

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

**July 13, 2023**  
**10:00 AM**

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

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**Documents:**

- Application Materials associated with:
  - Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership
    - Cosmopolitan Dispensary, Inc.
    - Greenworld, LLC
    - Greenbridge Technologies, LLC
    - Greener Leaf, Inc.
    - Hyecorp, LLC
    - TYCA Green, LLC
  - Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses
    - Cannabis Connection II Inc. (#MRN284816), Retail
    - Canna-Farm, LLC (#MCN283798), Cultivation, Tier 5 / Indoor
    - Canna-Farm, LLC (#MPN282249), Product Manufacturing
    - CTDW Beverly, LLC (#MRN284801), Retail
    - Eagles Landed, LLC (#MPN282259), Product Manufacturing
    - New England Craft Cultivators, LLC d/b/a Tree House Craft Cannabis (#MRN284689), Retail
    - Swithick Greenhouses, Inc. (#MCN283815), Cultivation, Tier 3 / Indoor
    - XH Management, Inc. (#MCN282143), Cultivation, Tier 6 / Indoor
    - XH Management, Inc. (#MPN281670), Product Manufacturing
    - Green Meadows Farm, LLC (#RMDA3633), Vertically Integrated Medical Marijuana Treatment Center
  - Staff Recommendations on Denials of Provisional Licenses
    - Evoke, Inc. d/b/a Injaga (#MR284322), Retail



- Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses
  - Atlas Marketplace & Delivery, LLC (#MT281667), Third-Party Transporter
  - Baked Beans Farm, LLC (#MP282045), Product Manufacturing
  - Bostica, LLC (#MC282139), Cultivation, Tier 4 / Indoor
  - CannaTech Medicinals (#MP281858), Product Manufacturing
  - Caroline’s Cannabis, LLC (#MP282232), Product Manufacturing
  - Catahoula Cannabis, LLC d/b/a Health for Life Fall River (#MR284693), Retail
  - Clean Technique, LLC (#MP281479), Product Manufacturing
  - G7 Lab, LLC (#IL281334), Independent Testing Laboratory
  - Grow One, Inc. (#MC282527), Cultivation, Tier 3 / Indoor
  - Hemp Holistics, LLC (#MB281425), Microbusiness
  - Massachusetts Green Retail, Inc. (#MR284144), Retail
  - Pudding Hill Farm, LLC d/b/a Pudding Hill Farm (#MC283501), Cultivation, Tier 1 / Indoor
  - The Green Lady Dispensary II, Inc. (#MR284161), Retail
  - ToroVerde (Massachusetts) III, Inc. d/b/a Happy Feelings (#MR282629), Retail
- Staff Recommendations on Renewal Licenses
  - 27 Broom Street, LLC (#MPR243952)
  - 27 Broom Street, LLC (#MCR140485)
  - 27 Broom Street, LLC (#MCR140425)
  - Advesa MA, Inc. (#MRR206457)
  - Advesa MA, Inc. (#MRR206512)
  - Alexsofia LLC (#MRR206447)
  - ATLANTIC FARMS, LLC (#MCR140507)
  - Berkshire Welco Cultivation, LLC (#MCR140494)
  - Berkshire Welco Lab & Manufacturing, LLC (#MPR243986)
  - Briarleaf, LLC (#MPR244001)
  - Briarleaf, LLC (#MCR140511)
  - Cannabakeri LLC (#MPR244021)
  - Cannabro, LLC (#MRR206455)
  - Cannatech Medicinals Inc. (#MPR243984)
  - CCC Wellfleet NV LLC (#MRR206520)
  - CCE CAT LLC (#MPR244000)
  - Coastal Roots, LLC (#MPR244006)
  - Coastal Roots, LLC (#MCR140506)
  - Comm Ave Canna, Inc. (#MRR206511)



- CommCan, Inc (#MRR206494)
- Commcan, Inc. (#MRR206498)
- Cresco HHH, LLC (#MPR243991)
- Cresco HHH, LLC (#MCR140500)
- Cypress Tree Management Fenway, Inc. (#MRR206464)
- DayDreamz Estates LLC (#MCR140479)
- DDM Sales, Inc. (#MRR206439)
- Diem Orange LLC (#MPR243997)
- Diem Orange LLC (#MCR140521)
- Discern'd Cannabis Purveyors, Inc. (#MRR206473)
- Elevated Roots II LLC (#MRR206461)
- Ember Gardens Cape Cod LLC (#MRR206462)
- Eskar Arlington LLC (#MRR206506)
- Eskar Northbridge, LLC (#MRR206442)
- Fairway Botanicals Inc. DBA The Hempest (#MRR206489)
- Garden Wonders, Inc (#MRR206466)
- Green Flash Delivery LLC (#MDR272552)
- Green Meadows Farm, LLC (#MRR206502)
- GTE Brockton LLC fka Nature's Embrace, Inc. (#MRR206483)
- Health Circle, Inc. (#MPR243955)
- Heka, Inc. (#MRR206509)
- Hemp Holistics, LLC (#MBR169312)
- Hennep, Inc. (#MRR206392)
- High Five Inc. (#MPR243998)
- Hudson Growers Alliance, LLC (#MCR140492)
- I.N.S.A., Inc. (#MRR206504)
- Ironstone Express Inc. (#MRR206496)
- JDM Sales, Inc. (#MRR206454)
- JimBuddys Rec Shop, Inc. (#MRR206484)
- KG Collective LLC (#MRR206479)
- LC Square, LLC. (#MPR244003)
- Liberty Compassion, Inc (#MPR243993)
- Liberty Compassion, Inc (#MCR140504)
- Life Essence, Inc. (#MPR243982)
- Low key LLC (#MRR206437)
- Major Bloom, LLC (#MRR206507)
- Major Bloom, LLC (#DOR5182961)



- New England Craft Cultivators, LLC (#MRR206488)
- New England Craft Cultivators, LLC (#MRR206493)
- Northampton Labs (#ILR267925)
- Pleasantrees, Inc. (#MRR206453)
- ReLeaf Alternative Natick, Inc. (#MRR206514)
- Rockland Old Exit 14, Inc. (#MRR206505)
- Smithers AMS LLC (#ILR267921)
- Sparkboro Corp. (#MPR243971)
- Sparkboro Corp. (#MCR140478)
- Standard Naturals, LLC (#MRR206534)
- Supercritical Mass Laboratories Inc. (#MPR244005)
- Sweetgrass Botanicals LLC fka Forest Wilde LLC (#MPR244012)
- Sweetgrass Botanicals LLC fka Forest Wilde LLC (#MRR206508)
- Ten-Ten LLC (#MRR206490)
- Ten-Ten LLC (#MPR244008)
- Ten-Ten LLC (#MCR140516)
- Ten-Ten LLC (#MCR140503)
- The Botanist, Inc. (#MPR243980)
- The Botanist, Inc. (#MRR206445)
- The Botanist, Inc. (#MRR206444)
- The Holistic Concepts, Inc (#MRR206451)
- Tigertown LLC (#MRR206491)
- Toy Town Project, LLC (#MRR206441)
- True East Leaf LLC (#MCR140523)
- TSC Operations, LLC (#MPR244002)
- Turnbuckle Consulting Inc. (#MCR140495)
- Union Twist, Inc. (#MRR206459)
- Alternative Therapies Group, Inc. (#RMD1528)
- Berkshire Roots, Inc. (#RMD505)
- BeWell Organic Medicine Inc. (#RMD1245)
- Briarleaf, LLC (#RMD1730)
- CommCan Inc. (#RMD565)
- Commcan, Inc. – Mansfield (#RMD1686)
- Commcan, Inc. – Millis (#RMD1445)
- Commonwealth Alternative Care, Inc. (#RMD1732)
- Commonwealth Alternative Care, Inc. (#RMD785)
- Curaleaf Massachusetts, Inc. (#RMD385)



- FFD Enterprises MA, Inc. d/b/a Fine Fettle (#RMD1306)
- INSA, Inc. (#RMD845)
- KRD Growers, LLC (#RMD3322)
- Liberty Compassion, Inc. d/b/a Affinity (#RMD1586)
- NS AJO Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Ethos Cannabis (#RMD1546)
- NS AJO Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Natural Selections (#RMD1425)
- Patriot Care Corp. d/b/a Cannabist (#RMD165)
- Pharmacannis Massachusetts, Inc. (#RMD805)
- Rise Holdings, Inc. (#RMD645)
- Wellness Connection of MA, Inc. d/b/a Hightail Cannabis (#RMD1694)
- Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training
  - The eLearn Cannabis Academy (RVR453133), RVT Trainer
- [Meeting Packet](#)
- Memorandum re: July 2023 Government Affairs Update

**In Attendance:**

- Chair Shannon O’Brien
- Commissioner Nurys Z. Camargo
- Commissioner Ava Callender Concepcion
- Commissioner Kimberly Roy
- Commissioner Bruce Stebbins

**Minutes:**

1) Call to Order

- The Chair recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order.
- The Chair gave notice that the meeting was being recorded.
- The Chair gave an overview of the agenda.

2) Commissioners’ Comments and Updates – 00:01:32

- Commissioner Camargo thanked the sign language interpreters in attendance. She noted for the public that she and Commissioner Stebbins serve in the Social Consumption Working Group. She further noted that most reforms are still under review and active discussion and explained that the Social Consumption license-type is not subject to the November 9<sup>th</sup> statutory deadline. She encouraged anyone with questions or concerns to reach out to her or Commissioner Stebbins via e-mail. She reported that a successful listening session regarding social consumption was held at Holyoke Community College on June 27<sup>th</sup>. She noted an upcoming virtual listening session on July 18<sup>th</sup> and an in-person listening session at Mass Bay Community College on July 20<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged those that cannot attend to submit their



comments via e-mail. She gave an overview of the Commission's recent engagement efforts around social consumption in jurisdictions nationwide. She detailed a specific exploratory mission to San Francisco and Oakland, California, where she and other staff met with policymakers and past and present social consumption operators, legacy operators, toured social consumption establishments, and more. She added that a full report and regulatory proposal are forthcoming. She noted that she is anticipating an update from the Host Community Agreement (HCA) Working Group, whose work is notably pertinent to social consumption.

- Commissioner Concepcion recognized Director of Licensing Kyle Potvin (DOL Potvin) and Head Enforcement Counsel Rebecca Lopez (HEC Lopez) for their contributions to the HCA Working Group. She stated she is the only commissioner to have worked on every component of the draft regulations.
- Commissioner Roy congratulated Executive Director Shawn Collins (ED) on the birth of his child. She remarked that the unveiling of policy recommendations is just the beginning of the process and that she looks forward to the public hearing and comment period. She noted that she and Commissioner Stebbins visited the State House for the Veterans Advocacy Hour event where she expressed her individual support of Bill H.119 and companion bill S.50. She discussed expanding qualifying conditions and access to care for veterans. She noted recent speaking engagements at the Worcester County Sheriff's Regional Resource Center and the Worcester Senior Center. She thanked Director of Constituent Services Kathy Oliver Jones for accompanying her at the senior center.
- Commissioner Stebbins thanked the Licensing team as well as DOL Potvin, HEC Lopez and Associate Enforcement Counsel Jacob Nielson (AEC Nielson) for their assistance with preparing for the meeting. He noted that the deadline for completing the Social Consumption survey was extended to July 24. He encouraged recipients of the survey to respond and offer their comments. He disclosed that the virtual listening session on July 18 is fully booked but that space is available at the subsequent live listening session on July 20. He added that questions and comments are likewise welcome via e-mail. He explained that, upon renewal, licensees are required to consult with their host communities about the cost of their operation to the community. He added that the appropriate regulatory language to use when corresponding with host communities is available on the Commission website. He further added that making use of this language will help reduce confusion for licensees and host communities alike. He noted that licensees have been submitting these cost requests in a timely fashion, which had previously been an area of concern. He expressed feeling encouraged by licensees giving thoughtful regard to the development of their diversity plans. He urged them to utilize diversity statistics specific to their host community, not state-wide statistics, and noted that information



on accessing local demographic information is also available on the Commission’s website.

- The Chair echoed prior sentiments thanking Commission staff for their work in helping to prepare the draft regulations. She recognized Associate General Counsel Steven Laduzinski (AGC Laduzinski) and Associate General Counsel Michael Baker (AGC Baker) for their specific contributions to that effort. She congratulated AGC Baker on the birth of his child. She noted the difficulty of deliberating within the parameters of the Open Meeting Law. She explained that, in keeping with the Law, individual Commissioners are not privy to the particulars of regulatory proposals, if they are not in the corresponding working groups. She added that it would be the Commissioners’ first opportunity for high-level discussion of those particulars as a group.
- Commissioner Concepcion asked the Chair to clarify the talking points of the day.
  - The Chair clarified that HCAs and Municipal Equity would be up for discussion, with a tentative vote to follow at the next meeting.
- Commissioner Camargo asked if there will be a check-in about the next meeting.
  - The Chair replied that they will revisit the matter later in the agenda.

### 3) Minutes for Approval – 00:20:25

- April 14, 2023
  - The Chair asked if the Commissioners had a chance to review the minutes and whether there were questions or edits.
    - Commissioner Roy thanked the Legal team for their diligent work to produce the minutes efficiently.
  - Commissioner Roy moved to approve the minutes for the April 14, 2023, Commission public meeting minutes.
  - Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
  - The Chair took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Roy – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chair O’Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the minutes for the April 14, 2023, Commission public meeting.

### 4) Executive Director’s Report – 00:21:21

- The ED gave an overview of licensing data, which starts on page 428 of the [Meeting Packet](#).
  - Commissioner Concepcion asked if there is any overlap in ownership between the Courier and Delivery Operator license-types.



- The ED replied that the overlap in ownership would most likely take place in the pre-certification phase. He added that a significant number of applicants later pivoted to the Delivery Operator license-type exclusively. The ED clarified that this occurred in less than a few instances.
- Commissioner Concepcion asked if the ED knew the exact number.
  - The ED replied that the number was likely just a few but that he did not have an exact figure on hand.
- Commissioner Roy asked the ED how long the Craft Marijuana Cooperative (CMC) applicants have been in the provisional phase.
  - The ED replied that in order to provide a definitive answer, he would need to refer to the data from 2022 and 2021. He mentioned that it would take some time before he could accomplish this task.
- The Chair noted that the CMC is a unique construct. She suggested exploring potential opportunities within the CMC license-type for Economic Empowerment Priority (EEP) and Social Equity Program (SEP) applicants who are at the provisional stage.
  - The ED acknowledged that the CMC is a unique construct and with limiting parameters such as Massachusetts residency and schedule F tax return. He noted the advantages and disadvantages of the license-type. He further noted a perceived tendency for applicants under the license-type to pivot to outdoor Cultivation.
- Commissioner Roy asked if the ED is aware of other jurisdictions with this license-type that could be looked to for guidance.
  - The ED replied that there are co-operative models in other jurisdictions such as California. He added that their parameters and cooperative principles seem to be generally more relaxed. He noted that the models are co-operative primarily in terms of ownership.
- The Chair cited Ocean Spray as an in-state co-operative model. She noted that their co-operative includes farmers from across the state, whereas the CMC is limited to individual communities. She outlined other key differences. She noted some of the pitfalls of the Ocean Spray model in practice.
  - The ED underscored the Chair’s remarks and outlined how the model is fundamentally incompatible with cannabis, a Schedule I product.
- The Chair noted the need for a more in-depth discussion about why CMC is not working and how it can be reconfigured.
- Commissioner Roy asked how many EEP applicants there are.
  - The ED replied that there are 122 total individuals and entities with EEP designation but that the figures may be duplicative, as some licensees hold two or more license-types. He added that an exact figure could be produced upon a review of the data.





- Commissioner Roy stated that if only 22 of 122 current EEP applicants are at the commence operations stage, and the number is inflated due to overlapping license-types, she would be curious as to why.
  - The ED replied that he is hesitant to describe the figures as inflated. He noted that there is a maximum of three license-types per applicant.
- Commissioner Camargo noted that the subject presents a good opportunity to discuss EEP. She stated that EEP was one of the first programs implemented by the Commission but that operators are struggling financially. She added that some operators are actively weighing an exit strategy. She noted having ongoing conversations with EEP operators, who cite a lack of capital among their foremost concerns. She acknowledged the work of the Massachusetts Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund (MassCSETF) to help alleviate their struggle. She disclosed that the EEP has always been a personal regulatory priority and encouraged thinking on how to ensure that the program participants remain solvent. She opined that the EEP has fallen short of its mission. She expressed concern that operators will be forced to close, in part due to the program’s strict regulatory provisions. She emphasized the timeliness of the matter. She stated even the name, Economic Empowerment Applicant, they are now “operators.”
- The Chair concurred. She added that it is time to take a thorough assessment of all aspects of the EEP/SEP, particularly expenditures and budgeting. She expressed the need to determine how to best help transition these applicants to the commence operations stage. She noted that there are outside groups that could also be helpful. She added that the MassCSETF is not yet fully funded. She remarked on the need to support these operators beyond the commence operations stage and help them to establish generational wealth. She posed the question of whether the programs are having their intended impact.
  - The ED noted that in most other industries an exit strategy is a way of building wealth. He explained that because licenses are capped, larger entities cannot freely acquire smaller ones. He acknowledged that cannabis is a unique industry with unique challenges.
- Commissioner Camargo thanked the ED for spotlighting the figures around EEP/SEP applicants at the commence operations stage. She acknowledged that not all EEP/SEP applicants will pursue entrepreneurship specifically but expressed overall disappointment in the figures. She reflected on the state of the industry and the Commission’s aims to uplift those communities most impacted by the war on drugs. She echoed earlier sentiments about generational wealth and added that people do not enter the cannabis industry endeavoring to struggle. She shared that she has recently been contemplating



her professional legacy. She opined that the industry does not look how it was intended to and encouraged reflection on why it was legalized.

- Commissioner Concepcion thanked Commissioner Camargo for her comments. She expressed feeling lucky to have worked on something that is purpose driven. She noted that the core of their job is to identify and rectify glaring problems. She added that the Commissioners are free to propose regulatory changes as they see fit.
- Commissioner Camargo stated that she would like to revisit the EEP/SEP regulations. She noted that the programs would be her next area of regulatory focus.
- Commissioner Roy echoed Commissioner Camargo's statements. She added that she would like to take a closer look at the tools the Commission has at its disposal to help these applicants navigate the application process.
- The Chair expressed the need to conduct a thorough review of the internal processes around equity to determine what is and is not having an impact. She added that her personal goal is to get another 20-25 EEP/SEP applicants to the commence operations phase within 18 months.
- Commissioner Camargo cited Host Community reform and Municipal Equity regulations as tools at the Commission's disposal. She noted that cities and towns have created their own barriers to entry. She expressed the need to work more closely with municipalities to evaluate how their policies might be prohibitive.
- Commissioner Concepcion emphasized the importance of taking ownership of their capacity as an agency to enact the necessary changes.
- The Chair proposed holding a working meeting as soon as September to further discuss how the Commission can improve its equity practices.
  - The ED noted that there is a market opportunity for EEP/SEP operators among discerning consumers who want to know which brands are in an effort to shop more intentionally. He suggested that it is timely for Massachusetts-based cannabis brands to expand to the West Coast markets.
- The Chair asked if the ED was aware of any anecdotal reports of how the recent rainy weather has impacted cultivation.
  - The ED replied that he has not received any such reports. He speculated that cultivation has benefitted from the rain.
- Commissioner Roy expressed concern over market saturation among cultivators. She cited 3.34M sq ft of authorized canopy and the potential for another 5M. She stated that prices have plummeted. She suggested that the Commission conduct a robust assessment of the market and look to how



jurisdictions with more mature cannabis industries have managed similar circumstances.

- The ED acknowledged that the price of cannabis is low especially compared to historic data. He noted that these are favorable conditions for patients and consumers but not necessarily for businesses. He added that some cultivators may seek to relegate or expand their tier status accordingly. He cautioned applicants to be certain of their desired canopy tier.
- Commissioner Roy asked if cultivators are prompted to disclose sales figures as part of the license renewal process.
  - The ED replied that they are not prompted to do so. He added that the data is available in Metrc.
- Commissioner Roy stated that the sales figures would be helpful to have in the decision-making process.
  - The ED responded that sales figures are requested when an operator seeks to upgrade their tier status. He added that the provided figures are then reconciled against the available data in Metrc.
- Commissioner Roy noted that there may be a need to access the data at a later time and proposed that operators be prompted to self-report as part of the renewal application.
  - The ED disclosed that the Commission has extended its contract with Metrc as the provider of seed-to-sale tracking software. He noted that, as part of negotiating the extension, the Commission has accepted a 3 percent fee increase. He added that further details will be provided to licensees. He offered a breakdown of the financial impact for operators in terms of fees and plant tracking tags. He clarified that Metrc fees will continue to be waived for EEP/SEP participants. He expressed a desire to phase out plastic tags for an environmentally conscious alternative. He further noted that the Commission is operating under a “1/12 budget”, as FY24 budget has yet to be established. He gave an overview of the implications. He added that neither the House nor Senate met the Commission’s full budget request and so the spending plan will need to be reassessed in any case.
- Commissioner Roy expressed concern over “Metrc jail.” She noted consulting with former Commissioner Kay Doyle and attending numerous meetings on the subject. She suggested collaborating with Metrc to provide trainings on how to avoid it and making them free for small-scale and EEP/SEP operators. She noted that the problem is tying up large volumes of inventory in some cases.
- The Chair noted that she has also had many discussions on the topic. She shared that the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission provides regular



Metrc trainings with their licensees. She added that she hopes to be able to interface regularly with licensees to provide training and get practical feedback.

- Commissioner Roy stated that there are common mistakes being made across license-types, which need addressing.
  - The ED noted that trainings are currently available from Metrc as part of their contract. He objected to the use of the term “Metrc jail.”
- The Chair remarked that some of the problems are due to internal oversight. She noted that Metrc is undergoing a modernization which may solve some recurring problems.
- Commissioner Concepcion asked a clarifying question about whether the Commission may be currently operating at a deficit depending on the final budget.
  - The ED responded that the Commission is not potentially operating at a deficit but that it will not be able to grow at the anticipated rate. He added that the budget will require a thorough reassessment.
- Commissioner Concepcion asked about the potential impact the budget will have on Chapter 180 implementation.
  - The ED replied that it is difficult to know how to forecast the impact. He added that there will undoubtedly be a need for more investigators, legal staff, and field personnel. He further added that the FY24 budget proposal included general allowances for implementing the new regulations. He noted the potential need to revisit the budget once the regulations are finalized.

Commissioner Stebbins moved to take a fifteen-minute recess.

- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes

The Commission unanimously approved taking a fifteen-minute recess, returning at 11:45 AM (01:37:29)

- The ED noted that the Commission’s official return-to-office policy is in development. He further noted that the intent is to return by September with a likely hybrid model in place. He explained that many new staff were hired during the pandemic and a plan to accommodate everyone is underway. He added that he will report back with a proposal for approval. He stated that there will be a minimum



- expectation for in-office days. He noted that the Boston office was originally intended to be a satellite office but will now be fully occupied.
- Chief Operating Officer, Alisa Stack (COO Stack) gave an overview of the Quarterly Budget Update, which begins on page 439 of the [Meeting Packet](#). She also recognized Chief Financial Officer, Adriana Leon (CFAO Leon) for her contributions to the budget update and for being honored as one of Boston Business Journal's 2023 CFOs of the Year and thanked the fiscal team for their efforts.
    - Commissioner Roy asked if outside counsel falls within the consultants/contractors spending category.
      - COO Stack replied affirmatively that it does.
    - The Chair asked COO Stack for more details around the delay of a media campaign.
      - COO Stack deferred to Chief Communications Officer Cedric Sinclair (CCO Sinclair).
      - CCO Sinclair gave a status update on the development of a multimedia information campaign centered around the Commission's equity programs. He noted that there have been some delays with regard to deliverables.
      - The Chair expressed reservation about the campaign. She suggested that a more targeted, grassroots outreach strategy might be more effective. She requested that a memo of the details be furnished to the Commissioners.
      - CCO Sinclair noted that a presentation was circulated in December that contains much of the requested information. He added that he will produce an updated version for the Commissioners and public. He explained that the campaign is highly targeted to reach those most impacted by the War on Drugs. He provided additional insight about the campaign strategy.
      - The Chair indicated that she has not yet seen the outreach plan from December. She remarked that she understands the cost of paid media and wants to ensure that the budget is well spent. She suggested that there is a more efficient way to get the message across.
    - Commissioner Roy asked if there is a geofencing strategy in place for the digital media elements of the campaign.
      - CCO Sinclair responded that an overview of the geotargeting strategy can be found in the presentation circulated in December. He offered a brief overview of how the campaign will target areas of disproportionate impact and ethnic minorities.
    - Commissioner Camargo requested for CCO Sinclair to re-circulate the presentation sent out in December. She asked a clarifying question as to whether the budget for SEP advertising and outreach had already been approved.



- The ED clarified that it was approved as part of the FY24 request but that it is ultimately contingent upon the final budget.
  - CCO Sinclair reiterated that the campaign would involve community outreach in the field as a distinct component. He explained that it will be funded by a different budget than the paid media effort and proceed upon receipt of the deliverables.
- Commissioner Roy asked CCO Sinclair if he could provide any dates for the planned community outreach efforts.
  - CCO Sinclair replied that the events cannot be scheduled until the deliverables are in-hand.
- Commissioner Roy asked if the Commission will be hosting community outreach events or attending them.
  - CCO Sinclair responded that the Commission will be hosting them. He outlined what the events are projected to entail.
- Commissioner Stebbins underscored the importance of engaging outside agencies and local community organizations in the SEP outreach efforts.
  - CCO Sinclair disclosed that the campaign will likely be ready to launch by late Summer or Fall.
  - The ED noted that the Commission inherited a lot of paper documents upon the transfer of the medical cannabis program from the Department of Public Health. He noted that archiving efforts are underway. He thanked the team responsible for acquiring new state vehicles and acknowledged the supply chain hurdles. He underscored the importance of cycling equipment and vehicles.
- Commissioner Roy noted that the consultants/contractors category is notably under budget. She raised the question of whether some of the funds may be allocated to senior citizen outreach.
  - COO Stack replied that those funds cannot be reallocated. She added that she would be happy to work with the Communications Department to facilitate that if the final FY24 budget allows.
- Commissioner Camargo thanked Commissioner Roy for her dedication to the senior citizen community. She noted that seniors are “canna-curious”. She encouraged Commissioner Roy to develop a proposal for expanded senior programming to present to the group for review.
  - Alisa noted that it is timely to begin contemplating FY25 priorities.
  - Commissioner Camargo remarked that she would be interested in helping to develop Spanish-programming for seniors.
- The Chair expressed the need to reinforce what community outreach is in practice. She added that there are multifaceted ways of engaging with the public. She noted that the Commission’s public education budget has not been



funded. She cited the topic of cannabis overdoses as an outreach priority. She encouraged thinking beyond the paid media route in considering how to get messaging out to the community.

- COO Stack offered further context about underspending in some categories.
- The ED explained that certain categories are under budget partly because some contractors are engaged on an as-needed basis.
- COO Stack explained how contingency funds influence the spending figures.
- The ED acknowledged that closing out a fiscal year is not an easy task. He thanked Commission staff at large for their tireless efforts.
- Commissioner Roy stated that the Commission's hiring needs will likely need to be reassessed in light of Chapter 180. She posited that the Licensing Department in particular will require additional personnel.
  - The ED stated that anticipating Chapter 180 was a component of the FY24 budget proposal. He added that the budget will need to be revisited once the final regulations are promulgated. He noted the potential need to appeal to the legislature for supplemental resources. He emphasized the importance of being prudent with taxpayer funds.
- Commissioner Camargo asked for updates on the open General Counsel and Chief People Officer positions.
  - The ED replied that onboarding will begin for both positions in the near future. He noted that interviews will commence for the General Counsel position soon and that interviews for the Chief People Officer position are in the final stages.
- Commissioner Camargo suggested revisiting the topic of establishing a Deputy Executive Director (DED) role.
  - The ED explained that the agency has been prioritizing vacant roles and hiring at a reasonable pace.
  - Commissioner Concepcion asked if a DED role was accounted for in the FY24 budget proposal.
  - The ED responded affirmatively that it was accounted for.
  - Commissioner Concepcion asked if he had a timeline in mind for revisiting the topic.
  - The ED replied that the position has been reviewed and approved by the Commission.
  - Commissioner Concepcion clarified that she is inquiring about the status of hiring for the role.



- The ED noted that vacancies arose in recent months which took priority. He added that key positions and vacancies need to be filled before filling new positions.
- The Chair expressed that there is a lack of clarity around the individual job responsibilities of the COO (Chief Operations Officer) and potential DED. She stated that the DED role will need to be more clearly defined before proceeding. She suggested that there may be a need for a structural assessment to ensure that the correct positions are in place. She acknowledged the need to establish a line of succession in order to determine who would be responsible for performing the ED's role while he is out of the office.
- Commissioner Stebbins expressed that he has lingering questions about the DED role and was not under the impression that it had been approved. He echoed earlier sentiments about revisiting the matter.
- The ED reiterated that the role was approved. He raised the question of how that was accomplished if there were lingering questions.
- Commissioner Camargo explained that while there was a vote, some confusion persisted. She proposed that he refer to their questions from the January meeting and report back with clarification. She echoed the Chair's sentiments about determining how the role would function in tandem with that of the COO.
- Commissioner Roy concurred. She noted that it is the first time the group has voted on the formation of an executive-level position and emphasized the need to proceed with diligence.
- The ED stated that he needs to be able to reply on the Commissioners' votes. He added that votes are directives. He agreed to revisit the matter.

## 5) Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership – 02:35:45

### 1. Cosmopolitan Dispensary, Inc.

- Licensing Manager Annie DiMare (Licensing Manager DiMare) presented the Staff Recommendation for Change of Ownership.
- The Chair asked for questions or comments.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes





- Chair O'Brien – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.
- 2. Green World, LLC
  - Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for Change of Ownership.
  - The Chair asked for questions or comments.
  - Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
  - Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
  - The Chair took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Roy – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chair O'Brien – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.
- 3. Greenbridge Technologies, LLC
  - Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for Change of Ownership.
  - The Chair asked for questions or comments.
  - Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
  - Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
  - The Chair took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Roy – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chair O'Brien – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.
- 4. Greener Leaf, Inc.
  - Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for Change of Ownership.
  - The Chair asked for questions or comments.
  - Commissioner Stebbins requested two conditions.
    - Proposed Condition: Provide the Commission with a copy of any executed lease.



- Proposed Condition: Provide documentation verifying a change of ownership of the financial account.
- The Chair asked a clarifying question about whether the nature of the conditions is permissible.
  - HEC Lopez deferred to the Legal Department. She noted that the conditions seem reasonable from an Enforcement perspective.
  - Associate General Counsel Andrew Carter (AGC Carter) affirmed that the Commission has full authority to set reasonable conditions and that the conditions set forth appear to relate directly to the Change of Ownership.
  - HEC Lopez clarified for the record that the Enforcement Department is not taking a position on the underlying question of whether the Change of Ownership should be approved or denied in this instance.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Change of Ownership, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioner Stebbins.

#### 5. Hyecorp, LLC

- Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for Change of Ownership.
- The Chair asked for questions or comments.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

#### 6. TYCA Green, LLC



- Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for Change of Ownership.
- The Chair asked for questions or comments.
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

6) Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses – 02:46:01

1. Cannabis Connection II, Inc. (#MRN284816), Retail

- Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for the Provisional License.
- Commissioner Roy requested a condition.
  - Proposed Condition: Prior to final licensure, in accordance with 935 CMR 500.140(6)(g) please include information for substance use disorder treatment programs and the phone number for the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline on your consumer education.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
  - Proposed Condition: Prior to final application for licensure, consider review and update of diversity hiring goals and diversity plan based on statistics of host community and region and not only based on overall state statistics in accordance with 935 CMR 500.101(1)(c)(8)(k) and provide any update to the Cannabis Control Commission Licensing Division.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioner Roy and Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the conditions requested by Commissioners Roy and Commissioner Stebbins.



2. Canna-Farm, LLC (#MCN283798), Cultivation, Tier 5 / Indoor
  - Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for the Provisional License.
  - The Chair asked for questions or comments.
  - Commissioner Camargo noted the applicant’s Positive Impact Plan (PIP) revolves around training other industry professionals on metrics and Standards of Practice.
  - Commissioner Roy requested a condition.
    - Proposed Condition: Prior to final licensure please inform the Commission of your “Additional Operational Plans for Indoor Marijuana Cultivators” as it relates to Quality Control Samples in accordance with 935 CMR 500.120(12) and 935 CMR 500.120(14).
  - Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.
  - Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
  - The Chair took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Roy – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chair O’Brien – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.
  
3. Canna-Farm, LLC (#MPN282249), Product Manufacturing
  - Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for the Provisional License.
  - The Chair asked for questions or comments.
  - Commissioner Roy requested a condition.
    - Proposed Condition: Prior to final licensure please inform the Commission of your “Additional Operational Plans for Product Manufacturers” as it relates to Quality Control Samples in accordance with 935 CMR 500.130(5)(k) and 935 CMR 500.130 (9).
  - Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.
  - Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
  - The Chair took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes



- Commissioner Roy – Yes
- Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
- Chair O’Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.

#### 4. CTDW Beverly, LLC (#MRN284801), Retail

- Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for the Provisional License.
- The Chair asked for questions or comments.
- Commissioner Camargo noted that the applicant’s Diversity Plan focuses on anti-racism and unconscious bias training. She added that their PIP includes a donation to Roca, Inc. based in Chelsea. She encouraged licensees to ensure that their non-profit partnerships are substantive.
  - Commissioner Stebbins disclosed that one of the principal officers of the business is a former colleague.
  - The Chair disclosed that the Executive Director of Roca, Inc. is her former campaign manager.
- Commissioner Concepcion echoed Commissioner Camargo’s comments regarding meaningful non-profit partnerships. She expressed the need to assess the impact of PIPs. She cited reports of non-profits not receiving funds that were promised to them.
  - The Chair underscored the role of PIPs in the approval of provisional licenses. She likewise cited reports of material pledges to non-profits that were never fulfilled. She posed the question of how the Commission can provide further guidance to licensees on implementing their PIPs.
  - Commissioner Stebbins echoed the Chair’s sentiments about revisiting the guidance they provide to licensees in this area.
  - The Chair emphasized the importance of feasibility in the development of PIPs. She acknowledged that geographic limitations exist in some instances with respect to hiring from disproportionately impacted areas. She raised the question of how to hold licensees accountable for not fulfilling their pledges.
- Commissioner Roy posed the question of how to formally spotlight best practices. She noted that she would like to revisit the Cannabis Champion Awards concept.
  - Commissioner Camargo stated that there are efforts underway in this area.
- Commissioner Roy noted that contributing to the Social Equity Fund (SEF) satisfies a component of the PIP requirement. She added that businesses can provide customers with the option to “round up” their purchases and donate the difference to the SEF.
- Commissioner Concepcion remarked on the need to hone in on what communities actually need. She expressed that she would like to focus on engaging previously



identified DIAs to help them better understand the DIA designation and what resources are available to them.

- Commissioner Stebbins noted that some stakeholders in these communities might not fully understand the scope of their DIA status.
- Commissioner Concepcion remarked that PIPs are about more than hiring practices. She encouraged licensees to think beyond hiring in the development of their PIPs.
- Commissioner Roy requested a condition.
  - Proposed Condition: Prior to final licensure, in accordance with 935 CMR 500.140 (6) please include the phone number for the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline on your consumer education.
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.

5. Eagles Landed, LLC (#MPN282259), Product Manufacturing

- Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for the Provisional License.
- The Chair asked for questions or comments.
- Commissioner Stebbins requested a condition.
  - Proposed Condition: Prior to final application for licensure, contact the Cannabis Control Commission Licensing Division and provide an update to clarify differences between your hiring goals and recruitment goals under the Licensee’s Diversity Plan and in accordance with 935 CMR 500.101(1)(c)(8)(k).
- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes



- Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
6. New England Craft Cultivators, LLC d/b/a Tree House Craft Cannabis (#MRN284689), Retail
- Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for the Provisional License.
  - The Chair asked for questions or comments.
  - Commissioner Stebbins noted that the applicant is pursuing a Certified LGBTQ+ Business Enterprise designation from the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). He opined that the Commission should seek to update its regulations to recognize any category of business certified by the SDO as a priority review applicant.
  - Commissioner Roy requested a condition.
    - Proposed Condition: Prior to final licensure, in accordance with 935 CMR 500.140(6)(g) please include information for substance use disorder treatment programs and 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 Stebbins seconded the motion.
  - The Chair took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Roy – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chair O’Brien – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.
7. Southwick Greenhouses, Inc. (#MCN283815), Cultivation, Tier 3 / Indoor
- Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for the Provisional License.
  - The Chair asked for questions or comments.
  - Commissioner Roy requested a condition.
    - Proposed Condition: Prior to final licensure please inform the Commission of your “Additional Operational Plans for Indoor Marijuana Cultivators” as it



relates to Quality Control Samples in accordance with 935 CMR 500.120(12) and 935 CMR 500.120(14).

- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.

8. XH Management, Inc. (#MCN282143), Cultivation, Tier 6 / Indoor

- Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for the Provisional License.
- The Chair asked for questions or comments.
- Commissioner Roy requested a condition.
  - Proposed Condition: Prior to final licensure please inform the Commission of your “Additional Operational Plans for Indoor Marijuana Cultivators” as it relates to Quality Control Samples in accordance with 935 CMR 500.120(12), and 935 CMR 500.120(14).
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.

9. XH Management, Inc. (#MPN281670), Product Manufacturing

- Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for the Provisional License.
- The Chair asked for questions or comments.





- Commissioner Roy requested a condition.
  - Proposed Condition: Prior to final licensure please inform the Commission of your “Additional Operational Plans for Product Manufacturers” as it relates to Quality Control Samples in accordance with 935 CMR 500.130(5)(k) and 935 CMR 500.130(g).
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.

10. Green Meadows Farm, LLC (#RMDA3633), Vertically Integrated Medical Marijuana Treatment Center

- Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation for the Provisional License.
- The Chair asked for questions or comments.
- Commissioner Stebbins condition.
  - Proposed Condition: Prior to final application for licensure, contact the Cannabis Control Commission Licensing Division and provide an update to identify any goals for utilizing LGBTQ+ business enterprises under Licensee’s Diversity Plan in accordance with 935 CMR 500.101(1)(c)(8)(k).
- Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Stebbins.



Commissioner Camargo moved to take a twenty-five-minute recess.

- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes

The Commission unanimously approved taking a twenty-five-minute recess, returning at 01:55 PM (03:55:36)

## 7) Staff Recommendations on Denials of Provisional Licenses

### 1. Evoke, Inc. d/b/a Injaga (#MR284322), Retail

- Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation on the Denial for the Provisional License.
- The Chair asked for questions or comments.
- The ED gave an overview of the suitability determination process.
- Commissioner Roy asked who determines who is on the Suitability Review Committee (SRC).
  - The ED responded that he determines who is on the Committee.
- Commissioner Roy asked a clarifying question about the selection process.
  - The ED replied that he invites individuals who have expressed interest in participating. He added that a roster of those individuals is maintained and cycled through. He noted that none of the individuals have any affiliation with the licensing or enforcement processes and that they all must receive Criminal Offender Record Information training.
- Commissioner Roy asked whether the ED delegated authority to determine unsuitability is inherent or regulated.
  - The ED responded that his authority in that regard is delegated by regulation. He added that it is the Commissioners who make the final decision.
- Commissioner Concepcion asked a clarifying question about what happens procedurally following a Denial.
  - The ED gave an overview of the bureaucratic process following a denial. He noted what options are available to the applicant thereafter.
  - The Chair added that if an applicant is denied twice, they can take the matter to Court.



- The ED noted that every decision is eligible for appeal and that there are legal rights afforded to every entity and individual. He underscored that suitability applies to entities and individuals. He gave an overview of suitability benchmarks and added that suitability is an ongoing determination.
- The Chair noted that suitability is potentially a confusing subject. She suggested that suitability training should be mandated as part of the SEP.
- Commissioner Concepcion stated that she does not think the proposed requirement should be limited to SEP applicants.
- The Chair noted that the inquiries she has received about suitability have been from within the SEP.
- Commissioner Concepcion noted that it is important to be mindful of how the Commission is teaching suitability. She acknowledged that it is a complex issue. She echoed the ED's statements regarding suitability being about more than criminal history.
- The ED noted the importance of demystifying suitability and the Commission's regulations more broadly. He reflected on potential solutions. He clarified that eligibility for the SEP and other programming does not guarantee eligibility for licensure.
- Commissioner Stebbins highlighted the need to offer as much clarity as possible around suitability to help ensure that qualified individuals are not self-excluding.
- Commissioner Concepcion noted that applicants who are deemed unsuitable for licensure have other options for participating in the industry, including ancillary and agent roles. She raised the question of whether such applicants are provided ample notice and resources to change course.
- The ED replied that from a programmatic standpoint, SEP participants can do so at any time. He acknowledged that more can be done at the outset to help applicants evaluate their fitness for licensure and explore alternative options.
- Commissioner Concepcion noted that individuals with criminal records may have them either sealed or expunged as a means of circumventing certain suitability obstacles.
- Commissioner Stebbins emphasized the need to heighten the appeal of ancillary work for SEP participants.
- Commissioner Roy asked the ED if the reason for the presumptive denial was provided to the individual parties of the application.
  - The ED replied that the parties have full awareness of the rationale and in arriving at this point have received the initial determination, appealed the determination, and been notified of the agency's intent to recommend a Denial. He offered further context about the process and emphasized the importance of confidentiality throughout.



- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Denial for the Provisional License.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O’Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Denial for the Provisional License.

8) Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses – 04:36:31

- Adult-Use and Medical-Use Rosters
  - The Chair noted that the Final License roster will consist of items numbered 1 through 14, as identified on the agenda.
  - The Chair asked for questions or comments.
  - Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the roster of Final Licenses.
  - Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
  - The Chair took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Roy – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chair O’Brien – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the roster of Final Licenses.

1. Atlas Marketplace & Delivery, LLC (#MT281667), Third-Party Transporter
2. Baked Beans Farm, LLC (#MP282045), Product Manufacturing
3. Bostica, LLC (#MC282139), Cultivation, Tier 4 / Indoor
4. CannaTech Medicinals (#MP281858), Product Manufacturing
5. Caroline’s Cannabis, LLC (#MP282232), Product Manufacturing
6. Catahoula Cannabis, LLC d/b/a Health for Life Fall River (#MR284693), Retail
7. Clean Technique, LLC (#MP281479), Product Manufacturing
8. G7 Lab, LLC (#IL281334), Independent Testing Laboratory
9. Grow One, Inc. (#MC282527), Cultivation, Tier 3 / Indoor
10. Hemp Holistics, LLC (#MB281425), Microbusiness
11. Massachusetts Green Retail, Inc. (#MR284144), Retail



12. Pudding Hill Farm, LLC d/b/a Pudding Hill Farm (#MC283501), Cultivation, Tier 1 / Indoor
13. The Green Lady Dispensary II, Inc. (#MR284161), Retail
14. ToroVerde (Massachusetts) III, Inc. d/b/a Happy Feelings (#MR282629), Retail

9) Staff Recommendations on Renewal Licenses – 04:37:31

- Adult-Use and Medical-Use
  - The Chair noted that the Adult-Use and Medical-Use Renewal roster will consist of items numbered 1 through 90, as identified on the agenda.
  - The Chair asked for questions or comments.
  - Commissioner Roy noted that Pleasantries is winding down and asked why they are seeking renewal.
    - DOL Potvin noted that this is a separate location carrying a separate license from the one intended to be wind down.
  - Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the roster of Adult-Use and Medical-Use Renewals.
  - Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
  - The Chair took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Roy – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chair O’Brien – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the roster of Adult-Use and Medical-Use Renewals.
- Medical-Use
  - The Chair noted that the Medical-Use Renewal roster will consist of items numbered 91 through 92, as identified on the agenda.
  - Commissioner Camargo recused herself from the vote.
  - The Chair asked for questions or comments.
  - Commissioner Roy moved to approve the roster of Medical-Use Renewals.
  - Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
  - The Chair took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Recused
    - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
    - Commissioner Roy – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chair O’Brien – Yes



The Commission approved the Medical-Use Renewals by a vote of four in favor and one recused.

- Medical-Use
  - The Chair noted that the Medical-Use Renewal roster will consist of items numbered 93 through 103, as identified on the agenda.
  - The Chair asked for questions or comments.
  - Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the roster of Medical-Use Renewals.
  - Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
  - The Chair took a roll call vote:
    - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
    - Commissioner Roy – Yes
    - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
    - Chair O’Brien – Yes
  - The Commission unanimously approved the roster of Medical-Use Renewals.

1. 27 Broom Street, LLC (#MPR243952)
2. 27 Broom Street, LLC (#MCR140485)
3. 27 Broom Street, LLC (#MCR140425)
4. Advesa MA, Inc. (#MRR206457)
5. Advesa MA, Inc. (#MRR206512)
6. Alexsofia LLC (#MRR206447)
7. ATLANTIC FARMS, LLC (#MCR140507)
8. Berkshire Welco Cultivation, LLC (#MCR140494)
9. Berkshire Welco Lab & Manufacturing, LLC (#MPR243986)
10. Briarleaf, LLC (#MPR244001)
11. Briarleaf, LLC (#MCR140511)
12. Cannabakeri LLC (#MPR244021)
13. Cannabro, LLC (#MRR206455)
14. Cannatech Medicinals Inc. (#MPR243984)
15. CCC Wellfleet NV LLC (#MRR206520)
16. CCE CAT LLC (#MPR244000)
17. Coastal Roots, LLC (#MPR244006)
18. Coastal Roots, LLC (#MCR140506)
19. Comm Ave Canna, Inc. (#MRR206511)
20. CommCan, Inc (#MRR206494)
21. Commcan, Inc. (#MRR206498)
22. Cresco HHH, LLC (#MPR243991)
23. Cresco HHH, LLC (#MCR140500)



24. Cypress Tree Management Fenway, Inc. (#MRR206464)
25. DayDreamz Estates LLC (#MCR140479)
26. DDM Sales, Inc. (#MRR206439)
27. Diem Orange LLC (#MPR243997)
28. Diem Orange LLC (#MCR140521)
29. Discern'd Cannabis Purveyors, Inc. (#MRR206473)
30. Elevated Roots II LLC (#MRR206461)
31. Ember Gardens Cape Cod LLC (#MRR206462)
32. Eskar Arlington LLC (#MRR206506)
33. Eskar Northbridge, LLC (#MRR206442)
34. Fairway Botanicals Inc. DBA The Hempst (#MRR206489)
35. Garden Wonders, Inc (#MRR206466)
36. Green Flash Delivery LLC (#MDR272552)
37. Green Meadows Farm, LLC (#MRR206502)
38. GTE Brockton LLC fka Nature's Embrace, Inc. (#MRR206483)
39. Health Circle, Inc. (#MPR243955)
40. Heka, Inc. (#MRR206509)
41. Hemp Holistics, LLC (#MBR169312)
42. Hennep, Inc. (#MRR206392)
43. High Five Inc. (#MPR243998)
44. Hudson Growers Alliance, LLC (#MCR140492)
45. I.N.S.A., Inc. (#MRR206504)
46. Ironstone Express Inc. (#MRR206496)
47. JDM Sales, Inc. (#MRR206454)
48. JimBuddys Rec Shop, Inc. (#MRR206484)
49. KG Collective LLC (#MRR206479)
50. LC Square, LLC. (#MPR244003)
51. Liberty Compassion, Inc (#MPR243993)
52. Liberty Compassion, Inc (#MCR140504)
53. Life Essence, Inc. (#MPR243982)
54. Low key LLC (#MRR206437)
55. Major Bloom, LLC (#MRR206507)
56. Major Bloom, LLC (#DOR5182961)
57. New England Craft Cultivators, LLC (#MRR206488)
58. New England Craft Cultivators, LLC (#MRR206493)
59. Northampton Labs (#ILR267925)
60. Pleasantrees, Inc. (#MRR206453)
61. ReLeaf Alternative Natick, Inc. (#MRR206514)
62. Rockland Old Exit 14, Inc. (#MRR206505)
63. Smithers AMS LLC (#ILR267921)



64. Sparkboro Corp. (#MPR243971)
65. Sparkboro Corp. (#MCR140478)
66. Standard Naturals, LLC (#MRR206534)
67. Supercritical Mass Laboratories Inc. (#MPR244005)
68. Sweetgrass Botanicals LLC fka Forest Wilde LLC (#MPR244012)
69. Sweetgrass Botanicals LLC fka Forest Wilde LLC (#MRR206508)
70. Ten-Ten LLC (#MRR206490)
71. Ten-Ten LLC (#MPR244008)
72. Ten-Ten LLC (#MCR140516)
73. Ten-Ten LLC (#MCR140503)
74. The Botanist, Inc. (#MPR243980)
75. The Botanist, Inc. (#MRR206445)
76. The Botanist, Inc. (#MRR206444)
77. The Holistic Concepts, Inc (#MRR206451)
78. Tigertown LLC (#MRR206491)
79. Toy Town Project, LLC (#MRR206441)
80. True East Leaf LLC (#MCR140523)
81. TSC Operations, LLC (#MPR244002)
82. Turnbuckle Consulting Inc. (#MCR140495)
83. Union Twist, Inc. (#MRR206459)
84. Alternative Therapies Group, Inc. (#RMD1528)
85. Berkshire Roots, Inc. (#RMD505)
86. BeWell Organic Medicine Inc. (#RMD1245)
87. Briarleaf, LLC (#RMD1730)
88. CommCan Inc. (#RMD565)
89. Commcan, Inc. – Mansfield (#RMD1686)
90. Commcan, Inc. – Millis (#RMD1445)
91. Commonwealth Alternative Care, Inc. (#RMD1732)
92. Commonwealth Alternative Care, Inc. (#RMD785)
93. Curaleaf Massachusetts, Inc. (#RMD385)
94. FFD Enterprises MA, Inc. d/b/a Fine Fettle (#RMD1306)
95. INSA, Inc. (#RMD845)
96. KR D Growers, LLC (#RMD3322)
97. Liberty Compassion, Inc. d/b/a Affinity (#RMD1586)
98. NS AJO Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Ethos Cannabis (#RMD1546)
99. NS AJO Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Natural Selections (#RMD1425)
100. Patriot Care Corp. d/b/a Cannabist (#RMD165)
101. Pharmacannis Massachusetts, Inc. (#RMD805)
102. Rise Holdings, Inc. (#RMD645)





103. Wellness Connection of MA, Inc. d/b/a Hightail Cannabis (#RMD1694)

10) Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training – 04:41:11

1. The eLearn Cannabis Academy (#RVR453133), RVT Trainer

- Licensing Manager DiMare presented the Staff Recommendation on Responsible Vendor Training.
- The Chair asked for questions or comments.
- Commissioner Roy asked if it is possible to provide a link to the corresponding curriculum for future RVT renewals.
  - The ED indicated that he would follow up with a definitive answer. He added that the Commission reserves the right to audit RVT vendors at its discretion.
- The Chair suggested that it would be beneficial for the Commissioners to undergo RVT.
  - Commissioner Roy concurred.
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Responsible Vendor Training.
- Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O'Brien – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Responsible Vendor Training.

Commissioner Camargo moved to take a five-minute recess.

- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The Chair took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - Commissioner Stebbins – Yes
  - Chair O'Brien – Yes

The Commission unanimously approved taking a five-minute recess, returning at 03:05 PM (04:55:29)

11) Commission Discussion and Votes

- The Chair noted for the attendees that there are three working groups drafting regulations in response to Chapter 180, and looking at Host Community Agreements,



- Municipal Equity and Social Consumption. She listed the working groups and their endeavors. She explained that due to limitations posed by the Open Meeting Law, she and the Commissioners will be unable to vote on the proposed Host Community Agreement and Municipal Equity regulations, as intended. She noted that the draft proposals have been published for public review. She asked the ED where the proposals can be found.
- The ED replied that the proposals can be found on the Commission website. He noted the existence of two documents: one for adult-use and another for medical-use. He indicated both documents are in their draft stage and include track changes.
  - The Chair explained that what is being presented is the first of likely several drafts. She offered an overview of the regulatory draft cycle. She noted that the two groups have a final deadline of November 9, and explained why the Social Consumption working group is not under the same deadline. She added that she hopes for a vote to take place the following Monday, if it is feasible.
    - Commissioner Camargo asked a clarifying question about the nature of the vote.
    - The ED explained that once a draft is voted on it must be disseminated to the public for review and comment. He added that publishing the draft triggers the formal regulatory draft cycle as outlined by the Chair. He expounded on that process.
    - Commissioner Camargo asked a clarifying question about the possible implications of delaying the vote.
    - The ED responded that delaying the vote would allow the group less time to file by the August 15 deadline. He noted that uploading and filing is not a simple process.
  - The Chair asked the ED who the arbiter of scope is.
    - The ED responded that it is the Secretary of the Commonwealth.
  - Commissioner Roy asked if the date of the public hearing has been established.
    - The ED replied that it has been tentatively set for September 8, but is contingent upon the Commissioners' availability. He added that the public comment and review window will take place in addition to the public hearing, though the Secretary does not require both.
  - The Chair asked the ED how soon after the public hearing the vote will take place.
    - The ED responded that the vote may take place any time prior to October 13. He noted that the timing will be contingent upon the breadth of amendments.
    - Commissioner Camargo expressed reservation about taking a vote on Monday with only the weekend to prepare and insufficient time to consult with the relevant staff.
  - The Chair asked the ED for an estimated page count of the proposals.
    - The ED noted that each proposal is around 160 pages.
  - The Chair stated that a vote would not be required the following Monday if more preparation is needed. She proposed holding a brief meeting, during which time



relevant staff can field inquiries from the group. She noted that this would allow the Commissioners the benefit of hearing the others' questions while working within the Open Meeting Law.

- Commissioner Camargo expressed that she did not feel the weekend would allow enough time to review the proposals and formulate any potential questions.
- Commissioner Concepcion proposed setting a different date to meet. She suggested Thursday, July 27.
- The Chair confirmed with the group that the 27<sup>th</sup> would be suitable. She indicated that a vote would take place on that day. She added that the group can meet again remotely on the 28<sup>th</sup>, if needed.
- Commissioner Camargo asked the ED if the group would be provided a statement regarding the financial impact of the proposed regulations.
  - The ED replied that an effort to determine the projected impact is underway. He added that the group would be kept up to date about those findings as the regulations take shape.

1. Regulatory Review Discussion: Host Community Agreements – 0:5:30:44

- Commissioner Roy thanked the members of the HCA working group for their contributions. She offered an overview of the working group's efforts to assemble the draft proposal. She read a statement from the group.
- Commissioner Concepcion likewise thanked the working group for their contributions. She continued with the reading of the statement.
- Commissioner Camargo asked if she could be given a copy of the statement.
  - Commissioner Concepcion confirmed that everyone will be provided a copy.
- Commissioner Roy stated that she read comments from licensees about Municipal Equity and participated in roundtable discussions on the topic. She added that there are recurring themes in the feedback she received. She expressed alarm at some of the provisions in the HCAs she reviewed. She added that those findings factored into how the group developed the policy. She noted looking forward to further comments and discussion.

2. Regulatory Review Update: Municipal Equity

- The Chair stated that she did not think a discussion on Municipal Equity was necessary at the present time. She added that the Municipal Equity Memo was comprehensive. She offered a reminder to municipal officials to review the Memo. She cited the July 1 deadline for beginning to implement their equitable policies and procedures based on the guidelines therein. She noted that many of the guidelines in the Memo will be incorporated into the regulations. She added that the working group is in the process of consulting with the Department of Revenue on the oversight,



implementation, and enforcement aspects. She raised the question of whether a vote should be held on not enforcing the HCA changes until the November 9 deadline.

- The ED stated that he would not advise holding a vote that day given there has been no public notice. He added that it would be non-binding. He noted that enforcement in this instance is not within the purview of the Commission and that it cannot withhold funds it does not control or possess. He expressed the need to establish a collaborative enforcement framework with the Department of Revenue.
- Commissioner Concepcion gave a brief overview of the key provisions set forth in the Municipal Equity draft proposal as well as changes to the Agent Suitability Standards. She noted that the changes to the suitability standards have already been implemented and will now be reflected in the regulations.

### 3. Return to Office Discussion

- The Chair mentioned that the topic of returning to the office had already been addressed earlier in the meeting.

### 12) New Business Not Anticipated at the Time of Posting – 05:52:34

- No new items were identified.

### 13) Next Meeting Date – 05:52:41

- The Chair noted that the next meeting would be on July 27, 2023.
- The Chair asked what the protocol is for announcing a canceled meeting.
  - The ED responded that the new date would be published to the Commission website and social media channels.
- Commissioner Camargo asked a clarifying question about the next steps in preparation for the meeting on July 27.
  - The ED noted that an e-mail will be circulated to the Commissioners inviting them to submit their questions about the regulatory matters to staff by July 21. He added that the questions and answers be compiled and distributed in advance of the meeting.
- Commissioner Roy asked if the questions would be anonymized.
  - The ED noted that in keeping with the Open Meeting Law, they would have to be anonymized prior to the meeting.
- The Chair gave a tentative schedule for the remainder of the calendar year.

### 14) Adjournment – 05:56:14

- Commissioner Roy moved to adjourn.



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

