

Tremaine Wright: Good afternoon, and welcome everyone. I am Tremaine Wright, the chair of the Cannabis Control Board. Seeing that we have all the Board members present or participating remotely, I'm pleased to call to order another meeting of the Cannabis Control Board and to welcome to all of you who are participating via real time live stream. This meeting will be recorded, and the recording and transcript will be available to the public on the OCM's website www.cannabis.ny.gov. The information on Cannabis Control Board Meetings generally is available in this designated section of the OCM website. Today's agenda, includes several items that we're excited to tackle and these include welcoming brief remarks from myself, review and approval of the meeting minutes from our previous Cannabis Control Board Meeting held on June 1st, consideration of additional Adult Use Processor applications and licensing window, consideration of the Adult Use Conditional Cultivator Licenses, consideration of our Chief Equity Officer candidate, report from Board Member McDaniel and report from Office of Cannabis Management's Executive Director and then we'll adjourn.

Let's begin with the Seeding Opportunity Initiative. Through this initiative, we have already approved 162 Adult Use Conditional Cultivator licenses. These licensees are cultivating the first regulated Adult Use Cannabis in New York State and more licenses are being considered today. Yesterday, under the leadership of Board Member Rubin McDaniel, DASNY announced it's Social Equity Impact Ventures, LLC, a premiere black led investment team who will serve as the fund manager for the \$200 million social equity investment fund. Fund manager, Social Equity Impact Ventures, LLC is a joint venture between Chris Webber, former NBA Allstar and current manager of a cannabis investment fund and Seibert William Shank, one of the largest minority investment firms in the country whose leadership includes financial leaders Dan Shank and former City Comptroller William Thompson. Then today we will continue to build out the Seeding Opportunity Initiative as we discuss and review a proposed Adult Use Conditional Processor Application and the opening of a licensing window for our processor and licensees. We anticipate participation of these processors in the New York Cannabis industry. We look forward to them processing, packaging, and distributing products to the retail dispensaries that are planned to come online through our Seeding Opportunity Initiative this fall. And, lastly, we will also discuss the Executive Director's proposal for Chief Equity Officer, a much anticipated step towards fulfilling the Equity goals in New York's Cannabis Law.

Now let's move onto the first item of business on the agenda, the review and approval of the meeting minutes from the June 1st Cannabis Control Board Meeting. However, before we move much further into today's proceedings, I would like to make some brief remarks about the Open Meetings Law. As stated at every Board Meeting, the Cannabis Control Board is subject to the Open Meetings Law to ensure the greatest levels of transparency and public participation in the affairs of government. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we have requested that members of the public join us via video conference, which we will continue to offer to keep the public and members of this body safe. Now, I will read a brief statement on Open Meetings Law into the record. Pursuant to chapter 1 of the laws of 2022, enacted on January 14, 2022, board members may continue to fully participate in meetings via video conference from locations that are not open to the public provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceedings, and the meetings are being recorded and later transcribed. The public was provided with

information on how to access this meeting within the public meeting notice distributed to members of the press and posted on the OCM website. A recording of this meeting, together with the transcript, will also be available on the OCM website. Previous recordings, meeting minutes, and transcripts are archived on the site as well. And please note, there is a designated tab on the website entitled Board Meetings. This provides access to all of that information. That said, I'd like to return to the current agenda item. May I please have a motion to approve the June 1st, 2022, board meeting minutes?

Jen Metzger: I'll make that motion.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you, may I have a second?

Rubin McDaniel: Second.

Tremaine Wright: Is there any discussion by any board members? Hearing none, I'll call for a vote. All in favor?

All: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Okay and the motion to approve the June 1st, 2022 board meeting minutes carries.

Concerning the next order of business, may I please have a motion to consider and approve resolution No. 2022-17 a Resolution approving Proposed Adult Use Conditional Processor application and licensing window?

Male: I will make that motion.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. May I have a second? Looks like Adam Perry is the second. Thank you and at this time I'd like to ask our Executive Director to please provide a brief overview of the Conditional Processor License and the opening of application window.

Chris Alexander: Thank you Madam Chair and good afternoon Board Members and members of the public. The Conditional Processor's Licensing application and application window opening would be advanced with your approval today, play an important link in the Seeding Opportunity Initiative between New York's farmers who are currently growing Adult Use Cannabis and the just as involved business owners and their family members who will sell it at dispensaries later this year. These conditional process licenses were made possible by the same law signed by the Governor in February, and made the Conditional Cultivator licenses possible. With this license, processors will be able to take the plant material grown by New York farmers through the Seeding Opportunity Initiative, manufacture products from edibles to tinctures, and distribute those products to retailer. Holders of a Conditional Processing license must already hold a Cannabinoid Hemp Processing license, or have applied for it prior to January 1st of 2022. As a condition of the license, processors must also participate in a mentorship program that will create pathways to opportunity for social equity applicants, and develop an environmental sustainability

plan. If you approve the resolution before you, the application window will open next Tuesday on June 28th, and close on August 31st. Thank you. I'm happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you, are there any questions, comments, or discussion from the board members for these applications? Okay, hearing none, then I will call for a vote. Ms. Metzger?

Jen Metzger: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Ms. Garcia?

Jessica Garcia: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Mr. McDaniel?

Rubin McDaniel: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Mr. Perry?

Adam Perry: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Aye. The motion to approve resolution No. 2022-17 (inaudible) Conditional Processor applications and licensing window carries. Now for our next item of business, the consideration of current batch of Conditional Cultivator Applicants. May I please have a motion to consider and approve Resolution No. 2022-18 a resolution approving Conditional Cultivator Applications for licensure?

Rubin McDaniel: So moved.

Tremaine Wright: I have a first, may I have a second?

Jessica Garcia: Second.

Tremaine Wright: I'd like to ask Mr. Alexander can you please provide us with an overview of these applications?

Chris Alexander: Absolutely Madam Chair. Today we have 41 more applicants for the Adult Use Conditional Cultivator License in front of the board for approval. As stated earlier, these licensees will continue to support and growth and development of New York's markets. These folks are small farmers who have now taken the first step in producing the full Adult Use supply chain here in New York through the Seeding Opportunity Initiative. If the applications are approved today, we will have 203 approved cultivators in the program in the State of New York. The initial batch of farmers already at work within the social equity investment fund management team, sorry. The first approved farmers already are growing products to supply the

Seeding Opportunity Initiative and with the announcement of the Social equity Investment Fund Management team, we have decided to get these initiative up into the next stages. That's all.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. Is there any discussion or comments, questions regarding the applicants?

Rubin McDaniel: I know we are closing the applications on June 30th right? How many more do you think we might have between now and then?

Chris Alexander: We received upwards of over 250 applications, this gets us to 203 so, it's hard to give a ballpark folks have to complete their background check and complete going through and providing additional requested information with the office, but we likely will have one more meeting to _____(cut off).

Tremaine Wright: If there aren't anymore questions or comments, I'm going to call for a vote. Ms. Metzger?

Jen Metzger: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Ms. Garcia?

Jessica Garcia: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Mr. McDaniel?

Rubin McDaniel: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Mr. Perry?

Adam Perry: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: And aye. The motion to approve resolution No. 2022-18 resolution approving Conditional Cultivator Applications for Licensure carries. And the next item of business before us today is the consideration of a Chief Equity Officer. May I please have a motion to consider and approve resolution No. 2022-19 for Damian Fagon to assume the role of Chief Equity Officer?

Jen Metzger: I'll make that motion.

Tremaine Wright: Great, can I have a second?

Rubin McDaniel: I will enthusiastically second that.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. Now, Mr. Alexander can you please provide us with a little bit of background regarding Mr. Fagon?

Chris Alexander: Absolutely. First, I want to emphasize the importance of the role that Damian is stepping into. The Chief Equity Officer, one of the key positions identified in the statute in the MRTA that is now the Cannabis Law is an impactful position, responsible for anchoring the Office of Cannabis Management to the goals of equity and justice laid out for us in New York's Cannabis Law. Not only will Damian serve as a watchdog to make sure that the agency is on task, meeting those equity goals and principles, but he also is charged with development of a social and economic equity plan that will continue to guide the agency as we move forward to continue to develop New York's Adult Use market. So, I want to say a bit about Damian. He is a farmer, he's an entrepreneur, he's a policy wank like myself, and he has had first hand experience navigating the cannabis industry. That experience will be incredibly valuable to our team as we make sure New York establishes the most equitable and inclusive cannabis marketplace in the country. This office will be greatly served by his appointment and the State of New York will as well. So, I'm excited.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you Chris. Are there any questions or comments from any of the board members?

Jen Metzger: I will just make a comment; that your experience Damian brings an incredible amount of experience. Everything that you said Chris but also you know your work at the intersection of equity, sustainability, workforce development, all that experience is so important to this program. And that kind of broad experience is hard to find, and so I feel we're very fortunate to have _____(cut off) eventually.

Tremaine Wright: Rubin.

Rubin McDaniel: Just echoing the sentiments of both Chris and Jen. Yeah, I was talking to Stanley earlier and one of the things that has driven our staff and especially the work to date is the passion for the project itself, and you can see that in everybody we talk to from top to bottom and Damian brings that same passion. So, I think in addition to all of the criteria which are critical, that passion we will look forward to having that as part of the team. And you have a lot of work to do but I know you can get it done. So, I really appreciate having you.

Tremaine Wright: Additional comments? So, I'm going to move us along so we can get to the _____ before here I'm going to call for a vote. Ms. Metzger?

Jen Metzger: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Ms. Garcia?

Jessica Garcia: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Mr. McDaniel?

Rubin McDaniel: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Mr. Perry.

Adam Perry: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: I vote aye as well. So, the motion to approve resolution No. 2022-19 For Damian Fagon to assume the role of Chief Equity Officer carries. And now I'd like...

Chris Alexander: No, now I'd like to give Damian a chance our newly confirmed Chief Equity Officer the opportunity to say a couple remarks about this moment and task ahead.

Damian Fagon: Thank you Chris. Thank you everybody. Thank you to the Cannabis Control Board. It is an honor to sit here today with you guys on the occasion of my appointment as Chief Equity Officer for the Office of Cannabis Management. I would like to, first of all very sincerely thank the Chairwoman and the members of the Board who have put their trust in me for this critically important role. My name is Damian Fagon, I'm a native of Southeast Washington, D.C. I have called New York my home for the past 8 years. But my ties in this state extend a little beyond there, from a small farm in the hills of Central Jamaica, my family has immigrated to New York in search of opportunity for decades, initially as farm workers as far as back as the 1970s. From Monroe to Dutchess County, I dedicate the honor of this appointment to the legacy of my Uncle Ronald and to the outside role that Jamaican migrant farm workers have played in growing New York's food for generations. I have worked in cannabis over the last 7 years in a number of different capacities; first as a graduate economic student here in the City researching the plants as an agricultural commodity to the leverage and service of bottom up generation for black communities. While there, I also had the privilege of taking the final class ever taught by the late, great Mayor David Dinkins whose dynamic retelling of this City's modern political history inspires me to this day. I spent the next four years launching and managing industrial hemp businesses from cultivation all the way through product developments and sales, most notably with my own farm in Orange County, New York. I traveled extensively to legal markets out west as far as genetics, studying industry lead production methods and tour commercial scale cultivation and manufacturing facilities. As if often the case, losses came hard and fast, successfully and rarely, but I was always learning. My time as a cannabis farmer and a small business owner are the heart of my qualifications for this role. I know firsthand how the challenges of fund raising, banking, regulatory compliance, and land access can be make or break for first time cannabis entrepreneurs that look like me. since the signing of the MRTA, I have worked to bring these lessons learned to New York's next generation of black and brown cannabis operators, first as the venture director, I have a leading work readiness nonprofit in the Hunts Point, building out a cannabis workforce development initiative for New Yorkers who face multiple barriers to employment. And, as a CUNY adjunct, I taught the first college accredited cannabis horticulture course in the history of this city. Sitting here today, I can honestly say that I have learned more about cannabis from the people of the South Bronx and Crown Heights than I ever did in Colorado. Finally, I spent much of this past year organizing and building community across this state with hundreds of black farmers, hemp growers, entrepreneurs, worker owners, legacy operators, and more than a few compassionate consumers. I have heard your stories and I have come to the conclusion that most New Yorkers are all really

looking for the same thing; a fair shot at building a business their communities and families can be proud of. The MRTA is a hard-fought progressive landmark without precedent. From the simplicity of it's tiered and equity driven licensure system to the hundreds of millions of dollars it commits to those communities most harmed under prohibition, to the freedom it affords consumers and hobbyist alike to keep their money and grow at home. The MRTA is as legislatively brilliant as it is morally righteous. It wouldn't be right to close out here today without thanking those champions. Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes and Senator Liz Kruger. Two incredible women who fought to put people before profits and laid the foundation for a truly equitable and inclusive cannabis industry. I am incredibly proud of all the work that has come before me done by many of the leaders done here in this room, and I am honored to have this opportunity to continue building with them. Thank you, let's get to work.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you Mr. Fagon. As I think everyone can tell here, we are all very eager to work with you and have you part of the team and we really look forward to moving forward together with you. For our next order of business, I'm going to turn it over to our board member Mr. McDaniel for a statement regarding the social equity fund.

Rubin McDaniel: Thank you Madam Chair. As you mentioned earlier in your comments, yesterday was an exciting day. we announced publicly that we had appointed our fund manager as a joint venture between Chris Webber who is a NB Allstar but also has been a real champion about cannabis generally, has been an investor out in California and he is someone who is also vested in the Michigan markets, so he knows a lot about the cannabis business itself. He is committed to helping minorities and other entrepreneurs be successful in the cannabis industry. Seibert William Shank, one of the leading investment banking firms in the country among other things, they manage a \$150 ish million fund to help small minority businesses. So, they also have the experience on the management side but the passion to help those entrepreneurs be part of the program. So, very excited about having them on board. We have a lot of work to do in the next 60 to 90 days with _____ preparation and fund raising but all of that I think will go very, very well and very smoothly, so we're glad to have them on board. In addition, we have received the 21st, last Tuesday, we did design and build our team for the firms who will actually build out the facilities around the state. Design and build firms. We had an excess of 20 respondents, a lot of them were very, very steered in building out cannabis locations in other parts of the country. So, I'm sure once the procurement process gets through, we'll have a slate of very good design and build firms, also execute on getting these facilities built out. So, very excited about that response to our RFP side. Again, we were hopefully getting a good response and had a better response than we expected. And finally, our real estate search continues. The process now we're sending out letters of intent to various sites that we like and have seen and beginning negotiations, that's been exciting, a lot of groundwork. we've had people on the ground all over the state, people have found excellent locations and we're very excited about some of the preliminary terms and conditions we have for sites. So, this is going to be going very nicely, we've very pleased with the fund and where we're going with that. I think it will truly be something that is industry changing for the country but also for our card members who are fortunate enough to win these licenses, they will hit the ground running and we will have a great kick off to our Adult Use market.

I did want to read one thing into the record. My board member as given my dual role as president of DASNY and a board member, there will be certain things I will be recusing myself of as a Board member, just to avoid any appearance of conflicts. These will be in review of applications and decision-making process around card licensees, also I'll recuse myself from the various documents that will need to be approved by this Board, the MOU between DASNY and the Office of Cannabis Management, _____ the _____ agreement _____ and other various documents to consider. I just wanted to let people know to keep those things separate. But I couldn't be more excited about our progress _____ (keeps cutting out) talk about all the time, it's actually getting real. It's getting real. But this team, the asset managers could not be a better team, better qualified, very fortunate.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you and, I'm going to say thank you to the entire team because as you can see from today's agenda, we are completely moving the entire Seeding Opportunity in which to move forward and from every angle we have it growing, we're processing, we're preparing for sales, we have a team coming together to make sure that the equity component is there to support future applicants even those who will not participate in this first round but are looking to get on board as we move this forward. We are, as you said, looks really bright, the future is bright. This is a moment of opportunity for New York State and we really do have a wonder team pushing all of this forward together. So, thank you and thank all of you as well. However, to move the agenda forward, I'm going to turn it over to Chris our Executive Director for the report please.

Chris Alexander: Thank you Madam Chair. As I mentioned at our last meeting, "Get Reading, Get Set" workshops to prepare eligible New Yorkers for the Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary Program is running. We are pleased to have had several outreach events across the state over the last several weeks and we'll continue to do so as we prepare to open up or advance that program and eventually open up that licensing window. We are also hearing direction from communities who have been impacted regarding over policing and the challenge that they're having getting into the market. We are focused on engaging individuals with cannabis convictions and community-based organizations to make sure they have all the resources they need, all the information that they need as they prepare for this opportunity. In this last couple of weeks, we've taken the program on the road with sessions in Schenectady, Brooklyn, and Albany, heading to Rochester on Saturday and will keep running around the state and make sure as many people know of the opportunity that's coming, and we will do that through the summer to help everyone get ready and set, "Get Ready and Get Set" for the licensing opportunity. Also, as the Chair mentioned when we started the meeting and as Board Member McDaniel has just reviewed, we are very excited about the movements of the Social Equity Cannabis Investment Fund. As you know, the fund is a key component of the initiative that was proposed by Governor Hochul in her budget in January, and we are excited just to continue to support that.

The Board in association with the development of that fund and other funds that will be run through this office, was the Cannabis Advisory Board was announced by the Governor yesterday. We're excited. The members who have joined that Board who have a range of experience in government and economic development and public health, as well as in contacting and connecting with communities who have been disproportionately impacted by prohibition.

So, we're excited to see that Board also get off the ground. They will assist Damian and his team in the creation of the social and economic equity plan, but their primary purpose is rolling out and overseeing the disbursement of the New York State Community Grants Reinvestment Fund, a separate fund that will support communities that have been impacted by prohibition and providing them with resources to develop job training and reentry services and programs, continuing adult education programs, as well as a slew of other economic development focused projects. So, really excited to announce that the Advisory Board is also up and moving. They will have their first virtual meeting on June 30th and folks can tune into our website to see more information about how to participate.

Also, on June 2nd, OCM released the first Cannabis television ad in the nation focused on social equity. The ad calls attention to the State's goal of creating a diverse and inclusive industry and repairing harm done during cannabis prohibition. This PSA debuted during game 1 of the NBA finals and continues to air on TV, radio and on social media. This is helping to ensure New Yorkers are aware of the steps that we are taking to incorporate all New Yorkers in to the market that we are building. We will now play the ad in English and then in Spanish.

Video

Rubin McDaniel: I road on the Cannabis train this morning the second time being on the train wrapped by the cannabis ads which is very nicely done as well a message, I think. So, I just wanted to point that out, I got a chance to ride on that.

Chris Alexander: Absolutely and I want to give a big shout to our policy communications and equity teams who have all assisted in the development of this ad and the other series of cannabis conversation ads. They have done a great job and we're going to continue to make sure that the public knows as much as possible as we continue this journey.

So, I wanted to update lastly on the medical cannabis program. When we started this work and this board and this office came together, we centered patient access one of our priorities as we built out the rest of the industry. In the last few months, last few weeks, we have actually had a couple of issues for patients when they attempt to register with the program after being certified by a provider. Those reports came to our office from patients themselves, as well as a register organization who serve them. I'm happy to report and update to the patient registration system has been made, and this issue should now be behind us. Additional guidance has also been provided to the register organizations to make sure that no patient interested in being served by the medical program is turned away. We are continuing to advance efforts to improve and strengthen the program including the steps we took earlier this year to make the product more affordable by allowing the whole flower and to allow additional conditions that patients are suffering from to be served by medical cannabis. I'm very excited to say that we are planning for the next meeting. Oh sorry, lastly, I'm very excited to say that we are planning for the next meeting to be in Buffalo and we're looking forward to continue to interact with every corner of the state. Thank you Madam Chair, that conclude my report today.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. Are there any questions?

Jen Metzger: Yeah, I just have a question. So, the workshops you're doing are any of them being recorded? And can we put them on or at least one on the website?

Chris Alexander: Absolutely, absolutely. We have done that. We have a webinar 3 or 4 weeks ago that is now posted on the website that walks interested applicants through the card criteria and the process, and what is going to be evaluated by the team and the Board. So, that's successful now and we can go to Cannabis.ny.gov, folks can go there to find the link for that webinar.

Tremaine Wright: Any other comments? I guess at this time I'd like to just note that the time, location, and live stream link will be shared on Cannabis.ny.gov as well in advance of our next Cannabis Control Board Meeting and a recording of today's meeting; our meeting minutes and a transcription will be posted as well. That concludes today's agenda items. So, may I please have a motion to adjourn this meeting?

Rubin McDaniel: So moved.

Tremaine Wright: Do I have a second?

Jen Metzger: Second.

Tremaine Wright: And is there any discussion, comment, question? Hearing, is that Jess raising her hand? Sorry. Is there any um so hearing none, I'll call for a vote. All in favor?

All: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: The motion to adjourn this meeting carries and I'm going to say thank you everyone for joining us today.