduced fee cards in that expanded eligibility
15 group. Now that, you know, sales are improving,
16 there's more revenue coming in as far as fees and other
17 things, we can continue to look at our fees for
18 patients and caregivers and make sure that we're doing
19 everything that we can to make sure people can access
20 the medicinal cannabis program.

21 And so before you you have a further
22 waiver to reduce fees, to reduce registration fees for
23 all patients to \$10. And that -- if approved, that
24 would take effect today at 5:00 p.m. So there are
25 probably some patients who are waiting to pay in the

1 registry. I would encourage you to wait until
2 5:00 p.m. We'll update all the fees to make sure
3 they're set to the new fee if approved. And then in
4 early 2024, the other piece of this waiver, we expect
5 to roll out digital identification cards in the patient
6 registry. As many of you may know or not, we created a
7 new -- thanks to a team of folks who worked on it --
8 launched a new patient portal. Previously that's going
9 to enable us to credit digital-only ID cards. That
10 reduces staff time needed to print those cards. It
11 reduces staff time needed to review. And so
12 corresponding with the release of those digital ID
13 cards in early 2024, if a patient or caregiver opts for
14 a digital ID card, it will be free. There will be no
15 cost from the CRC to process that. There will continue
16 to be a \$10 fee for those who opt for a physical card.
17 There will certainly be some people who opt to do that.
18 For example, there are states who offer reciprocity.
19 Sometimes you need to have a physical card in order to
20 do that. But if you're just accessing the market here,
21 you will be able to get a free digital ID card with
22 your registration. We hope that this further reduces
23 costs for patients, helps them stay enrolled in the
24 program if they, you know, can benefit from medicinal
25 cannabis. And this waiver is recommended for approval.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director
2 Brown. Are there any questions from the Board
3 regarding the information provided?

4 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yeah. I have one
5 question.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Vice Chair Delgado.

7 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Director Brown, on
8 the digital IDs, is that -- are they perpetual, or do
9 they have to re-up every couple years?

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: No. They'll
11 still have to renew every two years like a regular
12 card, but they'll be able to renew with a digital ID
13 card.

14 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you.

15 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Any other questions
16 from the Board for Director Brown? Hearing none, is
17 there a motion on this matter?

18 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I
19 move that we approve the waiver.

20 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by
22 Commissioner Barker and seconded by Commissioner Del
23 Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion to
24 approve the waiver? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said,
25 can you please call the vote?

1 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

2 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

3 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

4 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Before I

5 cast my vote, I would just like to say that four years

6 ago I recall sitting in the legislative committee

7 listening to Jake Honig's father share the obstacles

8 that their families face as their seven-year old son

9 battles brain cancer. And then again in the summer of

10 2019 I heard him speak as Governor Murphy signed the

11 Jake Honig Compassionate Youth Medical Cannabis Act.

12 Many of the medical reforms are thanks to the Jake

13 Honig Act. And I admit that we still have a lot of

14 work to do ahead of us in order for us to improve the

15 medical program. And I am proud to support this.

16 Today's waiver is for Jake Honig and the 93,000

17 patients that are currently enrolled. So my vote is

18 yes.

19 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

20 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

21 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

22 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

23 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

24 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

25 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item

1 on the agenda are the advisory notices on regulatory
2 policy.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. And
4 here we have two advisory notices that are under
5 consideration. So the first being with respect to
6 alternative treatment center permits and the renewal of
7 such. So Director Brown, I will turn it over to you.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you.
9 And I'm just going to cover both because they're very
10 similar, and then the Commission can proceed to vote.
11 And these -- this really just codifies, you know, the
12 practice for any number of years. Honestly, predates
13 me under DOH. They're two medicinal permits. And then
14 there are testing laboratory licenses. And pursuant to
15 the corresponding regulations, they are on the calendar
16 year. When a business or a testing laboratory becomes
17 operational during a calendar year, there's a partial
18 year, you know, essentially permit or license. And so,
19 you know, what past practice has been is to not require
20 that full renewal, you know, including submission of
21 renewal forms and everything required by regulation
22 until there's been a full year on that permit. And
23 actually, there's a regulation that states, you know,
24 permit shall be in effect for one year. So, you know,
25 these advisory, you know, policies just codify that as

1 it pertains to medicinal cannabis permits and testing
2 laboratory licenses. So, you know, if a testing
3 laboratory or ATC is issued a permit today, you know,
4 that first renewal even though the 365 days wouldn't be
5 up until, you know, 12/7/2024, they would get some
6 extra time before that full renewal is necessary.

7 Madam Chair, as you noted, you know, as we look to
8 update regulations both medicinal and make updates to
9 adult use, we're going to look at this issue and try to
10 get it in line so it's more manageable for all. But
11 this just acknowledges what that practice is and the
12 fact that, you know, on that initial year you're not
13 going to get a partial year, you'll get a full year and
14 then plus whatever that extra is before that renewal
15 occurs. So this is recommended -- these advisory, you
16 know, advisory notices on regulatory policies are
17 recommended for approval here. Just codify the
18 practice and so that everybody's on the same page as to
19 how we move forward as it pertains to both medicinal
20 cannabis alternative treatment center permits and
21 testing laboratory licenses.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director
23 Brown. Are there any questions from the Board
24 regarding the information provided? Hearing none, we
25 will start with the first being the advisory notice

1 with respect to renewal of the alternative treatment
2 center permits. Is there a motion on that matter?

3 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam
4 Chair, I move to adopt the approval renewal process for
5 the newly permitted medical cannabis businesses.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by
7 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso to approve.

8 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: I second.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by Vice
10 Chair Delgado. Is there any discussion on this motion
11 to approve the advisory notice? Hearing no discussion,
12 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

13 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

14 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

15 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

16 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

17 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

18 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

19 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

20 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

21 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

23 MR. SAID: The motion passes.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Now, with respect
25 to the renewal of the testing laboratory licenses, is

1 there a motion on that advisory notice?

2 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chair, I move
3 that we approve the renewal process for the newly --
4 for the testing laboratory process.

5 COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair
7 Delgado. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Is there a
8 second? I'm sorry. Is there any discussion on this
9 motion to approve the advisory notice? Hearing no
10 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

11 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

12 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

13 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

14 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

15 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

16 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

17 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

18 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

19 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

21 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item

22 on the agenda is the consideration of applications for
23 name changes.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.

25 Director Brown, I'll turn it over to you to describe --

1 to provide remarks on those applications for name
2 changes received.

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,
4 Madam Chair. The Commission has six name changes up
5 for consideration. They've, you know, filed with the
6 Secretary of State, filed with us. They're all
7 recommended for approval. And the next slide those
8 shows the list of those old names and the new names in
9 bold. So they're recommended for approval. Thank you.

10 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Is
11 there a motion -- I'm sorry. Are there any questions
12 from the Board for Director Brown regarding the
13 information provided? No questions. So is there a
14 motion on this matter?

15 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I
16 move that we approve the applications to change the
17 business names.

18 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by
20 Commissioner Barker and seconded by Commissioner Del
21 Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion on this motion?
22 Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

23 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

24 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

25 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

1 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

2 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

3 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

4 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

5 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

6 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: I'm going to vote

8 yes. However, I will ask staff with respect to the
9 Goldfinch Wellness, LLC that is seeking to change their
10 name to the Green Pony Dispensary to confirm with the
11 business that the display of that name will not be in a
12 manner that is enticing to children given the actual
13 name that is being used. My vote is yes.

14 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item
15 on the agenda is the consideration of applications for
16 location changes.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.
18 Director Brown, the floor is yours.

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you.
20 So the Board has before it an application for a
21 location change from Ascend, a class five retailer as
22 well as medicinal cannabis dispensary. It's currently
23 located at 395 Bloomfield Avenue in Montclair. They
24 have applied to move that location to 325 NJ-215 North
25 in Wharton. Both those locations are in the northern

1 region. They've submitted the requisite documentation
2 for the location change. You know, process wise, if
3 approved, there will obviously be some time -- it will
4 take some time to actually shift operations. You know,
5 we'll make sure, you know, any patients being served
6 are adequately noticed and that, you know, things are
7 transferred in an orderly manner. But Ascend has
8 applied to make this business decision. And they've
9 submitted everything that they are required to submit.
10 And we are recommending this location change for
11 approval.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director
13 Brown. Are there any questions from the Board
14 regarding the information Director Brown provided?
15 Hearing no questions, is there a motion on this matter?

16 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chair, I move
17 that we approve the location change for Ascend located
18 in Montclair to Wharton, New Jersey.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair
20 Delgado. Is there a second?

21 COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by
23 Commissioner Nash. Is there any discussion on this
24 motion to approve the location change?

25 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam

1 Chair, if I may?

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Commissioner Del
3 Cid-Kosso, the floor is yours.

4 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Thank you.

5 So this is just something to consider. When I was
6 reviewing the materials, I noticed there is a 25 mile
7 distance between the old and the new location. And
8 also the proposed location's in a whole different
9 county than the original one. Again, this is a
10 business decision that was made. However, I do hope
11 that these entities are having conversations with the
12 employees ahead of time so that they can restructure or
13 employees can plan ahead of these changes. Right?
14 Because we don't know, but from employees may depend on
15 public transportation to get to their job. So an
16 additional 30 minutes from their location, you know,
17 from the original location could be an issue for those
18 them please. So just for planning purposes, I do hope
19 that these businesses are having conversations with
20 their employees about, you know, what changes are
21 coming. Thank you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you,
23 Commissioner Del Cid. Is there any further discussion
24 on this motion? Hearing no further discussion, Mr.
25 Said, can you please call the vote?

1 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

2 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

3 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

4 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

5 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

6 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

7 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

8 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

9 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

10 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: I agree and echo

11 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso's comments regarding making

12 sure businesses are communicating with their workers

13 and accommodating their workers as appropriate. With

14 that, my vote is yes.

15 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item

16 on the agenda is the consideration of medicinal

17 cannabis business permit renewals.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Director Brown, the

19 floor is yours.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,

21 Madam Chair. So as we just went over with the advisory

22 notice regarding permit renewals, we have two cohorts

23 of alternative treatment centers up for renewal for

24 calendar year 2024. Their permits do run on the

25 calendar year. There's those that have been in

1 operation for more than one year who are required to
2 submit the full renewal application and require fees
3 and then those who are operational less than one year.
4 All of those who have been operational less than one
5 year came in through the 2019 RFA. And fees were
6 collected for that RFA to cover the cost of the first
7 full year of permit issuance. So for the first cohort,
8 again, that full pursuant to regulation the full
9 application, renewal application is required, the regs
10 say to renew a permit they have to submit that
11 application, pay the fees. And then those operational
12 less than one year, staff did, you know, make sure they
13 were still compliant with post cohort conditions
14 particularly for the 2019 RFA. In the memo for
15 Commissioners, the locations are noted as well as
16 staff's assessment for what they, you know,
17 completeness of their submissions, whether or not there
18 are any unresolved enforcement actions and, you know,
19 looked at -- made sure they all had active labor peace
20 agreements. So there are in total 32 up for renewal
21 here. There are 15 in operation for more than one year
22 and 17 in operation for less than one year. Those 17
23 -- all 32 will have to do a full renewal next year.
24 They are all recommended for approval. They are all in
25 staff's opinion, you know, in compliance. We don't

1 have any unresolved enforcement actions pending against
2 any of them. And we do recommend all 32 to be renewed.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. And is
4 the list of businesses -- there we go. Perfect. Thank
5 you. Some of these businesses do have multiple
6 locations. Not -- Director Brown, just for
7 clarification, the -- all of the locations that are
8 represented by these entities are being up for renewal?

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: That's
10 correct. Under the medicinal rules, the permit -- the
11 permit is renewed as a whole. And so they, you know,
12 there are vertically integrated entities on this list.
13 And so, you know, essentially the renewal application
14 is for renewal of all of those locations.

15 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes, Commissioner
16 Nash.

17 COMMISSIONER NASH: Director Brown, so
18 you cannot separate out one of the facilities from an
19 entity because they're vertically integrated; correct?

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: I'm going to
21 have to consult Chief Counsel.

22 CHIEF COUNSEL RIGGS: That's correct.
23 They're entity specific, not location specific under
24 the medical rules.

25 COMMISSIONER NASH: Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Any other questions
2 from the Board? With that, is there a motion on this
3 matter? Is there a motion on this matter?

4 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes, Madam Chair.
5 [Inaudible.]

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair
7 Delgado to approve all 32 businesses. Is there a
8 second?

9 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

10 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by
11 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion on
12 this motion to approve?

13 COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chair?

14 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes, Commissioner
15 Nash.

16 COMMISSIONER NASH: I would like to make
17 a motion to separate -- to consider Columbia Care
18 separately.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: So Commissioner
20 Nash, you are moving to remove from consideration at
21 this immediate time the application for permit renewal
22 for Columbia Care New Jersey LLC? The current motion
23 on the floor is to approve all of them. So at present
24 we would need to either entertain a motion to amend the
25 current motion on the floor, or if the motion that's

1 currently operation floor fails then the floor will be
2 open to any motion.

3 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes. So I would
4 consider Columbia Care at this meeting a separate
5 motion.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: So you would like
7 to amend the motion?

8 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Would you please
10 state just for clarity what the amended motion would
11 be? The motion presently on the floor is to approve
12 all 32 businesses as recommended. And you are seeking
13 to amend that motion?

14 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes. I am seeking
15 to deny that motion for approval for renewal.

16 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: But if we're
17 looking to amend the motion, what would you like the
18 motion to then be? To not approve all 32, but to
19 approve --

20 COMMISSIONER NASH: Approve all 32 --
21 31. Yes. 31.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: So the motion is
23 to amend the prior motion to approve 31 businesses,
24 their medical permit renewal with the exception -- and
25 not Columbia Care New Jersey, LLC? Consider that

1 separately?

2 COMMISSIONER NASH: Uh-huh.

3 COMMISSIONER BARKER: To consider it

4 separately?

5 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: To consider it

6 separately she said.

7 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

8 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All right. So the

9 motion -- a motion has been made to approve 31

10 businesses for permit renewal and to consider, but to

11 consider Columbia -- the permit renewal of Columbia

12 Care New Jersey, LLC separately.

13 COMMISSIONER NASH: That is correct.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. There's

15 been a motion to amend. Is there a second on this

16 motion to amend the prior motion such that it is to

17 approve 31 businesses for permit renewal but to

18 consider Columbia Care, New Jersey, LLC separately? I

19 will second the motion. Is there any discussion on

20 this motion to amend Vice Chair Delgado's original

21 motion? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, on the motion

22 to amend the prior motion so that it is now to approve

23 31 businesses for permit renewal and to consider

24 Columbia Care New Jersey, LLC separately, can you

25 please call the vote?

1 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

2 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

3 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

4 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

5 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

6 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

7 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

8 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: No.

9 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

10 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

11 MR. SAID: The motion passes.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: So the motion on

13 the floor currently is as amended, to approve 31
14 businesses for their permit renewal and to consider
15 Columbia Care New Jersey, LLC separately. So, any
16 discussion on this motion to approve 31 business
17 permits for renewal? All of those indicated by
18 Director Brown except for Columbia Care New Jersey,
19 LLC. Is there any discussion on the motion to approve
20 the remaining 31? Hearing no discussion, Mr. Said, on
21 the motion to approve 31 businesses for permit renewal,
22 so all those recommended by staff except for Columbia
23 Care New Jersey, LLC, can you please call the vote?

24 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

25 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

1 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

2 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam

3 Chair, could you clarify the motion again? Are we

4 saying that we're denying Columbia Care or -- I just

5 want clarification if you don't mind.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Not a problem. The

7 motion is to move forward with considering 31 business

8 permits for renewal as one and to consider Columbia

9 Care, New Jersey LLC separately. So whether to do this

10 all in one -- so in essence, the motion currently on

11 the floor is do we want to break out Columbia Care New

12 Jersey, LLC first on the group of 31 and then vote on

13 -- then consider the application for Columbia Care New

14 Jersey.

15 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Got it.

16 I'm going to go with yes.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Mr. Said, can you

18 please continue with the vote?

19 MR. SAID: So I'm going to start over

20 just so we're clear.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Certainly.

22 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

23 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

24 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

25 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

1 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

2 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

3 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

4 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

5 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

7 MR. SAID: The motion passes.

8 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All right. So now

9 that we have separated consideration of these
10 businesses, first will be with respect to 31 businesses
11 for permit renewal. Is there a motion with respect to
12 31 businesses -- so now we have to actually vote on
13 these two approvals. Is there a motion with respect to
14 31 businesses not including Columbia Care New Jersey,
15 LLC?

16 COMMISSIONER NASH: I make a motion to
17 consider the 31 businesses, the ATCs, for renewal.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: And by consider
19 them, do you mean to approve them for renewal?

20 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: So Commissioner
22 Nash moves to approve 31 ATCs for the permit renewal.

23 Is there a second?

24 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

25 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by

1 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion on
2 this motion to approve 31 ATC permit renewals? Hearing
3 no discussion, with respect to the 31 ATCs for permit
4 renewal not including Columbia Care New Jersey, LLC,
5 Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

6 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

7 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

8 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

9 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

10 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

11 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

12 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

13 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

14 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

15 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Before I cast my

16 vote, I want to point to the regulations and the law

17 that the Cannabis Regulatory Commission works under.

18 So N.J.A.C. 17:30A-7.7 states that, "The Commission may

19 deny the application for renewal of the permit if the

20 applicant is non-compliant with the applicable local

21 rules, ordinances, and/or zoning requirements, or if

22 the Commission determines that the facility is in

23 violation of the Jake Honig Act or this particular

24 chapter of regulations." Now, I want to point to that

25 because it seems that there are quite a few businesses

1 that have not met the statutory requirements with
2 respect to collective bargaining agreements as
3 articulated in the Jake Honig Act. The law states very
4 clearly, "The failure to enter into a collective
5 bargaining agreement within 200 days after the date
6 that a medical cannabis operator first opens shall
7 result in the suspension or revocation of such permit
8 or conditional permit." I'm pointing to this because
9 at present with the information that the Board has
10 received thus far it seems that there are several
11 businesses who might be violation of that provision of
12 the statute. The Board has requested staff to assess
13 the conditions on the ground. We've also consulted
14 with our legal counsel. And so the Board may take
15 action based on this statutory language at a later
16 date. But I want to point to it now because it is
17 important and it has come up and this Board has made it
18 very clear what its position is on maintaining the
19 statutory and regulatory requirements that have been
20 put in place. Because, again, it is important for us
21 as an agency to say what we mean and mean what we say.
22 With that stated, my vote is yes to approve the 31 ATC
23 permit renewals.

24 MR. SAID: The motion passes.

25 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: So now we turn to

1 the remaining ATC for consideration, Columbia Care New
2 Jersey. Is there a motion related to that entity?

3 COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chair, I move
4 to consider Columbia Care's renewal application.

5 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: By consider do you
6 mean approve?

7 COMMISSIONER NASH: No.

8 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: No. What do you --
9 what would you like this motion to be with respect to
10 Columbia Care?

11 COMMISSIONER NASH: Deny.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: There is a motion
13 to deny Columbia Care New Jersey, LLC's application for
14 renewal. Is there a second on this motion to deny?

15 Again, I'll ask for a second on this motion to deny.

16 There's no second, so this motion fails. Is there a
17 motion with respect to the pending matter of Columbia
18 Care New Jersey, LLC?

19 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Madam
20 Chair?

21 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes, Commissioner
22 Del Cid?

23 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: I move to
24 approve Columbia Care with stipulations that will be
25 addressed in the FAD.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All right.

2 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso has moved to approve
3 Columbia Care New Jersey, LLC with stipulations.

4 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO:
5 Stipulations and conditions that will be addressed in
6 the FAD.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.
8 Stipulations and conditions addressed in the final
9 agency decision. Is there a second on this motion?
10 I'll second the motion and ask that Commissioner Del
11 Cid-Kosso identify any stipulations or conditions that
12 she might have in mind at present.

13 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: I believe
14 there were some concerns that the Board had in terms of
15 the CBA, the collective bargaining agreement, and some
16 of the LPA condition. And we wanted to, one, gather
17 more information and two, allow the awardee to -- allow
18 the licensee to provide that information to the Board
19 as soon as possible.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Is
21 there any other discussion on this motion to approve
22 Columbia Care New Jersey, LLC'S permit renewal with
23 stipulations and conditions that will be addressed in
24 the final agency decision?

25 COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chair, I'd

1 like to make a statement.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Commissioner Nash,
3 the floor is yours.

4 COMMISSIONER NASH: I motioned to
5 separate the application of Columbia Care,
6 sophisticated multi-state operator making millions in
7 revenue here in New Jersey. I don't believe that they
8 -- in my opinion I don't believe they're respecting
9 their workers or they're choosing to ignore the
10 specific legislation of the Jake Honig Law which
11 protects those workers. I could spend an hour
12 reviewing the labor laws from the Jake Honig Act and
13 the twisted methods employed to avoid them. The bottom
14 line based on the many reports that I have reviewed, in
15 my view the workers of Columbia Care voted to be
16 represented by UFCW. Notwithstanding that vote, the
17 applicant has not bargained in good faith with that
18 union. It hasn't even come to the table. And that is
19 a direct violation of the Jake Honig Law and its
20 explicit labor mandates. I have always made my
21 position very clear as some of you may know. If an
22 applicant steps on an New Jersey's worker's rights I
23 will always vote no. And that is my vote here. I see
24 the floor back to you, Madam Chair.

25 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you,

1 Commissioner Nash. Any additional discussion? I want
2 to reiterate just as I did on the last matter that the
3 Commission has the regulatory authority to deny medical
4 permits if the applicant is non-compliant with
5 applicable local rules, ordinances and/or zoning
6 requirements, or if the Commission determines that the
7 facility is in violation of the Jake Honig Act or
8 Chapter 30A of the Administrative Code. And I want to
9 underscore again Jake Honig Act explicitly states,
10 "Failure to enter into a collective bargaining
11 agreement within 200 days after that medical cannabis
12 operator first opens shall result in the suspension or
13 revocation of such permit or conditional permit." This
14 agency needs to say what it means and mean what it
15 says. That is the only way that a regulated industry
16 can have some level of confidence in what will be
17 forthcoming. I understand staff's position. And I
18 thank staff for their time in collecting materials and
19 information from the businesses, from all 32 businesses
20 that are up for permit renewal today. I think the
21 statute is quite clear. And I think the regulations
22 are clear in that the Commission has in its authority,
23 is well within its authority to verify that the Act,
24 the Jake Honig Law, is being adhered to. These
25 businesses, many of these businesses -- not all of them

1 -- but many of them have been operational for several
2 years. Jake Honig Act was signed in 2019. This is not
3 a new requirement. So while the Commission is just now
4 presented -- the Board is just now presented with an
5 opportunity to look through these medical permit
6 renewals, the law is not new. And so I want to just
7 underscore that point. This agency needs to say what
8 it means and mean what it says. And I intend to do the
9 same. Is there any further discussion on this matter?
10 Director Brown, you wish to provide comment. Yes.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Just quickly,
12 I did just want to reiterate staff's recommendation to
13 approve Columbia Care. They understand the Board has
14 concerns. As previously shared, they serve 5,000
15 active patients. I think 8,000 patients total. And I
16 would just urge the Board to take them into
17 consideration with all the factors. And, you know, our
18 recommendation stands to approve Columbia Care's
19 renewal.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director
21 Brown. Any further discussion? Vice Chair Delgado.

22 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: There seems to be a
23 disconnect between the staff and the Board. So I just
24 want Director Brown to help me understand why, you
25 know, what did you base your approval on considering

1 that Commissioner Nash here -- there seems to be a
2 consensus on the Board that they're not in compliance.
3 Why are you saying they are? Obviously, your opinion
4 is that they are in compliance because you recommended
5 it, and on this side of the house there seems to be a
6 question about whether they are or not.

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Yeah. I
8 mean, I would just --

9 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Explain it.

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: I would just
11 refer -- you know, the Board -- we covered, you know,
12 in Executive Session. I don't want to really delve
13 into my comments made there because it's protected. I
14 would say, you know, staff's thorough review of the,
15 you know, the entity, the documentation submitted, the
16 compliance record, you know, we -- balance of all those
17 factors, still recommend them for approval. I'm glad
18 the Board is considering approving with conditions
19 rather than denial. I think denial could really create
20 some, you know, extenuating circumstances for some, you
21 know, very vulnerable individuals that are served by
22 Columbia Care. So, you know, I -- certainly, it would
23 be far more supportive of approval with conditions to
24 address the Board's concerns rather than an outright
25 denial. Certainly, staff can work with the Board to

1 address those concerns, but I would, you know, like to
2 see continued operation here. And we do think on
3 balance, you know, with the regulations that we do have
4 that, you know, our recommendation is to approve them
5 for renewal. Again, I do want to reiterate if the
6 Board has concerns our strong recommendation is to
7 address those through a condition on the approval
8 instead of denial.

9 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: General Counsel

10 Riggs is not here. I wanted to ask him the same
11 question, but let's just move on.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Vice

13 Chair Delgado. Thank you, Director Brown. I think it
14 is not lost on any of the five members of this Board
15 the implications that each of our decisions carry.
16 That includes decisions that impact patients who are
17 fighting debilitating conditions and in need of relief.
18 And given that this particular part of the law, statute
19 has been in place since 2019, I would hope that all
20 businesses are reading the law that affects them and
21 understanding -- understand and acknowledge the fact
22 that their decisions impact patients, their decisions
23 impact workers who are looking to provide for
24 themselves and their families, and that their decisions
25 impact adult-use consumers who have the constitutional

1 right to use and possess cannabis. Any further
2 discussion?

3 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: I see the General
4 Counsel's back.

5 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Would you like to
6 pose the question?

7 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes. I wanted to
8 ask him the same question I asked Director Brown.
9 General Counsel Chris Riggs, Christopher Riggs, there
10 seems to be a disconnect between the staff and the
11 Commission, Commissioners. Staff recommended Columbia
12 Care to be approved, their medical to be approved. And
13 we took -- we took -- we've just voted to take Columbia
14 Care out of the 32 entities that are supposed to be
15 approved for their medical licenses. What's the
16 disconnect? The question is you're the general counsel
17 of this Commission. Why was the -- why did you approve
18 -- why did the staff approve Columbia Care? They're
19 out of compliance.

20 CHIEF COUNSEL RIGGS: You're seeking
21 legal advice --

22 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Speak louder.

23 CHIEF COUNSEL RIGGS: Sorry. If you're
24 seeking legal advice on this, I would recommend that we
25 go into closed session, and we can counsel you again on

1 this issue just as we did in Executive Session.

2 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Let's just keep
3 going.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Vice
5 Chair Delgado. Thank you, Counsel Riggs. Is there any
6 further discussion on this motion to approve Columbia
7 Care New Jersey, LLC's permit renewal with stipulations
8 and conditions that will be addressed in their final
9 agency decision? Hearing no further discussion, on the
10 motion to approve Columbia Care New Jersey, LLC's
11 permit renewal with stipulations and conditions that
12 will be addressed in the final agency decision, Mr.
13 Said, can you please call the vote?

14 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

15 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

16 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

17 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

18 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

19 COMMISSIONER NASH: No.

20 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

21 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

22 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

23 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: As the person who
24 carries the weight of being the last to cast their
25 vote, I have that distinct honor that always gives me

1 joy, as I cast my vote I want to make it very clear
2 that I believe that this agency through the staff and
3 the Board have done tremendous good work for patients,
4 for adult-use consumers, for entrepreneurs who want to
5 realize their business dreams and for the broader
6 public who need to see a level of assurances from the
7 government agency that we are taking our duties to
8 expand and build this industry safely and responsibly.
9 For me, it is paramount that our agency operate with
10 integrity, that we, again -- I sound leak a broken
11 record -- to say what we mean and mean what we say and
12 make it very clear to the public, to those regulated
13 entities so that they know what they can expect from us
14 and they know what the rules of the road are. For
15 businesses that choose to not abide by the rules of the
16 road, they have to be held accountable for their
17 actions because those actions affect people. They
18 affect patients. They affect workers. They affect
19 adult-use consumers. And they affect public health and
20 public safety. Here, when it comes to the issues of
21 labor rights, I am -- everything all right? Okay. I
22 want to see documentation, definitive documentation
23 about what is happening on the ground in these
24 facilities. I know we've sought legal counsel, and our
25 legal counsel needs some time to assess some of the

1 questions that were presented. So I want to give our
2 legal counsels times to do that assessment thoroughly,
3 completely so that we can make an informed decision.
4 But nothing in the regulations, nothing in the statute
5 prevents the Commission from coming back even after
6 today to underscore the importance of adhering to the
7 law. And so I am challenging my Board members and our
8 staff to make sure that we as a collective do that.
9 That we as a collective say what we mean, mean what we
10 say, and hold ourselves and our industry accountable
11 for their actions. With that, my vote is yes.

12 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item
13 for consideration is the adult-use cannabis business
14 conditional license applications.

15 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Director Brown, the
16 floor is yours.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,
18 Madam Chair. And for this, we have a recommendation
19 report covering all three classes, conditional,
20 conditional-to-conversion and annual. I'm going to run
21 through all of them and make the recommendation and
22 then the Commission can proceed to vote on the
23 different cohorts. I know that we'll have to -- the
24 conditionals come back to a second cohort, but overall,
25 there are 27 conditional applications, 24 conversions,

1 nine annuals up for consideration here. For the
2 conditional applications specifically, five
3 cultivators, three manufacturers. We have important to
4 note first of our new classes of licenses. So we have
5 a class three wholesaler, two class four distributors,
6 as well as two class six delivery services. So these
7 were the applications that we opened up for in
8 September. And so these applications, they've been
9 assessed for priority, assigned to priority based on
10 their qualifications whether it's social equity,
11 business, diversely-owned business, impact zone, or
12 otherwise. That priority's been verified. They've
13 been reviewed for completeness. They've been scored.
14 They've all scored sufficiently high for approval.
15 They've been reviewed for qualification limitations and
16 financial management at least initial for conditional
17 applications. And for the conditional conversion and
18 annual applications, they're reviewed to determine
19 whether or not they qualify as a license holder under
20 our regulations of the statute. We conduct quality
21 control to make sure nothing's missed and that they are
22 indeed compliant, and then they're recommended to the
23 Board. So here we have 27 conditional licenses.
24 Breakdown as displayed on the slide. All recommended
25 for approval by the CRC Board.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director
2 Brown. Are there any questions from the Board
3 regarding the information provided? The overall
4 information provided? Hearing no questions, with
5 respect to conditional license applications -- sorry.
6 Director Brown, can you provide -- can you reiterate --
7 apologies if I missed this earlier -- the
8 recommendation with respect to the conditional license
9 applications?

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Sorry. The
11 recommendation is to approve the 27 conditional license
12 applications.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. So on
14 the matter of 27 conditional license applications
15 before us, is there a motion?

16 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I
17 move that we approve the 27 conditional license
18 applications.

19 COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by
21 Commissioner Barker and seconded by Commissioner Nash.

22 Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no
23 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

24 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

25 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

1 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

2 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

3 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

4 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

5 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

6 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

7 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

8 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

9 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item
10 up for consideration is the adult-use cannabis business
11 conversion license applications.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Director Brown, is
13 there any further information you wish to provide?

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: So these
15 applications as noted, they followed the process I just
16 outlined. All -- I think there are 24 of them. Yep.
17 All 24 are recommended for approval by the CRC Board.
18 And -- yes. 24 recommended for approval. The
19 breakdown, four cultivators, four manufacturers, 16
20 retailers.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. And do
22 we have a list of the 24?

23 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yeah, it's on here.

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: I just note
25 that list is also posted online.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Yes.
2 Good note. So for those watching at home or wishing to
3 review this list afterwards, it is posted online on our
4 website. If you go to our meetings page click on the
5 relevant agenda item. That should give you the list of
6 businesses under consideration today. So with respect
7 to the 24 applications, is there a motion?

8 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chair, I move
9 consideration of the 24 applications to convert from
10 conditional to annual class one, cannabis cultivator
11 class two, cannabis manufacture class five, and
12 cannabis retail license.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: When you say
14 "consider", do you mean to approve?

15 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: I move to -- yes,
16 to approve. That's what I mean.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: You're welcome.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Is there a second
20 on this motion?

21 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by
23 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion on
24 this motion?

25 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Brief discussion,

1 Madam Chair.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Commissioner

3 Barker.

4 COMMISSIONER BARKER: I just want to

5 thank the staff for their hard work and ask that we

6 continue to improve on the overall number of cannabis

7 businesses that are being recommended to the Board

8 especially those that are majority by Black and

9 Hispanic and Indigenous people and businesses located

10 in communities that have been most harmed by the failed

11 war on drugs. I really hope that we can dig deep and

12 make significant strides in '24. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chair, I have

14 a question for the Director.

15 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Commissioner Nash.

16 COMMISSIONER NASH: Thank you. Director

17 Brown, now that we've been doing this for a couple

18 years with review, the applications and staff is like a

19 well-oiled machine, what is the timeline approximately

20 now for people who have submitted for a conversion and

21 assuming there's, you know, no cures to consideration

22 by the Board?

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: If there's no

24 cures and, you know, it's just smooth sailing and

25 everybody's responsive, timely, you know, et cetera, it

1 can be about six months. I think most are in the six
2 to eight-month range right now with, you know, some
3 requests for additional information, potentially some
4 cures. There's certainly, you know, some that could be
5 faster depending on, you know, complexity of the
6 company as well as, you know, how quickly we can get
7 the information we need, you know, as far as background
8 checks and stuff like that. But I think, you know, if
9 everything's there and it can just move through, we're
10 around six months. That said, I think most right now
11 even with some cures are in the six- to eight- or
12 nine-month range for the annuals or conversions.
13 That's accounting for some cures. And you see with the
14 conditionals, we're -- the first from the new classes
15 which we didn't start accepting until September 27th
16 are now being recommended for approval less than
17 90 days from when they submitted.

18 COMMISSIONER NASH: Good to hear. Thank
19 you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: And so for those
21 who aren't -- who are on the longer end of that average
22 timeline, remember, fill out your application fully and
23 completely and make sure that your contact information
24 is up to date so that the CRC staff can contact you to
25 get those deficiencies fixed. Any additional

1 discussion on this motion to approve the conversion
2 applications? Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Said,
3 can you please call the vote?

4 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

5 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

6 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

7 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

8 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

9 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

10 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

11 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

12 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

13 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

14 MR. SAID: The motion passes.

15 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: I believe we now

16 turn to the annual licenses. Is that right? Direct to

17 annual?

18 MR. SAID: That's correct. That's

19 correct, Madam Chairwoman.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All right.

21 Director Brown, is there any additional information you

22 wish to provide regarding the applications going

23 straight to the annual license?

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Here we have

25 for consideration by the Board nine annual licenses,

1 two cultivators, three manufacturers, four retailers.
2 Followed the process that I outlined. All have been
3 deemed complete, scored sufficiently high, deemed
4 qualified by staff, and are recommended for approval.
5 And the list is on the next slide. And there we have
6 the list. It's also posted online. These are -- all
7 of these annual applications are recommended for
8 approval.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Any
10 questions from the Board for Director Brown? Hearing
11 no questions, is there a motion?

12 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Madam Chair, I
13 move that we approve the annual license applications.

14 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: I second.

15 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by
16 Commissioner Barker to approve the annual license
17 applications and seconded by Vice Chair Delgado. Is
18 there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no
19 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

20 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

21 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

22 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

23 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

24 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

25 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

1 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

2 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

3 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

4 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

5 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item

6 for consideration are the expanded alternative

7 treatment center certifications.

8 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Director Brown,

9 I'll turn the floor over to you.

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,

11 Madam Chair. The numbers earlier were wrong. There

12 are only three expanded ATC certifications for

13 consideration today. The fourth is being reserved for

14 a future meeting once they are operational and can

15 prove they meet the expansion standard. So they're

16 MPX, class five retailer in Pennsauken, Monteverde,

17 class five retailer in Red Bank, and Terrapin

18 Investment Fund, class five retailer in Hoboken. We've

19 assessed these against the expansion standards in our

20 regulations and the statute including making sure they

21 have municipal approval, adequately supply, adequate

22 operational capacity to meet both patient need as well

23 as adult-use consumers. All three are recommended

24 approval by the CRC Board.

25 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Are

1 there any questions from the Board for Director Brown?

2 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Not for Director
3 Brown, but, Madam Chair, just procedurally, are we
4 voting on all three of these as one or three separate?

5 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: One by one.

6 COMMISSIONER BARKER: One by one.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All right. So no
8 questions from the Board. So with respect to the first
9 MPX New Jersey, LLC, is there a motion with respect to
10 the expansion certification for MPX New Jersey, LLC?

11 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes, Madam
12 Chairwoman. I move that we accept certification for
13 alternative treatment center MPX New Jersey, LLC.

14 COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

15 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: To expand the
16 operations for adult personal use.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair
18 Delgado. I believe Commissioner Nash was seconding.
19 Is that correct?

20 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Second by
22 Commissioner Nash. Is there any discussion on this
23 motion? Hearing no discussion, with respect to MPX New
24 Jersey, LLC, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

25 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

1 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

2 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

3 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

4 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

5 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

6 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

7 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

8 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

9 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

10 MR. SAID: The motion passes.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Next up is Terrapin

12 I believe. Yes. Terrapin. Right. Terrapin

13 Investment Fund II Cultivation, LLC. What a name. Is

14 there a motion on that matter?

15 COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chair, I

16 motion to approve the certification for Terrapin

17 Investment Fund Cultivation to expand operations to the

18 AU market.

19 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: And I second it.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by

21 Commissioner Nash and seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.

22 Is there any discussion on this motion with respect to

23 Terrapin Investment Fund II Cultivation, LLC? Hearing

24 no discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

25 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

1 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

2 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

3 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

4 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

5 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

6 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

7 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

8 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

9 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

10 MR. SAID: The motion passes.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: And lastly, with

12 respect to Monteverde NJ, Inc., is there a motion with

13 respect to their expansion request?

14 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes, Madam

15 Chairwoman. I move that we accept the certification

16 for alternative treatment center Monteverde NJ, Inc. to

17 expand their operations to the adult personal use

18 cannabis market.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair

20 Delgado. Thank you. Is there a second?

21 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by

23 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion on

24 this motion?

25 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Brief discussion,

1 Madam Chair.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Commissioner

3 Barker.

4 COMMISSIONER BARKER: I just want to ask

5 that the ATCs being considered for expansion in

6 addition to all ATCs that have been previously expanded

7 please adhere to the FADs, the final agency decisions.

8 There are critical and important reporting requirements

9 to evidence your commitment to our patient population.

10 And we ask that you do not take that lightly. Thank

11 you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Any

13 further discussion on this motion? Hearing none, Mr.

14 Said, can you please call the vote?

15 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

16 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

17 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

18 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

19 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

20 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

21 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

22 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

23 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

24 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

25 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item

1 on the agenda is the denial of conversion applications.

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Conditional
3 applications.

4 MR. SAID: I'm sorry. Conditional. My
5 apologies.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All right.
7 Director Brown, I will turn the floor over to you.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,
9 Madam Chair. Here we have recommended a number of
10 conditional applications that have been approved but
11 pending for quite some time due to unpaid approval
12 fees. When an application is submitted, they have to
13 submit a submission fee which is 20 percent of the
14 total application fee, and then upon approval pay the
15 approval fee which is 80 percent of the application
16 fee. These applications have been pending I think
17 range from the most recent is January of this year, and
18 the oldest, you know, date back into, you know, midyear
19 2022. They've received multiple notices that they have
20 to pay. So there are 17 applications here. Now, even
21 if denied, they can certainly come right back in and
22 reapply for a conditional license or an annual license
23 when ready. So, you know, if a company's on this list
24 and they can qualify for a conditional or an annual
25 license and want to apply again, they are more than

1 welcome to do so. But there have been unpaid approval
2 fees that have gone unpaid for quite some time. And so
3 we are recommending these for denial. And, again, even
4 if denied, these applicants could resubmit if they can
5 qualify for a conditional license or an annual license,
6 but we want to clear out the licensing system. These
7 have been pending for quite some time, have received
8 adequate notice and, therefore, are recommended for
9 denial.

10 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director
11 Brown. Are there any questions from the Board for
12 Director Brown regarding the information provided?
13 Hearing none, is there a motion on this matter?

14 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes, Madam
15 Chairwoman. I move that we approve the denial for the
16 17 applicant businesses named in the resolution.

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

19 COMMISSIONER NASH: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by
21 Commissioner Nash.

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Just one
23 clarifying note for the public. You may see some names
24 of businesses on here who are expanded ATCs. In some
25 cases these applications have been pending because they

1 expanded, they can't qualify for -- for further retail
2 sites. This is not -- it doesn't have any bearing on
3 the expanded ATC certification or their operational
4 locations.

5 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you for that
6 clarification. Any additional discussion on this
7 motion to deny these 17 applications?

8 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: I just want to make
9 clear. So it's just for the license class listed on
10 the resolution?

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: That's
12 correct. Yeah.

13 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Thank you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Any other
15 discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Said, can you please
16 call the vote?

17 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

18 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Abstain.

19 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

20 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Yes.

21 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

22 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

23 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

24 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

25 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

2 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item
3 on the agenda we have cases, claims and petitions.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Excellent. Thank
5 you. So I will now turn it over to Chief Counsel Riggs
6 to provide summary remarks.

7 CHIEF COUNSEL RIGGS: Thank you, Madam
8 Chair. Similar to the October meeting, we have
9 employees that have undergone a background check, and
10 their criminal histories have shown in the medicinal
11 cannabis permittee situation, they have shown that they
12 have a disqualifying conviction. What the statute
13 requires is that we allow them the opportunity to show
14 rehabilitation by showing clear and convincing
15 evidence. There are five individuals that have
16 provided that documentation and have shown by clear and
17 convincing evidence that they are rehabilitated. And
18 staff is recommending that we approve rehabilitation
19 and allow them to have an ATC identification card and
20 work in the medicinal cannabis space.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Chief
22 Counsel. There are any questions from the Board for
23 Counsel Riggs? Hearing none, is there a motion on this
24 matter?

25 MS. NASH: Madam Chair, I move to

1 approve the request for determination of rehabilitation
2 by alternative treatment center employees.

3 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: And I second.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by
5 Commissioner Nash and seconded by Vice Chair Delgado.

6 Is there any discussion on this motion? Hearing no
7 discussion, Mr. Said, can you please call the vote?

8 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

9 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

10 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

11 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Before I
12 cast my vote, I do want to say that I read each and one
13 of the cases. And I commend each one of you for
14 turning your life around. So I commend you for doing
15 that. And my vote is yes.

16 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

17 COMMISSIONER NASH: I reiterate
18 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso's sentiments. And I wish
19 you all the best. Yes.

20 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

21 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yes.

22 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

23 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

24 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item
25 up for consideration are the notices of enforcement

1 actions.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Director Brown, I
3 will turn it over to you for summary.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Thank you,
5 Madam Chair. This enforcement action is the one that
6 was tabled from the last October meeting on TerrAscend.
7 They received two notices of violation, one for I
8 believe five patient complaints. And following that
9 initial round of complaints we issued a notice of
10 violation. They submitted a corrective action plan
11 where they're in the process of correcting. There was
12 another instance where TerrAscend served -- essentially
13 had a medical patient purchase off the adult-use menu
14 for products that should have been available on the
15 medical menu. So we issued another notice of
16 violation. I covered my recommendation at the last
17 meeting. You know, I don't have anything more to add
18 than that. So I'll just let those comments stand and,
19 you know, turn it over to the Commission.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Director
21 Brown. Any there any questions from the Board?
22 Hearing no questions, is there a motion on this matter?

23 COMMISSIONER NASH: Madam Chair, I move
24 to approve the resolution to imposition of sanctions
25 against TerrAscend New Jersey, LLC.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: And moved by
2 Commissioner Nash. Now, Commissioner Nash, just some
3 clarity on this motion. What penalty? There's a --
4 staff have draft a resolution for us that leave it for
5 the Board to actually make a final determination on
6 what the penalty or the sanction would be. So could
7 you clarify for your motion what penalty you would like
8 to see imposed?

9 COMMISSIONER NASH: Well, I don't want
10 to be arbitrary. And I really would appreciate the
11 input from my colleagues on this. I will say that they
12 -- TerrAscend has provided proof of corrective action.
13 However, it appears to be another repeat offense or
14 repeat violation I should say of a common occurrence
15 with this particular operator. So I don't have a basis
16 to start with here.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Would you like to
18 withdraw your motion at present?

19 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes. I would like
20 to withdraw my motion. Thank you.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: No problem.
22 Director Brown.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: I'm happy to
24 reiterate staff's recommendation if it is helpful.
25 Yeah. So our recommendation is no penalty on this one.

1 However, it's obviously up to the Board to consider.
2 If the Board does choose to institute a penalty, strong
3 recommendation is adhere to what's in the penalty
4 matrix. So this would be a Category 5-2 which I
5 believe is a max of \$10,000. But we now have another
6 month of compliance on Terrascend's behalf. I think,
7 you know, they made a good faith effort to correct and
8 have now corrected. And we have several months of them
9 operating compliantly. And so, you know, as I shared,
10 the goal is compliance. So our recommendation is to
11 not level a penalty here. But I can assure you that
12 our compliance staff is providing ongoing vigilance on
13 this. And so, you know, if it happens again, my
14 opinion would obviously change on any, you know,
15 additional NOV's that we have to issue.

16 COMMISSIONER NASH: Thank you very much
17 for that.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you. Any
19 questions for Director Brown? I'd like to move that
20 the Board impose penalty of \$20,000 against TerrAscend
21 NJ for this -- in response to this notice of violation.
22 I believe that notwithstanding the -- I'm happy to hear
23 that TerrAscend is doing better. I'm happy to see that
24 they have provided better documentation about their
25 training pursuant to the request that was made. I

1 think the training documentation might not meet the
2 standards that are in the regulations for
3 recordkeeping, but I am happy to see improvements from
4 this entity here. And I think for consistency, in the
5 past the Commission has imposed \$10,000 per violation
6 for other patient access violations against other
7 entities. At the September Board meeting I believe it
8 was, the Board imposed a penalty against TerrAscend for
9 \$20,000 for each violation for a total of \$100,000. I
10 think maintaining the position there is warranted. I
11 think given that the facts around this particular
12 complaint that came in indicate that the issue is not
13 fully as rampant as it was previously as the assigned
14 investigator found. Again, I think some of the efforts
15 from TerrAscend to improve their practices and improve
16 their documentation of their training for their staff
17 is a step in the right direction. And so I don't
18 believe that we should be increasing the penalty that
19 was previously imposed on TerrAscend in this instance.
20 So I am making a motion -- I move to impose a penalty
21 of just \$20,000 staying exactly where we were at the
22 last instance that these problems occurred. Is there a
23 second on this motion to impose a penalty of \$20,000?

24 COMMISSIONER BARKER: I echo those
25 sentiments, Madam Chair. And I second that motion.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by
2 Commissioner Barker. Is there any discussion on this
3 motion? I'll say -- Vice Chair Delgado?

4 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Why not 40,000?
5 You want to keep consistent, I'm against it, but my
6 question is why not 40,000? I'm reading this and it
7 says four days, three days per week and one day during
8 the weekend. And that would be Category 5, violation
9 2. That's \$10,000. So it should be 10,000 every
10 instance. Right? Four times 10,000 is 40,000. I
11 mean, I'm not going to vote for this, but if you want
12 to be consistent isn't that what you should do?

13 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Sorry. When you
14 are talking about a number of days, can you clarify
15 what you're -- can you clarify please what you're
16 referring to?

17 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Yeah. On page one.
18 Oh. I misread it. My apologies. It's not four
19 instances, it's just one.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yeah.

21 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Okay. Apologize.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: No problem. No
23 problem. That's what we're here to talk it all out and
24 work through it together. Any further discussion on
25 this motion? Again, I want to thank TerrAscend for

1 their improvements and for moving in the right
2 direction. I hope we can keep it up so that we don't
3 find ourselves here again. I'll leave it there. If
4 there's no further discussion, Mr. Said, on the motion
5 to impose a penalty of \$20,000, can you please call the
6 vote?

7 MR. SAID: Commissioner Barker?

8 COMMISSIONER BARKER: Aye.

9 MR. SAID: Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso?

10 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Abstain.

11 MR. SAID: Commissioner Nash?

12 COMMISSIONER NASH: Yes.

13 MR. SAID: Vice Chair Delgado?

14 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: I'm going to follow
15 the opinion of staff. And I'm going to say no.

16 MR. SAID: Chairwoman Houenou?

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Yes.

18 MR. SAID: The motion passes. Next item
19 on the agenda we have the open public comment period.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All right. So as
21 we turn to the public comment period I want to note
22 just as we always do at every Board meeting that
23 members of the public can submit their comments during
24 and after this meeting in writing via our website,
25 www.nj.gov/cannabis/meetings. The deadline for

1 submitting written comments for today's Board meeting
2 is 5:00 tomorrow, Friday, December 8th. Written
3 comments will be shared with the Commission members and
4 will be made public. Speakers will be limited to three
5 minutes. A note: The public comment period is meant
6 to give members of the public an opportunity to address
7 the Commission about matters that the Commission should
8 be aware of. It's not a space for people to simply
9 market or advertise private businesses. Mr. Said will
10 call out the names of our registered speakers. When it
11 is your turn to speak, please come forward and tap the
12 button on the microphone in front of you until you see
13 a green light. And then you will see your time, your
14 three minutes. The status of your three minutes will
15 appear on this clock over here to your left. And with
16 that, I will turn it over to Mr. Said to call on our
17 first speakers.

18 MR. SAID: Thank you, Chairwoman. As a
19 reminder, public speakers during this afternoon's
20 public comment period will be limited to three minutes.
21 Please be respectful and concise during your comments.
22 I'm going to call three names at a time. Sheril Murray
23 Powell, Chirali Patel, and Melissa Shade.

24 CHIRALI PATEL: Hi. Good afternoon.
25 I'm Chirali Patel. I'm going to start with the

1 positive. Thank you, guys, for all the work that you
2 guys have done. And as a state agency, whoever's
3 monitoring the CRC licensing email, God bless because I
4 don't know any other agency that gives you same day
5 responses. And that's what applicants and operators
6 really need. So thank you for just being responsive to
7 everybody. Chairwoman, you mentioned accountability.
8 And this is the part that makes me sick to my core
9 because there's no accountability at the local level.
10 The corruption that's happening. Nothing's merit
11 based. I understand discretion, but I have people
12 who've submitted hundreds pages of applications for
13 consideration that haven't been -- not even given a
14 hearing, let alone a reason for denial. There is task
15 force at the U.S. Attorney General, and the FEDs are
16 now -- I mean, they've been doing this for a while now.
17 But states like Massachusetts, Michigan, California,
18 mayors have gone to jail for bribery. That's what's
19 happening right here in New Jersey. I don't want to
20 call out specific towns. I know you don't have the
21 jurisdiction to tell them how to dictate, but if you
22 can tell us as a public on who's responsible for what
23 area so we can advocate accordingly to the literature,
24 but something has to be done. Bear minimum, education.
25 Making them required to do trainings on, like, how to

1 do these ordinances, how to set up the planning zones
2 or -- and especially the fact that when local officials
3 are telling you, hey, maybe you should go into this
4 spot, that to me is, like, that's not discretionary.
5 That's them telling you which landlord is preferable.
6 And so it just unheard of in other industries. And I
7 think we need to clean it up because that's what's
8 making people bleed out. They can't convert and they
9 help can't find real estate because these
10 municipalities are literally out of control. And then
11 -- or maybe a timeframe by which municipalities have to
12 review and score these applications because I know
13 that's a hold up waiting for local approval to convert
14 your licenses. And so just a consideration. And I do
15 want to mention the medical issues at a said ATC which
16 I will submit through the medical process. But I was
17 waiting in line. And autoimmune disorders, they're
18 invisible. So I look perfectly healthy, but on the
19 inside things are happening. So when I'm waiting in
20 line and the bud tender tells me, oh, like, I got to
21 take her and not the other person, like, in front of
22 face. Now you feel like -- it's a little weird. Like,
23 I'm not asking for special priority as a patient.
24 That's the rules. So I don't know if these bud tenders
25 are getting trained on the Jake Honig Act or what

1 medical accesses, but I do think that's a concern so
2 that we can contain or prioritize patient access. That
3 was it. So local corruption, something needs to be
4 done please. And then training -- better training I
5 think bud tenders for medical access. And thank you
6 for continuing to monitor emails, responding. Thank
7 you for all the work.

8 MELISSA SHADE: Hello. Thank you. My
9 name is Melissa Shade. I am the president and owner of
10 Atlantic City Cannabis. I received my license in -- my
11 conditional license in March of this year. I am -- I
12 will be operating out of 1714 Atlantic Avenue. I'm a
13 local resident of that city. I am as you can see a
14 minority woman. And I've had many challenges over the
15 last few months in this process. First, I want to
16 thank the Commission because you did a great job of
17 advancing my application and getting me through rather
18 quickly. I also want to thank the NJEDA because they
19 are giving people like me an opportunity to be a part
20 of this. To the comments of Mr. Barker, I would like
21 to offer myself and my business as someone or a
22 business that you can collaborate and engage with to
23 track and monitor our success in the field. I'm not
24 sure if that's happening. I'm not sure if you have
25 someone that actually identifies that. And by today's

1 comments, you weren't able to provide much information
2 about Black and Brown businesses. So I am happy to
3 offer myself to answer any questions, surveys, whatever
4 you might need to help make local businesses like
5 myself become successful. Once, again, my name Melissa
6 Shade. I'm from Atlantic City Cannabis. And I work --
7 I plan to work in an impact zone. And I really would
8 like to make a difference there.

9 MR. SAID: The next three names are
10 Reina Garcia, Lynn Gefen and Al Kamara.

11 LYNN GEFEN: Hi. Good morning. My name
12 is Lynn Gefen, chief legal officer of TerrAscend. I'm
13 here to speak on behalf of my company which has been
14 part of the conversation during the past few meetings.
15 As I mentioned last time, TerrAscend takes compliance
16 very seriously. We strive to be an industry leader
17 and, we work diligently to be an outstanding partner to
18 this Commission and in our local communities. I am
19 disappointed by the Commission's additional fine
20 imposed today despite the repeated recommendation of
21 Executive Director Brown to the contrary in September,
22 in November, and again today. Further, the violation
23 finally heard today was unable to be investigated since
24 the Commission did not provide us with any detail
25 surrounding the transaction in question. This did not

1 allow us to do any fact finding on our own to
2 investigate the issue. TerrAscend intends to appeal
3 the decision today adding this additional ground just
4 like we appealed the excessive fines received in
5 September. I along with my colleagues have decades of
6 experience working with regulators which is why we
7 remain confused at the series of events that have
8 unfolded this year. Regulators are given a
9 responsibility, but with that responsibility comes
10 duty, honor, and the expectation of due process. Here
11 are the facts: The violations that were decided in
12 September and again today were the result of the same
13 issue, were caused by simple human error, occurred more
14 than six months ago, and were fixed immediately. Plus,
15 we understand that the Commission has since created
16 clarifying rules such that the errors would no longer
17 be considered a violation if done today. We struggle
18 with understanding your goal because this isn't a
19 situation of a protracted pattern of non-compliance by
20 a bad actor. TerrAscend is a compliant company with an
21 impeccable record with leading practice. To say it
22 simply, we are an excellent corporate citizen doing the
23 best we can every day for the patients of New Jersey.
24 All regulators exist to serve a common goal, to govern
25 in the public's interest. So respectfully, with the

1 facts at hand it is hard to see your actions are in the
2 best interest of New Jersey patients. And I wonder if
3 they might be motivated by some other agenda.
4 Investing our talent and time into compliance in New
5 Jersey will always be our top priority. On behalf of
6 my colleagues who have spoken before you as well as the
7 hundreds of other TerrAscend employees who reside and
8 work in New Jersey at our cultivation processing
9 facility and our three retail dispensaries, we will
10 continue to comply with your regulations as we have
11 since 2008 when we started business in New Jersey. We
12 will continue to prioritize patients and the people of
13 this wonderful State of New Jersey. Thank you for your
14 time.

15 MR. SAID: The next three up to speak
16 are -- sorry.

17 AL KAMARA: All right. Good afternoon
18 to the NJCRC. My name is Al Kamara. I'm CEO of Spark
19 9, LLC. I just want to started off by saying thank you
20 for giving me a platform to talk here today. It means
21 a lot to me. And I know that there's so many people
22 out here sitting here today and are watching at home
23 that have the same dreams as me as starting a cannabis
24 business out here in New Jersey. As a conditional
25 license holder, the timeframe of converting to an

1 annual license without capital or proper infrastructure
2 has been very overwhelming. I truly appreciate the
3 hard work that the NJCRC has put into helping minority,
4 women, and veteran owned businesses receive capital
5 from the NJEDA's equity seed grant which I did apply
6 for last week. As a conditional license holder, is it
7 possible to provide more and better resources that can
8 help guide minority-owned businesses to convert from
9 legacy to legal? A little bit myself: I've been
10 arrested for cannabis five times in one year in 2017.
11 I used that as motivation to graduate from TCNJ with --
12 I got my Masters in Business. I attended Oaksterdam
13 University for two years, received certifications in
14 horticulture and cannabis business startup. I worked
15 in the cannabis industry for five years working for
16 Garden State Dispensary, Air Wellness and Ascend
17 Wellness. I've networked with some of the top names in
18 the cannabis industry in New Jersey just so I wouldn't
19 have to feel like I'm starting from the bottom because
20 if you could see with my credentials you wouldn't think
21 that somebody like me would be starting from the
22 bottom. I've learned that everyone in this industry
23 has different journeys aiming for the same goals. I've
24 learned that being a black face in high places is not
25 just about getting a seat at table, but it's about

1 having a voice when you're at the table. We've reached
2 the pinnacle of -- you know, once we reach this
3 pinnacle of this field, in this industry, in this
4 sector, I just don't want us to, you know, forget where
5 we come from and to just -- everything that we're doing
6 is for nothing, you know. I am a leader in my
7 community. I want to impact Black and Brown people to
8 take more ownership in business. I don't want them to
9 understand that it's possible to be a successful
10 entrepreneur. And it's also possible to receive your
11 40 acres of land and a mule like we all promised when
12 we all came to this country. I have a great
13 relationship with Wesley McWhite. Actually spoke to
14 him about a week ago. And he did mention that they're
15 working on technical assistance for conditional license
16 applicants like myself. But, you know, I'm just here
17 to say, you know, as a black man it's hard out here,
18 man, you know. I feel like me taking the initiative to
19 come here and speak to you guys face to face is big,
20 you know. Like, I just don't want everything that, you
21 know, Charles Barkely's been saying to just go in vein,
22 you know. We do need help out here. And I'm one of
23 those people, too, as well. And if there's anything
24 that we can do, you know, the Spark 9 team and me will
25 be definitely happy to help. Thank you.

1 MR. SAID: Next three up to speak are
2 Anthony Passananti, Abigail Kambach, and Jonathan
3 Julian.

4 ANTHONY PASSANANTI: Hello. I'm Anthony
5 Passananti. I was awarded three licenses in New
6 Jersey. So I really appreciate you guys from the
7 bottom of my heart. Thank you for the opportunity. I
8 moved here from California. I was there for five years
9 in the industry. I have extensive knowledge on
10 manufacturing, cultivation, retail. I came all the way
11 back here. I dropped everything I was doing out there
12 to come here and try to set the bar and be a pioneer
13 and as Mr. Barker was saying, produce craft cannabis
14 for New Jersey. I have over 30 or 40 strains that I
15 created in California that nobody in the world has that
16 I brought to the Garden State to try to hold it very
17 highly. And I have a lot of passion for this state.
18 Unfortunately, it's been quite a journey. I actually
19 had two warehouses in Mount Holly that I applied for.
20 I went to the township meetings. They don't care.
21 They say we're going to get back to you. Nobody got
22 back to me. I lost my leases. And now you my license
23 expired for two license. So I'm sitting here. I'm
24 running out of money. I moved back from California on
25 year ago. I pretty much am draining my savings just

1 trying to hold on. And it's been very difficult.
2 Mount Holly's extremely corrupt. As soon as I went to
3 the clerk office -- I call them, call them, nobody
4 answers. I send emails, nobody answers. I go to their
5 office, they're not doing anything. They're twiddling
6 their thumbs. The assistant, twiddling their thumbs.
7 Nobody cares. So I'm just here just trying to shine
8 some light on the situation. Even when I talk to
9 another township that I'm currently trying to get my
10 manufacturing license with, they have no education.
11 They're trying to tell me you can't do this, you can't
12 do that, but everything that is in my business plan was
13 off the CRC's website. So I don't understand the
14 misunderstanding. Even when I try to explain to them
15 about pre-rolls, they don't even know what a pre-roll
16 is. They call it cigarettes. So I think a little bit
17 more training would definitely be -- should be
18 established. I don't think that these people have any
19 idea what they're talking about. They don't have any
20 idea of cannabis. I can help any -- I can help. I
21 don't want any money. I'm willing to do it for free.
22 But as the gentleman before just said, I don't want all
23 my work to go to waste. I've literally been in this
24 industry for 23 years. I dropped everything I'm doing
25 to come to New Jersey, and it's just been, like, almost

1 like a smack in the face with all due respect not from
2 you guys, but just from the townships, the
3 municipalities. I literally had warehouses with
4 leases, and for some weird reason they didn't approve
5 me. They said we're going to get back to you, but now
6 somebody else has that warehouse and has that lease and
7 now has a license there. So it's like, if you guys
8 approve me why wouldn't they? What did I do wrong?
9 You know, I'm a very sincere person. I'm very humble.
10 I'm very grateful. I'm grateful to sit in front of all
11 you guys right now. I'm grateful for your time. I'm
12 grateful to just be in your presence, you know. And I
13 just don't understand why this has to be so difficult.
14 Why do I have to pay \$2,000 for my two license to be
15 reinstated when had two warehouses? You could contact
16 the real estate agent. I mean, I could show you emails
17 from me to the clerk. I've left multiple messages.
18 I've spoken in front of the township. I've done
19 everything I can, and it's just like they just step on
20 you and shut you down. It's just not fair. I know
21 life isn't supposed to be fair, but I literally came
22 3,000 miles to come put on for the Garden State and I'm
23 just stuck right now. I feel so depressed. I don't
24 want to get out of bed. Every single day I'm checking
25 my email seeing Mount Holly got back to me. No emails.

1 It's just very frustrating. So anything I could do to
2 help or any light I could shine on the situation. I
3 really appreciate you guys listening. So thank you
4 very much. I appreciate your time. Thank you, guys.

5 ABIGAIL KAMBACH: Hi, Commissioners. My
6 name is Abigail Kambach. Thank you for the opportunity
7 to address you today. I come before you as a member of
8 the New Jersey Cannabis Associations Laboratory Testing
9 Committee. We're a group of scientists and laboratory
10 testing professionals who are advocating for the
11 enhancement of cannabis testing standards, scientific
12 integrity, and safety for cannabis consumers in the
13 State of New Jersey. Our focus today resolves around
14 two crucial points that require your attention and
15 immediate action. First, we implore the Commission to
16 push for the establishments of New Jersey's own
17 comprehensive testing guidance for cannabis. We are
18 still following the 2020 version of Maryland's testing
19 guidance and standards which is antiquated from even
20 what Maryland is using today. Advances in science have
21 enabled scientists to do so much more to ensure product
22 transparency and data accuracy. Our committee has
23 provided detailed feedback to the Commission staff
24 regarding testing standards for a safe and effective
25 marketplace. It is time for the CRC to issue New

1 Jersey's own testing guidance. Second, we draw your
2 attention to the pressing issue of questionable
3 laboratory practices and data circulating without
4 proper governance. This is one of the largest problems
5 in the cannabis markets. And New Jersey is not immune
6 to it. The lack of oversight and lack governance poses
7 a serious threat to the integrity of the cannabis
8 industry in our state. We must address the potential
9 manipulation of laboratory results and emphasize the
10 need for transparent and accountable system. The
11 Commission should explore measures to enhance
12 monitoring, reporting, and auditing processes within
13 testing laboratories to ensure the reliability and
14 accuracy of data generated. The advocacy of this
15 governance will make or break our market. Our
16 laboratory testing committee worked diligently on a set
17 of recommendations for a robust lab governance program.
18 We pulled best practices from cannabis markets across
19 the country and have outlined a comprehensive plan that
20 includes practical what achievable uplift points.
21 These measures can be implemented swiftly to address
22 the current gaps in the system. By taking immediate
23 action on those recommendations, the Cannabis
24 Regulatory Commission can truly stand behind the by
25 legal it's safe and tested campaign and can demonstrate

1 its commitment to upholding the highest standards in
2 cannabis testing and ensure the long-term success of
3 the regulated market in New Jersey. In conclusion, we
4 urge the Commission to prioritize the establishment of
5 New Jersey's own testing guidance, address questionable
6 laboratory data through the implementation of a
7 recommended lab governance program without delay. The
8 citizens of New Jersey deserve a well regulated and
9 safe cannabis industry. And your leadership is pivotal
10 in achieving this goal. Thank you for your time and
11 dedication to the betterment of this community.

12 JONATHAN JULIAN: Good afternoon, Board
13 and staff. My name is Jonathan Julian. And I'm an
14 undergraduate student from Rutgers New Brunswick. And
15 I'm a biology and public health major. And I'm looking
16 to represent my age demographic because often times I
17 feel like we're -- our age demographic is a little lazy
18 in coming to these platforms to talk about our needs.
19 So overall, I'm very excited and satisfied with your
20 efforts this Committee has put in, but I have some
21 suggestions. Commissioner Barker's last session and
22 report on Public Engagement and Education Committee
23 talking about the cannabis smart and cannabis safe
24 campaign, I thought was pretty smart. The highlights
25 of it that you -- that were important to me were that

1 you said it was providing unbiased, non-judgmental,
2 science based information to the public which is truly
3 valuable to my community as well, our age demographic
4 for college students. And I understand that this
5 Committee is targeted toward adult populations, but the
6 younger population has a value for your wisdom. And
7 you did say you had a target audience of tweens and
8 teens. So I feel like there does need to be more of an
9 effort to push that sort of education into both high
10 schools and universities. I did like your URL media,
11 but I think it's just is not close enough to the public
12 education system. And I'm sure it's hard to tackle a
13 federal instituted -- federal education systems
14 considering the federal government still criminalizes
15 cannabis, but I think if there's anyone to push that
16 goal out it would be people like you. And I know those
17 are big steps, but plausible goals could be like
18 preventing public health campaigns in high school from
19 -- I remember in my high school there would be a police
20 precinct that came in and just labeled cannabis as a
21 gateway drug. It was lazy. And honestly, they didn't
22 provide any education on it. It was just like, this
23 bad, this schedule one drug, et cetera. So I think for
24 starters those should be removed. And as the previous
25 commenter mentioned, I think research needs to be

1 improved about this. So pushing universities to
2 encourage this criminalized substance I feel like we'd
3 get better study and better results on how it affects
4 our local communities. So, yeah. Maybe it could just
5 be observational studies, but at the end of the day I
6 think tackling these federal institutions is where we
7 need to make the most impactful education reform. And
8 finally, I feel like willing precincts, willing police
9 precincts could really use your wisdom as well in legal
10 expertise because I feel like they struggle in
11 understanding the new laws surrounding DUIs and, like,
12 whether or not they can pull over someone if there's
13 smoking in the car, whatnot. So, yeah. Thank you for
14 your time.

15 MR. SAID: The next three are Chris
16 Goldstein, Lou Magazzu and Cindy Ortiz.

17 CHRIS GOLDSTEIN: Hello. My name is
18 Chris Goldstein. It's okay that you said Stein. I'm a
19 longtime cannabis consumer advocate. And it was really
20 interesting here today. I used to be on a Board of
21 Directors of the Coalition for Medical Marijuana in New
22 Jersey. And helped pass the Compassionate Use Act
23 here. So the discussion about the decline in the
24 medical marijuana program was particularly interesting
25 to go me. I also work as regional organizer so I'm in

1 Pennsylvania and Delaware, New York. Pennsylvania has
2 nearly a million registered medical marijuana patients.
3 And they only have about 3 million more people in
4 population. They don't have a ton more dispensaries in
5 Pennsylvania. We have about 60 operating here. They
6 have 160 in Pennsylvania. The interesting part is that
7 a lot of the same corporations operate on both sides of
8 the river. Why are patients not going to the
9 dispensaries? One big reason as you know is price.
10 But my problem with the price is that when you look at
11 Air Wellness, Air Wellness will sell you an eighth in
12 the medical menu across the river -- you can see
13 Pennsylvania from here -- for \$18. The lowest price
14 they have for patients here is 45. Then you get to
15 TerrAscend who you fined today I think correctly --
16 that's just my opinion. \$20,000 is only, what, like
17 35, \$400 eighths or \$400 ounces. Not that much money
18 for them. TerrAscend in Pennsylvania will sell you
19 half ounce for \$42. That's a whole ounce for 84 bucks.
20 In New Jersey, the lowest price they offer patients is
21 \$95 a quarter. We're talking about patients who are
22 expected to pay three and four times as much as across
23 the river to the same companies for the same products.
24 Consumers are not stupid. We look at menus. We look
25 at menus across states. And I encourage you please

1 look at the menus for the operators across the river
2 because they're gouging on this side. Now, as far as
3 the doctors go, this is the another thing that patients
4 face in New Jersey. There are hundreds of doctors and
5 even now urgent care centers in Pennsylvania that will
6 make the medical marijuana recommendation. We've never
7 had that kind of access to doctors here in New Jersey.
8 What can you do? We've got to break through this
9 barrier. How do we get urgent care centers and doctors
10 in New Jersey to make the recommendation? Because
11 patients are sick of paying \$200 and \$300 not to the
12 state for the recommendation -- and I really appreciate
13 you dropping that charge -- but to the doctors, the
14 doctor card services that are charging the patients.
15 That's why patients aren't participating. So I
16 appreciate this. And I'll send in my written comments
17 all the info about pricing. Thank you again.

18 MR. SAID: I'm going to go over the
19 names of people that haven't spoken just one more time.
20 Sheril Murray Powell, Reina Garcia, Lou Magazzu, and
21 Cindy Ortiz. Not seeing any of those people, so
22 Chairwoman Houenou, this will conclude the registered
23 speakers we have for today's public meeting.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Thank you, Mr.
25 Said. And thank you to all of our commenters for

1 sharing your thoughts with us today. This concludes
2 the business that the Board of Commissioners has before
3 it. Is there any new business for the Board to
4 consider? Hearing none, is there a motion to adjourn?

5 VICE CHAIR DELGADO: Madam Chairwoman, I
6 move that we adjourn.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Moved by Vice Chair
8 Delgado. Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER DEL CID-KOSSO: Second.

10 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: Seconded by
11 Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso. Is there any discussion on
12 this motion to adjourn? I'll ask the audience to
13 please keep it down. Any discussion on this motion to
14 adjourn? Hearing none, all those in favor of
15 adjourning say "aye".

16 [All responded "aye".]

17 CHAIRWOMAN HOUENOU: All those opposed
18 say "nay". Any abstentions? The motion passes. The
19 time is now 2:45. And we are adjourned. Thank you,
20 everyone. Happy Holidays. Happy New Year. And have a
21 good evening.

22

23 [The matter is adjourned at 2:50 p.m.]

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes represent a true and complete summary of the public meeting held by the Cannabis Regulatory Commission on **December 7, 2023**.



Daniel Said

Christopher Riggs
Chief Counsel

Daniel Said
Board Secretary

Date: December 13, 2023

Date: December 13, 2023