

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

September 12, 2024
1:15 PM

Remote via [Microsoft Teams Live*](#)

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Documents:

- Application Materials associated with:
 - Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership
 - Staff Recommendations on Renewal Licenses
 - Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses
 - Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses
 - Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training
- [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 – 00:02:01
 - The AC suggested moving directly to minutes in light of time constraints and there were no objections.
- 3) Minutes for Approval – 00:02:55
 - The AC asked if the other Commissioners were amenable to considering all minutes and the triannual review of Executive Session minutes during this portion of the agenda and Commissioner Roy stated she was as long as the minutes were identified in the vote.



- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Public Meeting minutes for May 9, 2024; May 23, 2024; May 30, 2024; June 6, 2024; and June 13, 2024.
- 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.
- The AC moved to the triannual review of Executive Session minutes. Acting Deputy General Counsel Michael Baker (ADGC Baker) recommended releasing the Executive Session minutes pertaining to the Governance Charter and litigation related to island transportation. Commissioner Roy asked how long it would take for the public to access the minutes and ADGC Baker stated it could be instantaneous. Commissioner Roy asked about topics which were being recommended to remain withheld. ADGC Baker stated that the remaining Executive Session minutes were related to protective orders which were still in effect and to litigation where release would have a detrimental effect on the Commission’s litigation position. He added that the next triannual review would be in January.
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve Legal’s triannual review of Executive Session 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 motion.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Executive Session minutes as amended and to require the Legal department to take all necessary steps to finalize and release the three sets of Executive Session minutes related to island transportation.
- 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.
- The AC asked for feedback on any of the minutes pertaining to the Governance Charter. ADGC Baker confirmed that they could enter Executive Session to discuss the Executive Session minutes.
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve Executive Session minutes as amended and to require the Legal department to take all necessary steps to finalize and release the sixteen sets of Executive Session minutes related to the Commission’s Governance Charter Executive Sessions.



- 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) Acting Executive Director and Commission Staff Report – 00:17:04

- Acting Executive Director Debra Hilton-Creek (AED Hilton-Creek) presented an update on internal promotions and recruitments for open positions. She explained that Human Resources was waiting to hear back on an offer for the General Counsel. Director of Digital and Creative Services AnnMarie Burttt presented on the Commission’s updated website search functionality. She provided a historical overview of the website and MoreAboutMJ.org. She added that the intent with this project had been to incorporate the Google programmable search engine to improve the sites’ search results. She presented an instructional video and confirmed for Commissioner Roy that open data sets were included in search results. Chief Financial and Accounting Officer Lisa Schlegel (Chief Schlegel) presented on budget spending for Fiscal Years 2022 – 2024 and revenue generated over the same period. She presented an overview of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget and discussed the line items which had been cut due to the budget shortfall and how a supplemental budget request would go out within the next two weeks. Commissioner Roy suggested an outreach strategy on the unfunded Social Equity Program (SEP) technical training, but AED Hilton-Creek explained that would be premature as supplemental funds would be sought. Commissioner Roy requested regular updates on funding for the SEP program. The AC suggested hearing from the Director of Equity Programming and Community Outreach Silea Williams at a future meeting. Chief Schlegel presented the Treasurer’s recommendations on reducing the budget. The AC suggested more frequent updates on the budget and asked if the recommendation to do a systems audit required an outside vendor. Commissioner Roy stated that it would be a combination of internal review with external input. Licensing Analyst Derek Chamberlin (Analyst Chamberlin) presented highlights from licensing data. Commissioner Roy requested that they revisit the Marijuana Research Facility license type to make it more enticing. Analyst Chamberlin continued and presented data regarding the timeline for Licensee’s initial application submission date to first review and final licensure. Director of Licensing Olivia Koval presented data on the Host Community Agreement (HCA) review process. She clarified for Commissioner Roy how a Model HCA may be deemed non-compliant and that the onus of paying prorated fees is on Licensees in order to qualify for extensions.

5) Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership – 01:52:40

- Licensing Manager Tsuko Defoe (Manager Defoe) presented on behalf of the licensing department the Staff Recommendations for Changes of Ownership, Renewals, Provisionals, Final licenses, and Responsible Vendor Trainings.



1. Greener Leaf, 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.

2. KG Collective, LLC.
 - 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. Pioneer Valley Extracts, 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) Staff Recommendations on Renewals – 01:56:27
 - Commissioner Roy made a motion to approve items numbered 1 – 12, 14 – 26, 28 – 47 and 49 – 58 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 – 12, 14 – 26, 28 – 47 and 49 – 58 on the agenda.

1. EOS-Bittersweet LLC (#MCR140702)
 - The AC requested a condition.
 - Proposed condition: Within thirty business days of approval of Application for Renewal, contact CCC Licensing Division to provide updates to licensee’s



Positive Impact Plan in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.103(4)(b).

- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Renewal Licenses, subject to the condition requested by the AC.
- 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.

2. Local Roots NE, Inc. (#MRR206967)

- The AC requested a condition.
 - Proposed condition: Within thirty business days of approval of Application for Renewal, contact CCC Licensing Division for an update to consider identifying goals for Minorities, Veterans, residents with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ residents under licensee’s Diversity Plan in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.103(4)(b).
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Renewal License, subject to the condition requested by 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 Change of Ownership.

3. Theory Wellness Inc (#MRR206931)

- The AC requested a condition.
 - Proposed condition: Within thirty business days of approval of Application for Renewal, contact CCC Licensing Division for an update to record progress toward Goal #1 in licensee’s Positive Impact Plan in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.103(4)(b).
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Change of Ownership, subject to the condition requested by the AC.
- 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.



- Commissioner Roy asked how Licensees could contribute to the Social Equity Trust Fund and the AC suggested including staff from the Executive Office of Economic Development in a future meeting to address this question.

7) Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses – 02:06:12

1. Green Speed Delivery, Inc. (#MPN282117), Product Manufacturer
 - Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Provisional License.
 - Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
 - The Acting Chair took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
 - The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License.

8) Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses – 02:07:33

1. Elevation Retail, LLC (#MR284765), Retailer
2. The Corner Emporium, LLC (#MR281408), Retailer
3. Verdant Reparative, Inc. (#MP282085), Product Manufacturer
 - Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Final License roster one and two as indicated on the agenda.
 - 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 Final License roster from one through three as indicated on the agenda.
 - Commissioner Roy moved to delegate authority to review and approve the final license of item number three to the AED.
 - 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.

9) Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training – 02:10:27

- The AC suggested that the Commission consider ways to make the Responsible Vendor Trainings (RVT) more effective and contribute to professional development.



1. Marijuana Handlers™ (#DCCN462290)
 - Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Responsible Vendor Training License.
 - Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
 - The Acting Chair took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
 - The Commission unanimously approved the Responsible Vendor Training license.
 - The Commissioners agreed to recess until 3:45 p.m. (Returned at 2:24:04)

10) Commission Discussion and Votes – 02:24:04

1. Executive Director Search – Subcommittee Update
 - AED Hilton-Creek presented an update on the timeline for the Executive Director (ED) search. She stated that the first round of interviews had been completed and three candidates had been selected for interviews in a Public Meeting and recommended that that meeting be dedicated to conducting interviews. The AC explained for Commissioner Roy that the Executive Director Search Subcommittee's questions would be made available, so they would see what had already been asked.
2. Provisional License Fee Timeline Extension Discussion
 - Commissioner Camargo stated that purpose of this topic was educational and there would be a vote next month. Chief of Investigations and Enforcement Nomxolisi Khumalo (Chief Khumalo) explained that the issue was collection of provisional licensing fees. Licensing Manager Tsuko Defoe (Manager Defoe) explained the regulatory requirement for applicants to pay provisional license fees within ninety days or their application would expire. She listed the potential concerns with extending expired Provisional Approvals and described the steps in the application process if Provisional Approvals were allowed to make payment. Commissioner Roy asked if the list of concerns which Manager Defoe presented were comprehensive and Manager Defoe responded that they were not. Chief Khumalo explained that this was a matter for Commissioners and when they vote, specific motion language was needed to direct staff and would be applicable only to the particular cohort of applicants who had been identified. She confirmed that staff would reach out using contact information on file. The AC asked what had prompted Chief Khumalo to post a bulletin on this topic and she explained that it was based on a previous Public Meeting which had caused her to research the issue and had found that not all Licensees had paid their provisional fees. Chief Khumalo explained that after the vote, a notification would go out which would explain the relevant regulations. Commissioner Camargo stated that she would work offline with staff to determine how long the extensions should be. Commissioner Roy requested data on which license types were affected, which Chief Khumalo stated she could provide in the next meeting.



- The AC asked Commissioner Roy if she would be opposed to tabling the Advocacy Organization Outreach Regarding License Ownership and Control discussion until the October meeting and she stated she may prefer to discuss it over the course of the next two meetings.

3. Discussion to Schedule Independent Testing Labs Public Listening Session

- Commissioner Roy stated that recent public listening sessions had been helpful and she wanted to conduct one in order to hear from Independent Testing Laboratories. Commissioner Camargo noted competing priorities for staff and suggested that it may have to wait until after October, which the AC concurred with. Chief Khumalo noted that a Director of Testing would likely not be onboarded by the date of the listening session and AED Hilton-Creek confirmed that position would likely not be onboarded by November. The AC indicated that he was comfortable with scheduling the listening session.
- Commissioner Roy moved to direct staff to schedule a public listening session with Massachusetts Independent Testing Labs to be scheduled no later than the first week of November 2024.
- 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.

11) New Business Not Anticipated at the Time of Posting – 03:23:54

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

12) Next Meeting Date – 03:24:01

- The AC stated that the next meeting date was October 10, 2024.

13) Adjournment – 03:25:40

- 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.

