

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

November 7, 2024

10:00 AM

In-Person with Remote Access via [Microsoft Teams Live*](#)

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Documents:

- N/A

In Attendance:

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

Minutes:

1) Call to Order

- The Acting Chair (AC) recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order.
- The AC gave notice that the meeting is being recorded.
- The AC gave an overview of the agenda and rules of conduct.
- The AC discussed the Commission's commitment to providing safe tested Cannabis in the Commonwealth and rebutted claims that the Commission did not test Cannabis. Commissioner Roy discussed her intent to de-anonymize the open data portal, establish a standards laboratory and hold quarterly public listening sessions.

2) Listening Session Regarding Independent Testing Laboratories – 00:12:52

I. State and Local Officials

- There were no state or local officials present.

II. In-Person Comments

- The first speaker was Grant Smith Ellis. He advocated for de-anonymizing open data and creating an internal standards laboratory. He stated that currently Licensees were using protocols to eliminate mold and yeast from samples before testing with an Independent Testing Laboratory (ITL) and the Commission should amend regulations to dictate the process for testing rather than differ to the companies which create the testing equipment.



- The next speaker was Corey Aldoupolis of AtoZ Laboratories Inc. He stated that he was speaking on behalf of Analytics Lab, LLC; Assured Testing Laboratories, LLC; ATOZ Laboratories, Inc.; G7 Lab, LLC; Cambium Analytica; Green Analytics Massachusetts, LLC; Green Valley Analytics, LLC; Massbiolytics Corp.; MCR Labs; ProVerde Laboratories, Inc.; SafeTiva Labs, LLC; Smithers AMS, LLC; and Indo Laboratories. He stated that his highest priority was establishing a line of communication between ITLs and the Commission and suggested a standing monthly meeting with a rotating group of Commissioners where they could provide input on the effectiveness of testing regulations. He asked the Commission to consider ITL's input and allow ITLs to have input on highly technical topics. Commissioners requested that he email his testimony and provide a list of topics that he wanted to address.
- The next speaker was Kevin McKernan from Medicinal Genomics. He stated that they build the PCR kits used by ITLs. He said that he had sequenced the genomes of microbes found in Cannabis and found that many were harmless. He advocated for refocusing testing to identify and reduce microbes which were actually harmful. He stated that there was no clinical literature which supported the current regulation's limitations on total yeast and mold and advocated for regulatory changes to focus on testing for scientifically backed pathogens.
- The next speaker was Ryan Dominguez, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Cannabis Coalition. He supported Mr. Aldoupolis' suggestion to hold regular meetings with the Commission and advocated for increasing the limits for total yeast and mold, anaerobic bacteria and residual solvent and pesticide. He described how the accounts receivable issue was affecting all Licensees, including ITLs and reducing overall costs should be a focus for the Commission.
- The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 00:49:22.)

III. Virtual Comments

- The next speaker was Shaun Murphy with United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 1445. He stated that the union represented a number of ITL employees who had reported unsafe working conditions. He advocated for new regulations to ensure safety for workers.
- The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 00:55:48.)

IV. In-Person Comments

- The next speaker was Richard Su with Harbor House Collective. He stated that the accounts receivable issue was a major problem with ITLs. He discussed residual solvent limits which were far lower than any other jurisdiction and said that any increase would be beneficial. Commissioner Roy asked for thoughts on remediation and Jonathan Ferguson with Green Valley Analytics stated that reducing the caps on mold and yeast would decrease the need for remediation.
- The next speaker was Nicholas Thayer with Apple Guy Flowers. He advocated for more frequent listening sessions and for testing fees to be waived for Social Equity Program (SEP) participants in order to decrease the cost to consumers and reduce the



illicit market. He asked for Marijuana Establishments (MEs) to be allowed to have their product available to be smelled and touched.

- The next speaker was Danny Carson, co-founder of the Coalition for Cannabis Worker Safety. He said that he had recently purchased a pre-roll and sent it to an ITL for testing which found that the mold present far exceeded the regulatory limits. He asked how this product passed testing and said that he had obtained the original Certificate of Analysis, which indicated that it had passed two months ago. He explained that workers in the industry were subject to unsafe working conditions and their employers routinely had to make emergency calls.
- Commissioners thanked everyone present. The AC discussed the history of the Commission and how starting from a more conservative position allowed for regulatory changes while maintaining public health and without disrupting existing business practices.

3) New Business Not Anticipated at Time of Posting – 01:30:27

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

4) Next Meeting Date – 01:30:30

- The AC stated that there would be a meeting on November 8th solely to enter Executive Session and a regular meeting on November 14th.

5) Adjournment – 01:31:41

- 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.

