



Office of Cannabis Management

KATHY HOCHUL	TREMAINE WRIGHT	JESSICA GARCIA	REUBEN R. MCDANIEL, III	ADAM W. PERRY	JEN METZGER	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:	June 23, 2022
Location:	Virtual via Webcast

Attendance

Board Chair:	Tremaine Wright
Board Members Present:	Reuben R. McDaniel III, Jen Metzger
Board Members Present (virtually):	Jessica Garcia, Adam W. Perry
Board Members Absent:	None
Others Present:	Chris Alexander, Axel Bernabe, Damian Fagon
Others Present (virtually):	Rick Zahnleuter

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 1, 2022 Board Meeting
- IV. Consideration of Conditional Processor Application and Window
- V. Consideration of Adult-Use Conditional Cultivator Applications
- VI. Consideration of Chief Equity Officer Candidate
- VII. A Statement from Board Member McDaniel
- VIII. Executive Director Report
- IX. Adjourn



Action Items

Resolution No. 2022-17:	Resolution Approving a Certain Application Form for a Conditional Adult-Use Processor License and Ordering that a New Application Period for a Conditional Adult-Use Processor License Open on June 28, 2022 and Close on August 31, 2022.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
Resolution No. 2022-18:	Resolution Issuing Certain Conditional Adult-Use Cultivator Licenses.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
Resolution No. 2022-19:	Resolution Approving the Appointment of the Chief Equity Officer.	Passed, Unanimous Vote

Notes & Comments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Wright commented that 162 Adult-Use Conditional Cultivator Licenses have been approved to date. Chair Wright commented that on 6/22/22, under the leadership of Board Member Reuben McDaniel, DASNY announced that Social Equity Impact Ventures, LLC’s, a premier, Black-led investment team 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 All-Star and current manager of a cannabis investment fund, and Siebert Williams Shank, one of the largest minority investment firms in the country, whose leadership includes Financial Leader Suzanne Shank, and Former City Comptroller William Thompson.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Director Chris Alexander provided an overview of Resolution No. 2022-17, Approving Proposed Adult-Use Conditional Processor Application and Licensing Window. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursuant to legislation signed by Governor Kathy Hochul in February 2022, entities who hold a Cannabinoid Hemp Processor license from the OCM qualify to apply for an Adult-Use Conditional Processor license. Eligible applicants must have applied for a Cannabinoid Hemp Processor license in New York before January 1, 2022. 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 retailers. 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. The application window for Adult-Use Conditional Processors open on June 28 and close on August 31.



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- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided an overview of Resolution No. 2022-18, Issuing Certain Conditional Adult-Use Cultivator Licenses. The OCM completed the review of and recommended 41 more applicants for an Adult-Use Conditional Cultivator License to the Board, in addition to the 162 already approved. OCM has received more than 250 applications to date and continues to review applications on an ongoing basis to get them to the Board for review and approval. The application period closes on June 30, 2022.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided an overview of Resolution No. 2022-19, Approving the Appointment of Chief Equity Officer, Damian Fagon. The Chief Equity Officer is 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 in New York's Cannabis Law. Damian Fagon is an experienced policy professional with a background in industrial hemp, cannabis, economic development and agriculture. Damian is a farmer, an entrepreneur, and has firsthand experience navigating the cannabis industry. Damian's experience will be incredibly valuable to the team as New York establishes the most equitable and inclusive cannabis marketplace in the country.
- Damian Fagon, Chief Equity Officer of OCM, commented that he is a native of Southeast Washington, DC and has called New York his home for the past eight years. From a small farm in the hills of central Jamaica, his family immigrated to New York in search of opportunity for decades, initially as farmworkers as far back as the 1970s. From Monroe to Dutchess County, he dedicates the honor of this appointment to the legacy of his uncle Ronald and to the outsize role that Jamaica migrant farm workers have played in growing New York's food for generations. He has worked in cannabis over the last seven years in a number of different capacities. He spent the next four years launching and managing industrial hemp businesses, from cultivation all the way through product development and sales, most notably with his own farm in Orange County, NY.
- Board Member Reuben McDaniel provided a statement regarding the Social Equity Investment Fund.
 - On 6/22, DASNY announced publicly that they appointed a fund manager. It is a joint venture between Chris Webber, a former NBA All-Star and Siebert Williams Shank, one of the leading investment firms in the country.
 - DASNY received in excess of 20 respondents for the Design Build RFP.
 - DASNY is continuing to send out letters of intent as the real estate search continues.
- Board Member Reuben McDaniel commented that he recuses himself from the review of applications and decision-making process around CAURD licensees, various documents that need to be approved by the Board, the MOU between DASNY and OCM and other various documents.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided his Director's report.
 - Advancing Equity in the Cannabis Industry



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- DASNY announced on 6/22/22 Impact Ventures, a Black-led investment team, will manage the \$200 million New York Social Equity Cannabis Investment Fund, furthering the Seeding Opportunity Initiative.
- Governor Hochul and the Legislature announced 12 appointments to the Cannabis Advisory Board. The first meeting is set for June 30.
- “Get Ready, Get Set” - CAURD
 - “Get Ready, Get Set” is a virtual learning and listening series to prepare eligible New Yorkers for Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) licenses and hear from communities impacted by over policing.
 - “Get Ready, Get Set” focuses on engaging individuals with cannabis convictions, or their family members, and community-based organizations that provide support to eligible individuals.
 - OCM continues to participate and reach out to New Yorkers to raise awareness around the forthcoming opportunity with CAURD and their work, and have held sessions in Schenectady, Brooklyn and Albany.
- Ground-Breaking Social Equity Ad
 - OCM released the first cannabis television ad in the nation focused on social equity on June 2nd.
 - The ad calls attention to the state’s goal of creating a diverse and inclusive industry and repairing harm done during cannabis prohibition.
 - This public service advertisement debuted during game one of the NBA finals.
- Medical Cannabis Update
 - Allowing for the sale of whole flower, which may help to reduce costs, and expanding the types of providers who can certify patients for the program.
 - Allowing practitioners to certify patients for any condition providers believe may benefit from medical cannabis.
 - An update to the patient registration system has been made.
 - Continuing to advance efforts to improve and strengthen the program, including reviewing the comments made on the medical regulations released for public comment earlier this year.

- The Board adjourned the meeting.