

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

October 10, 2024
10:00 AM

In-Person with Remote Access 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
- [Meeting Packet](#)

In Attendance:

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

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.
- The AC gave an overview of the agenda.

2) Commissioners' Comments & Updates – 00:02:17

- Commissioner Roy discussed a meeting with the Massachusetts Cannabis Equity Council regarding an industry tipline and a visit with Paper Crane Cannabis. The AC discussed visits with Licensees Suncraft Outdoor Cultivators and Cannabarn, the Municipal Police Training Committee, Calyx Berkshire Dispensary, Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, and the Payments Banking and Compliance Conference. He reminded Commissioners of assignments regarding the Charter and suggested that they discuss policy changes in a November meeting to focus on through 2025. He advocated for holding more listening sessions to hear from stakeholders.

3) Minutes for Approval – 00:11:51



- July 11, 2024
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the July 11, 2024, Commission public meeting minutes.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the July 11, 2024, Commission public meeting minutes.

- July 19, 2024
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the July 19, 2024, Commission public meeting minutes.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the July 19, 2024, Commission public meeting minutes.

- August 8, 2024
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the August 8, 2024, Commission public meeting minutes.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the August 8, 2024, Commission public meeting minutes.

- August 14, 2024
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the August 14, 2024, Commission public meeting minutes.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the August 14, 2024, Commission public meeting minutes.



4) Acting Executive Director and Commission Staff Report – 00:14:27

1. Operational Updates

- Acting Executive Director Debra Hilton-Creek (AED Hilton-Creek) said that she would defer the majority of her report until the next meeting and introduced General Counsel Kajal Chattopadhyay (GC Chattopadhyay).

2. Licensing Data and Updates

- Director of Licensing Olivia Koval (Director Koval) presented an overview of licensing data. Licensing Analyst Derek Chamberlin (Analyst Chamberlin) clarified for Commissioner Roy that the data reflected all Licenses issued by the Commission, including ones which had gone out of business and she requested an additional slide to indicate the number of Licensees which were currently open for business. Director Koval continued and presented data on Host Community Agreement (HCA) review. Commissioner Roy discussed feedback from stakeholders disputing HCA determinations and stated that the Commission was aware of this issue and was working on it. Director Koval discussed the issue of provisional Licenses set to expire due to unpaid prorated fees and stated that no applications had been received.
- The AC requested to take the agenda out of order and take up the Point-of-Sales system discussion item as external participants were available.

3. Point-of-Sales Systems

- The AC acknowledged the point-of-sales failure on April 20th and stated that representatives from Dutchie were here to discuss their response. Chris Ostrowski, Dutchie's Chief Technology Officer, provided history of the company which he co-founded. He acknowledged the failure in their point-of-sale systems on April 20th and the impact it had on Licensees. He stated that the failure had been due to an internal error and explained that their infrastructure had been upgraded to deal with a higher peak load. Commissioner Camargo asked if Dutchie offered any discounts for social equity and Mr. Ostrowski confirmed that they offered discounts and also made contributions to organizations focused on social equity. Commissioner Roy asked about the new audit function in an upcoming Dutchie update and Chris explained that this was intended to make inventorying more efficient. He additionally confirmed that Dutchie did not currently include any accounts receivable but was considering it for a future update. Francine Muhammad, Director of Compliance, explained how Dutchie's point-of-sale systems were used by Licensees and advocated for the Commission to allow for digital payment methods and for advertising for adult-use cannabis. Commissioner Roy suggested that Dutchie connect with the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) to see if payments at Marijuana Establishments (ME) could be rounded up with a donation to the Social Equity Trust Fund and Chris confirmed that they would reach out.

4. Commission's 7-Year Anniversary



- Director of Digital and Creative Services AnnMarie Burt (Director Burt) presented an overview of the Commission’s achievements over the past year and a video celebrating the Commission’s seven-year anniversary. She gave recognition to Multimedia Content Manager Fiona St. Pierre (Manager St. Pierre) who had personally produced the video and its content. The AC mentioned the “Faces of Equity” video and how wonderfully done it was. He encouraged anyone to go watch it who had not already. Commissioner Camargo thanked and encouraged an applause from the audience. Commissioner Roy asked where the video would be accessible for the public and Director Burt stated it was on YouTube and on their website. She added that they posted it on all of their social media channels in September.
- The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 01:20:44.)

5) Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership – 01:20:44

- Licensing Analyst Jamie Wakefield (Analyst Wakefield) presented on behalf of the licensing department the Staff Recommendations for Changes of Ownership, Renewals, Provisionals and Final Licenses.

1. Assured Testing Laboratories, LLC.

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

2. Good Feels, Inc.

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

3. Green Choice Dispensaries LLC.

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



4. J-B.A.M., Inc.
 - Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
 - Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
 - The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
 - The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

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

6. Silver Therapeutics, Inc.
 - Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
 - Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
 - The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
 - The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

7. Silver Therapeutics of Palmer, Inc.
 - Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
 - Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
 - The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
 - The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

 - Commissioner Roy suggested that Licensee’s Changes of Ownership be incorporated in the Commission’s License tracker.

- 6) Staff Recommendations on Renewals – 01:30:20
 - Commissioner Roy made a motion to approve items numbered 1 – 46 as indicated on the agenda.



- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the renewal roster of items numbered 1 – 46 on the agenda.

7) Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses – 01:31:08

1. Motah 420, LLC (#MDA1327), Marijuana Delivery Operator

- Commissioner Roy requested a condition.
 - Proposed condition: Prior to final licensure, in accordance with 935 CMR 500.146(5)(g) please include the phone number for the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline on your consumer education.
- The AC requested a condition.
 - Proposed condition: Prior to Final Application for Licensure, consider revision to Positive Impact Plan Goal #2 and consider hiring or other strategies to impact Disproportionately Impacted Area designated communities in closer proximity to city of Adams in accordance with 935 CMR 500.101(1)(a)11 and provide an update to the Commission’s Licensing Division.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioner Roy and the AC.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioner Roy and the AC.

2. SAWF Estate, LLC (#MRN284312), Marijuana Retailer

- Commissioner Roy requested a condition.
 - Proposed condition: Prior to final licensure, in accordance with 935 CMR 500.140(6)(g) please include the phone number for the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline on your consumer education.
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes



- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.

8) Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses – 01:35:57

1. Apotho Therapeutics Dartmouth, Inc. (#MR283521), Marijuana Retailer
2. Green Gold Group (#MR284703), Marijuana Retailer

- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Final License roster 1 and 2 as indicated on the agenda.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Final License roster 1 and 2 as indicated on the agenda.

9) Enforcement Actions – 01:38:04

- Enforcement Counsel Timothy Goodin (EC Goodin) provided an overview of the enforcement actions before the Commission and stated that all civil penalties were the result of agreements between the and all fines would be deposited into the Marijuana Regulation Fund. Commissioner Roy asked if the fines assessed through enforcement actions were publicly available and EC Goodin explained that this information was available in the board packet and on the Commission’s website. Commissioner Roy asked if Notices of Deficiency (NOD) were publicly available, and EC Goodin deferred to the Director of Investigations Katherine Binkoski (Director Binkoski) or Chief of Investigations and Enforcement Nomxolisi Khumalo (Chief Khumalo).

1. Ascend Mass, LLC

- Associate Enforcement Counsel Philip Schreffler (AEC Schreffler) provided an overview of the matter and stated that Ascend Mass, LLC had self-reported discrepancies which had resulted from improperly accounted for product. He stated that the three failures that had been agreed to were the failure to follow real-time inventory practices, failure to follow SOPs, and a finding that the conduct involved was so egregious as to amount to incompetent or negligent operation. He described the corrective measures.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Stipulated Agreement as recommended by Enforcement Counsel for Ascend Mass, LLC.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes



- AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Stipulated Agreement as recommended by Enforcement Counsel for Ascend Mass, LLC.

2. Curaleaf, Inc.

- EC Goodin noted that this Stipulated Agreement related to two Licenses. He described the civil penalty and affirmative relief in the form of an 80k fine, a six-month probationary period during which the Licensee must report any and all test results indicating or detecting the presence of pesticide at any level and test results of pesticide at or above 10 parts per billion would result in a fine and must submit 10% of its total test samples as a duplicate or quality control sample, and Commission staff may take random test samples in accordance with their authority. EC Goodin confirmed that this matter was self-reported.
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Stipulated Agreement as recommended by Enforcement Counsel for Curaleaf, Inc.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Stipulated Agreement as recommended by Enforcement Counsel for Curaleaf, Inc.
- EC Goodin stated that six enforcement actions had been resolved in 2024 resulting in \$785,000 being deposited into the Marijuana Regulation Fund. He noted that this represented an increase over previous years and described other remedies which the Investigations and Enforcement department used to ensure compliance.

10) Commission Discussion and Votes – 02:06:26

1. Executive Director Search – Subcommittee Update

- AED Hilton-Creek presented an update on the Executive Director (ED) search and stated members were set to meet in the next week to finalize its recommendations on the top three candidates and to plan the logistics of conducting the final public interviews. She stated that the group’s work was anticipated to be completed by the end of October. Commissioner Camargo asked if candidates who had not been chosen had been notified and AED Hilton-Creek confirmed that had happened as they moved candidates through the different stages. Commissioner Camargo asked how the final interviews would be conducted and how candidates would be prepared to perform their best. AED Hilton-Creek described how candidates had been informed how the interview would be conducted throughout the process to make them more comfortable. Commissioner Roy asked if the top three candidates had been informed and AED Hilton-Creek confirmed that they had been told informally and would be formally notified after the group finalized its decision. She stated that two candidates were from Massachusetts and one candidate was not. The AC cautioned against



sharing too much information. The AC stated that the interview questions would be shared with Commissioners and Commissioner Camargo recommended rearranging the room to better suit the interview.

2. Complaint Tipline Update

- Commissioner Roy explained that the Commission regularly received complaints which were routed to the appropriate department internally. She listed the current ways that complaints were currently submitted and explained that a dedicated tipline was in development to better handle complaints and tips. AED Hilton-Creek noted that the current methods for reporting complaints and tips would remain in place until the dedicated tipline was in place. The AC asked what information would be gathered through the tipline and Commissioner Roy confirmed that information would be gathered to help staff follow up with the complainant if necessary. Commissioner Roy confirmed that she would make an announcement once the tipline became operational and that, once it was, it would either be run by the Legal department or an external vendor. Commissioner Camargo volunteered to assist.

3. Seventh Annual Activities Report

- Director of Government Affairs and Policy Matt Giancola (Director Giancola) explained the statutory mandate for the Commission to submit an annual activities report detailing the work it completed each year. He stated that, if approved, it would be available to stakeholders and submitted to legislature. He clarified that it would be shared with the Governor's office, the Treasurer's office, the Office of the Attorney General, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the co-chairs of the joint committee on cannabis policy, the co-chairs of the joint committee on ways and means, and the full membership of the cannabis policy committee. Commissioner Roy suggested including the Administrative Order allowing for transportation of Cannabis over water as well as the public listening sessions which had been held. Director Giancola confirmed that the report would be posted to the Commission's website and shared over social media. Commissioner Camargo suggested including the work towards Social Consumption and for Commissioners to be notified after the report was published. The AC asked for clarification on the dates which the report covered, and Director Giancola responded that it generally covered July-July. The AC requested a cover letter to cover activities which fell outside of that range.
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Commission's seventh annual activities report subject to the amendments discussed amongst Commissioners.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion.



4. Independent Testing Laboratory Listening Session Overview

- Commissioner Roy stated that the listening session to hear feedback from the public regarding testing, Independent Testing Laboratories and Commission regulations would be held on November 7, 2024, at Commission headquarters. She noted that testing concerns had been brought up during the listening session with outdoor cultivators. Director Giancola confirmed that written testimony could be submitted on the topic.

11) New Business Not Anticipated at the Time of Posting – 02:57:35

- The AC stated that there was no new business which was not anticipated at the time of posting.

12) Next Meeting Date – 02:57:42

- The AC stated that the next meeting date was October 11, 2024, solely to enter Executive Session and the final meeting on promulgating regulations was scheduled for October 22, 2024.

13) Adjournment – 02:58:47

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

