



# Office of Cannabis Management

**KATHY HOCHUL**

Governor

**TREMAINE WRIGHT**

Cannabis Control Board Chair

**JESSICA GARCIA**

Board Member

**HOPE KNIGHT**

Board Member

**ADAM W. PERRY**

Board Member

**JENNIFER GILBERT JENKINS**

Board Member

**CHRIS ALEXANDER**

Executive Director

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Title:</b>	New York State Cannabis Control Board Meeting
<b>Time &amp; Date:</b>	September 12, 2023 at 10:15AM
<b>Location:</b>	Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Meeting Rooms 2 & 3, Albany, NY 12242, SUNY Morrisville, 80 Eaton St., Spader Hall Room 107, Morrisville, NY 13408 and Virtual via Webcast

## Attendance

<b>Board Chair:</b>	Tremaine Wright
<b>Board Members Present:</b>	Jessica Garcia, Hope Knight
<b>Board Members Present (virtually):</b>	Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins
<b>Board Members Present (virtually from a private location due to extraordinary circumstances):</b>	Adam W. Perry
<b>Board Members Absent:</b>	N/A
<b>Others Present:</b>	Chris Alexander, Axel Bernabe, Damian Fagon, John Kagia, Tabatha Robinson, Ben Sheridan
<b>Others Present Virtually:</b>	Nakesha Abel

## Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 19, 2023 Board Meeting
- IV. Consideration of Revised Adult-Use Cannabis Regulations
- V. Consideration of Adult-Use Cannabis Application
- VI. Consideration of Registered Organization Application
- VII. Consideration of Cannabis Research License Application
- VIII. Consideration of Cannabis Laboratory Testing Permits
- IX. Consideration of Registered Organization Change in Ownership Request
- X. Executive Director Report
- XI. Public Comment
- XII. Adjourn



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## Action Items

<b>Resolution No. 2023-32:</b>	Resolution Directing the Office of Cannabis Management to Adopt the Revised Adult-Use Regulations.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
<b>Resolution No. 2023-33:</b>	Resolution Approving Certain Application Forms for Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses and Directing that a New Application Period for Certain Adult-Use License Types Open and Close on Dates to be Established by the Office of Cannabis Management.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
<b>Resolution No. 2023-34:</b>	Resolution Approving Certain Application Forms for Registered Organizations and Directing that a New Application Period for Registering Registered Organizations Open and Close on Dates to be Established by the Office of Cannabis Management.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
<b>Resolution No. 2023-35:</b>	Resolution Approving Certain Application Forms for Cannabis Research Licenses and Directing that a New Application Period for Cannabis Research Licenses Open and Close on Dates to be Established by the Office of Cannabis Management.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
<b>Resolution No. 2023-36:</b>	Resolution Issuing Certain Cannabis Laboratory Permit.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
<b>Resolution No. 2023-37:</b>	Resolution Denying the Issuance of Certain Cannabis Laboratory Permits.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
<b>Resolution No. 2023-38:</b>	Resolution to Approve the Change in Composition Request of Registered Organization Etain, LLC.	Passed, Unanimous Vote - Board Member Garcia recused herself prior to the vote. Board Member Perry abstained from the vote.

## Notes & Comments

- Chair Wright commented that the Cannabis Control Board (CCB) will consider the final adult-use regulations that will bridge New York’s existing programs into general licensing. If approved today, these regulations will lay the groundwork for a diverse, innovative, and sustainable marketplace in New York State. Additionally, the CCB will also vote to approve the application for cannabis research licenses.
- Chair Wright commented that throughout the years of cannabis prohibition, fear of enforcement stymied research and innovation. Today they have an opportunity to encourage discovery, invention, and the practice of developing and introducing new ways of utilizing



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cannabis. The adult-use applications, research opportunities, and adult-use regulations that will be considered today are designed to usher in New York's sustainable, equitable, legal cannabis market.

- Upon a motion from Board Member Hope Knight, and a second from Board Member Jessica Garcia, the Minutes of the July 19, 2023 Cannabis Control Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

- Axel Bernabe, Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Director, provided an overview of Resolution No. 2023-32, a Resolution Directing the Office of Cannabis Management to Adopt the Revised Adult-Use Regulations. The regulations went through two separate public comment periods, the first period from December 14, 2022 until February 13, 2023, and the second from June 14 to July 31, 2023. OCM received more than 4,000 distinct comments from approximately 550 individuals during these periods. Commenters, representing a broad spectrum of stakeholders, sought clarification on various provisions, proposed additional amendments, requested technical modifications, and shared their valuable opinions with both OCM and the CCB. This robust and constructive feedback was pivotal in guiding the final adult-use regulations. No substantive changes were deemed necessary for this package, but the Office is working on a subsequent package to address areas repeatedly raised from public commentators and to seek more information in a proposed regulatory package which would provide sufficient information to support the changes recommended.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Jessica Garcia, and a second from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, Resolution No. 2023-32, a Resolution Directing the Office of Cannabis Management to Adopt the Revised Adult-Use Regulations, was approved unanimously.

- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided an overview of Resolution No. 2023-33, a Resolution Approving Certain Application Forms for Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses and Directing that a New Application Period for Certain Adult-Use License Types Open and Close on Dates to be Established by the Office of Cannabis Management. The applications for Cultivator, Processor, Distributor, Microbusiness, and Retail Dispensary license types will be available on New York Business Express (NYBE), and the application window will open as early as October 4, 2023. Additionally, the Office will be making available the forms allowing compliant Registered Organizations (ROs) to transition into the adult-use market. Applications for additional license types will follow soon after. Adult-Use Conditional Cultivator (AUCC) and Adult-Use Conditional Processor (AUCP) licenses in good standing with the Office will be able to apply to transition to non-conditional licenses through an application on the NYBE portal once the application is open. The Office encourages conditional licensees to start this process early to ensure they are able to transition to full licenses before the conditional licenses expire in June 2024. The application window for the applications will be open for 60 days. To fast track a subset of retail dispensary licensees who are applying with a location already secured, OCM will be reviewing submissions that apply after 30 days, but the general retail dispensary application will remain open for the full 60 days. The application window has been extended 60 days to ensure interested applicants



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had sufficient time to gather the required materials and apply. The applications are broken into four major sections:

- 1) Captures general information about the applicant applying
- 2) Deals with the license type specific questions and eligibility
- 3) Adult-Use Applications – SEE Certification
  - All cannabis license applicants will have the opportunity to become Social and Economic Equity (SEE) certified in one of the following paths:
    - Individuals from a community disproportionately impacted (CDI)
    - Women-owned business
    - Minority-owned business
    - Service-disabled veteran-owned business (SDVOB)
    - Distressed farmer
  - Applicants who would like to become SEE certified must provide documentation that they qualify as one of the above categories.
  - SEE prioritization for adult-use cannabis licenses will be afforded to applicants qualifying as Extra Priority, individual(s) from A CDI, distressed farmers and SDVOBs. The Office is unable to extend the same prioritization to SEE groups qualifying on the basis of gender or race.
  - All SEE applicants will receive a 50% reduction in application fees and, upon licensure, a 50% reduction in license fees and access to technical training and business development.
- 4) Adult-Use Applications – True Parties of Interest
  - Cannabis license applicants will be asked to provide the contact information for all of their True Parties of Interest (TPI). Each TPI who is required to submit a personal or entity history disclosure will be asked to provide their information via a secure TPI Portal.
  - This information will be used to ensure that the cannabis licensee, and everyone with a financial or controlling interest in that licensee, adheres to the requirements in the Cannabis Law relating to ownership and the enforcement of the two-tier system.
  - Among other items, TPI (both individuals and entities) will be asked to submit the following information:
    - Basic identifying details and contact information.
    - Any previous convictions, sanctions, litigation or similar.
    - Any other cannabis license affiliations.
    - All goods and services agreements the TPI has.

- Chair Wright asked if all of the cultivation, processing and distribution licenses were ready to be launched.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander stated that the applications will be ready on October 4th.
- Chair Wright asked inclusive of smaller businesses.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander responded yes.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Adam Perry, and a second from Board Member Jessica Garcia, Resolution No. 2023-33, a Resolution Approving Certain Application Forms for Adult-



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Use Cannabis Licenses and Directing that a New Application Period for Certain Adult-Use License Types Open and Close on Dates to be Established by the Office of Cannabis Management, was approved unanimously.

- Tabatha Robinson, Director of Economic Development, Policy and Research for OCM, provided an overview of Resolution No. 2023-34, a Resolution Approving Certain Application Forms for Registered Organizations and Directing that a New Application Period for Registering Registered Organizations Open and Close on Dates to be Established by the Office of Cannabis Management. This application will allow OCM to evaluate and select additional medical cannabis businesses in New York State. This is the first opportunity to apply for registration since the Department of Health opened the application in 2015. Since that time, the medical cannabis market in New York State has expanded significantly. First, the program has been expanded to increase patient access, product diversity, and authorized medical home grow and have expanded both the list of qualifying conditions for patients and the types of practitioners who can certify them. Second, a new law is in effect. The Compassionate Care Act was superseded by the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA). The MRTA demands that OCM proceed with New York's medical cannabis program differently. It embeds equity not only into the adult-use market, but also into the medical market. The importance of health equity is at the center of this application. The selection procedure places a premium on serving the public interest. The MRTA states that granting a registration must be in the public interest which has been incorporated into the application. Applicants can demonstrate their ability and capacity to serve the public interest in numerous ways, for example, by demonstrating the cultural, linguistic, and medical competence, by providing affordable products for all patients, by respecting their workers, by choosing locations around the state so that patients can access their medicine, by protecting environmental sustainability, and by meeting diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. The application fee for medical operators is \$10,000, and the registration fee is \$200,000, payable upon registration approval. The application will be accessible in pdf format following this meeting and the application portal will be opening in October.
- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins asked if the ROs that are currently in the state are allowed to also enter into the adult-use market, do we have an estimate of how much of their canopy is going to be increased to go to that market.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander commented that he wanted to clarify that there is no increase in the canopy allotment for the existing ROs that are able to transition. He further commented that they have previously been allocated 100,000 square feet, but they are not operating at that level currently, and as they transition over time, that will be their canopy. He further commented that this resolution related to additional ROs, will be at that same canopy, but they do not anticipate this canopy coming online for at least two years.
- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins asked do we have an estimate of what percentage of their canopy they are currently using and therefore, how much more they will be able to grow.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander commented that they do have estimates on an individual basis based on knowledge of their operations, but for the estimate that they have for the transition now, is fluctuating due to the fact that they do not know exactly when they will all complete their build outs to transition over.



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- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins asked what the split between the medical side of their canopy and the adult-use is with the new applicants that are going to come in and are they mandating how much of that has to go into the medical side.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander commented that on the cultivation side, they do have requirements that they continue to supply the medical market itself and while it is not set at a particular square footage, it is based on previous year's patient activity and that there are provisions in the law and in the regulations that require them to maintain product access and supply and prioritization for the current ones and the same rules will apply for the new ones.
- Board Member Gilbert Jenkins commented that the new ones are not in the space yet and are not supplying the medical market yet and asked is there is any provision in there for the split medical to adult-use.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander comment that this will be that allocation of the 100,000 is to supply both medical demands and the adult-use demands that may come of them, but at the onset, these folks are medical operators and that the 100,000 will be focused on the medical side should they develop their cultivation first.
- Board Member Gilbert Jenkins commented that having more clarity on that would be helpful. She further commented that with all of this increased in indoor canopy, there is going to be demand from growers to have more indoor licenses allowed on the existing side and for new folks who are not ROs, and that they have had such a strong push for sustainability, and if they are looking at indoor grows, she wants them to more holistically look at sustainability and look at ways where they can see opportunities to promote more outdoors on grown because that is going to be in direct opposition to the movement of licenses.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander commented that they are incredibly proud of having their first crop grown almost entirely outside and that the quality work done by the conditional cultivators and processors definitely changed the game for licensing cultivation across the country and recognizing that you can grow outside and develop quality products. He further commented that they are absolutely tuned in to make sure that the additional canopy that they authorize for indoor cultivation has limited of a harmful environmental footprint.
- Tabatha Robinson commented that these additional ROs who will be coming on board as part of their application, have a very robust environmental plan that lays out a number of criteria they have to meet in order to be awarded a registration and that covers everything from pollutants to water usage to energy use.
- Board Member Gilbert Jenkins commented that the requirements that are in there look good, except grow media is not considered at all and that is something that is important to look at.
- Chair Wright asked if they are discussing the new entrance into the marketplace and that this application is not what will be utilized to authorize any existing ROs to roll into adult-use.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander commented that is correct and that the statute mandates OCM and the CCB to expand the RO license class and that is what this item is related to. He further commented that the submissions related to the existing ROs transition into the adult-use market is not through this application and will be through document submissions and will be done over time.
- Chair Wright asked if he said document submissions, not an application.





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- Executive Director Chris Alexander commented that no, it is not an application but more of a collection of their operations, ownership, et cetera, to ensure compliance and checks on their facilities before they can transition over.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Adam Perry, and a second from Board Member Hope Knight, Resolution No. 2023-34, a Resolution Approving Certain Application Forms for Registered Organizations and Directing that a New Application Period for Registering Registered Organizations Open and Close on Dates to be Established by the Office of Cannabis Management, was approved unanimously.

- Nakesha Abel, Deputy Director of Health and Research for OCM, provided an overview of Resolution No. 2023-35, a Resolution Approving Certain Application Forms for Cannabis Research Licenses and Directing that a New Application Period for Cannabis Research Licenses Open and Close on Dates to be Established by the Office of Cannabis Management. With this license, New York State has the opportunity to lead the nation in cannabis research, an area that has been slow to progress due to administrative barriers and federal restrictions. Scientists, physicians, cultivators, and others will now have the opportunity to study real world cannabis products and provide the evidence needed to better understand the vast potential of the cannabis plant. The Office encourages interested individuals to review the regulations and application requirements. Some of those requirements include, but are not limited to:
  - A description of the research and study design.
  - Justification for the amount and type of cannabis needed.
  - A plan for securing the cannabis.
  - Evidence that researchers have the appropriate expertise needed to conduct the study.
- If approved today, the license application will be available September 13, 2023 on the OCM webpage and accepted on a rolling basis.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Gilbert Jenkins, and a second from Board Member Jessica Garcia, Resolution No. 2023-35, a Resolution Approving Certain Application Forms for Cannabis Research Licenses and Directing that a New Application Period for Cannabis Research Licenses Open and Close on Dates to be Established by the Office of Cannabis Management, was approved unanimously.

- Chair Wright provided an overview of Resolution No. 2023-36, a Resolution Issuing Certain Cannabis Laboratory Permit. This resolution seeks to approve the inclusion of an additional cannabis laboratory testing permit for Dope Diagnostics Lab in Pearl River, NY. With this approval, Dope Diagnostics Lab will become the 16<sup>th</sup> permitted cannabis testing laboratory in New York State, ensuring sufficient lab testing capacity to meet the current and expanding needs across the State.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Jessica Garcia, and a second from Board Member Hope Knight, Resolution No. 2023-36, a Resolution Issuing Certain Cannabis Laboratory Permit, was approved unanimously.

- Chair Wright provided an overview of Resolution No. 2023-37, a Resolution Denying the Issuance of Certain Cannabis Laboratory Permits. This resolution seeks to deny the



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cannabis laboratory testing permit for Calyxis Laboratories, LLC in Pearl River, NY. OCM has completed the review of and recommends the denial of this applicant for a cannabis testing laboratory permit.

- Upon a motion from Board Member Hope Knight, and a second from Board Member Jessica Garcia, Resolution No. 2023-37, a Resolution Denying the Issuance of Certain Cannabis Laboratory Permits, was approved unanimously.

- Board Member Jessica Garcia recused herself from the discussion and a vote regarding Resolution No. 2023-38.
- Chair Wright provided an overview of Resolution No. 2023-38, a Resolution to Approve the Change in Composition Request of Registered Organization Etain, LLC. A director of a parent company to the registered organization Etain, LLC has resigned from their position on the board of managers. The parent company is seeking to redeem the membership interest of the resigning director and add two new board members to its Board of Managers. OCM has completed its review of the change in composition and all required filings by Etain and recommends approval of the request.
- Chair Wright commented that she is concerned that they do not have a more streamlined process in place at this moment in order to bring these kinds of concerns before the Board and she looks forward to the implementation of something that is going to allow them to actually address this in real time because they are coming in after the fact and they need to get ahead of these types of concerns and she does not think that it is going to be fair to the other market players.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, and a second from Board Member Hope Knight, Resolution No. 2023-38, a Resolution to Approve the Change in Composition Request of Registered Organization Etain, LLC, was approved unanimously. There was one abstention from Board Member Adam Perry.

- Executive Director Chris Alexander, John Kagia, Director of Policy for OCM, Ben Sheridan, Deputy Director of Policy Implementation for OCM, and Damian Fagon, Chief Equity Officer for OCM provided the following updates during the Executive Director's report:
  - Market Update: Retail/Sales Updates
    - There are 23 retail dispensaries open across the State of New York.
    - Consumers have spent nearly \$66 million on legal cannabis year to date.
  - Market Update: Retail Sales Growth
    - In the week from August 20<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>, approximately 100,000 units of cannabis products were sold, generating over \$4 million in sales.
    - Nearly half that product is flower, with vapes making up one-quarter of sales, and edibles accounting for 16%.
  - Market Update: Cannabis Growers Showcase Update
    - The Office has approved 22 Cannabis Growers Showcases (CGS).
    - To date, CGS has had 70 participating cultivators, 19 processors, and 15 CAURDs participate.
    - As of last week's data, CGS events have yielded over half a million dollars in sales, averaging nearly \$10,000 per day in sales.





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- Cannabis Hub and Incubator Program (CHIP)
  - Strategic Support Network: Establishment of a robust statewide support system, in collaboration with OCM partners, dedicated to providing SEE applicants with technical guidance and mentorship throughout the licensure application phase this coming Fall.
  - Collaborative Partnership: The mentorship network encompasses 75 individuals from 25 entities, including community-based organizations, non-profits, and law firms. These partners are committed to offering both in-person and virtual license application assistance.
  - Training and Development: The SEE Team will conduct a week of comprehensive training sessions in the final week of September to ensure optimal partner readiness for the October application window.
  - Resource Dissemination: Partners will be equipped with FAQ documentation and curated resource guides. These materials will address frequent inquiries encompassing topics such as TPI, location changes, LLC acquisition procedures, and more.
  - Additional support and funding for community partners: RFA, which will facilitate the forthcoming grant disbursement, is currently processing with OGS. While grant funding is processing internally, OCM has organized a volunteer network to ensure SEE applicants are provided with license application support when application the window opens next month.
  - Distressed Farmer Transition Program (Nov 2023): Training sessions on AUCC transition, spotlighting technical issues such as GMP certification, distressed farmer certification, minimal processing, and microbusiness transition.
  - SEE Technical Training (Feb 2024): Training sessions with tracks for cultivation, processing, retail and distribution. Highlighting foundational practices around agriculture, compliance, financial management, GMP certification, human resources as well as template SOPs and proformas.
  - Driving Community Capital (Feb 2024): Outreach and training to statewide Chambers of Commerce, local and regional investment groups, small business development organizations, BIDS, impact and ESG investors, foundations and economic development nonprofits.
  - CHIP Request for Proposals (Spring 2024): SEE Team anticipates releasing RFP to formalize incubator network of statewide technical assistance centers.
  - Market Data & Collective Marketing (Spring 2024): Share relevant market data such as weighted average wholesale prices, consumer insights, purchasing patterns, and retail trends with SEE licensees.
  - Launch NYSEE label for SEE licensees and consumer education campaign.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander commented that this again is a day where they put forward work that has been in development for a very long time, years now, and as they have



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been doing that work, there has been somebody leading the charge and that he has been his brother through all of this and now that they have put forward the regulations to go final, his work is done and it is time to hand off the baton to somebody else to continue and that he wanted to thank Axel Bernabe for helping him run and build OCM. He further commented that this will be Axel Bernabe's greatest legacy and wanted to thank him publicly in front of everybody so that everybody knows that this project could not have had a better story.

- Axel Bernabe, OCM Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Director, commented that this has undoubtedly been the most humbling experience in his professional career, the most challenging, bar none, the most impactful, and the most rewarding project he has ever worked on, and it has also been a privilege to be able to contribute substantially to the vision for an equitable, small business driven market in New York. He further commented that he is eternally grateful for having been able to be a part of this, but this has been a team effort from the beginning. He thanked Chris Alexander, Majority Leader Crystal Peoples Stokes, Liz Kruger, Donna Lupardo, advocates, policymakers and OCM staff. He further commented that it has been such a moving experience and that this is as good time as any, and there is never any good time to leave and there is never any good time to pass the baton, but when they have done what they have done eight years in the making, he figured it is a good moment to pass this on to a new generation of public leaders that are going to drive this home. He also thanked the CCB and Governor Hochul for really taking a chance on him.
  - Board Member Jessica Garcia commented that she wanted to say thank you so much to Axel Bernabe and that it has been such a pleasure for her to get to know, work, debate, and to co-create with him, and that he will certainly be missed for sure.
  - Chair Wright commented that most of the Board echoes that same sentiment and thank you.
- 
- Members of the public were provided the opportunity to address the CCB during the Public Comment period. Participating individuals must limit their remarks to two minutes and remarks should be related to agenda items. Public Comments are listed in Appendix A.
- 
- Chair Wright asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a specific litigation matter, Fiore, et al. v. The New York State Cannabis Control Board, et al. and the Coalition for Access to Regulated & Safe Cannabis v. The New York State Cannabis Control Board, et al. Board Member Hope Knight moved the motion to enter into Executive Session and Board Member Jessica Garcia seconded. There was no action taken during Executive Session.
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- The CCB adjourned the meeting.



**Appendix A**

**NYS Cannabis Control Board 9/12/2023 Meeting – Public Comment**

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization (If Applicable)</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>
1.	Anthony	Feliciano	Housing Works	<p>My name is Anthony Feliciano. I am Vice President for Advocacy at Housing Works. On behalf of Housing Works, we are here to support the New York State CAURD Program. On December 29th, Housing Works became the first legal cannabis dispensary to open under the New York State CAURD Program. This has enabled us to learn and grow our cannabis operation while raising critical funds for our mission and contributing to the millions in tax revenues that is being generated from other legal dispensaries in New York State. Not-for-profit dispensaries like ours are making meaningful reinvestment to impact the communities. These cannabis proceeds have specifically allowed Housing Works to expand its vocational programs to formerly incarcerated individuals. We have been able to grow our harm reduction programs during an opioid epidemic and have continued our advocacy actions and policies for those affected by the war on drugs and continue being ensnared by the war on drugs. Housing Works' experience thus far has been positive. We were helped by the support of OCM as well as regulations that allow us to be among the first movers. We won all, all CAURDs to have that same experience. This is why we do not believe that this can happen if the registered organizations are allowed to enter the market at the same time as the previous license CAURD applicants. There must be a one-way for the CAURDs to be able to raise capital, find appropriate location, and learn and grow from the early days of the operation. The Nintendo program was this, to ensure that the state's largest cannabis market is not captured by used multi-state operators who will diminish the goals and opportunities of people infected mostly by the war on drugs, particularly black and brown communities. We find especially galling for these ROs after cutting a deal for early entry has turned around and joined lawsuits designed to freeze the market until they can enter. This can be a lucrative industry, but thus far across the nation, their profits have disproportionately gone to communities not impacted by the war on drugs. We know New York does not intend to go down that same road. The New York State CAURD program is ambitious and the correct way to approach the creation of equity. New York State should stand by the</p>



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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				RMT and establish those strong social economic equity programs. The CAURD program exactly is what we hope you can ensure there is proper time and support for the CAURDs to become established in the market.
2.	Matthew	Robinson	Essential Flowers	<p>Good morning, everyone. Good morning. Just want to say thank you to the CCB, the OCM, Governor Hochul, everybody that's been here to make this go down and happen. Since I've been an owner, I've got to donate to programs in my community. I got to bring kids to a jet game and get them on the field where they met Sauce Gardner, young kids that would never have that opportunity. I've got to donate to so many different things. This cannot stop. The OCM do not stop. Keep going. You got my full support and everybody at Essential Flowers, full support, 100%. The MSOs that are doing what they're doing, they're doing out of spite. They're not trying to do anything to help. They're just trying to fill their coffers and stock their pockets to make more money, to take to wherever they live, but they're not going to do anything for New York. The little guys, the small dispensers in New York, we have to keep going. The CAURD licensees that are out there that aren't licensed, that are affected by these injunctions, don't let that stop you. Support the OCM. The OCM is here to back you up. To my farmers, all my farmers out there, keep going. Do not stop. You have all support. Everybody here is a team. Whether you're on the OCM, a car, an AUCC, AUCP, we're all a team. It's very imperative that we stick together and that we stand together because these MSOs are coming and they're here. The only way we're going to be able to compete and fight against them is by standing together. We can't fight with each other. And so I'm going to be quick and just say thank you very much for everything. We appreciate everything that you've been doing. Do not let anything that the courts or people are doing in the courts stop you or deter you. You guys are amazing. You work hard every day, all day. I do not envy your job. All the heavy lifting, in no respect. That's what's happening. They're not respecting the heavy lifters. These are the heavy lifters. These are the people that got this done. So thank you very much and have a good day.</p>
3.	John	McDonald	Dauphin	<p>I'm John McDonald, Executive Vice President of Dauphin. Together with Harbor Community, the Dauphin open Union Square Travel Agency on Broadway and 13th Street in February of 2023 after receiving our CAURD license in November of last year. To date, we have employed more than 70 people from diverse backgrounds</p>



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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				<p>to work in our dispensary. Mostly people of color from communities that have been disproportionately targeted by the war on drugs. Some who participated in the legacy space and some who are returning citizens recently released from prison. These are entry-level positions that do not require a prior retail experience. Jobs with a good hourly wage, substantial shared tips, full benefits and a path for growth. We make a concerted effort to support women, BIPOC, legacy brands and LGBTQ community. We find ways to cross market with local businesses and support the economic growth of our entire community that has wholeheartedly embraced us. My father, George McDonald, who passed away in 2021, started the Dauphin over 30 years to offer new solutions to poverty, homelessness and incarceration. Our Ready, Willing, and Able program, work-based program for single adults in our permanent, supportive and affordable housing for senior veterans, people with physical and mental illnesses have impacted the lives of more than 30,000 vulnerable New Yorkers. Legalization of cannabis and the allocation of revenue from itself to impacted populations was my father's dream for many years. The time he spent with individuals disproportionately penalized by harsh drug laws, witnessing what incarceration does to deny them access to economic opportunity made him a passionate advocate for restorative, racial, economic and social justice. CAURD is farsighted and empowers people impacted by mass incarceration to access economic opportunity, made our venture with our business partner, Harbor Community possible, leveraging their financial investment and the Dauphin's expertise with the population. This kind of public-private partnership inspires innovative solutions to long-standing and seemingly intractable social ills. With the revenue generated from this venture made possible by the CAURD initiative, the Dauphin is enhancing our workforce development programming, hiring housing specialists to work with our program participants to find apartments they can afford and putting money into the pockets of our program participants and staff, 70% of whom are program graduates. Thank you.</p>
4.	Kavita	Pawria-Sanchez	Cannabronx	<p>Good morning. My name is Kavita Pawria-Sanchez. I'm the CEO of Cannabronx. We work with directly impacted folks, mostly legacy folks in the Bronx. This is a really tough moment. We all know that we're at a dangerous crossroads on two fronts. As we think about the regs as they came in today, we want to talk about two issues. One</p>



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				<p>is the early entry of MSOs. We've been hearing it as poisonous to social equity and reparations as it stands in the regulations right now. And two is the decimation of the CAURD program through the lawsuits and other hostile tactics by multi-state operators. I'll say more about those things, but as a headline, we want to support the OCM, the CCB, the state in doing the right thing here. We believe in you. And I think as you've seen from a letter that 300 of us signed onto that was sent to the CCB on Friday, we humbly asked the OCM, I'm sorry, asked the CCB to direct the OCM to issue amended regulations that would revisit how the ROs are entering this market. Their entry has to be delayed in order for this to succeed. And we know that you understand that and that most of the folks here understand that. We can't have corporate greed and through big wheat take over this market and undermine the dreams of social equity and reparations that bring most of us to this room. We also are really concerned about the decimation of the CAURD program. And we know you are too and that you're fighting for it. We have to somehow see financial relief. People made whole that have those CAURD licenses right now. There's much more to say. We're excited to hear about technical assistance and grants to community organizations. But at this time, that directive to the OCM is really, really important. We think the state has the opportunity to do the right thing here and that you want to do the right thing in the face of tremendous pressures by capitalism.</p>
5.	Dr. CJ	Segal-Isaacson	Cannabis Farmers Alliance	<p>Hello, I'm Dr. CJ Segal Isaacson. I am both a legal cannabis cultivator, AUCC number 236, and I'm a semi-retired medical scientist and academic. I represent Cannabis Farmers Alliance and I'm on their board of directors. I am also a member of the Farm Bureau and CANY. My daughter is a young woman of color and she and I are the majority owners of our LLC growing Renaissance. I am working very hard with my partners to start a small greenhouse-based cannabis farm in Canastota, New York with the immediate inclusion of the registered organizations and large corporate cannabis companies as well as the slow rollout of legal dispensaries. We are very concerned about whether we will be able to survive and thrive, whether there will in fact be a market for us by the time we have our first crop in the late fall. At the end of the last CCB meeting in Harlem, I had the opportunity to speak directly with Chairperson Wright and share my concerns. She asked me to write up a brief paper which she promised to circulate to other</p>





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				board members. Mr. Jeff Jones and I, he's also a CFA member, he and I wrote a position paper advocating a balanced market of small, mid-sized and large cannabis businesses. We sent it to Chairperson Wright as well as to several other organizations such as the Farm Bureau. We documented that while California like New York originally had laudable intentions of social equity, they caved into the corporate cannabis interests. This resulted in a flood of inexpensive corporate cannabis on the market and the death of many, many small and mid-sized cannabis businesses and with it their tax revenue. We cannot afford to let this happen in New York. A strong base of small and mid-sized cannabis businesses will achieve not only social justice and social equity goals, but dramatically increase tax revenue and act as a deterrent against illegal sticker shops. We advocate the following, cap the rollout of registered organizations to one store per year starting in 2024, not in 2023. If we start it in 2023, they will immediately open their second store at the beginning of 2024 and they will effectively have two-thirds of their stores. Limit the amount of indoor canopy they can grow, keeping in mind that they can grow five crops a year while most cultivators in New York can only grow one outdoor crop.
6.	Ruth	Randall	Green Sugar Leaf Farms	I'll keep this very short. My name is Ruth Randall and I am an owner, operator of Green Sugar Leaf Farms. We're 100% women owned organic herbal blend store right on the concourse of the Empire State Plaza. I wanted to say a great big thank you. I wanted to listen to this meeting. I was not sure what to expect. You guys have done so much work. It truly was a milestone meeting and I'm super positive and very excited. I'm also a medicinal caregiver grower and I recently completed the inaugural CCTM webinar as a legacy grower. I'm really, really looking forward to getting my certificate in the mail this week, but more importantly, my business partner and I are looking forward to working with and getting future assistance from the C program in our goal to have a New York State micro license. And yay, Chip. I'm really excited about the Cannabis Hub incubator program. It's awesome. Thank you very much.
7.	Margaret	Mikol		Hi, my name is Margaret Mikol and sorry to be such a wise guy, but that jumped off the page. We're about to launch and we're very excited for today's progress. But in respect to the CAURD, folks, I'm sorry. It's terrible. But you have to realize, too, that we need your support as new growers.



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				<p>We really do. We don't fall under the category and we need to all coalesce. We need those licenses yesterday. Please go to print as quickly as you can. We've been waiting for this for years and we cannot honestly, as can nobody in this room, compete with the big guys. There has to be a leveling of the playing field and there is none right now. You're talking about 100 feet of canopy. Is there anyone in this room who can compete? That tells the story, in my opinion. So we're asking you to pump the brakes. I'm too old to be doing this adventure. I'm doing it with my son because I really know what kind of quality he can produce. So don't put people like us out of the market. Welcome us in, support us, and support this group that can't compete. Thank you so much.</p>
8.	Mike	Casacci	House of Sachi	<p>I'm going to piggyback on that. My name is Mike Casacci. I am the owner and CEO of House of Sachi. We are cannabis cultivators here in New York. I work with my family, my dad, my mom, and even my grandmother, who's 89 years old, comes in and labels the joints for us three days a week. When we say we're a family-run business, that's what we are. I'm also a member of the Cannabis Farmers Alliance. I'm a member of CANY. I'm an active supporter of the CAURD program. I think that program is amazing. But I sat here in multiple meetings, and I was with you guys, and you've been so helpful in so many aspects, but you told us three years. You told us that they would have to wait three years before they came into this market. And in March, when we were able to put in those comments, it was still three years. When you snuck in the new round of regulations, we were no longer able to make significant comments, and that's why this is completely BS. You also didn't come to the industry stakeholders like the Cannabis Farmers Alliance, like CANY, to ask us what those changes would affect, which is also against it. And we relied on our businesses. My family has spent over a million dollars of all of our family money to build one of the nicest greenhouses and the best grows in New York. And I promise you this. I will not sell my flower to any one of those ROs facilities, and I hope that you tired licensees won't buy from them, because they just approved Etain to literally be purchased by Scott Miracle Grow. And in Buffalo, New York, they just approved on August 1st a 67,000 square foot facility. And I'm going to tell you right now, New Yorkers do not want the makers of Roundup growing their weed.</p>
9.	Zymia	Lewis	Big Gas Dispensary	<p>Hi, I'm Zymia, big gas dispensary CAURD 348. I'm lost at this point. Oh, sorry, my mind is boggled. First, I want to</p>



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				say thank you to all you guys. It's really, really hard being the face. The last time I was up here, it's totally different from now. You know, when I got my license, we weren't expecting this. We did everything you guys said in the timely manner. Within the 60 days, our target open date was August 22nd. And we gave everything we have. We have nothing left, absolutely nothing. We're paying rent on our location, on two locations, and we have no more money. We don't know what the future holds. So, you know, I just, please don't give up, you know? Like, please make sure that we make it through, that we make it through to the finish line. Please make sure that the CAURD program succeeds. Like, we gave our all. We have, I mean, we spent our son's college tuition, and there's people that spent millions of dollars on the CAURD licensees that we speak to all the time, and we're encouraging each other to stay in there. I'm a very hopeful person, and I'm always for the fight. I fought my whole life. I can do it. I don't know if I can, you know? So, please.
10.	Ervin	Raboy	Pleasant View Harvest	I'm Ervin Raboy from Pleasant View Harvest. I'm an AUCC down in Putnam County. I wanted to thank for the CGS. That was really, really helpful to all the farmers. I guess I'm just going to reiterate what pretty much every person who's come up here has said, which is hold off the ROs. There's no reason to let them in this early. They don't need the dispensaries. There's barely any open already. We have nowhere to sell our products to, and it can be delayed. It just doesn't need to be opened, and they don't need to get two dispensaries within the next year. That's basically it. Thank you.
11.	Renee	St. Jacques	New York Farm Bureau	Hello. I'm Renee St. Jacques, I'm with New York Farm Bureau. New York Farm Bureau represents farmers from across the state, including our hemp farmers and our adult use cannabis farmers. As we've seen with the hemp market, we had its ups and downs, and we were hopeful that this opportunity for farmers to grow a new crop would go well, and maybe sometimes, but now we see issue after issue, so many barriers that our farmers have to face, and I'm just echoing the voices in this room that they need your help, and allowing the ROs to come in is not the answer. It is the issue, and it's just going to push the farmers out, just like you've seen in other states. I want to add New York Farm Bureau to the voices in this room, and the voices from other organizations as well, an echo of saying please support our farmers. They are the true cultivators of our state. Please don't forget that.



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12.	Mavr	Stringer		<p>Yes, yes, so I just don't know where to start. I'm going to start with solutions, solutions, pies, pairing, incubator, Excel, seed. That's the hope for if this industry attempts to move on without us, and as you can see, our ROs disguise, excuse me, MSO's, disguised as RO's, because all of the ROs are MSO's, so MSO's disguised as RO's, who are going to be unleashed on the industry. You understand me? You're going to need some solutions, and I'm here to tell you, you might not like what I have to say, but crying about it, hating, that's not a solution, y'all. Crying and hating is a solution. A solution is a solution. Pairing, incubator, Excel, seed. Okay, you move forward, but how do we move forward with you? I want you to move forward. I want you to win, and if you take a scope around this room, or just look at what you got on, y'all, you all support MSO's. You all interstate commerce. We got China and other clothes on and stuff, and phones and everything else, so this whole thing about MSO's and this whole thing, I've never seen it or heard about it in any other industry, except around equity. Now, this dude said something to me, an MSO said something to me that haunts me to this day. He said this to me years ago when I was upset when he said it to me, and I wasn't in the right mind, I understand now. He said this, he said, "It's only a matter of time before I open up, because I got money, but you know who ain't going to open up? People without money." And I was upset, and I ended up leaving the conversation, but he was right. He was right. You understand me? So the PIES program is our money, and 100% ownership of your business. If you are a social equity CAURD, the pairing incubator excels C. So keep that on your mind. Pairing incubator excels C, we're going to make it known through different organizations that we currently work with, so you guys can hear about that, but that's how we can move forward. Never mind how everybody else can move forward. They're going to move forward. They already opened up a lane for them.</p> <p>I'm going to fight these folks. I'm not going to fight these folks. I'm going to try to make solutions and pair with these folks. So the pairing solution is they got to foot the bill for us moving forward, and it's percentages of their taxes, and I already presented this to MSOs. My wife created this program, and they were okay with it. So we got to be thinking about chest, not checkers. How do we move forward? They're going to move forward, I promise you. They already got a lane. They told you. They got a lane already, so they're going to move forward. Don't hate, we</p>



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				not hating. I didn't sign that letter because of that. You understand me? Solutions. What's your solution? A moratorium? That ain't going to work. Money's going to work. Money's the only thing that's going to work. That's it, y'all. Hopefully I didn't take too much of your time. My name is Mavr Stringer. Shock T. Greenlit is my brand and my label.
13.	Jeff	Jones	Birch & Bloom LLC	Ladies and gentlemen of the Cannabis Control Board, my goal here today is less monologue and more dialogue. I want to do less speaking truth to power and more co-creating solutions with power. Share a woman right. Two months ago, the universe put a boy from Montana together with a community leader from Brooklyn on a lonely street in Harlem. That meant something. I hope we soon have the chance to continue our conversation on community financing strategies that will help that young woman from New Bay and the young woman who was just up here open up their storefronts without having to sell half their shops down the river to Wall Street Sharks. Board member Knight, 15 years ago, the universe saw fit for me to design an architect, an online small business mentoring platform now in use today by Empire State Development. That means something. I hope to soon have a dialogue with you about how to turn the awesome enterprise development resources under your purview towards the success of small cannabis businesses in communities most impacted from Brooklyn to Buffalo. Because, folks, we're going to need to get creative. The red carpet has all but been rolled out for large corporate interests, and the marketplace is now in grave danger of teetering uncontrollably out of balance. You have hard data in front of you now from California on what you can expect if you do not maintain balance in the marketplace. That is job number one. These corporations are not our friends. They have at the heart of their DNA a priority that is in direct opposition to New York's social and economic equity agenda to produce profits for shareholders above all other concerns, and they are bullies. They take out full-page ads in major newspapers to beat up the governor over problems they themselves helped to create. They hide behind the goodwill. They behind the goodwill afforded to groups like disabled veterans in the worst form of corporate greenwashing. We need to double down now on small enterprises and community-first models such as co-ops, collectives, and micro-business. We need to overcome the access to finance issue. We need a microloan program like Dasheeda's across the state. We



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				need a state-backed loan loss reserve fund to stimulate lending by mainstream banks. We need greater access to markets. The showcase model needs to be extended, expanded, and improved. Consider a fast pathway for compliant hemp retailers and, of course, CODIFY CAURD. Finally, you need to take action now to prevent an extinction event for small struggling AUCCs. We are facing death by 1,000 cuts. Do you know that we are being forced to pay \$1,000 a month just to plug into the track and trace system? That's too much. We are the canaries in the coal mine for other small enterprises that are going to come after us. The marketplace is not functioning. It is out of balance. Please work with our community to fix these issues and keep these corporate sharks at bay.
14.	Nicole	Ricci	New York Small Pharma	Good afternoon. I'm Nicole Ricci. I'm the president of New York Small Pharma. I'm not going to stand here and reiterate what you're going to hear over and over again from everyone else. I just want to say that the process is a little disappointing. There's no denying that we've done something extraordinary here today in adopting an incredible package of regulations. But the fact that we have 280 pages of regulations, something that's never been done before globally, and thank you, Axel, for all of your work and always being accessible. And now, one question from the CCB. No deliberation. No discussion whatsoever. Just passing it immediately. And taking testimony after the fact makes it all seem like we're just barking at the wall. We might as well have one of those birds that just adopt, adopt, because there's no discussion, and that is what's needed. You need to hear testimony from your public before you take a decision, and we need to hear deliberation. This is not a perfect package. It's a good package, but there are a lot of issues with it that could have been deliberated and at least brought to light as opposed to from the public after the fact. It's just not acceptable. It has to change. And providing a marginalized community and opportunity is not enough. You have to accompany that opportunity with the assistance. So these programs sound great, but unless the administration and the legislation seed and fund this industry and the SEE program, this is all just talking.
15.	Thomas	Ballistrea		What's good? I hope everyone's well. My name's Thomas Ballistrea, Jr. I'm a mentee from the CCTM program. I came here today first and foremost to commend the board and the office for guiding the community this historic moment in post-cannabis prohibition history. I wanted to extend my gratitude for your diligence in carrying this





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				heavy load for us and for your commitment to equity as we move forward together. I also wanted to highlight the importance of focusing on community healing at this inflection point in human history to help us all recover from the traumas that have been caused to individuals due to the ramifications of the enforcement of cannabis prohibition. I believe that this can be a time that we can share life experiences with one another and find that through the commonality that we all have in cannabis, we can foster mutual understanding and encourage paths towards mutual prosperity. I would humbly ask the board to consider amending section 120.3 subdivision C, paragraph 1, to include a combination option for indoor and outdoor cultivation to allow micro businesses to compete in the adult use market. [applause] The current regulations limit the ability of micro businesses to be successful and in some cases make the structure of a micro business not economically viable given the ability of established licensees to produce cannabis grown in a controlled environment. I would also ask the board to consider extending the 60-day period for license applications. I don't think that that is anywhere near enough time to allow people to get to the starting line, especially SAE applicants. There's no way it's going to happen and we're going to exclude people from the market that deserve to be first. I look forward to the continued support from the Office for the Mentees of the CCTM program and the possibility of having the privilege of being awarded a license in the adult use market so I can become part of the solution as we write the next chapter of post-cannabis prohibition together. Thank you for all that you do for the community and thank you for your time today.
16.	Ben	Dewar	Raven Dispensary	Thank you very much for the time today. My name is Ben Dewar. I'm Raven Dispensary's license holder 338 and I echo what everyone has said about the MSO and the RROs and keeping them out and all their Trojan Horse strategy using the veterans to try and get in any way they possibly can. It really shows the lack of character that they have. I guess I take my time now to ask for a call to action which is great to see all these CAURD holders and everybody who's been active since the court case and I hope that we're all there on the 15th as well to show this unity. I think we're underutilizing our power of social media. I see Mayor Hal, myself, a couple others. Some cute gifts aren't going to cut it. All right? It's time to come out of process paralysis. What is there left to lose? We're



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				at the line to cross at this point. There's people who have nothing left, who've given it all already. If we're going to back each other, then we need to use that power of social media. We're all in process paralysis and it's time to go. We're worried about getting denied because if we stick our heads up, it's going to be whack-a-mole. It's the power in numbers. It's the First Amendment and we need to start using it like we are today and this Friday. I do thank you for doing the heavy lifting. I know one CAURD holder, many CAURD holders, 463 of us are all a small part in the greater machine, but I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors as well. Thank you.
17.	Jillian	Dragutsky	Astro Management	Hello, my name is Jillian Dragutsky, CAURD number 168 of Astro Management and co-chair of the New York CAURD Coalition Women's Committee. It wasn't even two months ago that I was in front of you filled with a sense of hope and an exciting, equitable future. Today I'm terrified of the future of the market as a whole. I'm here to urge you to do two things to help save and foster a program that you built. We need you to urge the governor to codify CAURD without codification, the CAURD program will continuously be attacked and threatened if it survives at all. There's a real risk that CAURD and all of us who followed the rules, regulations and guidance will potentially be ruined financially, emotionally and mentally. I'm going to mention financially again because many of us gave up other real opportunities to pursue and foster a framework that has been to pursue a framework that has been halted by no fault of our own. The second thing I will urge you to do is to reconsider the program that rewards the ROs for their aggressive tactics that have hurt so many small businesses here in New York. It's not just the retailers that are being affected by these issues, it's the cultivators, processors, ancillary and consumers. It's the whole ecosystem that is being devastated. We have cultivators who are harvesting right now, yet still sitting on last year's product. We have processors who invested in equipment and product, retailers ready to open but are still under injunction, applicants who haven't even been vetted by OCM yet, tax revenue that is being lost, unsafe and untested products being sold to consumers, many whom are unaware that they are buying illicitly, and consumers who have already proved that they will buy legally given the chance. Many of us don't have the luxury of a paycheck because we divested other opportunities. We don't have the ability to hold tight while government figures things out. We put everything into this. We are hurting and



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				by no fault of our own. We followed the prescribed and mandated process, followed the rules, only to feel abandoned by a system that is cognizant, only to be abandoned by the system. Please be cognizant of the precarious situation we are in. Please help codify CAURD. Don't reward the ROs who so blatantly are against small business. I have to ask you to stop because you have hit time, but if you give us the remainder of your statement in writing, it will be incorporated into the rest of the statements. I do have one question that I think 903 of us want to know. Will CAURD have to reapply in a minute?
18.	Patrick	Weinert	James Garden	Hi, my name is Patrick Weinert. I am from James Garden. And I am also representing the CANY Cultivation Committee, I am the Associate Chair. Today's cannabis controlled board meeting allowed the door to open for big cannabis to come in and compete with New York-based businesses. People who are from New York who are trying to build businesses here. But the CANY has always been at the forefront of solutions with this rollout, and today is no different. For New York to protect its local-based small farms, the following steps must be taken. One, we must reform the potency tax. I know this is something we have been talking about a lot. This is something that is going to disproportionately affect the small businesses as the ROs can just pay it. Two, regulations must be immediately fixed. I said this includes giving the ROs in small and local cultivators and processors equal amount of canopy space. Like we said, these indoor processors will be able to turn over multiple crops every year. And three, we must prioritize the enforcement of the illegal operators instead of coming down on the legal small farms who are just, with more endless red tape. Like I said, from everybody here today, we are struggling, and these ROs coming in are only going to make things worse. Thank you.
19.	Peter	Beznos	High	Hi guys, my name is Peter Beznos. I represent, I'm the CEO of High. I had a lot to say, I don't know what else to say anymore, because everybody just did a great job saying everything that, and I don't want to reiterate everything that everybody else kept saying, but I am part of CAURD. I'm here to stand for CAURD, and I think everybody over here wants to really know that question that Julian just asked. What is going to happen with CAURD? Do we have to reapply? I mean, a lot of people have a lot of things on the line. Me, myself, I don't want to go into my story and tell everybody my story. A lot of people here know my story, but, again, speechless. I really just have no clue. We were given an opportunity by you



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				guys, and now it just kind of feels like false hope, you know? We were set to be given a certain type of opportunity to help us, and I see that we're being set back further than we were probably before we even received this CART license. So please take all of that into consideration, and think about the people that are going to be hurt by all of this that's going on. Thank you guys.
20.	Katherine	Miller	Peregrine Toque	<p>Hi. How are you? Again. This is not the first time I've come to these meetings, and I'm sure it won't be the last. I'm Katherine Miller, AUCC number 232. I represent Peregrine Toque. I'm here to, again, I'm here again to express my concern about the continued rocky road to legalization. For two years, we've relied on the guidance from OCM as we try to make important business decisions. Unfortunately, we're often left operating in a vacuum. Emails go unanswered. We have no point of contact. When we have questions, we reach out, and it's nothing. I can't tell you the amount of emails I have sent and have gotten zero response. Often, if you do get a response, it is never from a person. It is from a group, a committee, or a team. We would like to be able to speak to someone. Part of the frustration that we have is that we can never get a clear answer from someone that we can just ask a question of. It's been another tough year for cannabis farmers. An extremely wet summer has led to a multitude of issues from greatly increased pest and disease pressure to outright crop losses. Many of these issues would have been mitigated, if not eradicated, had we been able to grow indoors. This is another example of how the RO is coming in and growing at huge canopies will push the rest of us out of the market. We just cannot compete. We're at the point of another harvest, and again, we stand at a precipice. What decisions should we make about that crop? Will we be able to sell it? My 22 biomass is still sitting in bags on the floor of the processors as they wait to see if orders are going to materialize. I have yet to get paid for it. How can we know what tier to transition to if we don't know what we're competing against? I respectfully ask that the OCM immediately release the total numbers of licenses that you plan to give out in each license and tier category so we can make informed business decisions. I also ask that you revisit the canopy sizes allotted to the ROs and roll out of their stores. There's literally no way for us to compete. I ask that you revisit the micro-business regs and allow us to scale up as we become successful, and I ask for better communication between the OCM and license holders. Thank you.</p>



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21.	Hal	McCabe	Cannabis Association of New York	How you doing? It's a little low for me. Sorry. My name's Hal McCabe. I'm the executive director of the Cannabis Association of New York. People have said pretty much what we want to say. You've got two groups of people, the farmers and the CAURDs, that are balancing on the edge of a pen right now, and they're facing ruin. Who's not facing ruin? The ROs. So do you know that one ROs grow space can replace ten of our cultivators right now? You've got to release, you've got to allow us to indoor grows immediately if you're going to open it up to the ROs. It just has to happen. We're not going to be able to compete, and all of these people, our goal is your goal. We want to get to the same place that you guys want to get to. We want the social equity and the restorative justice folks to succeed, and we want the farmers to succeed. We're trying to get to the same place. We put hundreds of hours of work into our comments on the regulations, only to see them ignored. We've got 550 members representing the entire supply chain, a wealth of knowledge. Please take our comments to heart. Please make changes. I hate to see these things just go through without any adjustments, so thank you very much.
22.	Christine	Richardson		So I haven't been coming to your meetings for this whole year, and I actually wasn't ever going to speak, but I thought maybe today after everything going on, I should. If everybody here at the board would look around, we're one family. And this has been a long road. I don't understand. Every time I come here, there's no answer on the board. We give our comments, but we never get an answer. She asks, I ask, you ask, but when you explain everything, you never say, "Oh, we're going to do this, we're going to do this, we're just going to vote for it." So what do we do on our end? And now I get my license until July-19th. A whole year I waited, and now you have nothing. ROs, they come in, everything's a whole-- What are we supposed to do now when it's in your hands? So we still don't have an answer. It just goes round and round and round and round. So at some point, would someone be able to help us or tell us what to do? You post everything, but there's nothing there. For me, I call, I get no answers, same as everybody else. It's the same circle, but for a whole year for me. It's been an entire year, not to mention what happened to me when I got arrested and how long I've waited and everything taken from me. I was a trauma nurse, 10 years took it from me. Disbarred, New York State took it. All of a sudden, you're going to give it back in a program, and a whole year I wait to get it, and then, oh,



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				sorry, it's gone. So what do we do? There's no answers that haven't been any. So are we ever going to get a reason or rhyme, or does anybody know what's going to happen next? It's still the same silence. And there's my silence to you that we're still in silence. That's it.
23.	Tess	Interlichig	Grateful Valley Farm	<p>Hi there. There we go. My name is Tess Interlichig. I am AUCC number 34 of Grateful Valley Farm in Steuben County, and I'm a founder and board member of the Cannabis Farmers Alliance, Farm Bureau, and Canning number. I'm also a family nurse practitioner. I'm a daughter, a sister, a mother, and a healer, and I'm a farmer. I wanted to thank you for giving me a chance to speak my piece today, but I wasn't going to, as I've just about given up. I've given up on the vision that I've had since the 90s for what legal cannabis could look like here in New York State, and I've just about given up on the state to do the right thing. I bust my ass. Every single day, I'm fighting day and night for this plant. I'm fighting for the tens of thousands of patients I've treated to be able to have access to this amazing plant, this beautiful plant that's saving lives, and she saved mine. She's healing people every minute of every day. How can we allow greed to shatter? Something so perfect. How can we let the fate of New Yorkers be crushed in the hands of just a few bullies? New York. How about gritty New York City, the one city who loves or married Jane like none other? New York, which happens to be, by the way, the most linguistically diverse city in the world. Over 800 languages are spoken. How can we celebrate the glorious diversity and be proud of this while we sit back and welcome a handful of out-of-state cannibals to destroy our economy before it's even had a chance to take off? How's that okay? Doesn't sound like social equity to me. As a farmer, we were asked to grow cannabis for the state of New York, so we did. But you didn't deliver. No, you put up roadblock after roadblock after roadblock. I don't want to complain anymore. I'm tired. I'm really frickin' tired. Families are suffering. I'm close to losing my farm again.</p> <p>I'm sitting on lots of beautiful organic cannabis that's been deemed by several people some of the best-known grown that they have seen and tasted. But it's rotting. We've lost millions of dollars. We have done everything right, and I can't even feed my children. I sold my tractor to save the farm in January. It's now September. I have nothing left to sell, oh, except for the, you know, hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of cannabis rotting, turning into CBN.</p>





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				It's great. So my last plea to those in power to please remember September's Suicide Awareness Month, which professions are the highest risk for this? The service-oriented professions. No surprise there, right? Doctors, veterans, farmers. I had to call personally for a police, for a wellness check on a fellow cultivator, and I believe CANY also had to do a suicide crisis intervention for another. This is no joke. We're in trouble. Please do the right thing. Give the farmers a fighting chance to survive, to save this plant, and to give New York something to be proud of. And I beg of you to stand up for what is right so you may sleep at night knowing you didn't need that CBN that oxidized in my damn barn.
24.	Joseph	Calderone	Great Valley Farm	Wow, it's almost the exact height. That's like rare for a guy that's five foot five. So I don't know how I can follow that up, but no to the ROs. No to the ROs. Joseph Calderone, AUCC 34, Great Valley Farm, co-founder, CFA, cannabis, farmers alliance, and farm bureau member. At first I was going to stand here for two minutes in a moment of silence. But I felt that was a little melodramatic. So I'd like to point to everyone to Rosalind Adams' article published two days ago in the city. New York City. Big wheat is on the brink of a multi-million dollar surge in New York's cannabis market. New York promised to put independent businesses at the heart of the legal pot industry. Now major medical marijuana companies are making their play amid the state's stalled retail launch. Legally, AUCC's CAURDs, AUCP's relied on the state to fulfill its regulatory and legal obligations to construct a functioning program in a conditional structure that A, promoted social and economic equity, and B, promoted environmental sustainability. From my perspective, I don't see how this program, as well-intentioned as it is, is on the path to fulfill these objectives. With the introduction of ROs and the resilience of 36,000 statewide illicit and illegal businesses, many conditional members will have a choice to be legal or illegal. The consequences of the current program is an alternative program that will be running parallel to the legal market, consistently eroding the ability for legal operators, especially small and micro businesses, to survive. I am encouraged that the Council explain that this is a living document. One final comment because I'm running out of time here. The holiest of alliances that will fulfill the promise of this program is distressed farmers and legacy growers supplying quality cannabis to CAURDs and consumers. So say no to the ROs.



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25.	Berkay	Sebat	Elevate SoHo	<p>Hello. Hi. My name is Berkay. CAURD number 144, Elevate Soho. I just wanted to open up with a piece of the Constitution. It says that all men are created equal, endowed with their creator by inalienable rights for the pursuit of liberty and happiness. Now, when that was written, that was not a reality for millions of Americans who were living in indentured servitude and slavery. And that continued to be a goal that this nation tried to fulfill for hundreds of years. Unfortunately, people from our background and our communities paid the price for generations of policies that hurt them the most and were specifically targeted to hurt them. That includes such recent policies such as the drug war. And when I saw the original MRTA, I was very happy because outside of just being a cannabis law, I feel like this is the first time in my living memory that the state has taken action to right the wrongs of generations of economic, social, and racial injustice. And it's quite sad to see the state of the CAURD program today. It's under injunction. Large cannabis companies are assaulting the program from all sides. CAURD licenses like me, who put everything into this business, who thought this program was going to be an avenue for years of injustice that we faced, our constitutional rights being violated, weaponization of cannabis programs against our communities, and also even the injustice of being stopped and frisked all the time because they thought we had cannabis on us. To see the program where it is today, it's just sad. And I'm urging the governor to call a special session to try and codify the CAURD program. Because I believe this program is worth fighting for, not just because it's an economical program, but it's a social justice program that's aimed at giving an example for not just New York, but for other states to right the wrongs of years of social and racial and economic injustice that plagued our communities. So thank you.</p>
26.	Matthew	Waddell	Runners High Brand	<p>Hi, everyone. My name is Matthew Waddell. I am a legacy grower. I'm the owner of the Runners High Brand, which I am hoping to be able to get off the ground. And it's a brand of cannabis-based athletic fuels, which is kind of novel. It's something that is going to come from the Adirondack Park and be something that New York can be proud of, hopefully. I'm a CANY member, and I'm a recent mentee from the CCTM program. I'm an eighth generation New Yorker, and I'm working to carry on the legacy of conservation and environmental conservation that my grandfather left to me. We're working to do something that the ROs really are not, and we see this very disingenuous</p>



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				argument happening where the ROs, as everyone has said, are coming in and trying to basically piggyback on and create an opportunity for them to come in, for the MSOs to come in. And there are people who are trying to do better things for the environment and for the state. I'm trying to conserve 500 acres, and I'm working with the Adirondack Land Trust to create a 500-acre conservation easement with 3,000 acres of Hudson River watershed north of almost all of these people. And I'm protecting that water by protecting this place that's sacred to me and my family and all of my ancestors, and those who were stewards of the place before that. And I'm giving this back, working with the Adirondack Land Trust to give this back and create a place for people to come and enjoy cannabis in a different and positive way. And so Codify CAURD is the only way that we are going to be able, as micro businesses and other businesses, to actually sell a product that New Yorkers want to buy, and not this garbage.
27.	Alexander	Anderson	Reentry Theater of Harlem	Hello, everybody. My name is Alexander Anderson. I'm the Executive Director for Reentry Theater of Harlem. It's a reentry program for individuals coming out of prisons and jails. I came here today. I don't have a chubb application. I came here because my wife and I have a chubb application that's being pending. I really don't know what status it is. We haven't heard anything back. We applied in September. I wrote several emails trying to get a decision on our application and haven't got anything back. So I'm asking the board here today to at least give us an answer. We feel that we have plans and hopes, like everyone else here, for the people who we work with. I am committed to helping individuals who are coming out of prison. I did five to 15 years for possession of marijuana. It devastated my life. I'm a social worker. I lost my job. It's hard for me to get a job without having to explain while I was incarcerated. So this opportunity to have a chubb license will allow me and my wife to employ the people who we both work with, we're both social workers, and to employ those people that come out, that get involved in our theater program. We thought that this would be a great idea, but what I'm hearing now is maybe we shouldn't even pursue it because I hear all the problems that people are going through. So I just want to ask that we at least get an opportunity that our license will, the number is 904, gets a chance to be reviewed and considered. I handed out my statement with a brochure because I wanted to say that the individuals that I work with, people who have come



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				home, have been invited by one of the biggest synagogues in New York City to help open up their holidays. I thought that was really great that they invited us to put on a performance like that. These individuals need jobs. Two of them just came home, got jobs with certain organizations and got fired because one did 40 years and didn't know how to do case management. And they got fired. So I'm hoping to get a chubb license so that I can put people to work that are coming out of prison and that come to our organization to get their lives together.
28.	Jeanette	Miller		Hi everybody, Jeanette Miller. I'm AUCC number 120. I'm the current chair and co-founder of the Cannabis Farmers Alliance. I've been with Farm Bureau for over 10 years. I am sit on their Cannabis Committee. I'm happy Renee was here today. I thought of like 100 different ways to say what I want to say today, but I just can't get it. Like some of you don't know me, so you don't know my story, but that's not important, right? We got to take action. But I want to remind us first of all, some things that you all said. You said Christopher Alexander, I can't thank the Governor Hochul enough in the legislature for providing us with the tools to make up the lost time. We keep equity and inclusion at the center of the New York cannabis industry. And you said here that we are, with this bill, we are putting New York farmers, not big corporations, at the forefront of our industry while protecting public health by delivering safely grown cannabis products. All right, I want to go to now Tremaine. You said, I'm thankful for the Governor as well. This law places New York farmers first in line to grow cannabis with the timing, which is critical to our efforts to roll out the adult use program. With this bill, we are continuing to put equity and inclusion at the forefront of the cannabis industry. I want to say, I mean, I have a lot of quotes here. Let me go with Michelle Hinchey. Today's an exciting day. This bill, New York has farmers, the ability to start cannabis market has been signed in the law. The MRTA sets the foundation for our state to build a truly circular cannabis economy that puts New York farmers first in small business dispensaries at the center of growth to production. And with the signing of this bill, farmers can now put the seeds in the ground to ensure that we meet the demand of the burgeoning industry. And then she thanks Governor Hochul who has said, I am proud to sign this bill with positions, New York farmers to be the first to grow cannabis and jumpstart the safe, equitable and inclusive new industry we are building. New York will continue to lead the way, delivering our



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				commitment to bring economic opportunity and growth to every New Yorker in the corner of this great state. Okay, so you guys said that and we relied on you and we heard reliance a lot because reliance is a very important term. I want you guys to know I'm using reliance because it's important. It's going to come up again. We relied on you and you relied on us and we totally did it. We totally put those seeds in the ground. We grew two years of great cannabis and we have nowhere to put it. I have 500 plus pounds sitting and rotting right now and there's nowhere to go for it. And I happen to be the suicide person, the person that wanted it was going to kill myself that my friend over here called for. I had the police come to my house because I'm done. I was homeless at 14 and this ruined my life. New York State ruined my life becoming an educator and I'm regulating us out of that. The gaslighting that happens. I wore a noose around my neck today because I feel like I'm going to hang myself and I don't want to disrespect anybody because it's not about disrespecting anybody. But I like if I hang myself, I take the rope off and I'm going to hand it to you guys. You can pass around hand to the governor and then you have the rope that hung me in your own hand. You know, it's there. All right. We're tired. We're done. We're struggling. We need help. You don't answer. Only reason I get answers is because I call and I call and I call and I do this.
29.	Marcos	Riberio		My name is Marcos Riberio. AUCC 36 harvest. I wanted to have my comments on the record. I'm very concerned about letting multi state operators just come into the market. The same time we're trying to establish ourselves. I'm literally in a handful of stores right now and it's not going well in terms of new stores taking us on. And I'm very concerned. So I just want to go on the record saying that I do not support multi state operators joining the market for numerous years. Give us a chance. Let me build my brand. They don't need it. They don't need the capital. They don't need it. We need it. We're New York State farmers. I've been a farmer for many, many years now and it's not fair. I'm struggling. I'm struggling and it's hard for me and I support CAURD, codify CAURD.
30.	Jeffrey	Hoffman		I came to the meeting in January and I told you of CAURD applicants that paid their application fee instead of paying their rent. I don't know how we got here. I don't know how we created regulations that are so susceptible to legal challenge. I know the general counsel quit in June. Maybe he was unhappy with what you were proposing and was recommending to you not to do it, to do something



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				<p>different. The first retail application period needs to be open to everyone at the same time. What does that mean to you? Let's ask everyone in the room what that meant to them. We didn't do that, right? So now I have a lawsuit preventing 440 some odd folks from opening. We have farmers that can't sell their products anywhere. We have process as folks have said that has spent all their money. So what do we need to do here? I'm with Mar. Mar, I'm going to keep my hands out of my pockets. What are the solutions? What are the solutions? We got a we got a codified CAURD. I've been holding the sign up back here. Everybody's been saying it. That's your solution. The solution is not wait to wait for this lawsuit to have CAURD be found unconstitutional. I'm an attorney and I'm telling you that's what's going to happen here. Okay, that is what is going to happen. So we got a codified CAURD. Okay, and we got to do a better job in creating our regulations. They can't be so susceptible to legal challenge. Part 116, which is CAURD was susceptible to a dormant Commerce Clause situation. It's susceptible to these state lawsuits. You got three of them. Now we can't have regulations that are so susceptible to challenge. You're never going to open this program. Never. I know many of you, Mr. Bernabe, we've interacted a lot. Aaron, we've acted a lot interacted a lot. Mr. Kagia, we've interacted a lot. I love these guys. I can't believe you said Mr. Kagia to his wedding with all this stuff going on. I can't imagine how that how that how he felt about that. Please work with these folks. I begged you in January. Please work with them. I know this is difficult. If it was easy, everybody would be doing it. It's hard work. But we can't do it the way we're doing it. You're hurting people tremendously. The very people who were supposed to help the CAURDs would have been better off if they'd have opened illicit stores. And I don't want that. I fight with people all the time about having a regulated market. But that's the fact. These people are broke. And they'd be having all the money that all of the thousands of stores have made in the process. So I beg you, please answer the phones. Better regulations. Work with the Governor, please, to codify CAURD. He's going to call a special session, perhaps, about the migrant crisis. Let's do this. There are solutions. Please, let's do this.</p>
31.	Hugo	Rivas		<p>Hello, everybody. Thank God for today, yesterday, tomorrow. Thank you to OCM. It's a monumental day. OCM, congratulations. This amazing accomplishment. It feels amazing to be a part of this day, almost. Thank you</p>





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				for the opportunity. We have followed the state's guidance and now have invested years of time and tens of millions of dollars collectively. We are asking for our state representatives and our government to step up and have a special session to codify the CAURD program into law. It's never too late. The same social equity group that the state claimed to want to help by enacting the CAURD program now faces substantial irreparable harm. The harm to themselves, their families, spouses, children, and the communities that they set out to support with community impact and education programs. The CAURDs need you to make the change. Stop MSOs and ROs. They are coming in at the end of the year. You have set three. We, the people, say come in at the year 2024 and at the end of that year. We need this. The prisoners doing time and did time or are in the family suffering from not having them present for cannabis convictions need this. The society that thinks it's okay to convict people for cannabis but yet think they deserve to profit from marijuana need this. Shout out, the law makers not enact swiftly. They are adding insult to injury and are showing that they, those claims, they want to help that they are unfortunate and willing to support in their time of need. We have done everything right. Follow the guidance and need you now. Hopefully this does not fall in deaf ears as it has felt for the past year. You always say that your success is our success but we're not being successful right now. So please, let's change this around. Thank you.
32.	Dasheeda	Dawson	Cannabis NYC	Thank you, Chair Wright. My name is Dasheeda Dawson and I am a registered medical cannabis patient. I'm also a child of the war on drugs. A long time, long time, New York cannabis advocate and educator and now the founding director of Cannabis NYC. Where over 200 CAURD licensees have been provisionally approved in our jurisdiction. So without a shadow of a doubt, I stand here to firmly say no to RO and to stand with the CAURD licensees as well. But I will also acknowledge that it took a hundred years nearly to ruin the reputation of this plant and it is somewhat disconcerting to see how we believe that this should be done in a matter of years. As Axel said earlier, some of us have been on this journey for nearly a decade and we are excited to see so many people that have come to the table, but recognize that we will need to double this amount every single meeting to get what we need to happen here. A lot of people are Johnny come lately and we welcome you. We do, but this law and what we've been trying to accomplish would never have been



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				<p>accomplished without the leadership that we have of O.C.M. And so I do think it's important just as a government official, someone who chose to sacrifice my own journey in this industry to acknowledge how difficult it is to move government. Government has never supported black and brown and or social equity. We are literally doing what America has never done before. And therefore, it's very possible that we will continue to make mistakes as we are trying to go through this. I definitely want to make sure everyone's voice is heard. And I agree that in this process, it does seem absent of the voice first, but that's why we have the public comment period. That's why we have to continue to show up in droves. And I also just want to caution this. Be careful listening to the opinions of those that haven't achieved what we want to achieve.</p> <p>If you never fought for equity, how are you standing here talking about it? Right. If you've never been at the forefront of this journey, how are you now here? At the end of the day, a lot of people made a lot of comments about what will happen if we allow big companies to come into this industry. And like the brother said, that's probably going to happen regardless. And so we do need to have solutions and some of the solutions will be regulatory. But as a person who is overseeing a jurisdiction with so many cannabis consumers, some of the solutions are what we buy and how we buy. And at this point, just as a consumer, there are some places that I will not shop. And we know on the record what people are doing to block the progress here. And so we can't reward them regardless of if they make their way into the market. We need to let everyone know. And part of the Liffoff Cannabis NYC tour is really about public education around exactly how we've come together. It isn't about hating on the state's effort. We're not going to love every line in over 300 pages of regulation. But the good news is we didn't put in a statute. Thank you, Chris, for that. And we get the opportunity to continue to iterate and bring more people. But as someone who's been doing this for almost a decade, we need this whole room filled wall to wall with the same comments, with the same cooperation and collaboration and support of our OCM and NCCB. Because no other state has attempted to do this. Our country still isn't trying to do it. Trying to reschedule isn't going to help all of you as well. So again, get educated fully on what's happening. And as you move forward, just remember that the people in charge have from the beginning been on this fight. They have also lost wages, chosen a path that is poverty. Trust</p>



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				me, I know. Working for government to be able to make this happen. We work with very limited staff. Many emails do not get responded to, but I feel terrible. But at the end of the day, we are still aligned in the mission. And that's why the executive director said from the door, we stand with CAURD. So I don't believe CAURD's going away. I think we have to continue to fight for what is right and continue to stand here and say these words. So I will just end with Cannabis NYC is here to support.
33.	Cornelius	Jones	LICC	Good evening, everyone. My name is Cornelius Jones. I'm a member of the LICC. I received my license in April this year, and I was very appreciative. I still am. And I see what's going on with the state being sued and everything. But there's 63 of us out here in Long Island, and we're struggling out there. And we need the state. We need everyone we can. We need help. And we definitely don't need you all to forget about us. And that's all I just wanted to say. I wanted to bring that to your attention. I have more to say but I'm choked up inside. I can't get it out. But thank you so much, man. Thank you for allowing me to speak.
34.	Beck	Hickey		Hi, thank you. I'm here today, first and foremost, in support of CAURD license holders. My name is Beck Hickey. I'm an advocate and friend to many of those CAURD license holders. And they are struggling to keep their businesses and their families afloat. I stand against the early entry of the ROs into the adult market. You need to slow their rollout so you can first take care of the lives you are holding in your hands. But if you are really opening applications in three weeks, I need to make one more point. The passage of the MRTA in New York was a huge step towards righting the wrongs of the past and lifting communities that have been targeted for decades. I applaud the work of the CCB and the OCM and what you have done to not only deliver on the promises of the MRTA, but to do even more when possible. It's not an easy task. No other state has been able to make the progress we are making in New York, but you still have a lot of work to do. We currently have over 280 adult use conditional cultivators, 40 conditional processors, and 463 adult use retail license holders. What stands out as a glaring inequity is that currently the licensed cannabis industry in New York is less than 5% women, and women of color even less. While these numbers make sense given the fact that most marijuana convictions during the war on drugs were men, the farming industry in the US is dominated 65% by men, and 94% of startup investment money goes to men. You have a lot more work to do for



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				the hardworking, groundbreaking women entrepreneurs in New York cannabis. Currently in the US, 42% of all small businesses are women owned. Women take more risks, hire more people, and invest more in those workers. Women of color employ over 2.2 million people in the US, and studies show that women of color hire and promote more people of color. All of that being said, the MRTA calls for a diverse and vibrant cannabis industry in New York, and if you truly want to take that on, as you review the new applications, you need to start prioritizing women.
35.	Eric	Larkin	Juniper Jill Cannabis Co.	Hello, my name is Eric Larkin. I'm from Juniper Jill Cannabis Co., conditional cultivator, license 133. I had so much to say before coming here, but everyone here has already said it better than I ever could, so I guess all that's left for me is to express my gratitude. My gratitude for being a part of this industry, my gratitude for togetherness, for everyone here making their voices heard, and also my gratitude for you guys doing such a difficult job, all these tireless hours and efforts to make the best decisions to progress the industry. And all that I could ask is that you hear the voices of everyone here, and try and make the best decisions going forward for everyone.
36.	David	Nicponski	Freshly Baked NYC	Hello everyone, Madam Chairwoman, members of the Control Board and the OCM. My name is David Nicponski, CEO and founder of Freshly Baked NYC, CAURD Retail License, number 652. We are members of both the CAURD Coalition and of CANY. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you on the record again today, although I'm not sure I'll be able to add more than what everybody else before me has so eloquently stated. We find ourselves yet again at a pivotal moment in the cannabis industry in New York. 440 retail licensees heralded as the cornerstones of an equitable cannabis industry are stuck in limbo. The rest of the licensed supply chain waits behind us, poised to further drive the industry forward, but similarly stuck in limbo alongside of us. New York State made a public commitment to attempt to right the policy wrongs and moral failures of the decades of unfair, unjust, targeted harassment of vulnerable and marginalized communities. We heard this call, and we believe in this mission. We took up our marching orders and stood up to do the hard work. We invested not only our money, but our time with our families, our personal and professional reputations, and our financial livelihoods into making this program a reality. Despite many obstacles, limited retail options for farmers, inadequate funding for retailers, and judicial uncertainty, we have



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				<p>persevered. Many CAURD businesses, however, are in immediate precarious financial position and face the grim possibility of failing and being on the brink of financial ruin. My own family's life savings have been decimated and were being steadily bled dry. Meanwhile, MSOs are looking to seize the market opportunities that we were promised and that we have worked hard for. If unchecked, they will unfairly dominate the industry, nullifying our efforts and our investments. We're not asking for handouts, but we do demand fairness. Solutions to begin addressing the ongoing failures have been proposed by groups like CANY and the CAURD Coalition. You've heard them repeated here today in the public comments. It's up to the state now to enact those changes, revisit and restore the MSO entrance timeline, putting them back to their original schedule, and cement the CAURD program directly into the MRTA, eliminating the legislative vulnerabilities of the program for once and for all. We've done our part, now it's the state's turn. The situation is volatile and desperately needs your intervention. We don't just deserve your support, we have earned it unequivocally.</p>
37.	Annette	Fernandez		<p>Hello, and I want to thank the OCM and their CCB for their work. Obviously, Chris Alexander, I'm always on your side because as a black regulator, I know that you are trying your very best, and that for me has always given me hope. Dr. West said you can't need the people if you don't love the people. I would say you can't need the plant if you don't love the plant. We love the plant and we love New York, and we love ourselves, which is why we are here. We should not be surprised that a New York estate in the US where no system on record to date has been equitable, special interests would infiltrate. Just like every other issue in America, cannabis has been co-opted by corporations. This would not be significant if we were playing on a level playing field. We are out moneyed, out lobbied, and out litigated. The multi-state operators have been here for seven years as medical providers, staking their claim, they celebrated having first movers advantage. In seven years, the New York medical program, I'm a medical patient, by the way, has never had more than 150,000 patients. They have had their opportunity to show what they can do with promos and discounts even, something that will not be allowed in adult use. They have failed their shareholders, and I understand that they have some explaining to do, and that's none of our business.</p>



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				As New York small business owners and entrepreneurs, it's none of our business. The top 10 MSOs, some of them here in New York already, owe a whopping \$500 million in federal taxes. This is actually an accounting strategy, but I don't want to digress. I'm a prisoner of hope and a native New Yorker. I, like many others, are still traumatized by the socioeconomic disparities in Washington Heights, a place that I love so much because it's where I'm from, uptown forever. The Heights and so many other communities across the state are in desperate need of new economic opportunities and better services. In uptown, it's our children who don't have access to nearly enough enrichment. We deserve the best of opportunities. We deserve reparations, access to capital that is not predatory, and first movers advantage. Know that this New York cannabis business community won't stop on our quest for healing and transformation in New York.
38.	Sean	George		Hello, my name is Sean George. Can we raise this up? Okay, so my name is Sean George, and I've been listening to everybody today, and a couple of things I just want to say is, first thing first, I want to say is that I know what it is to be used. I'm a black man, been incarcerated twice, marijuana is saying. I know what is being used, and I see what is going on a lot here, as all of us is being used. And we're not saying who we're being used by. I heard ORs, I hear MOS. I don't hear nobody calling out names of CEOs, or corporations, or people who are backing these people who are doing this lawsuit. All I'm hearing is people blaming who we're supposed to be cooperating with. The OCM, each other, the growers, that's all the people whose names I actually heard call out in this whole thing. Never once did I hear, "What's your call them, ROs?" We made them into these big boogeymen, instead of understanding that the only way you can stop being used is if you cooperate with each other, and especially people who are being pitted against each other. Now, I'm not saying the OCM is perfect, but I am saying that they are the first to do this, and anybody who does anything first, if you have seen the history, there's always been mistakes, there's always been problems, there's always been situations. So what I would say is, I would like for a lot of the solutions that came up in here today, by people who are actually doing it, to actually us come together and see how we can implement it, and bring it to the OCM, and bring it to a way that we can cooperate. Because that's what they're doing. They're not coming up here cursing the OCM out. Like he





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				said, it's going to be inevitable. They're up there, and they're making sure that they're getting the stuff they need. Are we providing for them? Are they our people? Are we making sure that we're going to get the stuff that we need for them by making sure that they have the stuff that's from us, instead of just up here crying and yelling, and making division amongst each other. We need to start calling out the people who are actually making this a problem, which is the big business. But that's all I gotta say. Thank you.
39.	Wilia	Smiley		<p>Afternoon, everybody, and the board. I have, first of all, hi, good afternoon. My name is Wilia Smiley. I've been a nurse forever and a day. I spoke the last time. I just have a few questions on the board. I heard when they were talking about the cannabis research, she threw out some numbers, \$10,000 to get something, then another \$200,000 to get something. I would like some clarification on that. And with the other brother that came up here talking about offering solutions, my solution is education. I know that, and I feel a lot of you were talking about the car, the expenses, and so on. My take on this is that we do not want to leave people behind. And I'm saying that to say, what about educating our people who consume the cannabis? Number one, my focus with my organization is seniors, baby boomers, and we know we are the ones that use cannabis the most. But the educating them because they are bombarded with so much, and especially with the illicit stores that are around. They're going in, they're buying it, they're using it, they're, anyways, they're going in, they're buying it, and they're not being educated on what, how, the need. They are taking chances, they're spending their money on we that is no good, and they'll say, because they'll tell me as a nurse, my grandson went and bought this, and it was no good. Can you tell me what? And as an educator, as someone who wants to keep people safe, you throughout the person that was talking about the research, you throughout the notion about the Compassionate Care Act. The Compassionate Care Act is something that needs to be researched, it needs to be taught, because our primary caregivers are the ones that are dealing with these seniors, and per New York State, as a caregiver, they can help their patient get through with it. And we, but they themselves need to be educated. At the top of the chain, our practitioners, our nurse practitioners, our physicians, they need to be educated, because patients are teaching them, and patients are afraid of sharing with them that they use we.</p>



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				The drawback to this is the fact that if they're on other medications, all of this combined can cause unwanted effects. As an educator, we need to ensure that our patients, our people, when they consume, that they're safe. So I would like to work with you guys. Give me a job, I'll be your primary educator.
40.	Emma	Butler		Greetings to the cannabis control board. And I am in support of all the CAURD licensees, those who are applicants waiting. I am a veteran, and I was an officer in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps. So, I just want to let you know that there are veterans who are supporting the CAURD users as opposed to the four service connected veterans who decided to place a lawsuit in this regard. But what I would like to say, so my time is not used up, passage and promulgation of a new New York legislative legal instrument by the members of the New York Senate is imperative to legally protect the defaulted New York conditional adult use recreational dispensary licensees. The defaulted CAURD licensees should receive social equity and financial priority recognition and support during the 2023, 2024 New York Senate docket. Definitely before the hearing, which is scheduled for October the 30th, 2023. Although a fact finding hearing is necessary, it is evident to me that gross negligence by Governor Hochul, the New York legislative members, and the OCM's Cannabis Control Board has caused harm to the licensees of the CAURD program. In addition, the owners of the New York medicinal cannabis dispensaries and their paid lobbyists, we need to lobby. That's what we need to do guys, are taking advantage of the failed oversight by the Attorney General Latisha James, the Governor Kathy Hochul, the members of the New York legislative body from 2021 to 2024, and the OCM's Cannabis Control Board because of their failure to protect the valuable human and financial resources of conditional adult use recreational dispensary licensees. The early indicator to allow the New York medicinal cannabis dispensary license owners to enter the New York cannabis market in 2023 instead of 2025 is another example of failed oversight and protection of the social equity and financial support to the defaulted adult use New York cannabis licensees as we move forward and with the remaining application processes in 2023 and 2024.
41.	Roger	Thomas		My name is Roger Thomas. I'm a stakeholder in this industry you guys have built. It's great. I myself believe that you guys are gonna get us this mess, but that's just me. Unfortunately, a bunch of us don't know what to do. If



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				<p>you guys could be a little bit more transparent so we could sleep at night. We have transparency is causing some of us to have meant will cause some of us to have mental issues. We have can't sleep. Remember now we are some of us are not working. Invest time, money. We don't know what to do because you guys are not being too transparent is causing arm to us. All I'm asking if it's possible. Also, if needed, please reach out to us the stakeholders. The brand doesn't matter right now. We're stakeholders. Please reach out to us for help. If possible, we are capable of helping that you wouldn't believe how smart some of these stakeholders are in the first court hearing the interveners at a lawyer with Ooh, Shattar, I'm not sure where he is. We are profound effect. So please, if possible, reach out to us for help. We will help you. We want to invest all our money to this time. And please just be a little more transparent so we could sleep at night. We don't gotta cry. We don't gotta worry about, you know, our kids tuition. Should we go get a job? I don't know if I should sign my lease right now or not. Chairwoman, you asked me once when would I be open up in Hudson? Well, my lease is just there. Should I go sign it or not? I don't know. You know, so I'm just please be a little more transparent and let us know what's going on and reach out to us stakeholders for help. We're willing to help. We came this far. We're not going to quit. I know you guys are doing a great job. I appreciate it. Don't give up. And just so you know, I learned I learned a new word over the last two weeks. I know what it meant. I think Jeffrey got a sign codify. I know what it meant to like last week and I love it. Please, Codify CAURD.</p>
42.	Howell	Miller	Two Buds Enterprise	<p>Hello, Chair. My name is Howell Miller, the one half of two buds enterprise CAURD holder 438. I'm not going to take up much time, but everybody said what they wanted to say and it was on point. So I just wanted to show my support and I'm ready to open up. Thank you.</p>
43.	Carlene	Hughes		<p>Good morning. I'd like to tip the hat to Chris, Damien and the board for your hard work and give some respect to Axel with whom I shared a pivotal smoky elevator ride with Doug Green about eight years ago, cannabis Excelsior. I'm a medical cannabis patient here in New York. I'm a former legacy market participant and I serve as the deputy director for the New York City chapter of normal. I'm the co chair of the education committee for CANY and I sit on a host of national cannabis roundtables along with many other Tyler's advocates who contributed to several white papers for both the MRTA many rounds of regulations to</p>



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				<p>help steer this program. I currently represent CAURD clients and potential applicants. Last year at a town hall in the Hudson Valley, the OCM. Told potential CAURD applicants that they wouldn't need fancy lawyers or consultants. Trust us. Unfortunately, the well intended efforts have only continued to cause grave harm to the very people you're trying to help. Please codify the CAURD program. After leaving the highly regulated wine business here in New York in 2014, I beat the door down at any medical RO company I could to try to get a job in legal cannabis in 2015 to strengthen my knowledge base in the regulated market. I ended up working for two of the medical cannabis companies here in New York and I saw firsthand the desperate need for a neutral third party nonprofit to help deliver resources to those in need and support the goals of the MRTA because the ROs have not and will not do their part for the community or small businesses. I was invited to participate in the CHIP initiative as well and I'm very excited to do that.</p> <p>Concerning the ROs entrance to adult use, documents for submission for existing ROs to enter the adult use space should ensure not only compliance with sustainable practices and things that were mentioned in the earlier but that they should actually be in compliance with the compassionate care act. Meaning they're actually vertically integrated and have substantive community impact plans. With OCM's robust effort on enforcing a list of smoke shops, it should also be focused on enforcing compliance of existing RO's to be compliant with the CCA and their community impact plans should be made public and they should be not eligible for renewal if they don't contribute to community through community based neutral nonprofit programs.</p>
44.	Walter	Iwachiw		<p>The pronunciation Ukrainian is the Iwachiw and Ellis Island is I watch you. So, whatever way. Okay. Thank you. I just want to thank the board for their hard work and I would like to remind the board that their applicants, which haven't been approved, which haven't had their questions answered and I respectfully ask that the board consider them licensees with the same rights as those that have been approved or potentially approved. We've all worked hard and I think we deserve the chance to pursue our goals. Thank you very much.</p>
45.	Greg	Bogner	Triple BBB LLC	<p>How you doing? My name is Greg Bogner. I am CEO of the triple BBB LLC out of Yonkers, one of the third largest cities here in the state. I've been at my location now for probably about two years. I'm a current hemp CBD license</p>



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				<p>holder. In addition to a retail vape e-cigarette all because the city of Yonkers wants to not have clarification between O.C.M. and CAURD and discuss where the third largest city in the state is going to do. We have not one legal dispensary other than a medical facility. I've had my location open for two years, met all the requirements under CAURD, woman owned business with the criminal conviction, four years we've been open, now selling under glass, rolling papers and hemp and CBD, waiting for a resolution to appear out of thin air here, which it almost doesn't seem like we're going to end up with some sort of resolution with CAURD. But as for me, I know, I don't know how many other representatives or other people here, applicants or licensees are from the city of Yonkers. I know myself that I can't find anyone else. So I know I'm standing here alone right now as a representative representing myself. I have a lawyer as well. But the third largest city in the state is doing nothing. Absolutely nothing. I've had a store open for two years where I have almost 4,000 customers signed in a petition that want us licensed to be able to bring legal product to the table for them to purchase. This is egregious by the state that this has gone on this far. The amount of money that I've put in as a, as a, I'm a legal retail business owner, which I've then converted to hemp CBD to follow all the regulations and requirements that you asked for. And I am still just an applicant and I still not received resolution. I spoke with officer James Lawson three days before the injunction went in place and was told my application would be cleared and it's still not cleared. You know what I mean? We're talking about the third largest city in the state, which is parallel to the five burrows that make up New York. And this is to me, I have a farms that we're working with that are distressed farmers that we're trying to give them an opportunity to try to set something up with a place that is willing to work with craft growers and smaller based farmers that are here that are licensed within the state. Thank you. I greatly take the state. I take OCM, CCB and all the representatives that are here. Keep showing your support.</p>
46.	Zach	Sarkees		<p>Well, thank you very much. I think it's important to start with thanks. It's an insurmountable effort that has been taken on to bring this to reality. My name is Zach Sarkees. I'm a small business owner. I'm a partner on an AUCC, small family and friend run business. I am an educator. I'm a consumer. For the past four years since the very first hemp regs were published, I've read every single line live</p>



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				<p>stream to the public to help educate and engage. This past revision and what has been passed was the first time we did not do that. I also won't forget how the last regs were passed during holiday season. We still got 3,500 comments together. The blanket copy and paste statements in response to so many important critical analysis of this document that was just passed, just swipe to the side. 400 comments in this last comment period. Why would I comment if OCM staff members, board members are coming out the gate before the regs are even proposed, we will not change these regs again. What are in those regs and why not? Who are the other stakeholders at hand? We know. We can read the lawsuits. We can see that. I'm going to pivot over to solutions because I really appreciate that and God willing we can come up with some solutions. I've been saying this as a broken record. We got to keep moving forward. We got to be prepared. I think pairing off of some of the Jeff Jones comments about the initiatives, local libraries, incubators, these things that are turnkey that we can empower our local regional community members to tap in. Without that kind of focused effort, I wouldn't recommend anyone in this bait and switch because there is no generational wealth when this is just a lost leader. This is just a bleed out. It is watching these ROs getting shooed in without what? No permission? No licensing? They get in by shooing? That's a massive concern for me. I think from a solution-based standpoint, things we really need to consider. If we are thinking about success in this industry, to me it looks like codifying CAURD. All of our CAURD members, there is no "we are one". Us cultivators are struggling just like you guys. Without your success, we are nothing. It looks like 5,000 mom and pop dispensaries, pop ups, on site consumption, whatever the hell it can be. It looks like changing the MRTA to put a ban on vertical integration for massive corporation. It looks like removing the BS radius clause that will choke out the entire market, such as Long Island, which is the base of this lawsuit. It looks like dropping the potency tax for small mid-scale operators. It looks like public business incubators and institutions at local libraries. And last but not least, it looks like the fight to keep the CRTA out of our MRTA. Thank you.</p>
47.	Nick	Farah	Leaning Birch Farm	<p>Good afternoon, members of the board. Thank you all for your time today. I haven't been able to attend one of these yet. I'm usually on the farm seven days a week, but it's nice to finally be face to face with the people who</p>





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				control the fate of myself, my family and our farm. My name is Nick Farah. Together with my parents, we own and operate Leaning Birch Farm, a vegetable farm in Amsterdam, New York, along with our AUCC license number 302, Goldfinch Flora LLC. I'm a member of Cannabis Farmers Alliance instead on our board and a member of New York Farm Bureau. I want to expound on Dr. Gilbert Jenkins' concerns about RO expansion. We know that the existing RO canopy alone is enough to saturate the adult use market. Expanding the ROs without a plan to control their contribution to the adult use market is irresponsible. AUCC has entered the market with the understanding that we would have a year of sales in a market with at least 100 stores before ROs were able to compete with our partners. Not only has the state failed to materialize these outlets, but having gone a legally imperiled route and restricted from opening dozens of new stores, New York has deprived struggling cultivators like My Small Family Farm, the last opportunity we had to see our 2022 harvest moved in advance of this year's crop and RO competition. All at the same time, seed to sale tracking requirements set to begin will amount to enormous monthly expense that far too many of us cannot currently afford. All of these factors together are paralyzing New York's small cannabis farms and threaten to destroy livelihoods and life savings across the state. Please act swiftly to devise a comprehensive relief package for the farms that the state's failed plan has devastated. Thank you for your time and thank you all especially for coming out and speaking your truths today.
48.	Mary	Kruger	Rock Normal	Good afternoon and thank you for your time. I am Mary Kruger, executive director and founder of Rock Normal. We are a cannabis consumer advocacy organization who is deeply involved with the efforts to pass the MRTA. So first I want to thank you for all the work you've done to start our adult use market, your devotion to equity and repairing harms from the war on drugs. Is not overlooked and I'm here to encourage you to continue that work and delay the entry of the ROs into the adult use market and codify CAURD. While it is exciting to pass these regulations to continue moving forward with setting up our program, we can't ignore that the RO's are set to come into this market is vertically integrated companies. The reality is there's a huge value at first mover advantage. We must hold off the expansion of the RO's into adult use as long as possible in order to truly have a chance of New York setting the gold standard for equity in adult use



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				cannabis. With the lawsuits filed against the CAURD program, many of these social justice involved applicants and licensees have been harmed by the state yet again. Even though the intention of CAURD wasn't to harm the applicants, the reality is that was the impact for so many. With the reality in front of us, we urge you to recognize your responsibility to do everything in your power to repair those harms that you have been part of causing. And one way you can do that is to delay the entry of the RO's into the adult use market until these CAURD applicants and licensees can get open and actually get their feet on the ground. As part of our mission as Rock Normal and in the words of Chris Alexander, we were never fighting for legalization at any means necessary. We fought for legalization rooted in justice, equity and reinvestment. We still hold these values while working to set up our market. Corporate cannabis and ROs have never been for the community. Many of them have actually had a history of fighting against the community, lobbying against home cultivation in New York. Several have been involved in lawsuits fighting against social equity goals in New York and other states. I thank you for your time. I urge you to delay the ROs and codify CAURD.
49.	Elizabeth	Smith	Westchester Harvesting Company LLC	We must make CAURD part of the MRTA. We must codify the CAURD program. Open application for licenses to everyone and push the RO's to not opening until 2024. Put CAURD into law!! Thank you
50.	Mireille	S.	Athenian Royalty Group LLC	Please consider opening general licensing and have the CAURD licensee's already approved become the first to be licensed under the general license. This injunction is causing us financial and mental distress. All of us that have invested our own funds into building out dispensaries and we need to find a way to get it lifted.
51.	Ras. Rudolph	Crossdale	EWF, Inc Local12	Please, can someone explain how the efforts to undermine the hard working's of OCM board of directors by allowing the racial undertone of unqualified by being indigenous (of color/ kissed by the sun) or a wombed-man that is by virtue of experience in the struggle of the yoke of oppression (war on drugs) is continually being labeled by some that are seeking to take control the OCM and silence the voices of the people who are the majority seeking equity in this overdue correction of injustice that still exists... Note to the wise, we see and hear you. The Spirit of Truth and Justice must prevail in a Moral and Ethical manner. Thou we know we're dealing with unethical beings. Perfect Peace & Prosperity... 🙏❤️ Ras RGCJr



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52.	Migir	Ilganayev	ILGANAYE V LAW FIRM, PLLC	I am writing to express my increasing frustration over the delay in the rollout of licenses for legal cannabis businesses, especially in New York City. It is a matter of great concern that despite the legalization of cannabis in the State of New York, law-abiding licensees and applicants continue to face unnecessary bureaucratic delays and red tape. While many entrepreneurs await the opportunity to operate within the legal framework, it is disconcerting to witness unlicensed dispensaries in New York City not only operating but thriving. The current situation has created an uneven playing field where those willing to flout the law are reaping substantial financial benefits, while those committed to adhering to the state's regulations are left at a disadvantage. This disparity poses ethical, legal, and economic challenges that must be promptly addressed. Furthermore, the delay in releasing applications for other types of licenses, such as the micro-business license, further exacerbates these issues. Such delays hinder the advancement of a fair and equitable cannabis market, contributing to an environment where illegal operators continue to prosper. I understand that the process of implementing a regulated cannabis market is complex; however, the state's current pace and lack of responsiveness put law-abiding entrepreneurs at a disadvantage and allow black-market operations to flourish. It is crucial for the State of New York to accelerate the licensing process and cut through the red tape that is inhibiting the growth of a fair and regulated cannabis industry.
53.	Coss	Marte	CONBUD	I'd like to comment in person
54.	Annette	Fernandez		Accountability is love and feedback is a gift. Since the inception of this process we have been focussed on a few things that were the pool of shared meaning. New York's MRTA was the most progressive law in the nation. Aimed at repairing the harm and acknowledging the wrongs of prohibition. The call to action for equity has always focussed on one thing; access, access to capital and access to real estate, these are the biggest obstacles facing the disenfranchised and marginalized communities that the MRTA is meant to support. Eighteen months into the program we are in a place so far from this north start that I am almost at a loss for words. And more....
55.	Cam	Nichols	inTegrity Farms	When it was announced that New York would legalize cannabis use, I remember an air of excitement. Everyone I knew who loved the plant still felt a slight discomfort about it publicly, but the inherent shame that so many associated with cannabis use began to lift. We started to feel like just



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				<p>another part of the family, or friend group, or society – rather than these ‘outcasts.’ Fast-forward to Aug. 26, 2023, and we were sitting in a plaza in Brooklyn, and being a cannabis consumer was the norm rather than the exception. It was a place where people of all different backgrounds got together and shared only one true common denominator across the board, the love for cannabis and/or the industry. That event was special. The Revelry Block Party at Restoration Plaza in Brooklyn really highlighted what I believe to be the most important aspect of the beauty of this industry as it is currently operating. There was a massive sense of community between individuals who again represented so many backgrounds and histories but were brought together by this passion for one common thing, and were finally able to celebrate that out in the open here in New York State. Every courthouse event I went to, I didn’t see 100+ individual people. I saw a family (which is ironic, because later on an incredible human intending to open a dispensary in Albany took me under her wing and explained to me how they were a “family”). Christine Richardson proceeded to invite me out to lunch and we developed a pretty good working relationship that I have never found in corporate America. This gave me so much hope. I saw an industry that truly operated like a family. An industry that operated on mutual respect and a sense of loyalty, rather than corporate politics and cut-throat tactics. We stayed in touch and still do to bounce industry things off one another. She also picked me out of the crowd at the second hearing and invited me to tour some farms. She is truly just a warm and kind soul. I am grateful for her and her friendship, and for that reason I consider her a personal hero within this industry. At the second hearing, I ran into Shanduke McPhatter. I had done some research on him after a quick Instagram conversation, and really admired what Shanduke stood for. Although he had a troubled past by his own admission, he decided to take his life's work and turn it into a non-profit to help local children find a path to a better life. His nonprofit organization was denied opening, which is a whole other discussion. Point being, the passion and reasoning behind Shanduke’s aspirations for a dispensary are nothing short of incredible and heartwarming. He truly is a local hero to his community. THAT is someone who deserves to open a dispensary and help spread that generational wealth throughout their community. At the same hearing, I also met Damien Tymes. We didn’t have a ton of time to go into his history,</p>



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				but I could sense a man who wanted nothing other than to provide for his family, and create generational wealth through legitimate means to provide for his daughter. A recent Instagram post solidified my thoughts on him. In the post, he seemed to admit that he has learned many lessons in his life, some that maybe he wished he didn't have to learn. Lessons he wants to protect his daughter and other children in their community from having to learn by helping that same local community come up. Again, another local hero. Coss Marte. I haven't chatted personally with Coss, but I understand his mission and I admire it. Convicted felons can have a tough time finding employment after prison, and Coss is trying to give those disadvantaged individuals a way back into the system that cast them out. A leg up with a chance to earn a reasonable income and work your way back into society. <a href="https://www.newyorkupstate.com/marijuana/2023/09/the-looming-corporatization-of-the-new-york-cannabis-industry-using-your-tax-dollars-guest-column.html">https://www.newyorkupstate.com/marijuana/2023/09/the-looming-corporatization-of-the-new-york-cannabis-industry-using-your-tax-dollars-guest-column.html</a>
56.	Alexander	Anderson	Reentry Theater of Harlem	My name is Alexander Anderson and my Wife's name is Annette Goodman-Anderson. In 1997, I was convicted, sentenced to 5-15 years and incarcerated for possession of Marijuana PL. 221.30. My wife and I submitted our application on 9/15/21. Our OCM application number is OCMCAURD-2022-000904. I want to ask the CCB members to consider reviewing our application.
57.	Venus	Rodriguez	CAURD Coalition	CAURD needs to be codified
58.	antoine Tylee	thomas	animMeMef ashion	lack of information uniformity. has NYC making so little money that its embarrassing. rebranding and grouping up wont be done by people who dont understand the product. I know how to do alot from running my art and design business and a clothing store making actual moves that make money will save/change and allow actual profit to allow actual people to live and exist in NYC with out all the crazy. you can ignore but alot of people in BROOKLYN AND NYC respect me for smoking and maintaining so they can say its nice to know if they be adults they can have peace too. id like to do that for people while staying away from them due to covid. and im not a drug deale but im a genius man with autism who does alot better on amounts of thc that you would sleep because of . so thank you and had i had speller and speech editor id be more formal. but if a controller open at this moment can name a program to fix what i saw on the news still from as the problem with MEDICAL from feb. also the stuff that works should be half price of u have chronic anything!!



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59.	Paul	Mannarino		The gray market is allowed to sell harmful products with hazardous chemicals and metals, while those who are trying to better the community must be forced to wait and compete with national chains.
60.	Natalia	Thurston	Big Dipper NY LLC	Please support the CAURD license program and honor the licenses issued by the OCM for dispensaries and delivery services.
61.	Reginald	Fluellen	Cannabis Social Equity Coalition - NYS	Please click link or cut and past link to browser to access public comment for Cannabis Control Board Chair Tremaine Wright: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-MILTbmwFNMICiqk6PdMUZYqv1Ufg0mS/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-MILTbmwFNMICiqk6PdMUZYqv1Ufg0mS/view?usp=sharing</a>
62.	Reginald	Fluellen	Cannabis Social Equity Coalition - NYS	Cannabis Control Board Member Jessica Garcia: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ez07HSq-Y8ZnZM2qFx8Us3qQQZpyMkEy/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ez07HSq-Y8ZnZM2qFx8Us3qQQZpyMkEy/view?usp=sharing</a>
63.	Reginald	Fluellen	Cannabis Social Equity Coalition - NYS	Please click link or cut and past link to browser to access public comment for Cannabis Control Board Member Adam Perry: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GXMI9656mGgVjjqD9r969VhsPh6SdEup/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GXMI9656mGgVjjqD9r969VhsPh6SdEup/view?usp=sharing</a>
64.	Reginald	Fluellen	Cannabis Social Equity Coalition - NYS	Please click link or cut and past link to browser to access public comment for Cannabis Control Board Member Hope Knight: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_STf3BcmdV-LETFTVtHol9kJtwm4aQbA/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_STf3BcmdV-LETFTVtHol9kJtwm4aQbA/view?usp=sharing</a>
65.	Reginald	Fluellen	Cannabis Social Equity Coalition - NYS	Please click link or cut and past link to browser to access public comment for Cannabis Control Board Member Dr. Jennifer Gilbert-Jenkins: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/146SuhNYHRA3u90OtE6go uTbuUeLHC3LU/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/146SuhNYHRA3u90OtE6go uTbuUeLHC3LU/view?usp=sharing</a>
66.	willa	smiley	W.O.R.T.H., Corp	Cannabis Compliance: 1. Where are the educational programs to educate the seniors on their cannabis use? 2. What/How are the dispensaries being held accountable to public health education?
67.	Jessamin	Swearingen	Entrepreneur	Please increase the THC limit for cannabis edibles. People who use edibles for pain need closer to 15-25mg a dose. Please stop letting out-of-state corporate interests influence your cannabis laws. If you want to help the people who have been harmed by the "war on drugs," stop giving handouts advantages to multi state operators.
68.	Fran	R		NY IS FOR EQUITY!!LETS LEAD BY EXAMPLE AND PRESENT AN EQUITABLE PACKAGE 🙏🙏





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69.	Dragana	Ng		I used Dark City Dispensary in Citrus Heights, CA Today for the 1st. They answered promptly, processed my order easily and delivered it early! I had no problem exchanging my order a few minutes later. Dark City is a most impressive company ,
70.	Anthony	Feliciano	Housing Works	My name is Anthony Feliciano, VP for Community Mobilization for the Advocacy Department at Housing Works. I am speaking today on behalf of Housing Works in support of the NYS CAURD program. Housing Works is a non-profit whose mission is to end the dual crisis of HIV/AIDS and homelessness and has a 33-year history of serving marginalized communities through provision of lifesaving services, relentless advocacy and entrepreneurial businesses that sustain our efforts. On December 29, 2022, Housing Works became the first legal cannabis dispensary to open under the NYS CAURD program. This program has enabled Housing Works to learn and grow our cannabis operations to serve adult customers in need of legal cannabis, while raising critical funds for our mission and contributing to the millions in tax revenues that is being generated from the legal dispensaries to New York State. Non-profit dispensaries like ours are making meaningful reinvestments to impacted communities. These cannabis proceeds have specifically allowed Housing Works to expand its vocational programs for formerly incarcerated individuals (often using the cannabis industry for placement). We have been able continue to grow our harm reduction programs during an opioid epidemic and have continued our advocacy actions and policies for those affected by the war on drugs. Housing Works' experience in this market thus far has been positive. We were helped by the support of OCM (Office for Cannabis Management) as well as regulations that allowed us to be among the first movers. We want all CAURDs to have this same experience. We don't believe this can happen if the Registered Organizations (dispensing medical cannabis in New York State) are allowed to enter the market at the same time as the previously licensed CAURD applicants. There must be a runway for the CAURDs to be able to raise capital, find an appropriate location and learn and grow from the early days of operations. The intent of the program was this—to ensure the state's large cannabis market is not captured by huge multi-state operators who would diminish the goals and opportunities of people affected most by the war on drugs—particularly the Black and Brown communities. We find it especially galling that these ROs, after cutting a



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				deal for early entry, have turned around and joined lawsuits designed to freeze the market until they can enter. This can be a lucrative industry, but thus far across the nation the profits have disproportionately gone to communities NOT impacted by the war of drugs. We know New York does not intend to go down that same road. The NYS CAUARD is ambitious, and the correct way to approach the creation of an equitable market. Social equity goals and programs may be harder to stand up, but we must stay the course. We often give up too quickly and too easily when barriers are erected; instead, we run back to the old monied way of doing things. NYS should stand by the MRTA which established a strong social and economic equity program to provide resources to communities disproportionately impacted by polices of cannabis prohibition. The CAURD program is exactly that and we hope that you can ensure there is proper time and support for CAURDs to become established in the market. Lastly, I would like to bring to the attention of the Governor Bills A7692/S7508 that would de-couple NYC tax code with the Federal 280e. This would eliminate a major financial barrier to profitability and enable cannabis operators in NYC to be able to thrive like any other small business operating in the city. Non-profit legal cannabis dispensaries like ours are thankful to Senator Sepulveda, Assemblymember Zaccaro, and the New York State Legislature for passing S7508/A7692. We have not heard any problems from the Governor's office over the bill and are waiting for the Governor to sign the bill into law.
71.	Pilar	DeJesus	All That Jive NYC	My name is Pilar DeJesus founder of All That Jive NYC. I wanted to share my thoughts on the current state of cannabis and what I believe should happen next week. I plan to be at the hearing and will be testifying. Born and raised in El Barrio, I learned early on the power of resilience and the importance of standing up for what's right. As a strong Latina, advocate, organizer, leader, entrepreneur, and a survivor of outdated racist policies, my journey has been anything but ordinary. I've always been deeply passionate about my community, and determined to create change. I believed that change could only happen if you had a seat at the table, and I am determined to take that seat. I had the privilege of being part of the dedicated group led by Drug Policy Alliance (Start SMART Coalition), who worked closely with legislators on the MRTA (Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act) legislation. We believed in the importance of rectifying the injustices caused by outdated drug policies,



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				<p>especially in marginalized communities like mine. Our collective efforts resulted in a groundbreaking piece of legislation that not only legalized marijuana but also addressed the historical injustices inflicted on communities like mine.(well that was the intent) The current state of cannabis frustrates and saddens me, because instead of repairing the harm, it's creating more harm. It's my opinion that it's due to greed and leaders not listening to us, the EXPERTS. In my opinion what is happening is huge violation of the principles of the bill and therefore the application portal should not open and the ROs should not be getting a head start. The state needs to address its outstanding issues before creating more challenges. The RO's were not the prioritized intended beneficiaries of the MRTA and should respect the spirit of the law. They should focus more on their legal issues in other states and rather than squandering resources on legal battles here in NYS, the focus should be on redirecting those funds toward delivering substantial and impactful support to the communities and individuals who rightfully deserve the opportunity to achieve generational well-being and health. (Without your health you cannot have wealth). It is imperative that individuals receive restitution, equitable access, and robust support as they transition into the new industry. Prioritizing people over corporations is essential. My opinion(s) on why the portal should not open:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Need for Legal Resolutions - All open lawsuits should be resolved before proceeding with new applications. (It should also prevent the ROs from starting early)</li> <li>2. Uncertainty Surrounding Funding - The uncertainty of Chicago Atlantic investment due to the ongoing lawsuit could lead to instability.</li> <li>3. Lack of Transparency on DSNY Loan Program - No details of the DSNY 5million loan program-offering up to 100,000 to CAURD who opt out of the store key turn fronts. The lack of transparency is very harmful for the justice impacted licensee.</li> <li>4. Governor's Signature Delay - Gov hasn't signed a bill to allow adult use cultivators to sell stockpile to Tribal nations. This delay affects the development of the industry and relationships with Tribal nations.</li> <li>5. Seed to Sell Tracking System - It's my understanding that there isn't a seed to sell tracking system running. This has led to lab shopping.</li> <li>6. The Need for Technical Support - I cannot stress enough the need for providing technical support for</li> </ol>



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				applicants entering the cannabis market. This support can ensure fair competition and compliance with regulations. 7. DSNY's Accountability and Transparency - DSNY took 9months longer to get the money, ignored recommendations to provide reasonable sized dispensaries, and wasn't transparent. "NO" to RO's starting early! I want to reencourage accountability, transparency, and a commitment to social equity as essential principles for the success of New York's cannabis industry. Pilar DeJesus
72.	Ashley	Baron		We've been waiting over 2 years for all of this and you've already put in so much effort for social equity. Don't blow it all now and make all of this worth nothing by letting the ROs in.
73.	Dalton	Valette	Canna Advisors	Where within the application portal can an applicant submit the required narrative plan materials (operating plan, energy and environmental plan, etc.) along with supplemental material to the Office such as letters of support and background checks/ fingerprints?
74.	Hudson	Ramirez-Silfa		There are currently illegal sales and distribution of marijuana without any licenses in the State of New York. What is New York State's plan to have harsher punitive repercussions for illegal sales and distribution? There is currently an ongoing pattern throughout the states that have indeed passed laws that have allowed the sale of recreational cannabis. There needs to be a field team that is trained not only to summon your local bodega for selling and distributing illegal cannabis but to also make an example of what needs to be understood in general. The public needs to be educated about the differences in something being illegal and decriminalized. The inability to understand the laws fine print is the biggest reason why New York State is struggling succeed at commerical cannabis. Are there any plans to create a task force that can tactial this problem? What are the plans to make commerical cannabis license available to the general public? I understand that the first round of licenses are for social equity applicants. It is highly unfair to have the general public not have the pissibilities doing business in the cannabis world. What is the game plan for the cannabis board with the distribution of license and applicantions?
75.	Nicole	Ricci	NY Small Farma, Cannabis Farmers Alliance,	The full signed/pdf version has been transmitted to Chair Wright and OCM via email Tremaine Wright Cannabis Control Board, Chair W. Averell Harriman



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			Cannabis Coalition for Social Equity-NYS, Legacy Growers Association, MarySaysNY, and the NY Green Coalition	<p>State Office Building Campus            Building 9            Albany, NY 12226            Monday, September 11, 2023            Dear Chairwoman Wright and Cannabis Control Board Members:</p> <p>We are a group of not-for-profit education and advocacy organizations working together to ensure the production and sale of New York State (NYS) licensed cannabis is socially and environmentally just and economically equitable. Our joint goals are to build a socially just and inclusive industry that restricts corporate, large-scale, and industrial sized cannabis ventures and supports the ability of small businesses to thrive; provides citizens with alternatives to participation in the illicit market; creates a sustainable and viable market and workforce; and favors operations that work within the long-term ecological limits of the planet. We submit this letter as joint testimony to the September 12, 2023, Cannabis Control Board (CCB) meeting where you will be reviewing and making decisions on: adoption of the final rules on NY adult-use cannabis regulations, adult-use licensing, lab testing permits, and expansion of Registered Organizations (Ros). We urge you to not hastily adopt the regulation package believing that rushing forward will solve present problems in the market and courts. We ask that you do not adopt the current regulations for adult-use cannabis until the issues outlined in this letter are addressed. We are cognizant of the pressures on the CCB and the OCM to move forward expeditiously. However, such hastiness in decision making has created a slow process and not served us thus far. While we empathize with those who have suffered under delays of a slow rollout, we note that adopting these regulations now and fixing them later will not speed it up for them. It will only open the doors to players that will exacerbate an already untenable situation. Establishing a market of diverse small and micro-sized businesses that are socially just, economically viable and environmentally responsible benefits all citizens of our State. Therefore, we urge you to develop rules that prioritizes CAURD and micro-sized, small-scale operators; incentivizes low carbon operations; allocates canopy among small operators and larger operators in an economically equitable manner. We also urge you to require OCM to address the insufficiencies pointed out by the CCB in the SEE plan by formulating a detailed strategy to assist the SEE applicants and licensees in advance of adopting final</p>



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				<p>rule. Most critically, we strongly urge you to call upon Governor Hochul to fund the needed SEE programs before licensure opens in order to create an even playing field and the potential for an abundance of micro-sized, and small players. In closing, we encourage you to have robust discussion on these issues in front of the public and to graciously consider the feedback from the community that will attend the meeting. Moving forward, we call for greater transparency within the CCB and OCM. A significant step towards greater transparency would be to allow for public testimony and input to be heard by the CCB before deliberations and decisions are made at future meetings. We thank you for your service and for considering our pleas to delay adoption of final rule until the above-mentioned significant issues have been addressed in the regulations.</p> <p>Very Respectfully,            Nicole Ricci, Mika'il Deveaux, Ph.D., Jeanette Miller, NYSF, President of the Board CSEC-NY, Chair CFA, Co-Founder and Chair            Josh Waterman, Beck Hickey, Jeffrey Medford, LGA, Executive Director MarySaysNY, Founder NY Green Coalition, Founder and Co-Chair</p>
76.	Mario	Giovanni		I live across the street from the location of the proposed dispensary. Marijuana smoke already saturates the air much of the day and night on East 73rd Street and 1st Avenue. Why on earth would we add to that already significant environmental detritus? Let a dispensary open next to the home of any CCB member that approves the application and see how they like it.
77.	Carol	Washor		Do not allow cannabis stores to open on 73rd street.
78.	Susan	Smith	345 East 73rd Street	Please do not allow a store in my neighborhood, within a 5-block radius that sells cannabis or any other drug. Thank you.
79.	Alexandra	Carreyrou		I am hereby opposing the installation of a cannabis shop across my building. This would negatively affect the quality of life of residents.
80.	Rachel	Press		I am very concerned about having a dispensary opening up directly across the street from our apartment. This is a residential street with lots of young children in the bldg across from the proposed location. We believe that a dispensary will invite lots of traffic to the street (double parking, etc) as well as an abundance of trash (that's what we see outside of all these illegal dispensaries already open) as well as crowds and smokers on the block. Not to mention, the potential for crime and decline in property value. I am strongly opposed to having a dispensary in this





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				location and hope it is not approved. It seems having a dispensary on an avenue is a more appropriate location.
81.	Renee	St. Jacques	New York Farm Bureau	<p>Dear members of the New York State Cannabis Control Board,</p> <p>New York Farm Bureau (NYFB), the state’s largest general farm organization, appreciates the opportunity to submit comments for the Cannabis Control Board meeting on September 12, 2023. NYFB represents farmers from across the state, including farmers growing hemp and adult-use cannabis. NYFB appreciates the opportunity for New York farmers to enter the adult-use cannabis market and your efforts to support those farmers through the cannabis growers showcases, but the farmers continue to face barriers in this market that make it almost impossible to financially recover. It is important that the revised regulations that you will be considering at this meeting support the opportunity for New York farmers to be successful in this market. Even though many organizations, including NYFB, provided comments on these revised regulations regarding concerns with the proposed early entrance of the registered organizations into this market, no amendments were made to solve the issue. NYFB is extremely concerned on how this will negatively impact farmers in the cannabis market and farmers who want to enter the market when the regulations are finalized, and regular licenses are available. Registered organizations have more funding available and more options in terms of the size of their operations. It is important that these businesses do not take away the opportunity for New York’s farmers to have a viable cannabis business in the state. NYFB requests that the Cannabis Control Board take steps to ensure that registered organizations do not dominate the cannabis market and push out New York’s farmers as they have done in other states. It is important that New York’s farmers have the opportunity for an active role in the growth and production of adult-use cannabis in New York. For these reasons, NYFB urges the Cannabis Control Board to consider these comments and make amendments to the regulation. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.</p> <p>Sincerely,  Renée St. Jacques  Senior Associate Director of Public Policy  New York Farm Bureau</p>



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82.	A resident as 345 E 73rd St	A resident as 345 E 73rd St	Parent of two school age kids	I'm strongly against having the Cannabis store across street from us on E 73rd St and 1st Ave. We have many school aged kids living in our building, plus many infants and toddlers. Having a Cannabis store is equivalent of having it in the same block of a public elementary school. IF YOU AGREE to have the store there, YOU ARE KILLING THOSE KIDS! I don't NO ONE, as a parent, will even consider allowing such store in a densely populated residence area. Don't have blood in your hands!
83.	Julie	Kahn		We are extremely against this cannabis shop opening on a residential street directly across from from a building with young families and children. These shops should only be on avenues. We already have three of these shops within a block distance. This is too much and it creates crime. This is a quiet residential street with young kids and babies. We don't need this here.
84.	Alyse	Vishnick		This is supposed to be a quiet residential street. Not only is a dispensary ill suited for the block, it is unnecessary given another dispensary and a vape shop are on 1st Ave a few blocks away. Property values will be adversely affected, which has a bigger impact on the city's bottom line than this individual dispensary. In addition, we have a right to live in a safe neighborhood. This dispensary will bring an element of petty crime at best and potential violent crime at worst, given the cash transaction nature of this industry. The decision of this city council will significantly devalue the greatest asset of the individuals affected.
85.	Philippe	Casciola		We have been living in this peaceful and quiet neighborhood for more than 20 years and we are now new resident at 345 E 73rd street . I am very upset when I have read this news regarding the opening of such store across the street from our building. My family and I are very concerned about it, as this has this has the potential to create quickly a very unsafe and dangerous environment in our neighborhood. We are totally against the opening of this store.
86.	UES	Resident and parent of school children		We are horrified of the prospect of a legal dispensary potentially opening in our residential neighborhood surrounded by families and schools. These drugs and sellers pose a serious health and safety threat to our community. Though there are limited studies because these drugs have long been illicit recent studies has shown severe consequences to human health and community wellbeing including lower IQ , physical impairment, emotional and mental health issues brain damage, and other serious health and safety risks. It is



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				not ok to make these products readily available in our neighborhood. Cigarettes were easily available to minors regardless of the law, and these drugs especially appealing tainted snacks and candy that can not be distinguished once open pose an unacceptable risk to our youth. The local government has done absolutely nothing to stop or hinder illegal smoke shops and has shown outright negligence in carrying out due diligence to uphold the law. In the interim children have gained access and believe it is safe and acceptable because the drugs remain and there are no consequences or acknowledgement of harm to our community or respect for the law. No one voted to have dispensaries, regulated or not in their residential neighborhood, any more than they would brothels or gun shops. The city overpriced is now less desirable and livable with these “dispensaries” next to our home around our schools and parks. Please take back control, put a stop to this before it ruins our community and the people who reside in. We will not give up the fight
87.	jacqui	Levine		This is awful and must be stopped. The neighborhood will go rapidly downhill. the last thing we need is another cannabis shop, owned by ex-cons, staffed by ex-cons. Nothing good can come from this. However it will lead to more crime, less safe and less clean streets as evidenced by the others shops. This is a nice family oriented neighborhood, stop trying to destroy it. The cons heavily outweigh the pros which dont exist. Not to mention one of the owners is in jail for a crime that is STILL ILLEGAL today. his behavior should not be rewarded. you should focus on cleaning up this city not continuing to destroy it
88.	Joshua	Tepperberg	UNLOC	The Unified Legacy Operators Council (UNLOC) urges the OCM and the CCB to do whatever is within their authority to promote the inclusion of vetted Legacy community members as part of the Social and Economic Equity initiative. The preexisting community are the people that carried the weight of legalization. The preexisting community has the knowledge and know how to succeed in this industry. CAURD was a great concept. We are looking forward to what may happen with the CCTM and other SEE initiatives.
89.	Lily	Wen		I strongly oppose the idea of having a cannabis store near where I live!! What kind of a model to tell our kids that taking drugs are ok, and also convenient!! It's immoral and insane!! Oppose!!!
90.	Robert	Scarpa		I believe this dispnsery is inappropriate as the residential side street it would be located upon cannot handle the



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				pedestrian traffic. It would be better on an avenue with other commercial occupancies. It is not in character with the residential occupancies here and except for it being an existing commercial space would probaly not be allowed under current zoning in this residential District.
91.	Karen	Solorow		I ABHOR THE IDEA OF OPENING A CANNABIS DISPENSARY ACROSS THE STREET FROM MY RESIDENTIAL BUILDING. Please please reconsider. This just isn't safe on a residential street!!!
92.	Neil	Press		Hello, I am a resident of 73rd St. This block is a residential block. I don't feel a dispensary is right for this type of street. There are many kids that live on this street. We aRE opening the door for lots of double parked cars, lots of people, lots of trash, possibly people, loitering and smoking in the vicinity and a possibility of crime that come with opening a dispensary. I also have concerns about them selling to minors. We are talking about people who have been previously been arrested for breaking the law. What's to stop them from doing something illegal again? Before with the consequences of going to jail didn't stop them. What's to stop them now? As a resident of 73rd street I also feel having a dispensary on our block will reduce our real estate values. Thank you
93.	Lauren	Sullivan		I am strongly opposed to a dispensary opening in this location for a variety of reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential for crime in the area -- we have seen crimes happen at other similar business types in the neighborhood (e.g., armed robbery).</li> <li>- Abundance of children in the neighborhood and on this block specifically given proximity to multiple public and private schools.</li> <li>- Quality of area -- smoking, trash, etc. The cigar bar business that was in the location previously resulted in a smoke smell in the street around the store as well as wafting up into the apartments in the buildings above and across.</li> <li>- Impact to real estate value</li> <li>- This is the kind of business that should be considered for a more commercial main avenue vs. residential side street.</li> </ul>
94.	Paul	Cassese		I feel this type of shop is detrimental to our neighborhood. There are plenty of cannabis shops right around the corner.
95.	GILBERTO	ACOSTA TRAHIN	345 EAST 73RD STREET	There are already 5+ business selling that foul smelling product less than a block away. It s bad enough we have to smell it on the sidewalks from people freely using it. We do NOT need another shop much less so across the street



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				and next residential buildings where children live. Those stores attract people who have nothing to do and loiter around into the late hours. I know I walk my dog every night. My wife children and I are all VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED to another weed business so close to home.
96.	Scott	Trommer		I urge the Community Board not to approve the location of the dispensary on East 73rd Street. The location is in the middle of a quiet residential neighborhood. This commercial activity is misplaced in this proposed location The dispensary's presence would disturb the peace of the block by increasing foot and auto traffic and introducing risks from second hand smoke and persons under the influence The dispensary's presence also risks an increase in criminal activity. Robberies and shootings at unlicensed smoke shops are well documented and are unfortunately a common occurrence. A licensed dispensary poses the same public safety risks.
97.	Edward	Lee		This is a family block, so this is inappropriate.
98.	Marilyn	Balassi	345 East 73rd Street owners	I live directly across the street from the proposed location of this business. This is a family friendly building with many children. This sets a terrible example for these children. This is an inappropriate business for this street. This kind of business belongs on an avenue. There are already several cannabis businesses in the immediate area. They may not be legal but they are there and cannot be ignored. I also do not want people lingering in front of my building smoking as the smoke enters the apartments facing the street. I am completely against this business being housed on my street.
99.	Chris	Cerrito		Given the location of schools and major medical facilities, including the necessary traffic associated therewith, a dispensary should not be permitted on East 73rd st, between 1st and 2nd Avenue. Further traffic, pedestrian or otherwise, could result in lives lost. Moreover, there are more than ample dispensaries in the vicinity. No one is disadvantaged by a different location.
100.	Ginley	Reina		We have concerns with this type of business on a family oriented block and attracting the wrong type of people and possibly increasing crime.
101.	Emily	Dunn		Strongly opposed to white box for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Traffic/double parking</li> <li>-Smoking in front and across the street from business in front of residence</li> <li>-excessive trash</li> <li>-delivery men congregating and using motorized bikes and scooters</li> <li>-Lines forming as customers wait to enter business</li> </ul>



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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Patrons loitering in front and across from business</li> <li>-Potential for crime. Cash business will be a target</li> <li>-Possible decline in real estate value as families will be deterred from buying residences with this type of business present</li> </ul>
102.	Stephanie	Hansen		<p>This is in reference to Whitebox THC LLC ., dba Lenox Hill Cannabis Co. 334 East 73rd Street (Between First and Second Avenues) New Application for Retail Dispensary. Given the untested public safety of these establishments primarily around higher rates of robbery due to the cash heavy nature and ability to easily resale products, I am concerned about businesses with OCM licenses opening on residential blocks. There is one proposed in the middle of my residential block (73rd St) and I am very concerned about (1) two illegal dispensaries in our neighborhood have already been attacked or robbed at gun point I dont see why being a legal dispensary would reduce this risk and (2) there is no parking on this small 1 lane residential block. As there are so few legal establishments there will no doubt be customers double parking to use this business creating traffic, noise and hazard. I would assume that these businesses should be on commercial avenues to accommodate the parking and idling needs of customers. Lastly, the applicants came to the community meeting terribly underprepared and had made no effort to engage with the community or address the concerns raised. Thank you</p>
103.	Gina	Ng		<p>I strongly opposed having a cannabis dispensary opened on E 73rd St, between 1st and 2nd Avenue. First of all, I am not opposed to legal cannabis dispensary in New York City. However, such dispensaries should really be limited on commercial avenues, and not on a residential street, let alone a really serene and quiet residential street of East 73rd where there are many kids, families, and old people living in the surrounding buildings. The increase of cannabis activity and smoking on the street will likely increase should the dispensary open, and will likely increase the amount of trash and potential for crime in the neighbourhood (one of the smoke shops down the block was robbed at gun point earlier this summer). While the person applying for permit mentioned during the last community hearing mentioned that the store will hire security guards to stop people from smoking on premise, there is no guarantee that the security guards will be able to stop any smoking activity once the customer is out of their premises. Finally, since the dispensary meant to also focus on delivery services, there will no doubt be an</p>





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				increase in traffic, double parking and noise from honking from impatient drivers, on the narrow 73rd one way/ one lane street. This poses as a traffic nuisance and danger to passengers and residents living on the block. Given that this is such a residential block with so many young families in the surrounding buildings and homes, it is a really bad idea for a cannabis dispensary (however legal it is) to be on the middle of the block where it is quiet at every hour of the day as there will no doubt be negative externalities. (Yes there is an Irish pub at the corner of 73rd and 1st but it is very quiet with mostly a much older clientele. And the restaurant that is tied to the Czech Republic is never crowded and thins out by 9pm on most nights, even the weekends) Please keep any cannabis dispensary to the commercial avenues and not on the side residential streets. Thank you.
104.	Charles	Dickens	D.A.D.D. (Dads Against Disgusting Dispensaries)	First, I am not against the recreational use and sale of marijuana products. What I am against is the impact a 5th establishment of this type in a one block radius, regardless of legality, will have on me and my community. I speak of the instance of WhiteboxTHC LLC (d/b/a Lenox Hill Cannabis Co.) CAURD 2022-224 at the 334 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021 location. My primary concern is that this nice residential location will be mired with an uptick in property damage, loitering, and perpetuation of a detriment to public health through secondhand smoke, directly caused by customers of this establishment. These factual and supported reasons were completely ignored by appointed representatives of Manhattan Community Board 8 when they failed their office during a public hearing on the matter on September 5th, 2023. As a result, this complaint is now being directed at the New York State Cannabis Control Board. It has been statistically confirmed that property crime increases 18.8% on streets where recreational marijuana dispensaries are situated. Nathan Connealy, Eric Piza & Dave Hatten (2020) The Criminogenic Effect of Marijuana Dispensaries in Denver, Colorado: A Microsynthetic Control Quasi-Experiment and Cost-Benefit Analysis, Justice Evaluation Journal, 3:1, 69-93, DOI: 10.1080/24751979.2019.1691934. This community is one with several cars, many of which are our own, parked along this street. As the study suggests, the introduction of a dispensary on this street will lead to an increase in property damage to our vehicles, buildings, street signs, and other businesses of good neighborly character. Whether this would be a bar, nightclub, hookah lounge etc. the feeling is mutual. Long term, the value of



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				<p>the properties along this street will ultimately devalue as the street adopts the look of all the other avenues and areas where weed/smoke shops are located. Our street is quiet with a beautiful tree-lined feature that is rare in this city. The introduction of a dispensary in this location will increase foot traffic and, likely, increase loitering by those who just purchased product from the dispensary. Since smoking of all sorts is banned in buildings and parks, there is nowhere else to light up than right there in the street on the customers walk home. The dispensary will not be able to enforce the congregation of customers after purchase beyond their immediate footprint and therefore has no regard for the impact on the rest of the block. Lastly, this is a residential street with numerous families of all ages but most importantly those of young children. With no scientific evidence to claim that marijuana secondhand smoke is less harmful than cigarette/cigar smoke, how can we in good conscious allow an establishment that perpetuates an unhealthy lifestyle to inhabit our residences where are children live. Smoking is banned in all other places except right in front of our home where smoke can enter through our windows into our children's bedrooms....nice It is this community member's plea that the New York State Office of Cannabis Management rejects the proposed location of this establishment in favor of community health and overall betterment of the area. This area does not need another smoke/weed shop (legal or otherwise) as there are already a number in the area causing disturbances. The NYS OCM needs to establish limits on where these dispensaries can be located. Residential side streets are not good locations for establishments of this type and should be limited to main avenues or more commercial areas of the city. Additionally, the community benefits received by a weed shop versus other establishments like a much-needed daycare center, after school performing arts program, afterschool tutoring for students subjected to disappointing state funded public school system education, or numerous others would be much more welcomed in this community other than another weed shop.</p>
105.	Max	Banaszak		<p>I strongly opposed having a dispensary across the street from the building where me and my family live. I have a young son under two and I know that there are many families in the building as well as on this block of 73rd st between 1st and 2nd Avenue. There are many reasons why this is a bad idea for the dispensary on this street:            1. Traffic/double parking on an already very narrow one</p>



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				<p>lane street</p> <p>2. Increase in smoking on the street as well as trash</p> <p>3. Potential for crime</p> <p>4. Possible decline in real estate value</p> <p>My family was so glad that the previous cigar lounge was closed down, and am glad that 73rd st is such a quiet and safe residential street, which were all reasons why we decided to buy our first house here and move in. This dispensary is going to change the dynamics and vibes of this street that we will have to be concern of safety and second hand smoke on the street we now call home. I strongly suggest and would recommend for the dispensary to be located on a commercial ave, not a residential street.</p>
106.	Amy	Chin	Calm Better Days	Delay the RO's from coming in dec. Help CAURD up and going for 2 years. Include general application for another 2 years, then open to RO's.
107.	Jed	Sullivan		I'd prefer to not have a cannabis dispensary on this side street, especially after the recent shooting outside of the exotic snacks store on 73rd between York & First. Keep the dispensaries on more heavily trafficked streets and neighborhoods where they are a bit more out in the open.
108.	Derek	Tan		<p>This is not an appropriate location for one of the few legal dispensaries in NYC. This a mid-block location on a quiet residential street with walk-ups and coops. The few other businesses on this street (a dry cleaner and a quiet restaurant) all receive very low traffic, mostly foot traffic. Permitting a dispensary in this location will cause a major increase to both foot and vehicular traffic, especially in the evenings, including to/from the nearby 72nd St Q subway station. Double parked cars will block traffic as there is not enough room for trucks to pass. Dispensaries should ONLY be located on avenues or major 2-way cross streets that can safely handle the traffic flow that this business will attract.</p>
109.	Paul	Kahn		<p>This is a residential neighborhood and family oriented block. the property in question which is a third of the way down the block is not zoned for this type of Commerical establishment. This dispensary is meant for an avenue away from the kids and families that reside on the block. Let the owners thrive and succeed just in an appropriate location that is meant for Commerical traffic foot and cars that can find parking on the avenue.</p>
110.	Carl	Billek		I oppose allowing the operation of a cannabis store on E 73rd street. This is a residential street. We already have a prostitution establishment on the block (which the Police can't be bothered to close.). Isn't that enough? I ask the



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				decider of this issue to honestly answer one question: If this proposal was to open a store on Park Avenue, would it even be considered? Of course not. Why is my residential neighborhood valued so much less than a neighborhood filled with millionaires? Shame on anyone who approves this. You will be voted out of office next election.
111.	Katherine	Tan	345 E 73 owners corp.	This is the wrong location for a dispensary. My family and I have lived for eleven years directly across the street from the site of the proposed business. This is a quiet, almost completely residential block. There is one dry cleaners and one quiet restaurant along the block. It is a narrow, one-way street with very little parking. This location is not going to be able to handle the increased traffic that it will incur. The inevitable double-parking and honking will directly impact our quality of life. These are some of the issues we faced when Montecristo cigar bar and smoking lounge was open until it closed about 3 years ago. A legal cannabis dispensary would be much better-suited to an avenue or a larger commercial street. Additionally, I am concerned about crime, loitering, and overt drug use on our street. I am aware of a robbery at gunpoint that occurred in June 2023 one block east. (Mr. Exotix). Thank you for your consideration
112.	Ashley	Baron	Snowbelt Cannabis	Can you please explain how you're going to prioritize licenses? May I suggest you prioritize regions with fewer licenses? We are in the western most county in the state, a women owned, distressed farmer owned business. Small businesses need a fighting chance against the ROs and if let in early, we are going to struggle and a lot of us will sink. You've worked so hard to create the first social equity program for cannabis, let's see it through.
113.	Eduardo	Fernandez		Not sure what happened to standing up for social justice! I know comments are limited so I will get to the point. All along this whole process you have mentioned no vertical integration yet you plan to allow giant MSO's that exactly... they can grow and sell their own products and I assume prob wholesale some of their flower output since they will have so much with 100k sq ft. With this they will slowly take over and own the market because they can wholesale an 1/8 to another store or competitor for say 30 for retail to sell for 60 and then they can in turn sell or retail that same 1/8 in their own store for 30. Where do you think people are going to go if this is the case? Small farms or I should say no one stands a chance if you're allowing vertical integration to only the largest players. You shouldn't do that or they will own the market and B if



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				your going to allow them to vertically integrate the largest players to have an advantage over everyone with your pay to play system of charging them 20m to allow this vertical integration. That is chump change to these companies to own the market to own the whole or most of the state of NY. I mean talk about hypocrisy at its finest to hear about a two tier system this whole time and then just like that it's hey they can pay to play and own or dominate all or most of the market. I mean how seriously flawed is that hypocrisy?? And talk about standing up for social justice but it sounds more like we are willing to sell the whole program or industry in New York for money to the highest bidder for the highest price and then just simply let them run the whole thing and bring you the tax revenue. It doesn't sound like the little guy is getting the same or fair shake in this roll out or implementation. It seems like social justice was just a a shield or cover for what is really going on. It's a sad day for social justice in New York.
114.	Kay	Kim		The dispensary planned for 73rd street should be on an Avenue where there is more room available for double parked cars and trash pickup—both things that will occur due to increased traffic to the area. 73rd street is a narrow street. It will get congested with smokers, increase potential crime in a quiet residential street, decrease real estate value in the surrounding area and increase loiterers and smokers in the area.
115.	Kassia	Graham		The OCM must give cannabis equity applicants and distressed farmers a fair shake at entering the legal adult-use market. Far too many activists, advocates, and sound politicians have spent a tremendous amount of time aiding in the crafting of the MRTA which was meant to create an equitable industry in New York. Those who have been impacted by the war on drugs as well as distressed farmers should receive the most support at this time. ROs being allowed into the adult-use market at this time will hinder growth for small businesses and small farmers.
116.	Carol	Jaspin		Please do not allow a dispensary across the street from 345 E 73rd St. It would be a hazard to the community and degrade our quality of life in the neighborhood. This kind of neighborhood is not the constituency for that kind of business.
117.	Scott	DeCota	716HomeGrowz	NYS needs to uphold MRTA and allow for the promised early access to equity and NYS resident applicants. We would love to see applications for all license types open initially to NYS resident equity and non-equity applications as well as businesses with a minimum of 51% ownership by NYS residents. Vertically integrated MSO's and RO's



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				already have an unfair advantage in the cannabis market in other adult use states and all they have managed to do is fumble the ball. They should not be allowed access before or simultaneously with NYS small business and equity applicants. The large operators can afford to drive pricing into the ground in order to stomp out small operations that can't sell their products for a loss quarter over quarter. Keep it local! Support small businesses and equity applicants! Don't sell out NYS residents for more campaign donations.
118.	Sarah	Kaye		I am opposed to a dispensary on a residential street rather than on an Avenue. It will increase foot traffic, noise, loiterers and smokers in front of our building . I am also concerned about health issues from secondhand smoke emanating from the shop as my apartment is on ground level directly across. On an Avenue the smoke would be dissipated by the greater expanse of space. Given respiratory issues posed by long Covid and possible future Covid infections I don't think any dispensary should be on residential streets. I see future litigation against the city. I think you should be forwarded .
119.	Jean	Claude		This is a quiet residential street with many families and it would be inappropriate to allow this cannabis retailer at this location. This will create parking and street issues when cars double park to get their product, we lived through this when there was a cigar bar at this location. We are a smoke free building. We have a ledge at 345 East 73rd where people already loiter and smoke and this will only increase if this is allowed to open. This retail for cannabis would be better accommodated on an avenue and not on a quiet residential street in front of a building with many families and small children.
120.	Joanna	Cantoral		Hello, I am commenting today to let the board know my opinion on the current state of the legal marijuana market. From my teens to early 20s, I cannot count the amount of friends I knew that were hauled off to jail for marijuana possession, for the tiniest amounts at that. Although I am grateful that the state finally decided to legalize; the steps they have made are not enough. We have countless that need to be require justice and that justice involves an entry into a fair and equitable cannabis market. We need these regulations to reflect the community and they simply do not. I demand that we codify the CAURD regulations. I demand we halt big pharma/cannabis from entering our market when so many have not been granted a chance to begin. Are we really going to wrong those who have been wronged already. Generations lost due to the "War on





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				Drugs" or shall I say a war on black and brown folks. Lets do better, and lets make better decisions because the members of our community, the residents of this state deserve so.
121.	Franklin	Crocker	CUARD #00073	Question #1 Why are the current 21 approved CUARD holder able to open up their 2nd and 3rd licenses when the additional 440+ CUARD licenses are on hold due to the injunction? Question # 2 How can you allow current CUARD holders to operate showcase pop-ups in processing and manufacturing buildings, which does not go against their license?
122.	LBW	Wac		There are too many dispensaries in the area, please regulate the opening of any additional dispensaries. Brings negative traffic to the area resulting in an uptick of crime.
123.	Arlene	Spiegel		To Members of the Committee. I have lived at 345 East 73rd Street for over 20 years. I always felt safe on my block. The plan to open a Cannabis Dispensary directly across the street, open for most waking hours of the day, will bring crowds of strangers to this quiet, residential block. There is also a health issue as the 'smokers' sit on the ledge directly under my terrace and the smoke wafts up to my apartment preventing me from sitting outside. The smoke and the smell rise up to and through my windows. I beg you to reconsider and deny a license for this location. My neighbors, their babies and toddlers, and even their dogs will be compromised by this dispensary. Thank you for understanding. Arlene Spiegel
124.	Elana	Shapochnikov	345 East 73rd Owners Corp.	I am writing on behalf of the Morad Diplomat, at 345 East 73rd Street, in my capacity as the President of the Board to request that the Office of Cannabis Management ("OCM") deny a license for a dispensary across the street. Whitebox THC LLC, d/b/a Lennox Hill Cannabis Co. ("Applicant") filed an application for a Conditional Use Adult Retail Dispensary ("CUARD") license on August 3, 2023, to operate a cannabis dispensary at 334 East 73rd Street between First and Second Avenues ("Dispensary"). The proposed Dispensary would be directly across from the Morad, a residential 13-floor building with 143 units mostly occupied by families with children. At a Community Board 8 ("CB8") hearing on September 5th the vast majority of community members strongly opposed the Dispensary citing significant concerns, including increased crime, noise, lax security, second-hand smoke pollution, congestion, traffic safety and secondary access to kids. OCM will only approve a license in a location "consistent with public convenience and advantage standards..."



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				<p>based on determining factors that include, “whether there is a demonstrated need for such license; effect of the grant of the license on pedestrian or vehicular traffic, and parking, in proximity to the location; the existing noise level at the location and any increase in noise level that would be generated by the proposed premises; and any other factors specified by law or regulation that are relevant to determine that granting a license would promote public convenience and advantage and the public interest of the community.” The Dispensary’s proposed location would negatively impact each of the above factors and would not promote the interest of the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is no demonstrated need for such license at the proposed location. The overwhelming majority of community participants at the CB8 hearing opposed the Dispensary. Other options are available – delivery, 3 other licensed dispensaries a short cab, bus, or train ride away. The convenience of some recreational cannabis smokers should not take priority over the health and safety of neighborhood residents.</li> <li>- Dispensary would negatively impact pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and parking on the East 73rd, a narrow residential side street. Increased, double-parked or idling cars would cause congestion, increase pollution and noise, and create unsafe traffic conditions. No other licensed dispensary in Manhattan is located on a similarly situated block.</li> <li>- The proposed location cannot accommodate the increased noise and long lines that will occur. And Applicant plans to be open late until 11 p.m., 7-days per week (but may push it back to 10 p.m. on weekdays), block residents would have no reprieve from noise and secondhand smoke. Most importantly, the Dispensary’s proximity to community facilities violates OCM guidelines, which provide that such a facility “may include, but not be limited to” a public park, playground, or facility where the primary purpose of which is to provide recreational opportunities or services to children or adolescents. OCM correctly recognized that there are a variety of children’s facilities that could be harmed by a dispensary. But contrary to OCM’s intent, the Dispensary is directly across the street from the Bohemian National Hall (at 321 East 73rd Street), which provides many children’s programs and appears to be less than 500 feet from the Ronald McDonald House (at 405 E 73rd St), which provides care and temporary housing for children battling cancer. The Dispensary is also near a public park/space (on 73rd</li> </ul>



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				closer to 2nd Ave.) used by children, including from the Ronald McDonald House as a playground. Accordingly, the Dispensary license should be denied for this reason alone.
125.	Tina	Cerrito		I strongly oppose the opening of a dispensary on East 73rd Street. East 73rd Street is a quiet, residential, family centered neighborhood, and my building across the street from the proposed location indeed houses many families with young children. This location is entirely inappropriate for a cannabis dispensary.
126.	Kevin	Joyce	SEAWEED RBNY INC.	We have noticed that the regulations are missing Parts 128 through 130. As far as we can tell, these include advertising guidelines (128 & 129) and lab testing (Part 130). When will these Parts be released/approved? Thank you. I can be reached at (914) 954-1979.
127.	Kyle	Froggatt		How can we establish consultative resources to help licensees vet business decisions and lending? There is a lot of indiscriminate lending, but no financial planning around business decisions.
128.	Thomas	Ballistrea		My name is Thomas Ballistrea Jr., I'm a mentee in the CCTM program. I'm submitting this comment here today first and foremost to commend the board and the office for guiding the community to this historic moment in post Cannabis prohibition history. I wanted to extend my gratitude for your diligence in carrying this heavy load for us and for your commitment to equity as we move forward together. I also wanted to highlight the importance of focusing on community healing at this inflection point in human history to help us all recover from the traumas that have been caused to individuals due to the ramifications of the enforcement of Cannabis prohibition. I would encourage the board and the office to continue their community outreach programs to provide paths towards healing for all of us. Now that the adult use regulations are finalized, I would humbly ask the board to consider releasing the guidelines that will define which communities have been disproportionately impacted by Cannabis prohibition as per section 87 subdivision 5 paragraph g of the MRTA, prior to opening the license application period to allow individuals adequate time to prepare for applying for the social and economic equity programs. I would also ask the board to consider amending section 120.3 subdivision c paragraph 1 to include a combination option for indoor and outdoor cultivation to allow microbusinesses to compete in the adult use market. The current regulations limit the ability of the microbusinesses to be



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				<p>successful and in some cases make the structure of the microbusiness not economically viable given the ability of established licensees to produce Cannabis grown in a controlled environment. I would also encourage the board to thoroughly explore the legality of being compliant with the regulation set forth in section 120.1 (b) "Licensing applications shall be accepted during specific license type application periods, which shall be announced no less than thirty (30) days before the application period opens for that specific license type, as established by the Board." Should a resolution be drafted and put before the board for a vote to ensure that the 30-day notification requirement has been met? Can the board open the licensing period on October 4th if the regulations were adopted on the September 12th? To avoid anyone contesting that the board has met the 30-day notification requirement, I would implore the board to consult their legal team prior to opening the license period to ensure the legitimacy of the 30-day notification to the public. Lastly, I would ask the board to consider opening the license application period for longer than the proposed 60-day duration. This is a short timeframe to allow individuals to submit for licensure, especially for economically challenged individuals. I would propose a 6-month licensing period to allow individuals adequate time to assemble the documentation and resources needed to apply for licensure. I look forward to the continued support from the office for the community and for the mentees in the CCTM program as well as the possibility of having the privilege of being awarded a license in the adult use Cannabis market so I can become a part of the solution as we write the next chapter in post Cannabis prohibition together, thank you for all that you do for the community and for your time today.</p>
129.	Robert	Resta		<p>We wish to file a complaint against the cannabis shop that has applied for a permit on East 73rd St. between First and Second Avenues. This is a quiet residential street with many families and children. There was an armed robbery in broad daylight at a smoke shop on 73rd St in the next block. There are already two smoke shops on First Ave. between 73rd and 74th Streets. The lawyer/owner of the cannabis shop kept saying he understood family concerns because he has children. He is not opening the smoke shop near his family on the lower East side but on the upper East side. The lawyer/owner said there will be security at the door of the shop. These people have no authority over customers' behavior on the block. Our</p>



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				concern is safety and security. There have been multiple armed robberies at smoke shops in New York. Please help us to keep our block safe.
130.	Johnny	Leon		I do not want another smoke shop in this neighborhood, especially around children.
131.	Jacqui	Levine		This must be stopped as it will destroy our family friendly neighborhood. There is no need for another cannabis shop in the neighborhood. Additionally not one that is owned by a criminal and plans to employ criminals. This will lead to additional crime, noise and drug addicts in this neighborhood. It's inappropriate and nothing good will result except forcing residents to leave and destroying property values and increased crime
132.	Susan	Gail	345 East 73rd Street	We do not support the sale of cannabis on East 73rd Street or anywhere near this location (within 5 blocks and on an avenue, not street.)
133.	Francisco	Chabran		Dear NYC Cannabis Control Board, I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to address the application submitted by Whitebox THC LLC, operating as Lennox Hill Cannabis Co. ("Applicant"), for a Conditional Use Adult Retail Dispensary ("CUARD") license, dated August 3, 2023. The application seeks approval to establish a cannabis dispensary at 334 East 73rd Street, situated between First and Second Avenues. As a resident and property owner at 345 East 73rd Street, directly across from the proposed location, I wish to express my concerns and objections. My primary objection to this application stems from the Applicant's apparent lack of engagement with the local community regarding the proposed dispensary's location and the potential impacts on our neighborhood. To date, there has been no meaningful effort by the Applicant to connect with our community and address the concerns that have been raised. Despite asserting a commitment to being a "good neighbor," their actions have not reflected this commitment. Furthermore, I found the Applicant's presentation at the Street Life Committee of Community Board 8 hearing concerning this application to be unprofessional and poorly prepared. The main applicant did not join the meeting on time and appeared disengaged for the majority of the presentation. Instead of engaging in a constructive dialogue with the community about the application, they chose to lecture community members on the merits of legalized marijuana, an issue that a majority of our community already supports. Additionally, the Applicant admitted to being unaware of several violent robberies that had occurred at nearby illegal dispensaries.



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				<p>As residents of 345 East 73rd Street, our concern is not against legal cannabis dispensaries in our neighborhood but rather against poorly organized and planned establishments that fail to consider the impact on our quality of life and safety. In conclusion, I urge you to consider the concerns and objections of our local community regarding this application. We believe that a well-planned and community-engaged cannabis dispensary could coexist harmoniously with our neighborhood, but the current proposal falls short of meeting these criteria. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will make a decision that is in the best interests of our community.</p> <p>Sincerely,            Francisco Chabran            345 East 73rd Street #3L            New York, NY 10021</p>
134.	Arlene	Spiegel	Arlene Spiegel & Associates	<p>Please do not allow this dispensary to Open. We already are inundated with smokers in front of our building. This business will exponentially increase the smoke. We cannot use our terraces or keep our windows open. The babies and the elderly are suffering.</p>