



Cannabis
Control
Commission

S T A T E O F R H O D E I S L A N D

560 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick RI, 02886
Open Meeting Minutes

DATE: April 26, 2024

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE: Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02886

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kimberly R. Ahern, Esq.
Commissioner Robert B. Jacquard, Esq.
Commissioner Olayiwola Oduyingbo, Esq.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Mariana Ormonde, Chief of Legal Services, Cannabis Control
Commission
Kelsey McQueeney, Administrative Officer, Cannabis Control
Commission
Carla Aveledo, Policy Liaison & Legal Support, Cannabis Control
Commission
Cynthia Miller, Senior Economic Policy Analyst, Office of
Cannabis Regulation

Chairperson Ahern called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

The first item of business was:

Motion to approve the minutes of the open session meeting held on April 12, 2024.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the open session meeting held on April 12, 2024.

The next item of business was:

Review, discussion and potential vote on the Moratorium report to be delivered to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate, per R.I. Gen. Laws § 21-28.11-8(b). This included:

- Cynthia Miller, Senior Economic Policy Analyst to the Office of Cannabis Regulation followed up on a question from the April 12, 2024 meeting, and provided additional information regarding the reported 24 percent of facility space not being utilized by cultivators and compassion centers.
- The question being answered was if that percentage would remain the same by looking at only available cultivator facility space, without the inclusion of vertically integrated compassion centers.
- It was noted that the percentage would remain the same without the compassion center data, as they are assumed to be operating at maximum capacity in facility size.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard, it was unanimously:

VOTED: To approve the report on the Moratorium to be delivered to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate.

The next item of business was:

Status of Social Equity Assistance Program development and Social Equity Fund update, given by Chair Ahern, which included:

- Highlighting the importance of the Social Equity Assistance Program.
- Noted the work of the Cannabis Advisory Board Social Equity and Market Participation subcommittees with respect to questions regarding the program.
- Reiterated statutory language regarding ways the social equity fund could be distributed and utilized.
- Noted that social equity programs and funds throughout the country differ greatly, both in how they are funded, the amount of funds allocated, and how the funds are used.

The next item of business was:

Public Comment:

One person provided public comment on the following:

- Looking for a better understanding on the definition of canopy within the statute.
- Request for the opening of more retail stores and looking for update on when applications will be released for additional stores.

The next item of business was:

Next Meeting Date: To be determined.

Adjournment:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Jacquard and duly seconded by Commissioner Oduyingbo, it was unanimously:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 1:18