



**State of Rhode Island
CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION
560 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02806**

Cannabis Control Commission

Open Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, August 4, 2023

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Place: The Public Utilities Commission - 89 Jefferson Blvd, Warwick, RI 02888

Members Present: Chair Kimberly R. Ahern, Esq.
Commissioner Robert B. Jacquard, Esq.
Commissioner Olayiwola Oduyingbo, Esq.

Members Absent: None

Chairperson Ahern called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

The first order of business was:

Welcome and Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Chairperson Ahern welcomed everyone present to the second Cannabis Control Commission Listening Session.

She stated that the meeting is being live streamed through Zoom for viewing purposes only. She stated that they hoped to be able to receive public comment through Zoom at a later date.

She stated that public comments are welcomed from those present and will be limited to 5 minutes each and discussed sign in procedures.

The next order of business was:

Committee introductions by Chairperson Ahern

Chairperson Ahern, Commissioner Robert B. Jacquard, Esq. and Commissioner Olayiwola Oduyingbo, Esq. introduced themselves.

The next order of business was:

Motion to approve the minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on July 20, 2023.

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

VOTED: To approve the Open Session Minutes from July 20, 2023.

The next order of business was:

Public Comments:

Commissioner Ahern reviewed the Public Comments parameters.

10 people provided comments on the following topics:

- Equitable Social Justice
- Social Equity Applicant licensing issues
- Support of the Social Equity Fund by licensing fees vs penalties
- Mobilizing the Social Equity fund as soon as possible for smaller start ups
- Social equity, applicant standard opportunities for research and education in the hemp industry and meaningful collaboration between the CCC and the Advisory Board
- Portion of profits be allocated to youth prevention
- Worker-owned cooperatives
- Cooperative ownership model needed for achieving social and economic justice in the cannabis industry; including democratic governance, financial ownership for workers with the stronger protection, access to benefits, training and institutional support through Union membership
- Give communities harmed by the war on drugs, the opportunity to participate in the cannabis market and build equity skills and community in cannabis industry
- Provisional and/or conditional licenses before full receiving full license
- Capital Allocation
- Clear and consistent labeling; Remediation; Allergic reactions
- Study other states who have successful programs
- Advocation for more retail points
- Discussion about difficulties that small businesses face
- Statements about inconsistent statutes surrounding criminal background checks
- Clarification needed regarding law enforcement, vehicle searches, drug recognition experts, off-duty use, protection against discrimination.
- Statutes and standards for criminal proceedings need clarification.
- Clarification needed for employees' cannabis use and the stability of their employment
- Cannabis College education challenges and funding
- Taxes on medical vs recreational usage
- Multi-year registration

Chairperson Ahern advised that if you are interested in getting notifications of future meetings, please email the Office of Cannabis Regulation at dbr.mmpcompliance@dbr.ri.gov to be added to their interested parties list.

The next order of business was:

Next Meeting Date

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday August 9, 2023, (5:00 – 7:00 P.M.), at the Southside Cultural Center of Rhode Island, 393 Broad Street, Providence, RI 02907

Adjournment

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 1:56 pm.

If you would like access the video recording of this meeting, please e-mail CCCinquiry@ccc.ri.gov.