Cannabis Control Commission
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

March 13, 2025
10:00 AM

In-Person with Remote Access via Microsoft Teams Live*

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Documents:

- Application Materials associated with:
  - Staff Recommendations on Renewal Licenses
  - Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses
  - Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses
  - Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training Renewal Licenses
- Meeting Packet
- December 11, 2024, Public Listening Session Minutes

In Attendance:

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

Minutes:

I. 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.

II. Commissioners' Comments & Updates – 00:02:02
- Commissioner Camargo stated that she was planning on releasing updated Social Consumption regulations by March 27th. Commissioner Roy discussed her testimony before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means and welcomed Executive Director (ED) Travis Ahern. The AC stated that he had met with Social Equity Program (SEP) Licensees in Springfield to discuss capital issues, advertising and the Delivery License types. He noted a meeting with members of Liberty Bank and discussed a meeting with local officials and Haverhill Stem to discuss Social Consumption regulations.

III. Minutes for Approval – 00:11:03

- February 13, 2025
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the February 13, 2025, Commission Public Meeting minutes.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the February 13, 2025, Commission Public Meeting minutes.

- February 18, 2025
- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the February 18, 2025, Commission Public Meeting minutes.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
  - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
  - Commissioner Roy – Yes
  - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the February 18, 2025, Commission Public Meeting minutes.

IV. Acting Executive Director and Commission Staff Report – 00:12:32

1. Operational Updates
   - The ED discussed the first two weeks of his onboarding, largely centered on meeting staff and testifying before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. He noted that his onboarding marked the sunset of the June 13, 2024, motion to delegate certain responsibilities of the ED to Chiefs and Directors. His next steps were continued meetings with staff and external stakeholders.

2. Licensing Updates
   - Director of Licensing Olivia Koval (Director Koval) presented highlights from licensing data. Commissioner Roy stated that she had been notified that an application for Standards Laboratory had been submitted, which Director Koval confirmed. Commissioner Roy requested an edit to the slide on tiers to indicate that this was assuming that Licensees were using the maximum canopy which they were allowed. Commissioner Roy asked that Community Impact Fees (CIFs) be shared with Commissioners when they were received for approval.
   - The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 00:52:31.)

3. Workforce Updates

- Chief People Officer Debbie Hilton-Creek (CPO Hilton-Creek) presented the workforce report. She reviewed the positions which had recently been filled and went over the status of open positions in the hiring process. She provided statistics of Commission employee demographics and Commissioner Roy requested information on how the Commission's turnover rate compared to other state agencies. CPO Hilton-Creek discussed information learned from exit interviews and stated that she had revised the employee policy manual which would be ready for Commissioners and leadership's review soon. Commissioner Roy asked about the Enhanced Code of Ethics and General Counsel Kajal Chattopadhyay (GC Chattopadhyay) stated that he was under the impression that the document had been filed with the State Ethics Commission. He offered to work offline with Commissioner Roy to determine its status. Commissioner Camargo requested an employee engagement survey to get thoughts from current Commission employees. The AC asked if there was a way for the Commission to implement programs similar to what was required of Licensees such as Diversity Plans and CPO Hilton-Creek stated that was part of the rationale behind hiring Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Employee Relations Sudeshna Chatterjee (Director Chatterjee).

4. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Updates
    - Director Chatterjee discussed her planned diversity initiatives for 2025 to improve employee engagement, professional development, workplace policies and staff advisory services. Commissioner Camargo asked if Commissioners would be involved in the Leadership Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Belonging (DEIJB) Steering Committee and CPO Hilton-Creek responded that the leadership involvement would be critical. She added that the first professional development workshop was scheduled for March 28th and would focus on interpersonal communication. CPO Hilton-Creek stated that Chiefs had developed a communication policy which was being workshopped and Commissioner Camargo requested that the policy be shared with Commissioners. Commissioner Roy volunteered to help with engaging external stakeholders as a part of the Equity and Access Committee and CPO Hilton-Creek clarified that the group was still in development, but she was welcome to join. The AC asked that Director Chatterjee consider ways to educate Licensees on different way to implement Diversity Plans.

V. Staff Recommendations on Renewal Licenses – 02:25:01
    - Licensing Manager Tsuko Defoe (Manager Defoe) presented on behalf of the Licensing department the Staff Recommendations for Changes of Ownership, Renewals, Provisionals and Final Licenses.

    - The AC requested a condition.
        - Proposed condition for Leaf Lux Group Inc. (MRR207082): Within thirty business days of approval of Application for Renewal, contact CCC Licensing Division and provide a response on current progress toward goals in Positive Impact Plan and Diversity Plan including description of grant and alignment

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

- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the renewal of items numbered 1-31, 33-42, and 44-45 as indicated on the agenda, subject to the condition articulated 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 renewal of items numbered 1-31, 33-42, and 44-45 as indicated on the agenda subject to the condition articulated by the AC.

- Resinate Inc (MRR207151)
- The AC requested a condition.
    - Proposed condition for Resinate Inc (MRR207151): Within thirty business days of approval of Application for Renewal, contact CCC Licensing Division and provide a response on current progress toward Goal #2 under Positive Impact Plan in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.103(4)(b).
- Commissioner Camargo moved to delegate limited authority to review and approve renewal of License numbered 32 on the agenda to the Executive Director, in consideration of the AC's proposed condition.
- The AC 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.

- Western Front, LLC (#MRR207125)
- Commissioner Roy moved to delegate limited authority to review and approve renewal of License numbered 43 on the agenda to the Executive Director.
- The AC 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 Roy asked about a survey which was included with renewal applications and Manager Defoe explained that Licensees used the survey to indicate what they were donating to as a part of their Positive Impact Plan. The AC suggested taking the agenda out of order and taking Final Licenses next and there were no objections.

VI. Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses – 02:37:56

1. Haze of Grafton, LLC (#MR282399), Marijuana Retailer
2. Lazy River Products – Tewksbury, LLC (#MR284805), Marijuana Retailer
3. Richards Flowers, LLC (#MB282225), Marijuana Microbusiness
4. Green Gold Group, Inc. (#RMD4217-R), Medical Marijuana Treatment Center

- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Final License roster from 1-4 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 1-4 as indicated on the agenda.
- Commissioner Roy requested a map showing the distribution of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MTCs) across the state.
- The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 03:37:12.)

VII. Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses

1. Ember Gardens Boston, LLC (#MRN284206), Marijuana Retailer
   - Commissioner Roy requested a condition.
     - Proposed condition: Prior to Final Licensure, in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.140(6)(a-j) please provide the Commission with a copy of your consumer education. To ensure compliance, consumer educational materials shall include subsections; (a – j), and must also include the phone number for the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline.
   - Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.
   - Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
   - The AC took a roll call vote:
     - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
     - Commissioner Roy – Yes
     - AC Stebbins – Yes
   - The Commission unanimously approved the Provisional License, subject to the condition requested by Commissioner Roy.

VIII. Staff Recommendations on Responsible Vendor Training License Renewal – 03:39:30

1. 420 Trainers LLC (#RVR453152)
   - Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Responsible Vendor Training Renewal.
   - 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 Responsible Vendor Training Renewal License.
- Commissioner Roy asked if it would be appropriate to seek feedback from stakeholders on how Responsible Vendor Training (RVT) should be updated to address Social Consumption. The AC explained that an RVT advisory group had been formed as a part of the Social Consumption working group.

IX. Commission Discussion and Votes – 03:45:07

1. Delivery Exclusivity Working Group Recommendation
    - Deputy General Counsel Michael Baker (DGC Baker) explained that the purpose of the working group was to collect data to inform Commissioner's decision regarding whether to extend the exclusivity period for the Delivery Courier/Delivery Operator Licenses. He summarized the regulatory considerations and stated that the working group's recommendation was to extend the exclusivity period by 12 months during which time the working group would continue to collect and analyze data to inform potential regulatory amendments. Commissioner Roy asked about a comment made by former Commissioner Shaleen Title, who appeared virtually at the December 11, 2024, Public Listening Session and if this recommendation could invite litigation. GC Chattopadhyay responded that the working group's recommendation was a thoughtful approach that would provide the Commission time to gather more data. The ED stated that the membership of the working group would be reconsidered in light of some vacancies and Commissioner Roy stated that this should have input from two Commissioners. Commissioner Roy asked that the group consider profit and loss, accounts receivable, closures and staffing issues such as layoffs when determining whether the Delivery License types were financially feasible. Commissioners discussed potential motion language.
    - The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 04:28:52.)

    - Commissioner Roy asked if SEP data had informed the working group's recommendation and DGC Baker explained that the working group would include that data in the final report.
    - Commissioner Camargo moved to extend the Delivery Exclusivity period for an additional 12 months as provided under 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.050(10)(b)3., 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.050(11)(f)3. and 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.050(5)(e), until April 1, 2026.
    - 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.

- Commissioner Roy moved to direct the ED, in consultation with the sponsoring Commissioners, to work with the members of the Delivery Exclusivity Working Group to finalize the report and present the report at Public Meeting no later than September 11, 2025.
- 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.

2. Job Description: Data Analyst
    - CPO Hilton-Creek stated that she approved this role and Chief Technology and Innovation Officer Paul Clark (Chief Clark) stated that this position would be budget neutral as it was being swapped with another. The ED indicated that he was supportive of the position. Commissioner Roy asked if this position had public health implications and Chief Clark stated that it would, as this position would help interpret data which would drive policy decisions. He broke down Research department staff and explained that this position was being sought due to an increase in the number of data requests. Commissioner Camargo asked if this was an internal opportunity and Chief Clark confirmed that it would be posted internally before seeking external candidates. Commissioner Roy stated that she hoped this position would give the Commission the resources to implement something similar to Connecticut's Certificates of Analysis (COA) repository. She stated her intent to have an update on COAs at the next regular meeting.
    - Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Data Analyst job description.
    - 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.

3. Tipline Update
    - Commissioner Roy explained that this topic was before the Commission to address worker safety and public health issues so that concerns and complaints could be submitted to the Commission and effectively triaged. Chief Clark described how currently there was no set process for receiving and processing complaints and that they were regularly received by different departments. Commissioner Roy asked the ED when the tipline would be implemented and he responded that he did not have a specific date, but implementation would depend on the budget which the Commission

received as it would take staff to run. Chief Clark explained that the webform development work was complete and the outstanding tasks included developing a tipline landing page, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), a job description and tracking mechanisms. Commissioners discussed what department this position would be placed in and how it would centralize the complaint process.

- Commissioner Roy moved to direct project staff to work together to complete next steps, operationalize and launch a centralized tipline.
- 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. Recommendation to Amend Section 5.4 of the Testing Protocol and Amend Administrative Order No. 4 Requiring Licensees to Submit Full Panel Test Sample for Required Compliance Testing
    - Chief of Investigations and Enforcement Nomxolisi Jones (Chief Jones) explained that a bulletin had gone out on November 6, 2024, and administrative order had been approved on December 17, 2024. She described how, while her team was building out all of the documents which this would require, they found that Metrc did not have the functionality to comply with Section 5.4 of the Testing Protocol which was referenced in the Administrative Order. Interim Director of Testing Timothy Barwise confirmed for Commissioner Roy that what was being requested was the rescission of the Bulletin regarding the Administrative Order and an amendment to the Administrative Order, while the Testing Protocol would remain the same. Commissioner Roy asked if an edit to the Administrative Order could be implemented to indicate that the Commission may require further tests in the interest of public health and safety and Enforcement Counsel Timothy Goodin (EC Goodin) explained that would serve to reiterate the Commission's authority.
    - Commissioner Camargo moved to direct the ED to amend Administrative Order No. 4 requiring Licensees to submit full panel test sample for required compliance testing by striking section 6 and replacing it with the following language: Licensees shall not create multiple Test Sample Packages from the same Marijuana or Marijuana Product source package for compliance testing panels; provided, however, that the Commission may require Licensees to create additional test sample packages from the same Marijuana or Marijuana Product source package for the purposes of additional compliance testing necessitated to protect public health or safety in accordance with 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.160(3) and 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.160(3).
    - 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.

5. Executive Session Minutes
    - Commissioner Camargo moved to enter Executive Session to review executive session meeting minutes pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g).
    - 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 Commission entered Executive Session. (Returned at 07:12:15.)

    - Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Executive Session minutes for September 14, 2023; September 29, 2023; October 10, 2023; October 25, 2023; November 1, 2023; November 7, 2023; and November 14, 2023 and direct the Legal department to prepare these minutes for public release subject to redaction.
    - 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.

X. New Business Not Anticipated at the Time of Posting – 07:16:19
- The AC stated that there was no new business which was not anticipated at the time of posting.

XI. Next Meeting Date – 07:16:36
- The AC stated that the next meeting was scheduled for March 27, 2025.

XII. Adjournment – 07:17:34
- 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.