

KATHY HOCHUL TREMAINE WRIGHT

JESSICA GARCIA REUBEN MCDANIEL, III

ADAM W. PERRY JENNIFER GILBERT JENKINS CHRIS ALEXANDER

Governor

Cannabis Control Board Chair **Board Member**

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Executive Director

Meeting Minutes

Title:	New York State Cannabis Control Board Meeting		
Time & Date:	April 3, 2023 at 10:00am		
Location:	Medgar Evers College, 1638 Bedford Avenue, 2 nd Floor Dining Room, Brooklyn, NY 11225, 181 Ellicott St., Buffalo, NY 14203, SUNY Morrisville, 80 Eaton St., Spader Hall Room 107, Morrisville, NY 13408 and Virtual via Webcast		

Attendance

Board Chair:	Tremaine Wright
Board Members Present:	Reuben R. McDaniel III, Jessica Garcia
Board Members Present (virtually):	Adam W. Perry, Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins
Board Members Absent:	N/A
Others Present:	Chris Alexander, Damian Fagon and John Kagia

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 2, 2023 Board Meeting
- IV. Consideration of Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licenses
- V. Consideration of Cannabis Laboratory Testing Permits
- VI. Consideration of Extending the Hearing, Violation, and Enforcement Emergency Regulations
- VII. Consideration of OCM Employee Disclosure
- VIII. Executive Director Report
- IX. Public Comment
- X. Adjourn



Action Items

Resolution No. 2023-11:	Resolution Issuing Certain Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licenses.	Passed, Unanimous Vote - Board Member McDaniel recused himself prior to the vote.
Resolution No. 2023-12:	Resolution Issuing Certain Cannabis Laboratory Permits.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
Resolution No. 2023-13:	Passed, Unanimous Vote	
Resolution No. 2023-14:	Resolution Permitting Office of Cannabis Management Employee Thomas Kidera to Hold Another Public Office.	Passed, Unanimous Vote

Notes & Comments

- Chair Wright commented that as many of you know, late last year, as part of a lawsuit, an
 injunction was issued that prevented the Control Board from issuing Conditional Adult-Use
 Retail Dispensary (CAURD) licenses in five regions: Brooklyn, Mid-Hudson, Central New
 York, the Finger Lakes and Western New York. Last week, the injunction was lifted for four of
 those regions and remains effective only in the Finger Lakes. This means that they can now
 begin issuing dispensary licenses for the other four regions.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Reuben McDaniel, and a second from Board Member Jessica Garcia, the Minutes of the March 2, 2023 Cannabis Control Board (Board) Meeting were approved unanimously.
- Board Member Reuben McDaniel recused himself prior to a vote of Resolution No. 2023-11.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided an overview of Resolution No. 2023-11, a
 Resolution Issuing Certain Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licenses. The Office of
 Cannabis Management (OCM) completed the review of and recommended 99 additional
 applicants for licensure to the Board. In the coming weeks, OCM will finalize the CAURD
 licensing process and looks forward to rolling out licenses in the previously enjoined regions.
- Board Member Adam Perry commented that just for public information, this is four of 22
 licenses that are off that they have authorized or approved for the Western District, for
 example, and same with other regions, so there are more to come down the road. He then
 asked if that was right.



- Executive Director Chris Alexander replied that that is correct.
- Chair Wright provided an overview of Resolution No. 2023-12, a Resolution Issuing Certain Cannabis Laboratory Permits. Laboratory testing is a cornerstone of ensuring the health and safety of cannabis in New York State. Testing cannabis products is critical to making safer products available across New York State's regulated market. Today, the Board will be considering one laboratory testing permit, which was submitted by Certainty Analytical Labs in Rochester, NY. With the approval of Certainty Analytical Labs today, there will be 13 permitted labs in New York State. OCM has four additional laboratory applications that are under review and will be presented at a future Board meeting. The application window for laboratories interested in testing adult-use and medical cannabis products in New York State closed on March 31, 2023. OCM will continue to assess the productivity of and demand for laboratories. Determinations for when to reopen the laboratory application window will be based upon those assessments.
- Chair Wright provided an overview of Resolution No. 2023-13, a Resolution Directing the
 Office of Cannabis Management to File for Adoption Certain Emergency Violations, Hearings,
 and Enforcement Regulations. This extension of emergency regulations will allow OCM to
 continue the important work of overseeing the existing network of conditional licensees.
 Through this approval, the emergency regulations will remain in effect for an additional 120
 days, providing time for the revised adult-use regulations and associated assessment of
 public comment to be published.
- Chair Wright provided an overview of Resolution No. 2023-14, a Resolution Permitting Office
 of Cannabis Management Employee Thomas Kidera to Hold Another Public Office. OCM
 employee Thomas Kidera will continue to hold the following public office:
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, Town of Pittsford, Member.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander, Damian Fagon, Chief Equity Officer for OCM, and John Kagia, Director of Policy for OCM, provided the following Executive Director's report.
- Damian Fagon, Chief Equity Officer for OCM, provided the following update on the CAURD Accelerator Program which was launched a few weeks ago in Brooklyn.
 - The CAURD Accelerator Program is a 20-week retail cannabis accelerator and mentorship program to be delivered by a nonprofit cannabis educator, Our Academy. Our Academy, a minority women-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, will provide support for all CAURD licensees through training, one-on-one mentorship, specialized consultancy from industry leading subject matter expertise in cannabis retail operations, finances and marketing.
 - The program will consist of 40 intensive live workshops covering all facets of launching and managing a profitable cannabis retail dispensary. The first 175 CAURD Accelerator Program participants will be provided with one-on-one mentors who have experience opening and operating retail dispensaries and raising capital. For the duration of the program, five specialist consultants will host weekly office hours for all participants.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided the following update for CAURD licensees.



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- In the next week, CAURD licensees will be notified by the OCM of an upcoming webinar that will give licensees the tools that they need to move forward in the process, both as it relates to finding and identifying a location for operation.
- OCM has been working constantly across the State to ensure that the continued operation of illicit shops comes to a close. Recently, the Governor announced a new effort to give OCM some additional authority and additional powers to conduct that enforcement. OCM will continue to make enforcement a priority and understands that in order for licensees to be successful, that they must tamper down that activity.
- John Kagia, Director of Policy for OCM, provided the following update on the roll out of the regulatory process, including Parts 118, 119, 120, 121, 123, 124, 125, and 131 of the Adult-Use Regulations.
 - The public comment period for the proposed Adult-Use Regulations closed on February 13, 2023, and OCM received over 3,500 comments. The proposed regulations are being revised to address outstanding needs and concerns based on public comments, with a goal of bringing them before the Board during the May 11, 2023 Board meeting. Once the Board approves the revised regulations, the regulations will be open for another 45-day public comment period.
 - OCM is assessing public comments that were received for the proposed Part 133, Violations, Hearing and Enforcement. The goal for these regulations will be to align the adoption of the enforcement regulations with the proposed enforcement legislation to underline that with the legislative decisions that will be forthcoming.
 - OCM's next campaign, Why Buy Legal New York, will officially launch this month. The primary target audience for this upcoming campaign is cannabis consumers 21 and over. Campaign ads highlight OCM's licensees across the supply chain who help to illustrate messaging such as improved access to tested and safer products, supporting the foundation of an equitable industry featuring local small businesses, what to expect in a regulated dispensary, and the importance of safely storing legal cannabis. Ads will be featured primarily on digital and streaming platforms with some outdoor placements.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided the following administrative updates.
 - On February 22, 2023, Part 113 of the Medical Cannabis Regulations went into effect. These regulations include the ability for patients to be auto-registered into the program when certified by a health care provider. On March 20, 2023, the systematic changes needed to support auto-registration were implemented. Patients no longer have to take a separate step of registering with OCM after they are certified by the provider, which streamlines the entire process for patients.
 - The OCM tool that allows the public to see where licensees are in the process, the overlay with the opt out map, as well as the restricted zones closer to already operational dispensaries, is in development.
- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins commented that going back to the Why Buy Legal campaign, she appreciates that it is going to be done mostly on digital platforms and within



the MTA. She then asked if there was any plan of doing any physical advertising in the rest of the State.

- Executive Director Chris Alexander responded that as with Cannabis Conversations, they did
 have billboards throughout the State, particularly emphasizing the message of not driving
 under the influence of cannabis. They will have physical assets on highways, MTA on the
 buses and trains, and at bus stops.
- Board Member Jessica Garcia asked now that the Accelerator Program has launched, what kind of support will be offered to licensees outside of New York and if they will be able to join by zoom. She then asked what kind of support will be offered to conditional cultivators and processors.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander responded that for the retailers from Our Academy, the
 first session was an in-person session. The rest of it is virtual. There will be opportunities for
 them to come together in-person, but it will be virtual, and the recordings of classes will be
 kept so that folks can revisit them later and be part of a broader library of support on the retail
 side. On the cultivator side, they are still developing support for their cultivation process.
- Board Member Jessica Garcia asked that while they are going through the interim process of
 moving over to a new system, is there a way for patients to call to address their ability to
 actually purchase their medical cannabis if there are any glitches in the system.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander responded that they do have a customer service center.
- Members of the public were provided the opportunity to address the Board during the Public Comment period. Each member of the public addressing the Board will have no more than two minutes to speak on the agenda items. Public Comments are listed in Appendix A.
- Chair Wright moved the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss litigation matters,
 Variscite New York One, Inc. v. State of New York, Coalition for Access to Regulated and
 Safe Cannabis v. New York State Cannabis Control Board, New York Medical Growers LLC
 v. DOH, and to obtain legal advice from their General Counsel regarding the Board's By-Laws
 and Application of Open Meetings. Board Member Jessica Garcia seconded the motion to
 enter into Executive Session. There was no action taken during Executive Session.
- The Board adjourned the meeting.



Appendix A

NYS Cannabis Control Board 4/3/2023 Meeting - Public Comment

	First		Organization (If	
	Name	Last Name	Applicable)	Public Comment
1.	Wei	Hu		Thank you very much. Board And thank you very much, Chris, for really making this glorious day for all these new CAURD licenses to be made available to the public. give everyone a hand. For my clients. Jeremy Rivera Yes. For my clients. Al Catone Truly, it's been a big day. It is a day where the injustice have now been sort of addressed and an opportunity for them to really, truly develop intergenerational wealth and giving them an opportunity to give back to the community. So it's been a glorious day. There's concern in the legal community about the conditional licenses and their ability to self-distribute. I know that authority ends on June 1st, 2023. It's less than two months. Both my fellow colleagues, as you know, Kenneth, attorneys as well as the current marketplace actors, would like to know how should they really address this upcoming issue? Should they accelerate their sales or would there be a legal patch in order to extend us until our distributor license is coming online? Thank very much.
2.	Coss	Marte		Oh, you're very good. I'm gonna keep this short. You know, I'm just so grateful to be part of history, to be part of one of the greatest states in this whole country to allow us to be first. Oh. I know. All you guys been doing so much work. Damian, Chris, Roman, Reuben. Just everybody here. Jason. Everybody at the OCM. I'm just so grateful. And for those who didn't receive a license. Be patient. I've been patient for a very long time, and it finally came. And so we want to celebrate with you. This Thursday, we're going to do a licensing party. We're inviting everybody here. You know, I got to ask you, don't ask, don't receive.

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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				But yeah, we want to celebrate with everybody. Anybody that received the license that is waiting for license, anybody that's in the industry, we want to celebrate this joyous day. So thank you so much.
3.	Reed	Blee		First and foremost, congratulations to all CAURD applicants who are awarded licenses today. And thank you, Chair Wright and the team at the OCM for facilitating this program aimed at prioritizing those impacted most by the war on drugs. Our team would like to know as it goes beyond CAURD and as you guys had mentioned, you know, hoping to open up regular adult use conditions or sorry, adult use licensing before the start of the new year. Is there a timeline that can be provided on those future licensing types, aside from just dispensaries as well pertaining to delivery, micro-business or any other additional cultivator licenses that you may issue?
4.	Richard	Liriano		Firstly, I'd like to congratulate all newly licensed CAURD applicants. I'm hoping nothing but the best for each of you and for your future businesses. Our question for the OCM pertains to the next round of adult use dispensary licenses. My team and I are finding that it's difficult to secure locations with landlords that are comfortable with having cannabis dispensaries as tenants. And while we are aware, we will need at least a letter of intent from a landlord for our application as non CAURD applicants. We're wondering what happens if we're approved for a license, but the landlord of our desired location is no longer willing to have us as a tenant. We ask that the OCM consider allowing maybe a conditional period after approval to secure another compliant location if the location used on the application is no longer willing to have us as a tenant. Just a thought.
5.	Carmine	Fiore		Good morning and congratulations to the additional CAURD license holders. This is awesome news and thank you so much for the Cannabis Control Board. I'm here to discuss several pressing issues related to the conditional adult use retail dispensary program. While the program aims to promote social equity, it is crucial to examine whether it is creating unintended barriers and upholding the requirements of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act. Firstly, I want to emphasize that the service disabled veterans are the smallest, most marginalized social equity group and

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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				have the least representation. Failing to create an equitable playing field for this group creates an additional barrier to entry. It is essential to ensure that service disabled veterans have the same opportunities as other applicants and we must not inadvertently discriminate against them. Additionally, the most recent litigation against the Cannabis Control Board challenges the legality of the CAURD program. The litigation contends that the Cannabis Control Board may not have been authorized to issue conditional license rights, and thus the CAURD program may be considered problematic. We must ensure that all programs and processes associated with the cannabis industry are lawful and authorized. Furthermore, the litigation specifically focuses on the
				timing of the application process for retail dispensary licenses. The MRTA states that all application periods must open at the same time with social equity groups receiving priority. The litigation contends that the CAURD program violated this requirement by opening the application period for conditional licenses before the general application period. This has caused frustration and concerns for those who were unable to apply for a conditional license. In light of these issues. I urge the Cannabis Control Board to carefully consider the concerns I have presented related to the CAURD program.
				We need to ensure that this program is promoting true social equity and not inadvertently hindering any group, including service disabled veterans. It is crucial that the program is lawful and authorized under the MRTA and that all applicants have a fair and equal opportunity to succeed in the cannabis industry. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your efforts to promote social equity in the cannabis industry. I appreciate your dedication to ensure New Yorkers, all New Yorkers, have an equitable access into this industry. Thank you.
6.	Mayank	Kapoor		Hello. Good morning. My comment was on the locations with the other CAURD applicants are applying. I think you guys already answered that, which was great. The second comment I have is regarding the CAURD applicants. I know there's like a delivery process where how long does it take for a delivery to get approval? And do you have to be an opted-out town or opted in town in order to get your temporary delivery location up? And just based on like the square footage of the of the warehouse for

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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				the delivery, it's all of us.
				Okay. Thank you.
				Okay. Hi, everyone.
				Congratulations to everyone.
				Thank you guys for all your help that you do.
				I just wanted as a CAURD applicant to say that, you know, a
				little more transparency would be appreciated.
				Like if we email saying, you know, we would like to know
				the process of, like, the status of our application for us, just
_	<u>.</u> .			not to get a generic email back, just saying your application
7.	Zymia	Lewis		is under review, you know, a little more detail, something that
				can give us a little more peace to know that our application
				has been looked at. It's been, you know, a while.
				And I know that you guys are reviewing people's applications,
				but just a little more than a generic and they're just saying
				that everyone the same thing, that everyone is getting
				your applications under review.
				Yes. So, thank you, guys, and congratulation.
				Hi, my name is Nubia Ashleu and we'll be taking this space for
				Kareem.
				Okay.
	Nubia	Ashleu		I'm also a CAURD applicant and I.
				Apply from Manhattan.
8.				And I want to say thank you for all the applications that
				was approved in this meeting.
				It was very nice to see.
				I'm also waiting for an approval.
				And I just wanted you guys to see my face so, you know, I'm a
				real person. Good morning.
				First, let me express my gratitude to the board, including
				and especially for your license approvals today.
				And congratulations to all new licensees.
				My first comment today joins a chorus of prior comments
				around the same theme application transparency.
				Aside from an incorrectly addressed email, I've had no
				feedback about my application from the moment I submitted
9.	David			it in September of last year until this last Thursday when I was
9.	Daviu			abruptly informed of today's meeting.
				Waiting around for six months with no indication of any kind
				of progress. Is incredibly stressful for applicants, and I
				believe unnecessarily so.
				Even minimal progress reporting would go a long way.
				Your application has been scored.
				Your application is number 37 in line in your geographic
				region.
				Any of these would be a godsend for the folks who are

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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				nervously waiting to learn how their future is going to change. Secondly, I also want to express concern about the rapidly growing set of unlicensed pop up stores selling cannabis around the city. Licensees are at a huge competitive disadvantage to them since we'll have to pay licensing costs, union wages, taxes, etc Unlicensed stores will be able to avoid all of these. Aside from a few sternly worded cease and desist letters, how will fudging how will the fledgling legal industry be protected from this serious competitive threat? Having a better sense of both the enforcement actions planned and the timeline around them would similarly comfort applicants and licensees, since we'd be able to see that they will not be competitively punished for trying to take the legal path here. Thank you.
10.	Jeremy	Rivera		Good morning, everyone. I wasn't anticipating to be up here. My wife secretly signed me up so she could take pictures. So our timing is out. First and foremost, I want to thank my higher power for allowing me to take the breath today to be in this position. I also want to thank the board, Chris Alexander, for creating this program, for allowing justice involved individuals like myself, returning citizens to have this opportunity. I want to thank all of the CAURD applicants that were awarded today. As a co-founder of New York CAURD Coalition, I want to make sure that we focus on the applicants that have not been called and the transparency so they can have some peace in mind, their families and everything they've been through. Also, I would eventually like to see retail aspect be placed on the cannabis advisory board, so we have representation there. And just to end it, we made it, guys.
11.	Don	Harrison		Good morning. my name is Don Harrison, I'll be filling in for John Lazarus. And my name is Don Iris again, founder and CEO of Don Innovations, also a cultivation student here at MEC, also in the OCM compliance program, which I also want to say thank you OCM for creating that program. And I also want to say congratulations to the CAURD applicant CAURD applicants today here in Brooklyn. It was a powerful day today. Also, furthermore, I also want to thank MEC as well a place where we have taken social justice and cannabis education so seriously. Also want to give a special thank you to (inaudible) and Dr.

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				Reed and everyone here on the task, the Cannabis Task Force for wisdom here and MEK that helped me to further develop my medical invention, which I am pampering for, that allows patients and seniors with dexterity issues to medicate via cannabis. Because we all have elders, we all have those that we care about and that we love. So I just want to say thank you for this cannabis program and thank you for OCM and everything that you're doing today. And we also like to invite you all to our cannabis degree showcase, April 29th here at MEC, and we hope to see you all there. Congratulations, everyone. Thank you.
12.	Hugosbely	Rivas		Hello, everyone. First of all, thank God for the opportunity. Thank you and awesome panel for the work you've been doing. I know it's a lot stressful, but you're making it work. Little by little. So, thank you for everything you're doing. Thank you to my lawyer. Jorge Esperanza. You guys. Incredible work you guys did. I recommend you. Totally. And then, obviously, congratulations to everybody who got the license today. I know I'm a little nervous about this, but, you know, it's exciting. Is big New York. We're doing it. Let's make it happen. And as well to my partners. Marlin, Andrea. And my son, Christian. Thank you. My input. I just to give to you guys out, there's just some stuff that is in the sense that, you know, we're worried about, you know, stuff happening illegally in the streets. They're having an advantage over the people with the licenses. So obviously, we want to see some of that actually being, you know, be more affirmative with that situation. And obviously, like I think we as anybody here, we need to work together, make this make this happen, make a positive experience and let people know out there that we're responsible people and we're going to make this happen. From New York. Thank you.
13.	Javon	Parker		Everybody doing today. And I appreciate OCM for me being here.

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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				It's I'm kind of a little bit nervous of being I've never done this before on. It took me a very long time to learn about cannabis and herbs, you know, And it's not like a took like over a couple of months and stuff like that. I've been it been like since I was 12 years old learning about herbs and this is how I knew how to grow cannabis since home. And I know I started getting told from my mom, but it was always I was always into plants and this is what drives me into this, to this business. So and on. I really came here. I'm sorry I came here late because the cab service. But that really didn't matter. What matters is that God got me here and, you know. He protect us all and God bless America. Hopefully that ozone and we make it big, you know, saying she'll be all about and we know we know how to heal people.
14.	Anita	Warmack		I know you have a blessed day. Thank you. Good morning, everyone. Thank you so much to the commission for allowing us to speak. I wanted to find out if you're planning to have specific training programs for the other areas that you will license beyond the retail stores. And I was also curious as to whether or not you're still licensing medical companies. Okay. Thank you.
15.	Mark	Robinson		Good morning. My name is Mark Robinson, and I drove All the way down here from Albany, New York, where I'm from. I read where our governor in New York State says that they want to write the wrong right. They want to right the wrong. They want to get those who were overpoliced, those who was vilified and victimized, those who lost family members, those to this war on drugs. And they said they want to give back to the community the same communities that was overpoliced on this war on drugs. Okay. My family in Albany, New York, me personally, I've been arrested 38 times for cannabis. More 220 221. The block that I live on North Wall Street, if they say they looked at the data, they say they know where these police arrests took place. They know who was the arresting occupants of this of

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Firs Nam	I last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
	t Last Name	Organization (If	this crime. I mean, I lost my moms. I lost my dad told me before he left, he said, Son, I believe in you. I have faith in you. Here's what I want you to do. I want you to speak about your brother's unsolved murder. I have a brother to this war on drugs, cannabis. He'd been unforced. He's been charged. Convicted for a murder that he didn't commit. Out of Albany, New York. He did 20 years. They exonerated him 20 years later and didn't say. I apologize, Mr. Robinson. See, we're talking families that lost children through this war on drugs, cannabis. You have never caught Mark Robinson with a firearm. You have never caught more from this. I'm saying, Shooting or killing, the one you have caught more crimes with small amounts of cannabis and you made it into a federal offense and you arrested my whole family in New York State. You arrested my whole family because it didn't start with the federal government. It started with my local municipality. Read the story of Mark Robinson. It started with the local municipality. They want to do away with the Robinson family. They couldn't do they couldn't find it. All we did was sell small bags of cannabis. You know what the federal prosecutor told the judge? This family seems to know state law. We want to teach them federal law. Who best to know how to make their community grow. They say the resource is going to come and go back into the community. That was overpoliced. I come from a community that was always about this big development is all about city halls making deals. I mean, it's no growth. I come from a small town where my my black people don't
			They say the resource is going to come and go back into the community. That was overpoliced. I come from a community that was always about this big development is all about city halls making deals. I mean, it's no growth.
			come from a small town where my my black people don't come together knowing that what was happening to us is the business that no black wealth in my community. But they say, hey, listen, and I applaud everybody. But if you want to tell the story, if you want to say you want to write a wrong, how are you going to overlook a family that for 25 years been involved in this? Excuse me? You're talking to Legacy right now.

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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				This does what you said. You said you want to right a wrong New York State, but you know, right in the wrong you doing more harm than you doing good in certain communities to certain families. So now what am I to do? Am I to push myself and find myself in the market so now they can come and they can take my property because I own my own property? They say, hey, roll out, you can do this. You can do that. But at the 11th hour, oh, now you can bring your own commercial property into the. Now you can do that. What's the fairness? You say one thing, but in the 11th that would you change? You change, you change it. Well, I'm talking about black wealth. I'm going to communities that was overpoliced and making it happen. Albany, New York, is dangerous.
16.	Carl	Robinson		Good morning, everyone. My name is Carl Robinson. First, I want to say thank you to the legislators in New York State for creating this opportunity and for a change in the law that should have been changed a long time ago. I want to thank the office of OCM for considering people that probably never would have been in this position before. To have an opportunity to create generational wealth for their loved ones in the family. And I want to thank my man, James Kelly, over there for pushing as hard as he push for us to do the application all by our self and with his wife. And we are here. So congratulations to everyone. And if you didn't get it yet, don't give up. Don't give up. Thank you.
17.	Scheril	Murray Powell Esquire	The JustUS Foundation	Hello. Good morning, everyone. Thank you to the OCM and the Cannabis Control Board. I guess the first thing I want to say is congratulations to all the recipients of CAURD license app licenses today. Definitely want to recognize our Justice fellows who've received licenses today. It's a blessing to be doing this work. My name is Cheryl Murray Powell, Esquire. I'm a cannabis agricultural dietary supplement and trade attorney, and I also run the Justice Foundation. We facilitate the entrance of legacy operators into the legal cannabis industry. I definitely want to address the fact that, you know, the OCM really hasn't been fully appreciated for them holding the line when it comes to equity. And there are a lot of interests and people with interests that

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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				are trying to elevate their need to for economic wealth over the need for us to remedy the war, the harm done by the war on drugs, the harm done by the criminalization of cannabis. So we need to stand firm with the OCM as they're executing the intent of the MRTA. And we are providing this remedy through the issuance of license to our social equity community, to our justice involved community that paid the most severe penalty penalties for the criminalization of cannabis. I also want to say that I had an opportunity this past week to attend with a few of my Justice fellows. The excursion to Mooresville College as part of the CCTM program. It was a great opportunity for the Justice Fellows to leave the city and actually experience agriculture in so many different ways. Aquaculture and seeing how that ties into cannabis understand lighting potential for their dream of being cultivators in the future. So, I just wanted to share that. That was a great experience. We'd love to see more. Not all of our fellows who are in the program got to attend, but I hope that you all repeat that experience for them. And I just want to say that a lot of legacy in my time. Okay, well, legacy people feel seen and heard and we want to see more of these licenses given out. Thank you so much.
18.	Osbert	Orduna	Cannabis Place	Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Osbert. I'm the CEO. I'm the CEO of the Cannabis Place. I'm also a Latino activist, a service-disabled veteran activist. And I'm here today, first and foremost, to say thank you to the OCM. Where you guys are doing is historic when it comes to social equity. It is the example to be followed across the nation. But there are other things that we also need to bring to light. Our communities have been, as has been acknowledged before, our communities were collateral damage in the war on drugs. I use that term knowing exactly what it means because I am a marine Corps combat veteran. Our communities were collateral damage. Our communities have also been subjected to bureaucratic violence both inside and outside the walls. We know what that means for those that have been incarcerated, for those that have loved ones that have been incarcerated. We know what bureaucratic violence means inside the walls. And I'm going to enlighten you as to what it means outside of

First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
			the walls here. Before you, I have an email and I'm going to show you this email. I'm going to read an excerpt from this email. We are a port applicant. We have identified a location. We were told by the Social Equity Service and Corporation that that location was too close to a school. We paid \$1,000 and had a surveyor go and measure that distance. And guess what? It was 508 feet. We were right. It was within the prescribed regulations. It was a good site. But then we got this email saying, our evaluation shows that the location is within 500 feet of a school. Really? We provided you with a copy of a license survey report. Unless you have something to refute that. I think the license survey Surveyor document holds weight. We were also told that this area, this property is in a residential area and not in a market that the fund will focus investment. I got news for you. Queens is a bunch of commercial areas within residential communities. We're not in Manhattan. This is not midtown. This is not whatever. It's Queens. And when you go to Queens, guess what? The areas are within the commercial zoned areas are within neighborhoods. That's the way Queens is. Go to Queens, go to parts of Brooklyn. Go to Staten Island. Go to the Bronx. That's what it looks like. Now, we were also told that, but if you have the money to do it yourself, you can go. And because this location does qualify as a CAURD sponsored location so you can pursue it on your own. Well. If we had the ability to do that, the financial capital to say, hey, we're not going to utilize the funds we have, we would do that. But that's not the premise of the program. The premise of the program is the fund to help right the wrongs, to help break down some of the barriers to entry. Capital and real estate being two of the biggest barriers that exist. And so I ask you, OCM, I ask you, Governor Hochul or whoever, state legislator representatives that are watching me right now speaking, Please, please stop the bureaucratic violence.

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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				Help us to launch these social equity dispensaries that are the example to be followed. But we cannot be the example if we're tripping over ourselves, if we're not getting where are my Bronx people at? How many CAURD dispensary locations have you been presented? Zero, according to my conversations with other CAURD licensees. Queens. How many locations that we've been shown in the first and second round? Two. Today we have 19 other CAURD recipients that are online with us, waiting patiently. We need your help, OCM. We have to make this work. The fund has to produce locations. You have CBRE, one of the largest real estate firms in the country, at the table, supposedly finding these locations where the locations. Let's get them on the table. Thank you very much. I yield the rest of my time.
19.	Gahrey	Ovalle		Good morning, everyone. Thank you so much for being here today and thank you to the OCM for providing us with this. A tremendous opportunity. What an amazing day to be here in New York. And we would be remiss if we do not identify that we had a chance to receive this amazing news in anticipation of cannabis greatest holiday 420 y'all. Go ahead and clap for Yourself. Go ahead. So what I would like to say that we are obviously proud participants of this social equity campaign here in New York. So many of us have been punished as a result of this flower, and we finally get a chance to live and grow with a lifetime's worth of benefit from this amazing plant. And we're so happy for this opportunity. For us personally, my brother and I, we're really excited about serving the Long Island cannabis community. I know so many people in here located in New York and all throughout the state. It really is our responsibility to build this industry. Very. Responsibly with accountability to ourselves and to our customers as well. So we just want to make sure that we're upholding ourselves to a higher standard and level so we can make sure that we all grow and we're all beneficial. And those who come during our time and after our time can also have a benefit that we're receiving today. So I just wanted to say thank you again to everybody who's here today. And a special shout out to my friend Hugo, who was talking

Office of Cannabis Management

	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				here earlier. We are long time friends. Had no idea, haven't seen each other in years. And just like that, we ran into each other on the elevator. This is what cannabis does. It brings us back together with those we love. Thank you very much to everyone. We certainly do appreciate it. Good morning. Thank you so much.
20.	Elizabeth	Smith		I'm a school teacher in Westchester County and I teach in a Title one school, and I'm also a CAURDs applicant. And I know every day when I walk into my classroom that as a dispensary owner, I am going to do so much for my students. Being a CAURD's applicant was something that I had no idea what it meant, where it was going to take me. We applied for the Mid-Hudson region and I've been following this case from day one, and you guys did a phenomenal, phenomenal job. New York State by no means is discriminatory. Everyone is welcome. It's always been that way. I'm a lifelong resident of New York and I love this state and I'm looking forward to getting our license. We have a wonderful location in Westchester, and I can't wait to get open. I was hoping today would be the day, but there wasn't enough time with the injunction just being lifted last week. I understand, but my son and I are ready. We're ready. And the one thing I want to say through my whole journey is the CAURD coalition. The group that we have formed has been such an incredible support. The information that we get, the venting that we can give to one another has just been phenomenal. And having that as a resource has saved my mentality. It really has. And I love everyone in our group and both. Jeffrey, thank you for all of your support. And I can't thank you enough for everything that you have done. And to give us this opportunity is a blessing. Thank you.
21.	Toni	Perrone		Please advise the status of Community Gardens and Community Kitchens. Is the state setting up these programs? They are essential to social equity and small businesses.
22.	Surayyah	Butler		N/A
23.	Rashawn	Hall	COMMUNITY RECOVERY	What does, "AUCC licensees are temporarily authorized to minimally process and distribute final products", actually mean?

Office of Cannabis STATE Management

	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
			FOUNDATION, INC.	Are these licenses available to eligible nonprofits opening a store?
24.	Dino	Lombardi		I am involved with some colleagues who are considering opening a business for wholesale-only sales of cannabis cookies and other baked goods to retail dispensaries. There would be no onsite retail sales or consumption. We have had great difficulty in getting any indication from OCM on specifics as to when processor/distributor licenses will become available, how and when to apply, and even if they are the appropriate licenses for our intended business. Any information would be greatly appreciated and/or any direction to an OCM resource to find out further information. Thank you in advance. Dino Lombardi
25.	Deltrice	Thompson		 Where is the training/teaching on how to cultivate the cannabis plant in minors communities? Are their any clinical trial data on Cannibas, and it's effective done by this, So far, do you see any disparities in disenfranchised?
26.	Reed	Blee	The Alcove NY	We ask that the OCM open the application window for other social equity dispensary applicants that did not qualify under the CAURD round. This should include allowing minority owned businesses the ability to apply, and groups with members from economically disadvantaged zip codes.
27.	Richard	Liriano		We ask that the OCM consider opening the application window for other social equity dispensary applicants that did not qualify under the CAURD round. This should include allowing minority owned businesses the ability to apply, and groups with members from economically disadvantaged zip codes.
28.	Brian	Garrido	Garrido Enterprises Worldwide, LLC.	Since each applicant was directed to pick their Top 5 regions and there are now 300 licenses to be awarded. Does that mean a qualifying applicant can be awarded in their second or third region of choice if they fail to make the cut in their first region of choice?
29.	Taniqua	Hunt		I don't like the fact that we are not able to ask questions during these meeting.
30.	Michael	Lewis	Green Rush 607 LLC	Is there any indication that the regions effected by the injunction will have a resolution soon? If not is there any possibility for more licenses becoming available in the regions not effected?
31.	Shivawn	Brady	Natural Wonders Cannabis OCM- CAURD-20022- 000809	I am a CAURD licensee with the Natural Wonders Cannabis team. We were awarded a license in the Long Island region. In Long Island, a limited number of municipalities have opted into the program. We have been searching for an eligible property since license issuance but are struggling to identify a property that is zoned correctly, meets the setback requirements and is available for sale or lease. Long Island has less than six

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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				municipalities that have opted into the program. Each of these municipalities has sequestered dispensaries into limited areas, outside of commuter, shopping/retail corridors and all have excessive setback and zoning restrictions that have essentially resulted in a de facto ban in Long Island. The current Long Island CAURD licensees are struggling to find eligible properties to permit their retail outlets. In addition to the numerous state and local setbacks we must contend with, additional licensees in the Long Island region would further compound the problem we are currently facing and result in an over concentration of dispensaries. The injunction has limited the number of licenses to be issued and therefor created supply chain impacts on some producers, however the solution is not to issue more in the Long Island region. Consider expanding the number of locations the non-profit groups can be eligible for and support them in setting up additional locations in the enjoined areas. Long Island cannot support more CAURD licensees until more municipalities opt in and the NY DASNY fund begins to identify and furnish these locations to the existing CAURD licensees. Thank you,
32.	Daron	Driscoll	Kileys Deli	I feel that this whole process is unfair and has caused unnecessary stress for more then half a year therefore all applicants should be approved for a license one way or the other even if there is no financing. Thank you for your time and hard work
33.	Charlie	Val	selfmade	waive on monetary application. where are the agency that helps underprivileges?
34.	Merle	Kaufman		I am a medical marijuana patient who relies heavily on high THC topical products for the management of my Chronic Pain Syndrome. Topicals offer unique benefits to people like me who can only tolerate micro doses of THC in oral tablets. Any amount over 0.5 mg of THC makes me unbearably sedated. But I can tolerate and benefit from very high doses of THC in topical preparations. There is currently only one topical product left on the NYC market, a greasy balm offered by Vireo. There used to be a thin lotion offered by Columbia Care, that was very effective and easy to apply. I was told last year that the lotion offered by Columbia Care had supply chain issues with parts of its dispenser apparatus. It has since totally disappeared from the market, leaving only one product. I'm just concerned that with all the emphasis on recreational marijuana products, the needs of the medical marijuana community may get lost, particularly when it comes to niche products like lotions and balms. I don't know how many patients rely on topicals, about them or how beneficial they can be. They

	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				are absolutely indispensable to me, in addition to the oral tablets I take. I shudder to imagine what my life would be like without them. They offer a unique kind of relief. Also, they take effect within a few minutes of applying the product, unlike the tablets which take two hours to manifest a therapeutic benefit. I find the vaping product too harsh on my throat, and don't get much benefit from the tincture. I just wanted to take this opportunity to bring the issue of topicals to your attention, particularly if there's anything that the Office of Cannabis Management can do to incentivize or require dispensaries to make and carry such products. Perhaps it's a product that could also be sold in the recreational marijuana dispensaries. If so, it would be doing a tremendous service to its medical marijuana patients. With only one topical product left in all of NYC, I worry constantly that if people don't know to try it or to advocate for it, there could come a time when there are no topical marijuana products being offered at all. If there's any other part of your organization that I should direct these comments to, I would appreciate knowing that. Thank you.
35.	Mike	Flynn	FlynnStoned Cannabis Company	April 2nd, 2023 Dear New York State Office of Cannabis Management, My name is Mike Flynn and I am writing to you today with great sadness regarding the news that my business, FlynnStoned Cannabis Company, was not one of the 99 CAURD licenses awarded today. As a 13,000 square foot dispensary located in Central New York, I have been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to serve our community and contribute to the state's growing cannabis industry. Unfortunately, my application for a retail dispensary has been with your office since August 2022, and it is now April 2023 with no clear progress made in the process. This delay has not only affected my livelihood but has also caused much frustration in the community waiting for safe product to hit the shelves. I am disappointed to learn that only one license is being issued today in Central New York when there are 13 more spots that could have been awarded. I understand that the Office of Cannabis Management is working tirelessly to ensure a fair and equitable process for awarding licenses, but I would appreciate more transparency and clarity regarding when more licenses will be issued in Central New York, and where I stand in the process. As a responsible and committed member of the cannabis industry, I am eager to contribute to the state's goal of creating

	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
36.			Organization (If	a robust and thriving market. I hope that you will consider my application and that I can soon move forward with the opportunity to serve our community. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Mike Flynn Good morning members of the New York State Cannabis Control Board, I am here to discuss several pressing issues related to the Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) program. While the program aims to promote social equity, it is crucial to examine whether it is creating unintended barriers and upholding the requirements of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA). Firstly, I want to emphasize that service-disabled veterans are the smallest social equity group and have the least representation. Failing to create an equitable playing field for this group creates an additional barrier to entry. It is essential to ensure that service disabled veterans have the same opportunities as other applicants, and we must not inadvertently discriminate against them. Additionally, the most recent litigation against the Cannabis Control Board challenges the legality of the CAURD program. The litigation contends that the Cannabis Control Board may not have been authorized to issue conditional license types, and thus the CAURD program may be considered problematic. We must ensure that all programs and processes associated with
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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				to succeed in the cannabis industry. Thank you for your attention to these critical issues, and for your efforts to promote social equity in the cannabis industry. I appreciate your dedication to ensuring that New York's cannabis industry is equitable, authorized, and successful for all.
37.	SAN ANDRES	SANDFORD	EXCITE UNLIMITED LLC	As a CAURD Applicant, of the New York State OCM licensing program. The Office of Cannabis Management should allow for a more quicker licensing/registration processing timeframe and or referral of approved CAURD applicants for licensure on a monthly consistent basis, till the initial 300 set round of CAURD applicants have been approved. Furthermore; The Office of Cannabis Management should provide continuous CAURD application updates to current CAURD applicants awaiting licensing or make consideration for the CAURD \$2,000.00 application fee to either be partially refunded or refunded minus a standard applicable fee for all CAURD, applicants who weren't approved for first round licensing and/or CAURD applications, that haven't been fully processed by The Office of Cannabis Management. Finally; The Office of Cannabis Management should make more consistent, additional licensing opportunities available to the public; such as Micro-Business Licensing, Delivery Service, Distribution, Transportation Licensing, etc. Available to the public this year. To remain a key competitive State in this growing industry and to attract more Justice Involved/business minded applicants, and entrepreneurship with a more streamlined approach to the full steps/licensing process in New York State.
38.	Michael	Lewis	Green Rush 607 LLC	With the injunction lifted in all but one region. Why did the state not include that region and when will they take that region back to court? Will this slow the release or expansion of public or caurd licenses on top of the 300 licenses your permitting now?
39.	Loren	Rodgers		When can we expect the next round(s) of CAURD recommendations to be made to the board?
40.	Richard Michael	Valentin	Student	First and foremost, I would like to note that the Cannabis Control Board was created on my Birthday which is October 5th. Secondly, be forewarned that from this moment forward I will be arguing points that consist of the fact that the Pledge of Allegiance should be conducted at the beginning of every hearing. Also, voting should cease until Public Comment is expressed. The people speak first and then the vote takes place. Thank you for your efforts and patience.
41.	Michael	Moore	Consumer	How much money has been raised for the social equity fund and how much money has been spent on the licensees? What is your social media marketing strategy costing me?

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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
42.	Marlene	Little	A very active and concered, "Town of Veteran - townsperson"	PLEASE"SUPPORT" Senator Tom O'Mara's S2177 Bill regarding Sticker Shops! One recently opened up in our town of Veteran, NY in which we have the "OPT-OUT CANNABIS LAW" IN PLACE since November 2, 2021. In which we went by the PROPER STEPS TO PUT IN PLACE. Law voted in by the our townspeople. The "STICKER SHOP" is 1.5 miles from our Town Hall! That should not have been able to happen! It needs to be shut down! Please address the loop-hole that is allowing the illegal sales of unregulated/recreational cannabis in these shops. They are popping up all over NYS. NYS went way to fast without proper laws and no, "TEST" in place to check to see how much someone has taken! PLEASEPLEASEPLEASEPeople of NYS need your help! Thank you for your time in this very important matter. Marlene Little Very Concerned Town of Veteran Residence
43.	Brittany	Tovar	Emerge Law Group	Could you please advise whether any CAURD licenses have been rejected and, if so, when will the CCB/OCM notify those that have been rejected?
44.	Jeffrey	Garcia	Latino Cannabis Association	Hi I'm writing to advise that you consider applicants with Federal NYC Convictions in the same manner as you did with CAURD applicants in the overall program and for all license types. They should receive extra points for their hardships.
45.	Thomas	Ballistrea	N/A	To whom it may concern, Though I presented a similar comment las t board meeting, in light of the comments presented at today's meeting I thought this comment was relevant and worth mentioning again. I'm writing in regards to S854A §87 5. (g) ""Communities disproportionately impacted" shall mean, but not be limited to, a history of arrests, convictions, and other law enforcement practices in a certain geographic area, such as, but not limited to, precincts, zip codes, neighborhoods, and political subdivisions, reflecting a disparate enforcement of cannabis prohibition during a certain time period, when compared to the rest of the state. The board shall, with recommendations from the state cannabis advisory board, the chief equity officer and executive director, issue guidelines to determine how to assess which communities have been disproportionately impacted and how to assess if someone is a member of a community disproportionately impacted." I would urge the bord to consider defining which communities have been disproportionately impacted and release the

	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				"guidelines" to the general public prior to approving the final draft of the adult use regulations to allow individuals to prepare to participate in the social and economic equity programs that will come with the designation and conversely to allow individuals that may not fit within the board's interpretation of "Communities disproportionately impacted" to consider other avenues to enter the adult use market. As a justice involved individual, the areas of the state that will be considered disproportionality impacted by Cannabis prohibition is of the upmost importance to my future goals of participating in the adult use industry. Thank you for your diligence in this matter, I look forward to the release of the information regarding which communities are determined to be disproportionately impacted. Thank you for your time,
46.	Kabir	Javaid		Why aren't you letting people that sell tobacco products sell cannabis? They already know the regulations, why are you turning this into a criminal under the table thing? Do you have something against immigrants that run most of the tobacco shops? You only want certain minorities to get ahead and not others?
47.	Charlana	Simmons	Mary Janez, LLC	I am interested in opening an adult use cannabis lounge in Rochester, NY. Is there a timeline for those licenses as of yet?
48.	Jim	S.	none	Dear Gov. Hochul, April 5, 2023 Thank you for your energetic leadership and your many accomplishments and new initiatives. They are very much appreciated. In reviewing your proposed legislation aimed at improving regulations & enforcement of retail cannabis and cannabinoid businesses, I have a few observations and suggestions. • I agree there is a great need to deter and enforce violations of NYS's regulated cannabis & cannabinoid industries for both the public health and public safety of New Yorkers. • While the focus of your proposal is on operators of illegal storefront dispensaries, I also feel that storefront property owners also need to be held accountable for enabling illegal cannabis activity similar to plans in NYC and other cities. • Your proposed legislation coordinates the enforcement efforts by OCM & DTF. I would suggest that enforcement coordination be further expanded to include the NYS agencies responsible for cannabis, tobacco, liquor and gambling. • I feel that the NYS should encourage and make it easy for customers, general public and property owners to share concerns via a common phone number and email about

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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				questionable behavior of sellers of cannabis, tobacco, liquor and gambling. If you see something suspicious, Say something. • The OCM's website does have an obscure link at the bottom of page 1 of their website for reporting incidents. However, it is lengthy and narrow in its scope (adverse reactions and issues with a store). The major omission is the link does not capture public concerns regarding questionable products that are sold online and via social media by unlicensed sellers. Two examples that illustrate how illegal sales are occurring in NYS in clear daylight. 1. Binoid (binoidcbd.com via ksd1.klaviyomail.com) is an online seller of cannabinoid products that lists their address as: 9153 Reseda Blvd Los Angeles, California 91324. They send out unsolicited emails every 3-4 days offering promotions, discounts, and giveaways. They publicly advertise vapes, live resin, CBD, Delta 8 & 9, THCA, NNC-P, THC-B, Flowers, Gummies, Tinctures, Daps, capsules and more. They also promote developing long-term sales distribution partnerships that can proliferate private sellers. 2. MJ Dispensary, 901 Jefferson Road, Town of Henrietta 14623 MJ Dispensary is an unlicensed cannabis storefront located in the Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority (a NYS Public Authority) in Henrietta, where it has been for a couple of years. They were issued a cease-and-desist order by the OCM a few months ago, but continue to have an active web site. Their products have been removed, but they have a sign that says they are closed for remodeling. They openly advertise on their website, a variety of cannabis products and a variety of delivery options. They also list job openings and encourage people to contact them by phone or email. Thank you again for your commitment to public engagement on these complex social issues. Sincerely, Jim S
49.	Toni	Perrone		Please advise the status of Community Gardens and Community Kitchens. Is the state setting up these programs? They are essential to social equity and small businesses.
50.	Surayyah	Butler		N/A