



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**560 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886**

## **Cannabis Control Commission**

### **Open Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** April 12, 2024  
**TIME:** 1:00 PM  
**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 and Legal Support, Cannabis Control Commission  
Cynthia Miller, Investigative Auditor and Sr. Economic Policy Analyst, Office of Cannabis Regulation

Chairperson Ahern called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

The first item of business was:

#### **Motion to approve the minutes of the open session meeting held on March 29, 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 March 29, 2024.

The next item of business was:

**Introductory remarks from the Chairperson, which included:**

- Chair Ahern introduced the presentation of the Moratorium report and thanked all staff involved in conducting the study;
- Noted that this study was being presented over the course of two separate open meetings to give members of the public, industry professionals and the Cannabis Advisory Board the opportunity to comment and provide feedback.

The next item of business was:

**Presentation by Cynthia Miller, Investigative Auditor, Office of Cannabis Regulation, on the study being conducted related to the impact of the statutorily mandated moratorium imposed on new cultivation licenses, as required by R.I. Gen. Laws § 21-28.11-8(b), entitled “Moratorium report,” which included:**

- Review of cultivation and production history, tax payment history, existing and historical inventory, sales and market conditions.
- Review of current state of cultivator licenses, license classes and facility sizes and fees.
- Review of sales history and projected retail sales.
- Review of the rise in adult-use cannabis sales, the decline of medical marijuana sales, and the decline of medical marijuana patient registration.
- Growth rate of cultivator to compassion center sales, and projections for wholesale transactions in the future.
- Current usage of facility size square footage by licensed cultivators.
- Sales per square foot of facility size.
- A comparison on the amount of sold final packed items versus final packed items on hand at the end of the month.
- Study conclusions, including projection that the existing licensed cultivators are currently and will continue to meet an increased demand for cannabis products based on the findings in the report.

At the completion of the presentation, a discussion ensued, and questions and comments were posed by the Commissioners, including:

- Would the data look different if the square footage of the vertically integrated compassion centers were not incorporated into this study?
- How does a cultivator license being revoked or surrendered impact the data?
- How would a cultivator move down to a different cultivation class, and would they be moving to a smaller size?
- Is the space utilization percentage found in this study a dynamic, moving figure?

The next item of business was:

**Public Comment.**

Three people gave public comment on the following:

- Highlighted the need for funding for prevention, education and treatment related to cannabis usage by adolescents.
- Bringing education and prevention to schools to educate the youth on cannabis.
- Comment that the presentation shows that what would be best for cultivators is to open retail stores as soon as possible.
- Question as to whether compassion centers would be able to expand their cultivation footprint.
- Question as to whether cultivators could increase verticality- being able to add a second tier without growing the square footage.
- Comment that less than one third of cultivators actively sell in the first few years due to current market demand.
- That looking at wholesale vs. retail sales not indicative of a competitive free market.
- Cultivators need support in the Rhode Island market.

The next item of business was:

**Next Meeting Date: Friday April 26, 2024 at 1:00pm at the Public Utilities Commission, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02889.**

Adjournment:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 1:43 pm.