



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

**Cannabis Control Commission**

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** Wednesday, August 9, 2023

**Time:** 5:00 P.M.

**Place:** The Southside Cultural Center of Rhode Island  
393 Broad Street  
Providence, RI 02907

**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 5:00pm.

The first order of business was:

**Welcome and Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson**

The Chair and Commissioners introduced themselves.

Chair Ahern reviewed the procedures for public comment, asking people to sign-in on the sign in sheet and noting that each person will have 5 minutes to speak. If you would like to provide written comments, those can be submitted at today's session or to [CCCInquiry@ccc.ri.gov](mailto:CCCInquiry@ccc.ri.gov).

**Public Comments**

15 people provided comments on the following topics:

- Concern regarding social equity definitions.
- Concern regarding the qualifications for licensing; accessibility for RI small businesses.
- Concern for out-of-state people manipulating the regulations to gain a license.
- Advocation of fair social equity and licensing practices and responsible distribution for the community
- Advocating for more equity in RI especially for minorities
- Advocation for education especially among RI's youth.
- Allocation of funds to ACI program for integration of inmates to society.
- Concern with past background checks negatively impacting people who were incarcerated unfairly and eliminating them from participation in this industry (rectification of past injustices).

- Concern regarding remediation and PGRs being used to increase profitability and compromising quality.
- Product should be stored properly, labeling accurate.
- Redirection of cannabis funding to go towards housing, education, treatment & recovery to repair communities.
- Advocating for funds to be allocated to youth prevention.
- Advertising regulation
- Compliance changes causing expenditures and waste for packaging and labeling.
- Encouragement of the Advisory Board's and the Social Equity Chair's participation in decision making.
- Advisory Board should include a member from the prevention community.
- Consultation with impacted community members at the very early stages of planning
- How the Advisory Committee will be formed, and how the Social Equity Fund will be handled.
- Hiring of dedicated staff.
- Advocation of PVD Flowers startup, the State of RI and nation's first worker-owned unionized dispensary and diversely owned dispensaries.
- Invitation for CCC on 9/18/23 at Lovewell Farms from 6 – 7:30 pm

There were no other comments.

The next order of business was:

**Next Meeting Date: Friday, August 18, (1:00 – 3:00 P.M.), at the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), 89 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI 02888.**

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT: The Cannabis Control Commission will be meeting in person at the PUC, while the public is invited to attend in-person, this is our only listening session that will have a virtual participation option for public comment using Zoom. The public is encouraged to participate online via this zoom link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83546474489?pwd=Rk5NSnZxbDFDak9KRElITmszNTV6dz09>

**Meeting ID: 835 4647 4489**

**Passcode: 100030**

The next order of business was:

### **Adjournment**

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 6:12 pm.

If you would like access the video recording of this meeting, please e-mail [CCCinquiry@ccc.ri.gov](mailto:CCCinquiry@ccc.ri.gov).