

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

February 8, 2024

10:00 AM

Remote via [Microsoft Teams Live](#)*

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Documents:

- Application Materials associated with:
 - Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership
 - Staff Recommendations on Renewal Licenses
 - Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses
 - Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses
 - Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training
 - Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training Renewals
- [Meeting Packet](#)

In Attendance:

- Acting Chair Ava Callender Concepcion
- Commissioner Nurys Z. Camargo
- Commissioner Kimberly Roy
- Commissioner Bruce Stebbins

Minutes:

1) Call to Order

- The Acting Chair (AC) recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order.
- The AC gave notice that the meeting is being recorded.

2) Executive Session – 00:00:38

- Commissioner Stebbins moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 21 (a) (3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The Acting Chair took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes



- Commissioner Roy – Yes
- Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
- AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously voted to enter Executive Session and each Commissioner affirmed that no one could hear the deliberations of Executive Session.
- The Commission entered Executive Session and reconvened in Public Session at 10:53 AM (00:53:28)

3) Commissioners' Comments & Updates – 00:53:28

- The AC gave an overview of the agenda.
- Commissioner Stebbins stated that he had recently attended industry roundtables hosted by the Massachusetts Cannabis Coalition and the Massachusetts Cannabis Business Association and noted that he and Commissioner Roy had met with the Alcohol Beverages Control Commission to discuss their delinquent payer guidelines. Commissioner Roy celebrated the recent milestone of \$1.5 billion in annual adult cannabis sales. She reiterated Commissioner Stebbins' view that accounts receivable was an issue in Massachusetts. Commissioner Camargo praised the communications team for the Faces of Equity video series and noted that she had worked with the legal department regarding delivery and courier regulations. The AC noted recent meetings with the Massachusetts Municipal Association, the Senate Ways and Means Chair Michael J. Rodrigues and with Chairs Daniel Donahue and Adam Gomez of the Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy. The AC noted an additional public meeting added in February to discuss the model HCA. The AC reiterated her point from the December meeting where she noted her desire for the Commission to focus on worker safety and collaborate with the Department of Public Health and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

4) Minutes for Approval – 01:19:45

- September 19, 2023
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the September 19, 2023, Commission public meeting minutes.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the September 19, 2023, Commission public meeting minutes.
- September 21, 2023



- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the September 21, 2023, Commission public meeting minutes.
 - Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
 - The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
 - The Commission unanimously approved the September 21, 2023, Commission public meeting minutes.
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- September 29, 2023
 - Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the September 29, 2023, Commission public meeting minutes.
 - Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
 - The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
 - The Commission unanimously approved the September 29, 2023, Commission public meeting minutes.

5) Acting Executive Director and Commission Staff Report – 01:22:01

- Acting Executive Director Debra Hilton-Creek (AED Hilton-Creek) updated the Commission regarding the record-breaking sales in the licensed cannabis industry during December 2023, and on the budget for fiscal year 2025. AED Hilton-Creek updated the Commission regarding the search for an Executive Director, the hiring of a new Chief Financial and Accounting Officer, and Budget Director. She discussed efforts to restructure the Commission as it continues to grow.
 - Commissioner Camargo requested a five-minute recess until 11:50 AM.
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- The Commissioners returned from recess (1:47:58).
 - Director of Equity Programming and Community Outreach Silea Williams (Director Williams) presented an overview of the Social Equity Program (SEP) and its mission. Director Williams noted that the application deadline for the SEP’s Cohort IV was April 30, 2024, and showcased the curricula available to participants. Director of Creative and Digital Services AnnMarie Burt presented the Faces of Equity public awareness campaign and detailed recent community outreach efforts for the SEP. Director of Communications Maryalice Curley presented on efforts to leverage earned media and targeted outreach to further the SEP’s mission. Director of Licensing Kyle Potvin (Director Potvin) presented on the key dates and milestones of Chapter 180 implementation.



- Commissioner Camargo moved to recess for thirty-minutes until 02:02 PM (03:30:26).
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The Acting Chair took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes – Commissioner Roy stated that at this point she was leaving the meeting.
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the recess until 2:02 PM (03:59:39).

- Licensing Analyst Derek Chamberlin (LA Chamberlin) presented on licensing data and licensing applications. The Commissioners and AED Hilton-Creek discussed the potential issue of market saturation and Commissioner Camargo agreed to have a preliminary discussion on the topic with Director Potvin, LA Chamberlin and the Chief of Research Julie Johnson. The AC noted that, due to Commissioner Roy leaving the meeting and recusals, some of the applications up for renewal would have to be tabled. General Counsel Kristina Gasson (GC Gasson) clarified that the Commissioners had the option to table the matters where there was not a quorum or move to delegate the responsibility to vote on them to a member of the licensing staff. LA Chamberlin stated that he had conferred with the Acting Chief of Investigations and Enforcement Nomxolisi Khumalo and she was comfortable with a member of the licensing staff voting on renewals.

6) Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership – 04:34:06

- LA Chamberlin presented on behalf of the licensing department the Staff Recommendations for Changes of Ownership, Renewals, Provisionals, Final licenses, Responsible Vendor Training and Responsible Vendor Training Renewals.

1. Ashli’s, Inc.

- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

2. Aunty Budz, LLC.

- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes



- Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
- AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

3. Canna Provisions, Inc.

- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

4. West County Collective, LLC.

- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

7) Staff Recommendations on Renewals – 04:38:51

- Commissioner Stebbins made a motion to delegate authority to the director of licensing to review items numbered 91 and 92.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion to delegate authority to the Director of Licensing to review items numbered 91 and 92.
- GC Gasson noted that the vote was sufficient to delegate authority but that the Director of Licensing was out of office. She provided the option that the Commissioners may move to amend the motion to strike the director of licensing and insert the Acting Chief of Investigations and Enforcement.
- Commissioner Camargo made a motion to amend the earlier motion and insert the Acting Chief of Investigations and Enforcement.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes



- The Commission unanimously approved the motion.
- Commissioner Stebbins made a motion to approve items numbered 1-14, 16-35, 37-60, and 62-75 on the agenda.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the renewal roster of items numbered 1-14, 16-35, 37-60, and 62-75 on the agenda.

- Bracts & Pistils, LLC (#DOR5182967), Delivery.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
 - Proposed condition: Within thirty business days of approval of Application for Renewal, contact CCC Licensing Division to provide an update on current progress toward goals in Diversity Plan in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.103(4)(b) and 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.101(1)(c)8.k.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the renewal of item number 15 on the agenda, subject to the condition articulated by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the renewal roster item 15, subject to the condition articulated by Commissioner Stebbins.

- Commissioner Camargo made a motion to approve items numbered 76-90 and 93-99 on the agenda.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the renewal roster of items numbered 76-90, and 93-99, on the agenda.

- GreenStar Herbals, Inc. (#MRR206741), Retail.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
 - Proposed condition: Within thirty business days of approval of Application for Renewal, contact CCC Licensing Division for an update to consider



identifying any goals for LGBTQ+ residents in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.101(1)(c)8.k and 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.103(4)(b).

- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the renewal roster of item number 36 on the agenda, subject to the condition articulated by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the renewal roster item 36, subject to the condition articulated by Commissioner Stebbins.

- Patriot Care Corp (#MRR206720), Retail.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
 - Within thirty business days of approval of Application for Renewal, contact CCC Licensing Division for an update to consider identifying any goals for veterans, residents with disabilities and LGBTQ+ residents under licensee’s Diversity Plan in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.101(1)(c)8.k. and 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.103(4)(b).
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the renewal roster of item number 61 on the agenda, subject to the condition articulated by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the renewal roster item 61, subject to the condition articulated by Commissioner Stebbins.

8) Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses – 04:50:37

1. Chill & Bliss, LLC (#MRN284916), Retail

- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License.

2. Faded Flowers, LLC (#MCN283840), Cultivation, Tier 1 / Indoor

- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.



- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
 - The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License.
3. Medicine Man Solutions, LLC (#MRN283261), Retail
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License.
 - Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
 - The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
 - The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License.
4. Melting Pot Manufacturing, Inc. (#MPN281882), Product Manufacturing
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License.
 - Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
 - The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
 - The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License.
5. Pure Tewksbury, Inc. (#MRN284994), Retail
- Commissioner Stebbins requested two conditions on this license.
 - Proposed condition: Prior to Final Application for Licensure, review Positive Impact Plan and verify non-profit partner status and confirmation to accept donations in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.101(1)(a)11, and provide any updates to CCC Licensing Division.
 - Proposed condition: Prior to Final Application for Licensure, review Positive Impact Plan and verify your non-profit partner’s ability to support your interest in assisting the Disproportionately Impacted Area of Lowell in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.101(1)(a)11, and provide any updates to CCC Licensing Division.
 - Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the conditions articulated by Commissioner Stebbins.
 - Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
 - The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes



- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the conditions articulated by Commissioner Stebbins.

6. The Copley Connection, LLC (#MRN284935), Retail

- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License.

9) Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses – 04:59:24

1. Aura Cannabis Company, LLC (#MR282487), Retail
2. Cannabis Connection II, Inc. (#MR284816), Retail
3. Diem Orange, LLC (#MP281684), Product Manufacturing
4. Grassp Ventures, LLC (#MD1262), Marijuana Delivery Operator
5. Greener Leaf, Inc. (#MR281790), Retail
6. R and R Ventures, LLC (#MB281504), Microbusiness (Cultivation and Product Manufacturing Operations)
7. The Holistic Concepts, Inc. (#MR283012), Retail
8. Tree Market Lynn, LLC (#MR282587), Retail
9. Underground Legacy Social Club, LLC (#MR284914), Retail

- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the final license roster from one to nine as indicated on the agenda.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the final license roster from one to nine.

10) Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training – 05:00:34

1. 420 Trainers LLC (#DCCN462255)

- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the staff recommendation on the Responsible Vendor Training program.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes



- Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
- AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the staff recommendation on the Responsible Vendor Training program.

2. Bright Buds Training (#DCCN462226)

- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the staff recommendation on the Responsible Vendor Training program.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the staff recommendation on the Responsible Vendor Training program.

11) Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training Renewals – 05:02:32

1. MACCTI, LLC (#RVR453145)

- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Responsible Vendor Training renewal.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Responsible Vendor Training renewal.
- The AC noted that on the presentation slide regarding Final Licenses, one of the applicants, item number four, was incorrectly identified as Grass Ventures, LLC and should have been listed as Grassp Ventures, LLC.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Final License for Grassp Ventures, LLC.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Final License.

12) Commission Discussion and Votes – 05:07:19

1. Acting Executive Director/Commission Check-In



- Commissioner Stebbins noted, as AED Hilton-Creek is serving as the Acting ED, that there were not established protocols for regular check-ins and the Commission's open meetings could serve as an appropriate venue to do so. AED Hilton-Creek noted that the biggest issue she saw was communication between the ED, Commissioners and staff. Commissioner Camargo suggested that a committee could be established to hold regular meetings composed of two Commissioners to support AED Hilton-Creek and to pass on institutional knowledge. The Commissioners discussed how to establish better lines of communication. AED Hilton-Creek emphasized that resolving issues with communication would help the future ED and recommended that the two-Commissioner meetings be held on an ad-hoc basis with any concerns run by GC Gasson to be sure that the meetings are compliant with the Open Meeting Law.

2. Bulletin – Safe and Sanitary Requirements for the Processing of Marijuana

- The AC noted that the Commission had recently released a bulletin regarding worker safety and emphasized her intent, and the intent of the Commission, to ensure adequate safety measures for workers in the cannabis industry.

13) Next Meeting Date – 06:30:57

- The AC noted that there was another meeting February which had not yet been noticed where topics could include the model HCA, corresponding guidance, the sale of non-marijuana products at licensed establishments with a focus on lottery tickets, and the ED search.
- The AC stated that the notice would go out for the next February meeting shortly.

14) New Business Not Anticipated at the Time of Posting – (6:32:28)

- The AC stated that there was no new business.

15) Adjournment – (6:33:32)

- Commissioner Stebbins moved to adjourn.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
 - AC Concepcion – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion to adjourn.

