



State of Rhode Island  
CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION  
560 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

## **Cannabis Control Commission**

### **Open Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** Thursday, November 16, 2023  
**TIME:** 5:00 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Adams Public Library, 205 Central Street, Central Falls, R.I.  
02863

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Robert B. Jacquard, Esq.  
Commissioner Olayiwola Oduyingbo, Esq.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chair Kimberly R. Ahern, Esq.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mariana Ormonde, Chief of Legal Services, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Kelsey McQueeney, Administrative Officer, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Patrick Griffin, Deputy Director of Communications &  
Stakeholder Engagement, Rhode Island Commerce

Commissioner Jacquard called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

The first item of business was:

#### **Welcome and Introductory remarks from Commissioner Jacquard**

Commissioner Jacquard welcomed everyone present to the fifth Cannabis Control  
Commission Listening Session.

The next item of business was:

#### **Motion to approve the minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on November 10, 2023.**

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

**VOTED:** To approve the Open Session Minutes from November 10, 2023.

The next order of business was:

**Motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on November 10, 2023**

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

VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes from November 10, 2023.

The next order of business was:

**Public Comment (in person only):**

Three people provided public comment on the following topics:

- The challenge of raising capital and securing loans in the cannabis space through traditional sources due to Federal prohibition of cannabis.
- The need for social equity start-up grants.
- Co-ops need training, mentorship and pro bono business development services.
- Request that the release of information related to the timeline, eligibility and use of the social equity grants be prioritized.
- The possibility of a social equity technical assistance program in partnership with pre-existing programs and institutions.
- Request for transparency with retail license applications.
- Recommendation for pre-qualifications to be made available to applicants to provide understanding and preparedness to complete final application.
- Request for guidance or communications on what an initial license application may entail.
- That issuance of conditional or provisional licenses could be beneficial for early-stage co-ops and social equity applicants.
- Request for provisional licenses to potentially come with guaranteed funding.
- Information related to UFCW Local 328 Cannabis Division and its commitment to building cooperative cannabis economy.
- Discussion of UFCW Local 328's apprenticeship programs for cannabis retailers.
- Concern that corporations with funding may be able to purchase real estate before co-ops can get licenses.

There were no other public comments.

The next order of business was:

**Next Meeting Date: To be determined.**

The next order of business was:

**Adjournment**

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m.