

Aura Cannabis Company, LLC

MCN282387

MRN282487

APPLICATION OF INTENT REVIEW

1. Name and address of the proposed Marijuana Establishment:

Aura Cannabis Company, LLC
320 Airport Road, Fall River, MA 02720

2. Type of license sought (if cultivation, its tier level and outside/inside operation) and information regarding the application submission:

Cultivation, Tier 3/Indoor (10,001 – 20,000 sq. ft.)
Retail

The application was reopened four (4) times for its cultivation operations and more than four (4) times for its retail operations for additional information.

3. The applicant is a licensee or applicant for other Marijuana Establishment and/or Medical Marijuana Treatment Center license(s):

The applicant is not an applicant or licensee for any other license type.

4. List of all required individuals and their roles in the Marijuana Establishment:

Individual	Role
Michael Biszko	Person Having Direct/Indirect Control / Capital Contributor
Stephen Biszko	Person Having Direct/Indirect Control / Capital Contributor
Jason Bates	Person Having Direct/Indirect Control

5. List of all required entities and their roles in the Marijuana Establishment:

No other entity appears to have ownership or control over this proposed Marijuana Establishment.

Provisional License Executive Summary 1



6. Applicant's priority status:

Expedited Applicant (Social Equity Program Participant)
(Jason Bates / 15% Ownership / SE303732)

7. The applicant and municipality executed a Host Community Agreement on October 7, 2020.
8. The applicant conducted a community outreach meeting on November 25, 2020 and provided documentation demonstrating compliance with Commission regulations.
9. The Commission received a municipal response from the City/Town of Fall River on July 7, 2022 stating the applicant was in compliance with all local ordinances or bylaws.
10. The applicant proposed the following goals for its Plan to Positively Impact Disproportionately Harmed People:

#	Goal
1	Host two (2) networking events through the Seeds for Progress Program which will positively impact past or present residents of areas of disproportionate impact, specifically Fall River and New Bedford; Massachusetts residents who have past drug convictions; and Commission designated Economic Empowerment and Social Equity participants.
2	Recruit at least four (4) Economic Empowerment and Social Equity participants in the Seeds for Progress.
3	Provide members of the Seeds for Progress Program with the opportunity to complete the Company's standard employee training and manager training program, up to 90 hours of training.
4.	Implement a charitable giving program wherein, it will identify one (1) day per month that an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the Company's gross sales from that day will be donated to a company run scholarship grant program for past or present residents of areas of disproportionate impact and/or Massachusetts residents with past drug convictions.

BACKGROUND CHECK REVIEW

11. There were disclosures of any past civil or criminal actions, occupational license issues, or marijuana-related business interests in other jurisdictions. None of the disclosures raised suitability issues.
12. There were no concerns arising from background checks on the individuals or entities associated with the application.

MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS PROFILE REVIEW

Provisional License Executive Summary 2



13. The applicant states that it can be operational within two (2) months of receiving the provisional license(s).

14. The applicant's proposed hours of operation are the following:

Cultivation

Day(s)	Hours of Operation
Monday-Sunday	Open 24 hours

Retail

Day(s)	Hours of Operation
Monday-Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

15. The applicant submitted all required summaries of plans, policies, and procedures for the operation of the proposed establishment. The summaries were determined to be substantially compliant with the Commission's regulations.

16. The applicant proposed the following goals for its Diversity Plan:

#	Goal
1	Recruit minorities (People of color, particularly Black, African American, Hispanic, Latinx, and Indigenous people) (5%); Women (50%); Veterans (10%); People with disabilities (5%); Individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ (5%) for its hiring initiatives.
2	Create an inclusive working environment with an 85% retention rate and 95% positive job satisfaction rating from all employees as it pertains to workplace inclusion, safety and environment.
3	Engage with businesses owned by or whose employees are a majority of Minorities, Women, Veterans, Persons with disabilities and individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ with a goal of 20% of its suppliers, contractors and industry wholesale partners meet the criteria.

17. Summary of cultivation plan (if applicable):

The applicant submitted a cultivation plan that demonstrates the ability to comply with the Commission's regulations.

18. Plan for obtaining marijuana or marijuana products (if applicable):

The applicant will obtain marijuana or marijuana products by contracting with other licensed establishments.



RECOMMENDATION

Commission staff recommend provisional licensure with the following conditions:

1. Final license is subject to inspection to ascertain compliance with Commission regulations.
2. Final license is subject to inspection to ascertain compliance with applicable state laws, local codes, ordinances or bylaws, and local licensing requirements.
3. Final license is subject to the application clarifying the target goal for diverse contracting as two (2) goals are identified in applicant's Diversity Plan in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.101(1)(c) 8k.
4. Final license is subject to the applicant notifying the Commission of its "Additional Operational Plans for Indoor Marijuana Cultivators" as it relates to Quality Control Samples. Licensees that opt to provide Quality Control Samples must include written policies and procedures in accordance with 935 CMR 500.120(12)(i), and as expressly enumerated in 935 CMR 500.120(14).
5. Final license is subject to applicant providing the Commission with a copy of its consumer education. To ensure compliance, consumer educational materials shall include subsections; a – j, as listed in said regulation and must also include the phone number for the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline.
6. The applicant shall cooperate with and provide information to Commission staff.
7. Provisional licensure is subject to the payment of the appropriate license fee.

The applicant has demonstrated compliance with the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth and suitability for licensure. Therefore, the applicant is recommended for provisional licensure.

