

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

**March 11, 2021**

**10:00AM**

**Remote Participation via [Microsoft Teams Live](#)\***

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**Documents:**

- [Public Meeting Material Packet](#)
- Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership
  - Apical, Inc.
  - Community Growth Partners Great Barrington Operations, LLC
  - Community Growth Partners Northampton Operations, LLC
  - Curaleaf Massachusetts, Inc.
  - Curaleaf North Shore, Inc.
  - I.N.S.A., Inc.
  - Lynn Organics, LLC
  - NS AJO Holdings, Inc.
  - TDMA Orange, LLC
  - The Heirloom Collective, Inc.
- Staff Recommendations on Renewals
  - 1620 Labs, LLC (#MCR139966)
  - 27 Broom Street, LLC (#MCR139964)
  - 27 Broom Street, LLC (#MCR139973)
  - 27 Broom Street, LLC (#MPR243589)
  - Bask, Inc. (#MCR139958)
  - Bask, Inc. (#MPR243579)
  - BWell Holdings, Inc. (#MRR205689)
  - Canna Provisions Inc (#MRR205685)
  - Canna Provisions Inc (#MRR205686)
  - Cannavanna, Inc. (#MRR205693)
  - CNA Stores, Inc. (#MRR205691)
  - CNA Stores, Inc. (#MRR205692)
  - Commcan, Inc. (#MCR139957)
  - Commcan, Inc. (#MPR243581)
  - Cultivate Holdings LLC (#MCR139953)
  - Cultivate Holdings LLC (#MPR243575)
  - Elev8 Cannabis Inc (#MRR205677)



- Evergreen Strategies, LLC (#MRR205688)
- Evergreen Strategies, LLC (#MRR205697)
- Frozen 4 Corporation (#MPR243580)
- Green Biz LLC (#MRR205687)
- Green Line Boston, Inc. (#MCR139955)
- Green Line Boston, Inc. (#MPR243578)
- Green Railroad Group, Inc. (#MRR205679)
- Greener Leaf, Inc. (#MRR205700)
- Healthy Pharms, Inc. (#MCR139962)
- Healthy Pharms, Inc. (#MPR243582)
- Healthy Pharms, Inc. (#MRR205690)
- Holistic Industries, Inc. (#MCR139968)
- Holistic Industries, Inc. (#MPR243583)
- Jolly Green Inc (#MCR139967)
- Lazy River Products, LLC (#MCR139976)
- Lazy River Products, LLC (#MPR243591)
- Lazy River Products, LLC (#MRR205704)
- Nature's Remedy of Massachusetts, Inc. (#MPR139963)
- Nature's Remedy of Massachusetts, Inc. (#MPR243590)
- Nature's Remedy of Massachusetts, Inc. (#MRR205698)
- Nature's Remedy of Massachusetts, Inc. (#MRR205701)
- Nova Farms, LLC (#MCR139969)
- Platinum Hydrolab, Inc. (#MCR139942)
- Platinum Hydrolab, Inc. (#MPR243568)
- Resinate, Inc. (#MCR139971)
- Resinate, Inc. (#MPR243586)
- Resinate, Inc. (#MRR205694)
- Resinate, Inc. (#MRR205696)
- Theory Wellness Inc (#MCR139972)
- Tower Three, LLC (#MCR139961)
- TYCA Green (#MCR139970)
- TYCA Green (#MPR243585)
- TYCA Green (#MRR205695)
- Greencare Therapeutics Inc., Medical Marijuana Treatment Center
- Green Meadows Farm, LLC, Medical Marijuana Treatment Center
- Heal, Inc., Medical Marijuana Treatment Center
- Just Healthy, LLC, Medical Marijuana Treatment Center
- Liberty Compassion, Inc. (#RMD1465), Medical Marijuana Treatment Center
- Mass Alternative Care, Inc. (#RMD1527), Medical Marijuana Treatment Center
- Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses
  - Ascend Mass, LLC (#MR282077), Retail
  - CCC Wellfleet NV, LLC (#MR282685), Retail
  - Cloud Creamery, LLC (#MP281412), Product Manufacturer
  - Elevated Roots, LLC (#MR283092), Retail



- Emerald Grove, Inc. (#MR282808), Retail
- GreenStar Herbals, Inc. (#MR282207), Retail
- Hennep, Inc. (#MR281450), Retail
- HyeCorp, LLC (#MR282460), Retail
- Legal Greens, LLC (#MR282937), Retail
- Mass Wellspring (#MR281363), Retail
- Nature's Embrace, Inc. (#MR282669), Retail
- Supercritical Mass Laboratories, Inc. (#MP281321), Product Manufacturer
- ACK Natural, Inc. (#MTC1627), Medical Marijuana Treatment Center
- Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses
  - 311 Page Blvd, LLC (#MRN282714), Product Manufacturer
  - Charlemont Farmworks, LLC (#MCN283116), Cultivation, Tier 11 / Outdoor
  - Elevation, Inc. (#MRN281472), Retail
  - Faded, LLC (#DOA100108), Delivery-Only
  - GTE Millis, LLC (#MPN281965), Product Manufacturer
  - Lovewell Provisions, LLC (#MRN283413), Retail
  - Noble Manna, Inc. (#MRN282984), Retail
  - Nuestra, LLC (#MRN281469), Retail
  - Paper Crane Provisions, LLC (#MCN282687), Cultivation, Tier 3 / Indoor
  - Paper Crane Provisions, LLC (#MPN281904), Product Manufacturer
  - Pharmacannis Massachusetts, Inc. (#MRN283436), Retail
  - RC Retail Westfield, LLC (#MRN283816), Retail
  - Revolutionary Clinics II, Inc. (#MRN282412), Retail
  - Royal Sun Farm, LLC (#MCN282001), Cultivation, Tier 6 / Outdoor
  - Solar Retail Norton, LLC (#MRN283896), Retail
  - Sunhouse Mass, LLC (#MCN283027), Cultivation, Tier 6 / Indoor
  - Thrive Cultivation & Dispensary, LLC (#MCN282968), Cultivation, Tier 3 / Indoor
  - Thrive Cultivation & Dispensary, LLC (#MPN281928), Product Manufacturer
  - Thrive Cultivation & Dispensary, LLC (#MRN283714), Retail
  - ZGC, LLC (#MCN283045), Cultivation, Tier 11 / Outdoor
  - Pharmacannis MA, Inc. (#RMDA3045), Medical Marijuana Treatment Center
- Proposed Testing Protocols
- Disproportionate Impact Study Report

**In Attendance:**

- Chairman Steven Hoffman
- Commissioner Nurys Z. Camargo
- Commissioner Ava Callender Concepcion
- Commissioner Jennifer Flanagan
- Commissioner Bruce Stebbins

**Minutes:**

- 1) Call to Order
  - The Chairman recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order.



- The Chairman gave notice that the meeting is being recorded.
- 2) Chairman's Comments and Updates
- The Chairman gave an overview of the agenda.
  - Commissioner Camargo thanked staff for the work and information and noted her commitment to continuing to get to know staff.
  - Commissioner Concepcion thanked staff for their continued support.
  - Commissioner Stebbins echoed the thanks and discussed the opportunity to visit and tour various regulated entities.
- 3) Minutes for Approval – 00:06:00
- The Chairman noted there were two sets of minutes to approve.
  - October 8, 2020
    - The Chairman asked if there were edits to the minutes.
    - Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the minutes.
    - Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
    - The Chairman took a roll call vote:
      - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
      - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
      - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
      - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
      - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
    - The Commission unanimously approved the minutes.
  - October 20, 2020
    - The Chairman asked if there were suggested edits to the minutes.
    - Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the minutes.
    - Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
    - The Chairman took a roll call vote:
      - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
      - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
      - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
      - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
      - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
    - The Commission unanimously approved the minutes.
    -
- 4) Executive Director's Report – 00:08:27
- The Executive Director gave an overview of licensing data, as laid out on page [158 of the meeting packet](#).
  - Commissioner Camargo thanked the Executive Director for the overview of data and commented on the work ahead in ensuring that more Economic Empowerment Priority Applicants, Social Equity Program applicants, and Disadvantaged Enterprise applicants make it to licensure and commence operations.



- The Chairman echoed the need to advance more priority applicants, but also noted the progress made to date. The Chairman reiterated the Commission’s commitment to achieving its equity mandates.

a. Updated Commission Website

- The Executive Director gave an overview the topic and various websites hosted by the Commission.
- Chief Communications Officer (CCO) Cedric Sinclair gave an overview of the Commission website redesign, acknowledging the core web redesign team - AnneMarie Burt, Digital Media Director, Maryalice Curley, Director of Communications, and Kirsten Swenson, Project Coordinator.
- CCO Sinclair gave a virtual tour of the redesigned website, highlighting key changes and the benefits of those changes for constituents.
- Commissioner Flanagan asked if there was an age verification feature for the “find a retailer” page.
  - CCO Sinclair confirmed that anyone attempting to access that page will have to verify that they are 21 years of age or older.
- Commissioner Camargo asked if there could be an update after receiving public feedback on the website.
  - CCO Sinclair said he would work with the Executive Director to determine the best way to ensure that.
- The Executive Director thanked the web redesign team and noted the amount of work involved in maintaining, essentially, two web presences while developing the new website.

b. Cannabis Advisory Board Update

- The Executive Director gave an overview of the topic and the Cannabis Advisory Board’s history.
- The Executive Director described his vision and goals for the Cannabis Advisory Board moving forward, including asking for comment specifically on Vertical Integration.
- Commissioner Flanagan thanked the Executive Director for the update and expressed the gratitude for the volunteers who donate their time to serve on the Cannabis Advisory Board.

c. Hiring Update

- The Executive Director gave an overview of positions that are in the screening and interview phase of several roles at the Commission.
- The Executive Director gave an overview of current job postings for roles at the Commission.
- The Chairman thanked the legislature for the approval of the budget that allows the Commission to hire these positions.



- The Executive Director noted that the goal to hire for the closed positions as soon as possible and noted that these positions may need supplemental hiring, in particular with respect the social equity program.

d. Budget Update

- The Executive Director gave an overview of the Governor's Fiscal Year 2022 budget as relates to the Commission and the impact on planning and internal budgeting.

5) Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership – 00:54:41

a. Apical, Inc.

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Change of Ownership.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

b. Community Growth Partners Great Barrington Operations, LLC

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Change of Ownership.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

c. Community Growth Partners Northampton Operations, LLC

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Change of Ownership.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes



- Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
- Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
- Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
- Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

d. Curaleaf Massachusetts, Inc.

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Change of Ownership.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

e. Curaleaf North Shore, Inc.

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Change of Ownership.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

f. I.N.S.A., Inc.

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Change of Ownership.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes



- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

g. Lynn Organics, LLC

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Change of Ownership.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

h. NS AJO Holdings, Inc.

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Change of Ownership.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

i. TDMA Orange, LLC

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Change of Ownership.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

j. The Heirloom Collective, Inc.

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Change of Ownership.





- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

6) Staff Recommendations on Renewals- 01:08:27

- The Chairman noted that it is the Commission's practice to consider renewals as a roster. There will be three renewal rosters: (1) all adult-use renewals and (2) the medical-use renewals.
- The Chairman noted that these Renewals include the universal conditions previously requested by Commissioner Flanagan.

- a. 1620 Labs, LLC (#MCR139966)
- b. 27 Broom Street, LLC (#MCR139964)
- c. 27 Broom Street, LLC (#MCR139973)
- d. 27 Broom Street, LLC (#MPR243589)
- e. Bask, Inc. (#MCR139958)
- f. Bask, Inc. (#MPR243579)
- g. BWell Holdings, Inc. (#MRR205689)
- h. Canna Provisions Inc (#MRR205685)
- i. Canna Provisions Inc (#MRR205686)
- j. Cannavanna, Inc. (#MRR205693)
- k. CNA Stores, Inc. (#MRR205691)
- l. CNA Stores, Inc. (#MRR205692)
- m. Commcan, Inc. (#MCR139957)
- n. Commcan, Inc. (#MPR243581)
- o. Cultivate Holdings LLC (#MCR139953)
- p. Cultivate Holdings LLC (#MPR243575)
- q. Elev8 Cannabis Inc (#MRR205677)
- r. Evergreen Strategies, LLC (#MRR205688)
- s. Evergreen Strategies, LLC (#MRR205697)
- t. Frozen 4 Corporation (#MPR243580)
- u. Green Biz LLC (#MRR205687)
- v. Green Line Boston, Inc. (#MCR139955)
- w. Green Line Boston, Inc. (#MPR243578)
- x. Green Railroad Group, Inc. (#MRR205679)
- y. Greener Leaf, Inc. (#MRR205700)



z. Healthy Pharms, Inc. (#MCR139962)  
 aa. Healthy Pharms, Inc. (#MPR243582)  
 bb. Healthy Pharms, Inc. (#MRR205690)  
 cc. Holistic Industries, Inc. (#MCR139968)  
 dd. Holistic Industries, Inc. (#MPR243583)  
 ee. Jolly Green Inc (#MCR139967)  
 ff. Lazy River Products, LLC (#MCR139976)  
 gg. Lazy River Products, LLC (#MPR243591)  
 hh. Lazy River Products, LLC (#MRR205704)  
 ii. Nature's Remedy of Massachusetts, Inc. (#MPR139963)  
 jj. Nature's Remedy of Massachusetts, Inc. (#MPR243590)  
 kk. Nature's Remedy of Massachusetts, Inc. (#MRR205698)  
 ll. Nature's Remedy of Massachusetts, Inc. (#MRR205701)  
 mm. Nova Farms, LLC (#MCR139969)  
 nn. Platinum Hydrolab, Inc. (#MCR139942)  
 oo. Platinum Hydrolab, Inc. (#MPR243568)  
 pp. Resinate, Inc. (#MCR139971)  
 qq. Resinate, Inc. (#MPR243586)  
 rr. Resinate, Inc. (#MRR205694)  
 ss. Resinate, Inc. (#MRR205696)  
 tt. Theory Wellness Inc (#MCR139972)  
 uu. Tower Three, LLC (#MCR139961)  
 vv. TYCA Green (#MCR139970)  
 ww. TYCA Green (#MPR243585)  
 xx. TYCA Green (#MRR205695)

- Adult-use Roster

- The Chairman asked for additional question and comments.
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the first roster of adult-use renewals.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the roster of adult-use renewals.

yy. Greencare Therapeutics Inc., Medical Marijuana Treatment Center  
 zz. Green Meadows Farm, LLC, Medical Marijuana Treatment Center  
 aaa. Heal, Inc., Medical Marijuana Treatment Center  
 bbb. Just Healthy, LLC, Medical Marijuana Treatment Center  
 ccc. Liberty Compassion, Inc. (#RMD1465), Medical Marijuana Treatment Center



ddd. Mass Alternative Care, Inc. (#RMD1527), Medical Marijuana Treatment Center

- Medical-Use Roster
  - The Chairman asked for additional questions and comments.
  - Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the medical-use renewals.
  - Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
  - The Chairman took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the roster of medical-use renewals.

7) Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses – 01:12:18

- The Chairman noted that the Commission considers Final Licenses as a roster unless a Commissioner requests otherwise.
- Two rosters; (1) Adult-use and (2) Medical-Use.

- a. Ascend Mass, LLC (#MR282077), Retail
- b. CCC Wellfleet NV, LLC (#MR282685), Retail
- c. Cloud Creamery, LLC (#MP281412), Product Manufacturer
- d. Elevated Roots, LLC (#MR283092), Retail
- e. Emerald Grove, Inc. (#MR282808), Retail
- f. GreenStar Herbals, Inc. (#MR282207), Retail
- g. Hennep, Inc. (#MR281450), Retail
- h. HyeCorp, LLC (#MR282460), Retail
- i. Legal Greens, LLC (#MR282937), Retail
- j. Mass Wellspring (#MR281363), Retail
- k. Nature's Embrace, Inc. (#MR282669), Retail
- l. Supercritical Mass Laboratories, Inc. (#MP281321), Product Manufacturer

- Adult-use Roster
  - The Chairman asked for additional question and comments.
  - Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the first roster of adult-use Final Licenses.
  - Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
  - The Chairman took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chairman Hoffman – Yes



- The Commission unanimously approved the roster of adult-use Final Licenses.
- Commissioner Camargo noted that licensee Legal Greens, the owner, Vanessa Jean-Baptiste, will be one of the first black woman owners and is an Economic Empowerment Priority Applicant participant. Commissioner Camargo noted that this licensure represents a step in the right direction for encouraging equity in the industry.

m. ACK Natural, Inc. (#MTC1627), Medical Marijuana Treatment Center

- Medical-Use License
  - The Chairman asked for additional questions and comments.
  - Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the medical-use Final License.
  - Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
  - The Chairman took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the medical-use Final License.

The Commission took a 10 minute recess, returning at 01:29:27.

8) Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses

- The Chairman noted that the Commission will consider each Provisional License application individually and will work to reconcile any duplicative conditions requested by the Commissioners. The Chairman also noted that at least half of the provisional licenses received priority or expedited treatment as a result of being an Economic Empowerment Priority Applicant, a Social Equity Program participant, Supplier Diversity Office designee, or particular license type. The chairman noted that this is emblematic of the advancing equity mission of the Commission, though he recognized there is work still to do.

a. 311 Page Blvd, LLC (#MRN282714), Product Manufacturer

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Flanagan requested a condition.
  - Proposed condition: Clarify how a donation will directly impact residents of Springfield.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Flanagan.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes



- Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
- Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
- Commissioner Stebbins – Recused
- Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission approved the Provisional License by a vote of four in favor and one recusal, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Flanagan.

b. Charlemont Farmworks, LLC (#MCN283116), Cultivation, Tier 11 / Outdoor

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
  - Proposed Condition: Prior to final licensure, contact CCC Licensing Division for an update to confirm your training and recruitment partners eligibility to support your activities.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.

c. Elevation, Inc. (#MRN281472), Retail

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
  - Proposed condition: Prior to Final Application for Licensure, provide any hiring goals for veterans, disabled residents, and LGBTQ residents.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.



d. Faded, LLC (#DOA100108), Delivery-Only

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Camargo requested a condition.
  - Proposed Condition: Clarify who the membership to MCAD is for.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
  - Proposed condition: Prior to Final Application for Licensure, provide updated confirmation letter of support from MCAD.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioners Camargo and Stebbins.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioners Camargo and Stebbins.

e. GTE Millis, LLC (#MPN281965), Product Manufacturer

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
  - Proposed condition: Prior to final licensure, contact CCC Licensing Division for an update to confirm your training and recruitment partners eligibility to support your activities.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.

f. Lovewell Provisions, LLC (#MRN283413), Retail

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
  - Proposed condition: Prior to Final Application for Licensure, provide any hiring goals for veterans and disabled residents.
- Commissioner Concepcion requested a condition:
  - Proposed condition: Prior to final licensure, the applicant shall submit to Commission staff evidence of recruitment efforts and progress towards its overall hiring goals.



- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioners Concepcion and Stebbins.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioners Concepcion and Stebbins.

g. Noble Manna, Inc. (#MRN282984), Retail

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
  - Proposed condition: Prior to Final Application for Licensure, provide any hiring goals for women, veterans, disabled residents, and LGBTQ residents.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.

h. Nuestra, LLC (#MRN281469), Retail

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
  - Proposed condition: Review Positive Impact Plan for outreach to other areas of Disproportionate Impact including identified census tracks in Boston.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes



- Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
- Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
- Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.

i. Paper Crane Provisions, LLC (#MCN282687), Cultivation, Tier 3 / Indoor

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for both of the Paper Crane Provisions, LLC Provisional License applications.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
  - Proposed condition: Prior to Final Application for Licensure, provide any hiring goals for veterans and disabled residents.
- Commissioner Concepcion requested a condition.
  - Proposed condition: Prior to final licensure, the applicant shall submit to Commission staff evidence of recruitment efforts and progress towards its overall hiring goals.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the Provisional License for cultivation, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioners Concepcion and Stebbins.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License for cultivation, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioners Concepcion and Stebbins.

j. Paper Crane Provisions, LLC (#MPN281904), Product Manufacturer

- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Provisional License for product manufacturer, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioners Concepcion and Stebbins.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License for product manufacturer, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioners Concepcion and Stebbins.





k. Pharmacannis Massachusetts, Inc. (#MRN283436), Retail

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested two conditions.
  - Proposed conditions:
    - Prior to Final Application for Licensure, identify how contribution to CultivatED may assist Pharmacannis' Franklin operations.
    - Prior to Final Application for Licensure, identify any hiring goals for LGBTQ residents.
- Commissioner Concepcion requested a condition:
  - Proposed condition: Final licensure is subject to the applicant providing Commission staff letters from organizations that will receive donations that they will affirmatively take such donations from the applicant.
- Commissioner Camargo requested a condition:
  - Proposed condition: Provide information on what cohort the donation to CultivatED will impact.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioners Camargo, Concepcion, and Stebbins.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioners Camargo, Concepcion, and Stebbins.

l. RC Retail Westfield, LLC (#MRN283816), Retail

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
  - Proposed condition: Prior to Final Application for Licensure, please submit confirmation letter from Samaritan Inn on official letterhead with contact information.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes



- Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.

m. Revolutionary Clinics II, Inc. (#MRN282412), Retail

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Camargo requested a condition.
  - Provide information on what cohort will the donation to CultivateED impact.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Camargo.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Camargo.

n. Royal Sun Farm, LLC (#MCN282001), Cultivation, Tier 6 / Outdoor

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
  - Prior to Final Application for Licensure, provide any hiring goals for LGBTQ residents.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.

o. Solar Retail Norton, LLC (#MRN283896), Retail

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.



- Proposed condition: Prior to Final Application for Licensure, review diversity hiring goals and projected number of employees.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.

p. Sunhouse Mass, LLC (#MCN283027), Cultivation, Tier 6 / Indoor

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- Commissioner Concepcion requested a condition.
  - Proposed condition: Final license subject to Commission approval of any third-party platform to ensure compliance with 935 CMR 500.000, as applicable.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Concepcion.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Concepcion.

q. Thrive Cultivation & Dispensary, LLC (#MCN282968), Cultivation, Tier 3 / Indoor

- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes



- Chairman Hoffman – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License.
- r. Thrive Cultivation & Dispensary, LLC (#MPN281928), Product Manufacturer
- Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the Provisional License.
  - Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
  - The Charmin took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License.
- s. Thrive Cultivation & Dispensary, LLC (#MRN283714), Retail
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Provisional License.
  - Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
  - The Charmin took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License.
- t. ZGC, LLC (#MCN283045), Cultivation, Tier 11 / Outdoor
- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
  - The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
  - Commissioner Flanagan moved to approve the Provisional License for cultivation.
  - Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
  - The Charmin took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License.
- u. Pharmacannis MA, Inc. (#RMDA3045), Medical Marijuana Treatment Center
- Director Potvin presented the staff recommendation for Provisional License.
  - Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
    - Proposed condition. Prior to Final Application for Licensure, identify any hiring goals for LGBTQ residents.



- The Chairman asked for questions and comments.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License for cultivation, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- The Chairman thanked Director Potvin and the licensing staff for their work preparing applications for consideration by the Commission.
- Commissioner Camargo commented that she was heartened to see the Social Equity, Economic Empowerment, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise licensees considered. Commissioner Camargo highlighted that Royal Sun Farms had a hiring, training, and mentoring program that she thought was laudable. Commissioner Camargo also noted that there will be diversity plan guidance forthcoming, but in the meantime, she encouraged applicants to call the Commission with questions, but suggested that applicants should provide sufficient detail to make it clear what the goals are and who they are intended to benefit.

The Commission took a lunch recess, returning at 2:49:33.

#### 9) Commission Discussion and Votes

- The Chairman gave an overview of the topics for discussion and vote.

##### a. Testing Protocols

- The Executive Director gave an overview of the topic and introduced Laboratory and Testing Analyst (LTA) Genevieve Hall-Frison and Investigator Armond Enos to introduce the proposed testing protocols.
- LTA Hall-Frison gave an overview of the proposed testing protocol.
- The Chairman thanked LTA Hall-Frison.
- Commissioner Flanagan thanked LTA Hall-Frison for the work on the highly technical document.
- Commissioner Camargo echoed Commissioner Flanagan's thanks and asked how the protocols impact outdoor cultivators. Commissioner Camargo asked about public comment on the protocols and the petition for regulatory change submitted on the topic.
- LTA Hall-Frison noted that this primarily impacts laboratories, by creating additional testing, and indirectly impacts licensees because it is the licensees' product that is being



tested. Ultimately, these protocols provide protection to consumers to ensure they are buying safer products.

- LTA Hall-Frison noted with respect to the petition filed, which related to outdoor cultivators. LTA Hall-Frison acknowledged that the protocols do not include particular protocols for outdoor cultivators, and the protocols specifically address indoor cultivation, due to the legacy from the Department of Public Health limitation to indoor cultivation. Commission is looking to work with constituents to form working groups to obtain information from outdoor farmers to develop protocols specific to outdoor cultivators and to address the petition.
- Commissioner Camargo asked to be kept in the loop as discussions around testing develop.
- Commissioner Stebbins thanked LTA Hall-Frison, especially in light of the upper tier cultivators considered at this meeting. Commissioner Stebbins asked about the public comment process for the protocols, given it is a sub-regulatory requirement.
- LTA Hall-Frison said that the protocols were posted along with the draft regulations, and the Commission received written comment, which the team took into consideration in making changes. Comments dealt with secondary testing, remediation, and microbial levels. There were also comments on the possibility of future research in this area.
- Commissioner Concepcion also thanked staff for their work.
- The Chairman moved, relying on the Commission's authority under G. L. c. 94G, §§ 4 (a)-(a ½) and 15 to establish testing standards, to accept the Testing Protocols as described in the following documents:
  1. Protocol for Sampling Analysis 2.26.21.Final
  2. Environmental Media Protocol – 2.26.21.Final
  3. Exhibit 1 - Sampling and Analysis Requirement Flow Chart
  4. Exhibit 2 – Soils Solids Sampling Frequency and Analyses
  5. Exhibit 3 - Water Sampling Frequency and Analyses
  6. Exhibit 4 – Analysis Details – Soil and Solid Growing Media
  7. Exhibit 5 – Analysis Details – Water
  8. Exhibit 6 – Actions for Environmental Media Analysis Prior to Cultivation
  9. Exhibit 7 – Action for Ongoing Monitoring of Environmental Media
- Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion.
- The Chairman took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously voted to approve the Testing Protocols.

b. Commissioner Liaison to CAB Subcommittees – 03:25:15

- The Chairman gave an overview of the topic and proposed the following subcommittee liaison appointments.
  - Market Participation – Commissioner Stebbins



- Industry– Commissioner Camargo
- Public health – Commissioner Concepcion
- Public safety – Commissioner Flanagan
- Research – Chairman

c. Disproportionate Impact Study – 03:39:25

- The Chairman set the parameters for the discussion of around the study. The Chairman thanked Commissioner Flanagan for her work on this topic.
- Commissioner Flanagan gave an overview and history of the topic.
- Director of Research Dr. Julie Johnson introduced the study Identifying Disproportionately Impacted Areas by Drug Prohibition in Massachusetts and introduced Dr. Mark Melnik and Dr. Jennifer M. Whitehill, who lead the nine-person research team that developed the Study.
- Dr. Whitehill and Dr. Melnik presented the methodology and findings of the study.
- Commissioner Concepcion thanked the research team. Commissioner Concepcion noted the various stages of the criminal justice system and how the farther along one is processed through that system, the more acute the disproportionate impact becomes. Therefore, Commissioner Concepcion asked why researchers relied on arrests, and not prosecution, conviction, and sentencing, as the primary data point. Commissioner Concepcion also asked why arrest data was used as two indices.
  - Dr. Whitehill affirmed Commissioner Concepcion’s analysis, and noted that arrests are just the tip of the iceberg. Dr. Whitehill noted that future phases of the study would expand into the other points in the criminal justice pipeline, but given the short turn around given to the researchers to complete the study, arrests were used as a proxy measure, but Dr. Whitehill recognized the limitations of that metric.
  - Dr. Whitehill said that there were two different measures of arrests because they were used both in relative and absolute terms. Communities with a large number of arrests is illuminating but is not a direct comparison municipality to municipality. Therefore, examining the total number of arrests, plus arrests per 100,000, with different ranking, gave different perspectives.
- Commissioner Camargo asked about census tracks and how those lines can be arbitrarily drawn, and whether the research team thought about using other metrics, such as zip codes or other ways to ensure that folks are not being drawn out of a Disproportionate Impact Area, though maybe lives across the street.
  - Dr. Whitehill said that was a discussion among researchers, and in order to get arrest data at a certain level, census tracks are the go to, given the need for relevant indicators for which all the data was available. Dr. Whitehill recognized the inherent limitations of census tracks, noting that policy decisions could be made on other geographic bases.
  - Dr. Melnik said this is a natural concern and that any line drawn has the risk of being arbitrary and noted that neighborhoods are socially constructed and are hard to pinpoint into a data set. From a methodological perspective, census tracks are





more reliable, but that would not limit the Commission from making different policy determinations.

- Dr. Melnik presented the results of the study.
- Commissioner Camargo recognized that Lawrence has not reported arrest data but asked how to address that short fall in that data.
  - Dr. Melnik said that this dearth of data was discovered during research, so Lawrence was excluded, but given the analysis process, if data became available, it could be plugged in with relative ease.
  - Commissioner Camargo asked when that realization with respect to Lawrence occurred.
  - Dr. Whitehill said her recollection was that as the report was being draft, and that is when it became clear that Lawrence was missing from the list, and based on other factors, noting it likely should have been, so the team looked to an additional data source, but that data source also lacked Lawrence data.
  - Dr. Melnik noted that the researchers knew going into the project that Boston would not be captured in the data sources they would be working from but did not realize that the sources would be missing Lawrence until they notice Lawrence was not on the list of Disproportionately Impacted Areas, so the ability to redress that gap in data was compromised compared with Boston, which they could address from the onset.
  - Commissioner Camargo noted the difficulty in making policy decisions based on incomplete data.
  - Commissioner Concepcion followed up to ask what the time-span was to compile the data.
  - Dr. Whitehill noted that the initial timeline was to complete the study by the fall. Researchers did not receive the data until the deadline for completion was nearing. Dr. Whitehill gave a description of the data cleaning and merging process.
  - Dr. Melnik added that the Boston data did not come in until the late fall, and then all the data needed to be geocoded.
  - Commissioner Concepcion harkened back the response of her initial question, whereby time constraints were a factor in using arrest data, in lieu of data from other phases of the criminal justice pipeline and asked about how researchers may have followed up with other potential sources of data, such as the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services.
  - Dr. Whitehill note that her response that the timeline was the factor leading to arrest records being the best proxy for disproportionate impact was an oversimplification. Dr. Whitehill clarified that time was the primary factor, but it was the complexities and approvals to obtain certain types of additional data, combined with the short timeline, made it unfeasible to obtain additional data.
  - Dr. Johnson added that this question, regarding the use of arrest data, is in part based on the Commission's procurement solicitation documents, which required as the primary qualification the ability and experience tow work with the National Incident-Based Reporting System, and other forms of criminal record or history





information was identified by the Commission as secondary in importance. The reason for identifying arrests as the primary focus is that arrests tend to be the broadest category, which would help establish a baseline for the study. Dr. Johnson said that the research department is still working on how to incorporate other forms of data.

- Commissioner Stebbins noted that the data in Springfield is consistent with his knowledge of the city. Asked how data is being parsed between residents of Springfield and folks who may not be residents, especially given Springfield's proximity to Interstate 91.
  - Dr. Melnik noted that that is one of the difficulties of identifying geographic areas of disproportionate impact, when the data relates to individuals.
  - Dr. Whitehill added that in broad terms, the analysts had the address of where an arrest occurred, and if an address had a high number of arrests in relation to the total number of arrests it could be identified as an outlier, for example, like the Xfinity Center in Mansfield, or the police station in a given municipality. In those instances, certain arrests may have been excluded to account for that outlier.
- Commissioner Camargo asked whether census tracts were examined across the Commonwealth.
  - Dr. Melnik clarified that census tracts were examined across the five cities that represented top tier Disproportionately Impacted Areas.
- The Chairman thanked the research team for their work and set parameters for how the remainder of the conversation will go.
- Commissioner Camargo thanked the research team and articulated the importance of this work in the development of policy and how it will shape this sector of the Massachusetts economy, Commonwealth revenue, who gets a piece of the pie. Commissioner Camargo articulated the importance of getting this right to properly address racial equity in the industry. Commissioner Camargo asked the definition of "War on Drugs" used as the premise of the study.
  - Dr. Johnson said that the idea of "war on drugs" referred to the systematic law changes, in particular with respect to the criminal justice system, starting in the 1970s. Dr. Johnson promised to follow up with a more particular answer from the procurement documents.
- Commissioner Stebbins thanked the research team.
- Commissioner Flanagan thanked the research team and articulated the importance of this work and where she hopes the research can go in the future.
- Commissioner Concepcion thanked the research team and her fellow Commissioners.
- The Chairman transitioned to identifying next steps and asked the fellow Commissioners their comfort having a policy discussion, and if not, what steps would help them be ready to have that discussion.
- Commissioner Flanagan proposed holding off until April to allow the Executive Director to work with staff to identify how modifying the list of Disproportionately Impacted Areas would impact the Commission, its applicants, and its licensees.
  - The Chairman asked the Executive Director if what Commissioner Flanagan is requesting, is feasible.



- The Executive Director said that there seems to be a lot of unanswered questions and the impact of a new list of Disproportionately Impacted Areas. It would take work, but it is important work.
- Commissioner Camargo asked the Executive Director if there was an internal group set up to look at the next steps etc., which it sounds like there is. Commissioner Camargo expressed concern with respect to gaps or limits on data. Commissioner Camargo asked to understand more about the lens that is or was used with respect to assess racial equity.
  - The Chairman sought additional clarification.
  - Commissioner Camargo asked whether there could be a second eye on the report.
  - The Chairman confirmed that Commissioner Camargo is seeking a third party to determine whether it was developed fairly from a racial and equity standpoint.
  - Commissioner Camargo asked whether there was staff that could provide that service and whether it meets our standards for the Commission.
- Commissioner Stebbins suggested braking this out into two phases: Frist assessing the impacts of a modifying the list of Disproportionately Impacted Areas and second addressing the policy questions, in particular, what is the status of tier two municipalities and the status of the City of Lawrence. Commissioner Stebbins said there may be additional policy questions that are not quite fully formed and articulated.
- The Chairman gave an overview of the suggestions so far for what Commissioners will need in order to prepare them to have a policy discussion.
- Commissioner Concepcion echoed her support of the suggestions so far.
  - The Chairman asked what options might be available for addressing the concerns relating to the equitability of the study itself.
  - Commissioner Concepcion said there may be organizations or other third parties who could provide input on the study. Commissioner Concepcion said that with some time and thought, she could come up with a list of recommendations.
- Commissioner Camargo asked the Executive Director in terms of internal staff resources that could fulfill the external review.
- Commission Flanagan asked whether additional perspective would be for them personally or the entire Commission.
  - Commissioner Camargo said her intention was the full Commission, as it would likely benefit everyone to hear additional perspectives.
- The Chairman reflected on his experience at the Commission defining which Communities were disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition as part of fulfilling that statutory mandate. The Chairman shared his view that this study is merely a step in the process of defining and redefining what it means to be a Disproportionately Impacted Area but does not want to let perfect be the enemy of good.
- Commissioner Camargo expressed that the work done to date on this issue has been incredibly laudable. Commissioner Camargo said she also sees the opportunities for improvement other Commissioners have raised. Commissioner Camargo did say she is interested in hearing from the Executive Director about the internal resources that could help inform the Commissioners as they contemplate the findings of the study and make policy decisions.



- The Chairman suggested taking the next month to ask questions, recognizing that it may not be a perfect study, while also figuring out how to improve on it.
- The Executive Director noted that there are some internal working groups that are specific to equity and inclusion, but there are also individuals throughout the Commission with expertise that may be helpful, so it should not be too heavy of a lift, recognizing that folks do have their regular job responsibilities to attend to. The Executive Director noted that Dr. Johnson has already identified the need for some external resource or body that could help inform and guide research in these areas, which would seem to be in line with what Commissioners Camargo and Concepcion are suggesting. The Executive Director also suggested the Cannabis Advisory Board's research subcommittee could be an additional resource.
- The Executive Director said that, in addition, to identifying the implications of a policy change with respect to Disproportionately Impacted Areas, he wanted to confirm that he should be collecting additional questions with respect to the report that Commissioners would seek to have answered.
- The Chairman suggested tabling this issue while the Commissioners and staff take next steps and continue the discussion in April. The Chairman recommended next steps would include giving Commissioners the ability to confer with Dr. Johnson and other internal staff. If Commissioner Concepcion identifies external resources, the Commission can discuss the appropriate time and way to engage them.

10) New Business the Chairman Did Not Anticipate at the Time of Posting – No new topics identified.

11) Next Meeting Date – 5:27:30

- The Chairman identified the next meeting date and tentative dates for the remainder of the calendar year.

12) Adjournment

- Commissioner Flanagan moved to adjourn.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Charmin took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Flanagan – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chairman Hoffman – Yes
- The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn.

