

New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission  
 Public In-Writing Comments  
Public Meeting: January 17, 2024

Full Name	Meeting date	Comment
Dylan youngclaus	1/17/2024	<p>I would like to recommend the crc change the 10% of every license type go to a micro business. This should be replaced by 10% of the square footage of every license type be a business that started as a micro business. This will better represent the consumer the business owners and the over community.</p> <p>I also recommend you send out an email to every municipality within Sussex county as 75% of the municipality's chose to ignore their citizens vote to have a recreational cannabis market. 64% of the county voted to legalize cannabis and the only municipality that had below a 60% approval rating only has a population of 11 people. I have now been to municipal meeting after municipal meeting where I am told things will be changed and there has been no improvement. I have been told for months things would be changing soon and it hasn't. I have attended meetings in Wantage Sparta Andover and Newton all of which have refused to change to better represent their citizens after telling me to my face they would be changing things. Citizens should not have to beg for there government to properly represent them as it's their job and duty to put their opinions to the side and do what the majority of the population voted for.</p> <p>My last recommendation is the CRC reach out to other states with legal cannabis and set up a nationwide cannabis association. The Declaration of Independence says if a government prevents its citizens from free trade with the world it's the citizens responsibility to change that form of government to allow for free trade. The current cannabis market doesn't even allow for interstate trade let alone world wide trade. New Jersey does</p>

		<p>not have the climate to produce quality out door. Allowing imports from a place like California where the climate is much better for cannabis cultivation it will bring the retail price down making the legal market able to compete with the legacy market. The average price of production for an indoor pound in the USA is about 470\$ the average price of outdoor is around 200\$ a pound. By allowing imported cannabis it will allow recreational prices to be more reasonable and make it so more legacy operators are willing to convert to the legal market.</p>
<p>Nicholas Marcantuono</p>	<p>1/17/2024</p>	<p>Subject: Recommendations for Ongoing Prevention Education</p> <p>Dear Members of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission,</p> <p>We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to express our appreciation for the important work that the Cannabis Regulatory Commission is doing to ensure the responsible regulation of cannabis in our community. As we navigate the complexities of cannabis legalization, it is crucial to prioritize education and awareness efforts, particularly in safeguarding our youth.</p> <p>We would like to propose a recommendation that we believe is essential in promoting a safe and informed environment for retail providers and youth in our communities.</p> <p>Ongoing Prevention Education for Retail Providers provided by prevention experts:  It is imperative to implement continuous education programs for retail providers to equip them with the knowledge and tools necessary to protect youth from accidental cannabis poisoning. These programs should cover topics such as age verification, responsible sales practices, and the importance of storing cannabis products securely. By fostering a culture of responsibility within retail establishments, we can contribute to the overall safety of our community, particularly our younger population. By working with prevention agencies</p>

		<p>based in New Jersey, cannabis businesses will learn about local conditions within the communities they are based in, and can collaborate with these agencies to gain knowledge that will further the safety of youth in the surrounding area.</p> <p>We believe that these recommendations will contribute to a safer and more responsible environment as we navigate the post-legalization era. Education is a powerful tool, and by investing in ongoing prevention efforts we can proactively address potential challenges associated with cannabis use.</p> <p>Thank you for your dedication to ensuring the responsible regulation of cannabis, and we appreciate your consideration of these recommendations. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of these initiatives on our community.</p> <p>Sincerely, The Safe Communities Coalition of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties</p>
<p>Corey Dishmen</p>	<p>1/17/2024</p>	<p>My name is Corey Dishmen and I am the majority owner and CEO of The Library of New Jersey. I am not contacting you to complain but rather to gain clarity since we have not been getting any responses after submitting our cure response. We submitted our original conversion application back in June, and after not being on this upcoming agenda, we are at a loss for words. As some of you are aware, we represent the population of applicants that the CRC said would be treated as a top priority based on our classification as social equity, 100% black owned, conditional, microbusiness, but after dedicating almost 4 years of our lives to this, this process has become extremely disheartening and discouraging. I really thought the NJCRC cared about helping companies like ourselves, as independent operators. I am not an investor with several companies or a diverse portfolio; we are a small business and this is everything for us.</p>

		<p>Despite having done everything asked of us by the NJCRC as well as the township of West Orange, we are the ones left to wait. I left my job as a special education teacher and my partner stopped working for the Essex County Sheriff's Office over a year ago for this opportunity because we are the ideal candidates to be approved and did not think it would take years for this process to be finalized. Over the past four years, we have done a ton of community service and outreach initiatives, trained and worked closely with several MSO's in the state, worked in collaboration with other independent cannabis companies, and have been public advocates of the state and the NJCRC from the onset in all of our mainstream media interviews. Now we are watching everyone else open, while the young black guys who have done everything right to get to this point have been sitting on the sideline while all of our colleagues (most of whom are not micro, social equity, or minority owned) and peers have gotten through the process. Just to reiterate, unlike most applicants, this is not an additional form of revenue for us - this is our only business and our livelihood depends on this. We are just following up after not being on the 12/7 or the 1/17 agenda, with hopes that we will be on the next agenda.</p> <p>Please contact us at your earliest convenience so that we can do whatever is needed. If you need anything from us, please please please do not hesitate to contact me directly. I am available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; whatever is needed we are here.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and have a blessed rest of your day.</p>
Sze Ki (Ziggy) Chau	1/17/2024	<p>Dear Members of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission,</p> <p>I am writing to you as a concerned resident and investor in Atlantic City, addressing a matter of significant concern that impacts not only the well-being but also the socio-economic fabric of our</p>

	<p>beloved community. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this official statement on the disparate impact of the recent surge in applications for adult-use cannabis dispensaries within our predominantly Black and Brown city.</p> <p>Atlantic City, with an estimated population of 38,000, is predominantly composed of hard-working individuals, mainly from black and brown communities. According to the latest Census Bureau estimates, 30.4% of the population is African American/Black, 33.4% is Latino, and 32.4% of residents live in poverty. In a city that spans only 11.92 square miles, the economic challenges are exacerbated by the fact that 25 adult-use dispensaries filed for land use approval with the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority in 2023 alone.</p> <p>I have observed with deep concern that three dispensaries are conditionally approved on my block in the Ducktown part of Atlantic City alone. This rapid proliferation of cannabis businesses, coupled with the socio-economic vulnerabilities of our city, raises serious questions about the disparate impact on our black and brown communities. It not only conveys a lack of empathy but also highlights the disregard for the well-being of a community already facing numerous challenges.</p> <p>Moreover, Atlantic City, known for its iconic landmarks and cultural history, risks losing its identity as a family-friendly destination due to the current trend of cannabis dispensaries. The potential disparate impact becomes even more significant when considering that other cities may not share the same demographic composition and socio-economic challenges faced by Atlantic City.</p> <p>I understand the Cannabis Regulatory Commission's mandate to regulate and approve licenses for the NJ cannabis industry. However, I implore the Commission to carefully consider the</p>
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Sarah Ahrens	1/17/2024	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I'm Sarah Ahrens, Founder and CEO of True Labs for Cannabis, and I come before you as the Chair of the New Jersey CannaBusiness Association's Laboratory Testing Committee. We are a group of scientists and laboratory testing professionals, most of whom have Masters or PhD degrees in</p>

		<p>natural sciences with over 100 years of combined cannabis experience. We advocate and serve as a resource for the enhancement of cannabis testing standards, scientific integrity, and safety for cannabis consumers in the State of New Jersey.</p> <p>First, we applaud the Commission Staff and Executive Director Brown for the modification made last week to adjust the usable cannabis microbial test for Total Yeast and Mold from a limit of 10,000 CFU/g to a limit of 100,000 CFU/g. This is a great first step towards appropriate testing standards for New Jersey.</p> <p>Second, we understand the Commission is taking steps to move forward with the establishment of New Jersey’s own comprehensive Testing Guidance for cannabis. We appreciate the movement forward on this Testing Guidance and the ability to serve as a scientific resource to the Commission, and we are eagerly anticipating New Jersey’s own standards for a safe and effective marketplace.</p> <p>Last but not least, we again draw your attention to one of the largest problems in cannabis markets: questionable laboratory practices and data, spurred by lab shopping. This issue is wreaking havoc on legal markets in the US, New Jersey is not immune to this problem, and it is posing a serious threat to the integrity of the cannabis industry in our state. Without trusted and accurate testing data, how will the Cannabis Regulatory Commission be able to stand behind the “buy legal: it’s safe” campaign? How will the legal market pull more consumers away from the illicit market?</p> <p>We must address this issue with effective lab governance to create a transparent and accountable system. The efficacy of this governance will make or break our market. The Commission should explore measures to enhance monitoring, reporting, and auditing processes within testing laboratories to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the data generated. Our Laboratory Testing Committee worked diligently on a set of</p>
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Erin Gore	1/17/2024	<p>Hello, my name is Erin Gore and I am the Founder and CEO of Garden Society NJ LLC located in Passaic. We are a woman-owned, impact zone located, class 2 manufacturer.</p> <p>Commissioners, thank you for your approval today on our conversion license as a woman-owned class 2 manufacturer. We are thrilled to move forward with this final approval process with the CRC.</p> <p>I am here today to ask your support to help ensure we move towards opening our doors as quickly as possible. It has taken us over 7 months from when we filed our conversion license in the portal to being approved here today. Our application had no cures and no concerns by any agent during the approval process. We are relieved to now be approved here today and ready to move forward. The City of Passaic and Mayor Lora have been tremendous advocates and supporters of our business. During this time, we have completed construction, completed all inspections with the city of Passaic,</p>



		<p>received all city approvals for zoning, construction, and cannabis use. As far as the city is concerned, we are ready to operate now.</p> <p>We have worked with the Workforce Development Board and received support from two labor unions, the Teamsters and the United Food and Commercial Workers, with whom we have signed Labor Peace Agreements. Through the Workforce Development Board and Economic Development Center in both the City of Passaic and County of Passaic, we have hosted a job fair, and posted our positions for 13 roles. We received over 110 qualified applicants. In addition, we have worked with the city and county of Passaic to receive grants for employees we hire from the city that are impacted employees or on unemployment.</p> <p>Finally, as Garden Society NJ LLC, we have over \$4.0M in open purchase orders for our products by retailers and customers ready to purchase as soon as we are able to open and begin operations. These customers, however, will leave us if we cannot open soon.</p> <p>I am begging, actually pleading, for your support. We are running out of financial resources if we cannot begin operations timely. Garden Society NJ LLC is a woman founded and woman run business, with our leadership team being half black, and veterans, this program was designed to help support individuals and companies like us.</p> <p>I would welcome any discussion from the CRC to help accelerate and ensure we can move forward with opening in a timely manner.</p> <p>You have a very difficult job, but can make a difference for companies like mine. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Erin</p>
John J. Marchetti	1/17/2024	We have secured a lease and facility is completed built out.

		<p>We have a final building inspection Friday. We have already passed our final Fire and Electrical inspections.</p> <p>We have township approval and our cannabis Class 5 Borough license in hand.</p> <p>We are one of the few, 100% independently owned legacy dispensaries, born and raised in NJ. There are multiple MSO's who are taking 49% of dispensary ownership and getting approved to open who are NOT from NJ or have anything to do with NJ but have found a way to circumvent the rules and get approved by predatorily partnering with minorities to own 51% on paper!</p> <p>We are literally ready to open and do business in a county that is super limited in cannabis dispensaries (Monmouth) and are simply waiting to get on the CRC agenda for final license conversion approval. Since we did not get on today's meeting, we are now pushed back at LEAST 30 days to the next meeting, and in reality longer than that, paying rent and expenses without any sight of income in the immediate future. We are also being asked by township officials who issued us the licenses for their Borough what the hold up is and when we will be opening to serve the people of Monmouth County.</p> <p>Please expedite or update us on the next steps so we can work together to achieve our mutual goals. Thank you!</p>
<p>Matha Figaro</p>	<p>1/17/2024</p>	<p>I would like to bring attention to communication issues experienced while attempting to engage with the CRC. Despite multiple attempts to request private meetings using the online system, I have not received any responses. Phone calls and emails have also gone unanswered for an extended period, causing frustration.</p> <p>When I did receive a response, it was disrespectfully misinformed, indicating a concerning lack of understanding at the top level of the commission.</p>

		<p>As a licensed entity that adhered to payment obligations promptly, I believe courtesy, due diligence, and professional communication are paramount. I urge the CRC to address these communication challenges to foster a more collaborative and informed relationship with stakeholders.</p> <p>The persistent issue of administrative delays in processing product approvals affects not only our operations but the entire industry. I urge the Commission to promptly address and rectify this matter, ensuring timely processing of paperwork for the benefit of all manufacturers.</p>
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