

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

February 23, 2026

10:00 AM

Remote via [Microsoft Teams Live*](#)

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Documents:

- [Meeting Packet](#)

In Attendance:

- Chair Shannon O'Brien
- Commissioner Carrie Benedon
- Commissioner Kimberly Roy
- Commissioner Bruce Stebbins

Minutes:

- I. Call to Order
 - The Chair recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order.
 - The Chair gave notice that the meeting is being recorded.
 - The Chair gave an overview of the agenda.
- II. Public Hearing on Draft Regulations – 00:04:42
 - The first speaker was Devin Alexander from Rolling Releaf. He advocated for a five-year extension for exclusivity. He mentioned that there were relatively few delivery Licensees and that the public needed to be more informed and aware that delivery is an option. He also stated that advertising and marketing restrictions should be lifted. He added that the public should know about discounts when they are offered.
 - The next speaker was Michael Marinaro from Bada Bloom and Bada Vroom. He echoed Devin Alexander's advocacy for a five-year extension for exclusivity. He added that exclusivity was a key reason why he originally entered the business. He stated that easing marketing restrictions and advancing social equity was vital. He provided Commissioner Roy with the dates that his businesses Provisional Licenses were initially approved.
 - The next speaker was Danny Carson Stair. He stressed that worker safety and Consumer safety are inseparable and specifically discussed unhealthy environments reported by workers in the Cannabis industry. He criticized the enforcement and



investigation of unhealthy conditions, such as product contamination. He advocated for the secret shopper program to help alleviate that problem. The Chair stated that tools existed to advance safety, in addition to the secret shopper program. Commissioner Roy observed that the dedicated tip line was still not operational. Mr. Carson Stair opined that there was distrust from workers concerning lack of enforcement, and that a survey might also be carried out to obtain workers' input for their safety concerns.

- The next speaker was Ruben Seyde. He observed that not extending exclusivity for at least five years would have a deleterious effect on his business and the businesses of others. Commissioner Benedon mentioned the Commission vote to extend for three years. Mr. Seyde observed that a five-year extension, in lieu of a three-year extension, would negatively affect his business for the specific reason that his business would not be able respond to and implement regulatory and legislative changes.
- The next speaker was Ryan Dominguez, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Cannabis Coalition and a member of the Social Equity Trust Fund Board. He focused on the difficulties for businesses to get off the ground and expressed that extensions were necessary. He also mentioned that current restrictions negatively affect the ability to subsequently sell their businesses, if they chose to do so. Specifically, Social Equity Trust Fund recipients are prohibited from selling their businesses for at least five years after receiving their grants. He focused on prioritizing applicants currently in the pipeline. In a different vein, concerning the secret shopper program, he emphasized addressing testing standards at the laboratory level. For instance, in a secret shopper program, a product might be degraded if it sits on the shelf too long. He cited Ohio's experience in altering its mold levels and stated that Massachusetts might adopt a different level or standard.
- The next speaker was Kevin Gilnack on behalf of Equitable Opportunities Now and the Massachusetts Cannabis Equity Council. He referenced findings in the Donahue Report regarding shortcomings in ensuring social equity goals. He provided the example of the current prohibition of delivering adult-use Cannabis to no-towns. He clarified that the Donahue Report stated that 87% of those surveyed supported the extension of exclusivity period.
- The next speaker was Grant Smith Ellis. He provided historical context for ensuring equity in the current Cannabis industry and clarified that he advocated for the extension of the exclusivity period for five years.
- The next speaker was Yasha Kahn. He advocated in favor of off the shelf testing as part of a secret shopper program. He stated that an effective off the shelf program would assist in data collection to ensure that the location of the problems could be determined.
- The next speaker was Michael Kahn. He echoed the need for off the shelf testing and secret shopper program. He opined that lab shopping had marred the quality of products. He proposed an ordering of operations to ensure that quality products are reaching the market. The Chair requested that he send his written suggestions for the order of operation for quality control.



- The next speaker was Dan Berger, the owner of Grass Ventures LLC. He supported the extension of exclusivity to ensure that Licensees can keep pace with regulatory changes taking effect. In another vein, he endorsed the removal of vertical integration requirements, which profit large companies. Commissioner Roy followed up on his comments about subpar products. Mr. Berger mentioned that some products now tasted bad, for instance, with large vertically integrated companies causing problems in the area, due to their large canopies shielding them. Commissioner Benedon requested his input for an exclusivity period and he requested a five-year exclusivity period. The Chair clarified that the three-year extended exclusivity was a floor, not a ceiling.
- The next speaker was Lucas Thayer. He related the historic inequities caused by the War on Drugs. He mentioned that big companies which were not negatively affected by the War on Drugs, should not be allowed to profit at the expense of people who were negatively affected or incarcerated. He also stated that moldy products and metal being present in products must be addressed and corrected.

XII. Next Meeting Date – 01:32:40

- The Chair stated that the next meeting scheduled for February 26, 2026, and mentioned that March 4, 2026, was a tentative future date.

XIII. Adjournment – 01:34:05

- Commissioner Roy moved to adjourn.
- Commissioner Benedon seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Benedon – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - Chair O'Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

