



# 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>	April 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM
<b>Location:</b>	City University of New York Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy (CUNY SPH), 55 West 125 <sup>th</sup> Street, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium (SPH-708), Harlem, NY 10027, 181 Ellicott St., Buffalo, NY 14203, SUNY Morrisville, Bicknell Hall, Room 212, 80 Eaton St., Morrisville, NY 13408, and Virtual via Webcast

## Attendance

<b>Board Chair:</b>	Tremaine Wright
<b>Board Members Present:</b>	Hope Knight
<b>Board Members Present (virtually):</b>	Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, Adam W. Perry
<b>Board Members Absent:</b>	Jessica Garcia
<b>Others Present:</b>	Chris Alexander, Linda Baldwin, John Kagia

## Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2024 Board Meeting
- IV. Consideration of Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses
- V. Consideration of Cannabis Enforcement Regulations
- VI. Consideration of Delegation of Authority for Certain License Issuance
- VII. Executive Director Report
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Adjourn



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## Action Items

<b>Resolution No. 2024-66:</b>	Resolution to Issue Certain Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
<b>Resolution No. 2024-67:</b>	Resolution Directing the Office of Cannabis Management to File for Emergency Adoption and Revised Proposed Rulemaking of Certain Violations, Hearings, and Enforcement Regulations.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
<b>Resolution No. 2024-68:</b>	Resolution to Allow the Office of Cannabis Management to Issue Provisional Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses.	Passed, Unanimous Vote

## Notes & Comments

- Chair Wright commented that this winter has proven to be a season of growth for New York State (NYS) cannabis and while they have steadily increased the number of licensed cannabis operators across license types, one of the most notable successes has been the steady stream of cannabis dispensary openings. She noted that they are inching towards the 100th adult-use cannabis brick and mortar retail location in New York and that this is an incredible milestone for NYS. She stated that their licensees have borne the burden of setbacks, stoppage, postponements and delays, nevertheless, they are steadfast, and they continue to rise above. She commented that March has been the best month yet in terms of sales and new dispensary openings. She further commented that she wanted to affirm their commitment to the success of the NYS cannabis industry, to issuing licenses to entrepreneurs across the state, to creating a market of opportunity, and to providing New Yorkers access to quality tested, safer, regulated cannabis.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Hope Knight, and a second from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, the Minutes of the March 22, 2024 Cannabis Control Board (“CCB” or “the Board”) Meeting were approved unanimously.
- Chris Alexander, Executive Director for the Office of Cannabis Management (“OCM” or “the Office”), provided an overview of Resolution No. 2024-66, a Resolution to Issue Certain Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses. Before the Board today is the third group of adult-use cannabis license applications which have cleared the multistep review process and are being recommended for approval by the Board. These applications are from the application window that opened on October 4, 2023 and closed for all types of applications on December 18, 2023. The applicants include 35 retail dispensaries, 22 microbusinesses, 25 cultivators, 11 distributors and 8 processors. If approved, this will make 324 adult-use cannabis license applications approved in 2024.
- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins commented that she is very happy to see all these licenses moving forward and would like to see them paying attention to where these, particularly the retail spaces, are being distributed across the state so that they can have an idea to make sure that the entire state is being serviced and not just individual areas.
- Chair Wright commented that she agrees and is very happy to be issuing these sets of licenses and wanted to hone in on the fact that they are really looking forward to issuing



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more, that they are intent on making sure that all parts of the state is represented, and that they have an opportunity to participate in this robust market because it is an opportunity moment and that they really look forward to seeing more. She then commented that she wanted to confirm, because it is not on the slide in front of them, that application number OCM-CAURD-2022-00393 is actually included in this lot that they are considering today. She further commented that it was from the Chair's review, and it was supposed to be added to the list, and they just want to make sure that they are included before they actually vote, and that the attachment reflects the entire bunch.

- Executive Director Chris Alexander commented that this is actually a licensee advancing to final licensure and there is no further action required at this moment of the Board based on the processes that they have already set up for their Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) licensees who have already been provisionally licensed and moving through the final licensure process, and that there was no further action needed for this licensee to begin.
- Chair Wright commented that this was included with their review for all of them and that they do not have a resolution in front of them regarding this. She commented that she is amending to add that component to this so that their vote on licenses today captures all of the information that was sent to them, and therefore, she is going to amend their resolution to make sure that this applicant is added on so that they can get through it since they also do not have any other procedures to handle such requests, and it is not in this moment, a good idea for them to be waiting an extremely long time. She further commented that this was something that was raised prior to this meeting, and this sounds like the reasonable solution, so she is going to amend their resolution and ask if they can add it so that they have a manner in which to handle all of this.
- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins asked Chris Alexander if he was saying that the final licensure does not need to come before the Board.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander commented that this particular applicant, that they have together established a process by which provisional licensees from the CAURD group as they are moving towards final licensure, as they have had locations identified, protected, in their system, should there not be an issue with the issuance of a final license under the previous process that has now been in place, they allow them to move forward unless there is a Board objection. He further commented that there did not need to be an amendment to the resolution and that they were already going to be allowed to move forward based on consent from the Board.
- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins commented that the Board needs to be able to vote to say that there is no objection.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander commented that he can refer the Board members to the previous discussions that they have had around their CAURD licensees who are moving to open, and the process that they have implemented thus far to allow them to continue to move through that process, and that he will re-up that information after the meeting.
- Upon a motion from Chair Wright, and a second from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, an amended Resolution No. 2024-66, a Resolution to Issue Certain Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses, was approved unanimously



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- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided an overview on the proposed Cannabis Enforcement Regulations. These emergency regulations would amend the Part 133 Violations, Hearings, and Enforcement Regulations to:
  - Outline the method in which the Office may commence a disciplinary action against a license or a permit and provide a truncated method to resolve matters and proceed to a hearing.
  - Add permittees and their permitted locations to the scope of the regulations for compliance and enforcement purposes.
  - Clarify stop work order and corrective action plan issuance.
  - Clarify how compliance inspections can be conducted.
  - Clarify enforcement's existing authority to conduct investigations of unlicensed activities.
- Chair Wright asked OCM counsel to identify what the timeline is for the responses.
- Linda Baldwin, General Counsel for OCM, asked are you referring to the particular provision that they had discussed earlier today.
- Chair Wright commented yes, it is 133.9.
- Linda Baldwin commented that that one refers to time periods for a response after a determination is issued by an ALJ. She noted that what that provision entails is that after the determination is issued, the licensee has 15 days to accept or respond to the determination, and after that 15 days expires, the Office has 30 days to respond as well, and in the event that the licensee does not respond within the 15 days, the Office has 45 days to respond.
- Chair Wright commented that is because they are including the 15 for the respondent and the 30 for them and asked is that what they are counting.
- Linda Baldwin commented exactly and that the time period could be shorter if the licensee responds in less than 15 days, the 30 days would extend from the time of the licensee's response.
- Chair Wright commented that they are about to step into a space where the initial review and the disciplinary action is going to happen by the Office and asked who is being designated to manage that for the Office, not the person, a role.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander asked discipline for licensees who violate the regulations.
- Chair Wright responded yes.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander commented that the Compliance team already does that work currently for the Office.
- Linda Baldwin commented that essentially the framework is the same and the Compliance team is the one working on the matter, and that the Compliance team is represented in any proceedings by also the attorneys of the Office in the Office of General Counsel.
- Chair Wright asked isn't this what is being presented to them is now creating a pathway wherein once a disciplinary violation is submitted or given to a licensee, that the first level of review is by the Office, thereafter, it can go to a hearing.
- Linda Baldwin commented that generally they always refer to the Office, but within the Office, it is the Compliance Unit, as Chris explained.
- Chair Wright asked are these the same people who are doing the inspection now have the ability to be the second look at this review.



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- Linda Baldwin commented that all of the matters are reviewed by more than just the individual that actually observes the issue and is out in the field, and that there are several layers of supervision and also an attorney review.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Hope Knight, and a second from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, Resolution No. 2024-67, a Resolution Directing the Office of Cannabis Management to File for Emergency Adoption and Revised Proposed Rulemaking of Certain Violations, Hearings, and Enforcement Regulations, was approved unanimously.

- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided an overview of Resolution No. 2024-68, a Resolution to Allow the Office of Cannabis Management to Issue Provisional Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses. This resolution would delegate the authority from the Board to the Office, to allow the Office to issue provisional licenses. Provisional licensing only applies to retail. A provisional license can be granted if an applicant has submitted all materials that are required as part of the license application for the license type they are seeking but have not yet secured an approved location for their licensed premises. This delegation will help the Office expedite the issuance of provisional licenses to help streamline the process. The Board will still approve all final licenses before a licensee can begin operating. After finding an approved location, provisional licensees will submit the location and other required materials to the Office for review. If determined complete, the Office will then put the application forward for final license approval at the next available Board meeting.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Hope Knight, and a second from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, Resolution No. 2024-68, a Resolution to Allow the Office of Cannabis Management to Issue Provisional Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses, was approved unanimously.

- Executive Director Chris Alexander and John Kagia, Director of Policy for OCM, provided the following Executive Director report.
  - Licensing Update
    - New York has opened 100+ retail dispensaries.
    - Delegating the Board’s authority to the Office to approve provisional licenses will streamline the process by allowing the Office to issue provisional licenses intermittently.
    - The Office encourages the use of the proximity tool for checking location viability. Proximity protection is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis given your placement in the queue.
    - Due to a previous lawsuit, the Office had been blocked from issuing or reviewing CAURD licenses. On April 1, 2024, the injunction was lifted. The Office will now begin reviewing those applications again for eligibility.
    - If you were issued a conditional license, you have until May 3<sup>rd</sup> to apply for and transition to a new final license, as the program expires in June.
    - As 4/20 approaches, the Office would like to remind cannabis consumers 21 and over about the importance of safe and responsible cannabis consumption.
  - Market Update
    - New York has sold \$263 million in legal cannabis.



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- March set a new all-time high for monthly sales at \$32 million, bringing the 2024 year-to-date total to \$102 million.
  - In Quarter 1 of 2024, sales grew 32%, reaching nearly \$85 million.
  - New York's average dispensary revenue is \$5.2 million per year.
- Delinquent Payment Reporting
  - Suppliers who have made product available to retailers, but have not been paid for that product, are expected to notify the Office once those payments are more than 30 days overdue.
- Colorado Market Dynamics – A Case Study in Maturing Adult-Use Markets
  - Since the market launched in 2014, Colorado went from 827 licensed retailers to 1036 in 2023.
  - The average revenue per retailer has fallen nearly 30% since the pandemic surge from \$2.1 million to \$1.5 million.
  - It took Colorado a decade for the average price per gram to fall 75% from \$14 to \$3.50 roughly.
  - Falling wholesale prices are a leading indicator of declining retail revenues.
  - Colorado adult-use license growth has been offset by steep declines in medical and supply side licenses.
- Licensing Outlook: Key Considerations
  - Future licensing decisions will be informed by the 2024 Market Performance Report which is due December 2024. The report will consider market growth and competitiveness, consumer capture, distribution of retail access, supply chain efficiency, licensee non-open rates, and other factors impacting market performance.
- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins commented that while you showed that the amount of profit per store went down as the number of stores per capita increased, these stores are still profitable and that the conversation that they need to be having is about right sizing and right pricing. She commented that as you also showed the decrease in the price of cannabis products, the legal market must be able to compete with the illicit market and this is all about creating a realistic business plan. She further commented that the third point is that while you are doing all this analysis about profitability of their legal stores, you are ignoring all of the illegal stores because the customer don't know the difference and to them they have thousands of options in this state, but as they are going and trying to decide what is the right number of licenses, they have all of these illegal stores that need to be closed and that is openings for their legal market and that she really wants to push them to continue to review and give licenses to growers, processors and dispensaries to make sure that they are fitting the need of what they already have illegally in the state.
- Chair Wright asked that because you focused on what was happening with market compression in cannabis, especially after the pandemic, how that relates to the rest of the retail market, because there was compression across the board, and that it was not just unique in cannabis.
- John Kagia commented that first, on the revenue compression post pandemic, yes, there were some sectors of the economy that absolutely went gangbusters during the pandemic





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and then started reverting to baseline post-pandemic and he does not think cannabis is unique there, but historically, cannabis has tended to be highly recession resistant and that the fact that they are seeing the compression happening in Colorado is not just a function of the end of the pandemic and that it is also being driven by the very kind of significant changes in the competitive dynamics of the market.

- Chair Wright asked what recession they have experienced since legalization of cannabis that they are comparing it to or are they talking about the illicit market being recession proof.
- John Kagia commented that they had quite good data from 2018 when they saw that and there were enough indicators, both within cannabis and other sectors, like analogous sectors.
- Chair Wright asked John Kagia to address the fact that he was talking about the price compression as well of individual products. She commented that they do not have that kind of diversity in their retail space yet because they do not have enough experiences.
- John Kagia commented that they have not done that analysis specifically in New York yet, partly because what they are looking at is the lessons from other markets, which are much more mature, much more stable and have that spectrum of experiences.
- Chair Wright commented that you said the market met saturation of legal, but we had 1500 illegal and asked him to explain how their legal market can be considered saturated if they are making room for the illegal.
- John Kagia commented that if you are talking about saturation, the number of licenses that you would expect to have in the market once it is fully mature.
- Chair Wright commented that markets mature, there is an opportunity, and that they need to keep the outlook fresh for the people of NYS so that they know and believe that they are a partner in this endeavor, and that while they are balancing concerns, but that they realize that there is still room because they are talking about market saturation and they have not even written regulations for consumption yet, and she feels like they are kind of pulling back instead of leaning in and in this moment she wants to make sure that they are leaning in.
- John Kagia commented that the point of his remarks was not to dissuade them about the scale of the opportunity that is coming, and that the opportunity is here. He further commented that they are profoundly excited to get the doors open and get consumers transitioned, and what they are trying to guard against is capital destruction that could be potentially avoided with a more measured process.
- Chair Wright commented that she just wanted to ask that they continuously acknowledge the challenges but be clear that this is a moment of opportunity, and that while they have small players at the table, they are going to find creative ways to finance, and that they will be able to build a strong marketplace here.

- 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 should only be related to specific agenda items. Public Comments are listed in Appendix A.

- The CCB adjourned the meeting.



**Appendix A**

**NYS Cannabis Control Board 4/11/2024 Meeting – Public Comment**

	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
1.	Leonard	Manning	THE WEED SHOPPE	<p>Look at this face. This is the face of someone who is losing everything I've ever worked for. My name is Leonard Manning. I own the weed shop in Staten Island. I spent my savings, took out all my pension money, maxed my credit cards, took money to put away for my Sicilian girlfriend's trip to Italy. Just so I can pay my rent this month. I'm ready to open today. I had my virtual inspection last week and met every criteria. This has been a very, very long journey. It started my application on September of 2022. I was informed that I was chosen. Had the preliminary license number 631 that was then advised to go into general application. It was number 91 was picked again. Now I'm number 209. The governor said she wanted to revamp the OCM to get more stores open and running. Well, governor, I'm here ready to become the second store in Staten Island. Look at me. I'm here. Help me. Get me out of this bureaucratic mess. Everyone wants me to open up. So why am I not open? I'm stuck in OCM hell. There's still no license. No one can and will tell me where I stand. I email every day, call and talk to different people all with the same answer. You're in review. By who? How long? We're in the queue here am I? If someone signed to me the answer. You are in review. I'm 74 years old, working three jobs to stay afloat. This was supposed to be my legacy to my children and grandchildren. And so I'm broke, broken, and running out of hope. Wouldn't it be ironic that I'll be forced to close before I even open my store? Could you please help me? I've done everything I'm supposed to do. Virtual inspection. They say you're ready to go. All I have to do is call my vendors and say, stock me and I could open. And yet no one can tell me where I am. I could tell you of 6000 applications. I've been a long haul, are 6000 people ahead of me. That makes no sense to me whatsoever. You now just put somebody else and your added to that. Why were they added? Why wasn't I added? And at the end of the day. Please help me. Get me open. I'm here. I'm begging you.</p>
2.	Ellington	Keys	Greens On Demand	<p>So my story is going to sound a lot like yours Leonard. I appreciate you speaking. I felt that everything you said. Whoops. Sorry about that. Hello. Please forgive me if I</p>





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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				<p>sound nervous. I have not done a lot of public speaking. My name is Ellington Keys. I'm applying for a retail license. The name of my business is Greens On Demand. As Ms. Wright said, this is an industry of small money, and I guess small money and big money is relevant to every person into every industry. Over the past year, I've invested \$500,000 of my own money in pursuit of my dream. From lawyer and licensing fees to submit our application marketing firm for a deck design firm to create the visual concept of our store contractors, architects and cannabis consultants. I have submitted an LOI on a location in Soho, and I'm about to sign a lease that will deplete my entire life savings. I have a group of investors who committed \$4 million to help me get my business off the ground as soon as I have a license but they won't risk any capital until then. I'm very scared that I will not have a license. By the time or renovations are finished, my investors will walk away and all my efforts will have been in vain. I haven't slept more than three hours at a time since March, as that is when I anticipated I would have received my license. I don't know what to do if I don't sign the lease, I may lose the ability to open in the location I wanted to due to the site protections, as you guys have mentioned. At the same time, I'm afraid to pour the last bit of my savings into a lease only to not be awarded a license and end up homeless. Thank you.</p>
3.	David	Lamberg	ProXtracts	<p>Hello, I'm David Lamberg, Vice president, ProXtracts, processing. We're located in the Bronx. I want to thank you guys for this opportunity, to participate in this program. We're applying for these licenses right now. We're very excited to work with the you know, the OCM and small microbusinesses, across Long Island. That's where I'm originally from. I have about ten years of experience in this field of manufacturing, processing and distribution. I moved out from Long Island to Oregon in 2014, 2015 area. And as the legal market matured in Oregon, I was given an opportunity to be able to be in processing business and distribution. So I wanted to be able to bring that knowledge back here and help the market mature in a positive way. We're very excited for this opportunity. We understand that it's taking a little bit of time. There's many applications that the OCM has to go through. And it's there's many facets to get businesses going and keep the growth and everything like that. So. Yeah, that being said, we're very excited. We understand that, you know, there's many different things to go through and processes, especially within my business, considering</p>



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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				we specialize in hydrocarbon extractions, that, you know, I believe is one of the purest forms of extraction that will be a medically sound product and giving quality product to the state of New York and the adult use market. Thank you so much.
4.	Jennifer	Miller	Cozen O'Connor	Hi. My name is Jennifer Miller. I am a member at Cozen O'Connor. I represent the board and managers of 161 Street. The it's a condominium. The reason I'm here is I first want to commend all your efforts. It's an incredible initiative both for small businesses and New York State. But I do want to highlight for you specifically, an applicant for 161 Street at Hudson. The applicant is OCM retail 2023 001631. They're doing business as Meadow Green Corp. It's Green Leaf Corp. They were recently put it on the proximity protected location map. This came as a great concern to us because the applicant itself at the Community Board 1 meeting testified on public record that they did not actually want to go through with their application, but before fear of losing their deposit, they could not withdraw their application. So that they had to actually go through with the application. And I wanted to bring this to your attention. A lot of correspondence was actually brought to the, to OCM, both by the community board. This was in the resolution why it was denied. There's also a lot of proximity issues. There's two schools within 500ft. There's steps leading up to the location, so there's no Ada access. It's by the, Holland Tunnel. So there's a lot of traffic. It's in a residential building, 600 people signed petitions that are against it. So I do want to highlight this for you. If you can reconsider the proximity location on the map and deny that application, especially since the applicant does not even want to be a part of this and is forced to be a part of it. Thank you so much for your time in your effort.
5.	Igor	Kotlyar		Good afternoon. My name is Igor Kotlyar. I'm a CAURD licensee. I'm going to get right to the point. This thing with the proximity protection. I apologize, but I think you guys are making tremendous mistakes. You're opening up shops that are known as illegal marijuana shops today, killing the proximity for us. I can list many people that are in the same position as I am. I came here today. I did not want to come here and speak like this. But here's the situation. We were told to go out, get shops, rent the shops. We were then told that we're going to get our CAURD licenses back. We come off the list, people get on the list in front of us. With illegal shops, not illegal shops that we're just talking about documented illegal



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				<p>shops. The community board emails, you guys, the police email you guys, you guys give them proximity protection. We're stuck with hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal in rent, legal bills, security deposit and the worst part about it is we have nobody to speak to. I have nobody to call. I have nobody to email. Everything is generic and everything is general generic. The worst part about it is any real question does not get answered. You cannot ask us to go out, pay for rent, pay for expenses and reply to us with a generic answer 30 days later. And then I get a proximity protection denial because a guy across the street who we would never think would get it, gets it with a known illegal shop. Not only is it a known illegal shop, there's a mortgage on the building and the landlord don't even know about the situation. Who do I call? What do I do? I owe rent today. I don't know whether I should pay my rent because you guys are going to end up helping me out, or it's just going to go nowhere. I've emailed people in this room. I don't want to mention names. I have no body to call. I'm a CAURD guy. I don't need a loan. I've used all our money. We did it right. We did it. How? You told us to do it. What do I do? That's all I ask. What do I do? Who do I call? I got to pay rent today. There's a guy across the street from me doing illegal business with a proximity protection. I know you guys are going to shut him down, but meanwhile, what do I do? I lose the location. I got \$110,000 behind this. What do I do today? Not tomorrow. I need something today. I came here because I need something from you guys. Who do I call? There's an appeal process. But the appeal process does not show who to contact. How does it go? It just says appeal. Appeal what? Who do I send the appeal letter to? Who do I call? Thank you.</p>
6.	Berkay	Sebat	Elevate Soho Cannabis	<p>Hey, everyone. How's it going? My name is Berkay. Ruby's not my last name, but it's close. All right, so let me. Thank you. Know, first of all, I want to thank some people. OCM. Sarah from the licensing department and Monique from compliance. Okay. So real quick, we just got hit with a whole bunch of information numbers about how well dispensaries in New York State are doing. I had a teacher tell me ten years ago there's three types of lies. He said, there's the lies, the damn lies and the statistics. I feel like the statistics for cannabis dispensaries in New York City are totally off. The reason the numbers look so great for the entire state is because there's dispensaries in other locations, like in Suffolk County or upstate New York, where they've enforced closing illegal stores that do</p>



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				<p>millions of dollars in sales. And they skew the statistics for everything else. I'm a CAURD licensee. I've been in this program for over a year now. I've worked at several other licensed dispensaries in New York City just to get business experience before I start my own business. And let me tell you, they're doing terrible, terrible, terrible numbers. I'm talking about \$8,000 Saturdays on places that have like 25 to \$35,000 rent. There was a solution proposed by Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar, called the Smoke Out Act that would empower NYPD to padlock illegal dispensaries while OCM was investigating them. Unfortunately, assembly man and speaker Carl Heastie, he decided not to include this in the New York State budget, which is being voted on relatively soon. I don't know why we've been a coalition of CAURD licensees, has been in contact with him emailing his office for over a month, and he just keeps delaying our request for a meeting with him. We're doing a protest, at his, is his office this Saturday, 4:30 1446 East Gun Hill Road. I would appreciate all of you guys coming. It would help everyone tremendously. The Smoke Out Act would empower, the NYPD to close illegal dispensaries, and we're really. We really need this. Trust me. And I want to know why, assembly person, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie just doesn't support closing illegal dispensaries. I really don't understand, so thank you.</p>
7.	Sohon	Bashar	Silk Road NYC	<p>Good evening, ladies and gentlemen and community members and all supporters of reformative justice and Equality. I'm Sohon Bashar from Jamaica, Queens. For over 20 years, I've been a legacy operator, growing and selling. I'm a felon with a cannabis related conviction, and I'm the proud owner of Silk Road NYC, a licensed cannabis dispensary storefront with an online marketplace and delivery coming soon. I'd like to invite everyone here to come to our Cannabis Around the World event on 420. Tickets available online at Silk Road.NYC on Instagram. As a voice for every small business owner who has been promised support and left in the shadows. We were told that the establishment of dispensaries like ours would be supported, encouraged and facilitated by the MRTA. We were promised grants, 0% interest loans and a path that respects our beliefs and practices. And yet, here we stand, grappling with challenges while others leap ahead with undue advantages. Imagine the playing field where we stand on, where on one side you have a jazzy franchise showered with funds, technical assistance, and the privilege of opening a year ahead of us in my own</p>



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				neighborhood. And on the other side, there's us, the hardworking individuals who believed in a system that promise equity and fairness. We've had to claw our way through competing against a state backed entity to secure a location from the bill and cover every expense from our pockets without the promised support. Is it fair for one group to be provisionally awarded in the same round of licensing, yet receive a vastly different level of support? Where's the justice in having to accept interest bearing loans that go against my deeply held religious beliefs? Where? When were we assured? When we were assured access to 0% interest financing? I'm Muslim and I don't consider cannabis haram. We consider interest bearing loans haram, a plant that was spiritually, plant that spiritually unites us and should not be used to divide us. When will this state fulfill its promises and level the playing field? We demand equity beyond words on paper. Let this speech be a rallying cry for a future where every entrepreneur can succeed regardless of background or belief. Thank you. And please bring back Damian Fagon.
8.	Kevin	Pollard	Upstate pines	Good morning. Thank you, OCM Board, fellow cannabis connoisseurs. I'm from upstate New York, Hudson Valley, Red hook, New York. We got an application in. I had a bunch of stuff I was going to say was a repeat of our first speaker. We're all in the same situation. Waiting. Waiting. Desperately waiting. You know, I'm thinking about moving out of my house and living outside in a tent for the summer. If I don't, you know, I don't know, because we're running out and we're paying rent, and, we have a lot of other bills to pay. We got the store up. We're ready. We're just waiting, like everyone. And, I'm not here to, to yell at the OCM board. I'm here to say thank you for doing what you're doing. I know you the board wants to get everybody a license as quickly as possible. So, I don't know. All I can say is thank you, and, I, I really like the, the money guy. His report was good. So. Let's jump. Even if we get rid of all the illegal shops in Manhattan and the rest of the city. There's still illegal operators. They're not operating out of storefronts. Maybe their car, their house. But. So it's always going to be a problem. But, let's. Thank you. And, let's hurry up. Hurry up.
9.	Harold	Baines	New York THC Company and Rush Buddies	Good morning. My name is Harold Baines. I'm the owner of New York Thc company and rush buddies. I'm a CAURD licensee. First of all, I want to say I've been to a few of these meetings, and I've been. I've wanted to come up and say thank you to you guys for your hard work. For your commitment, for doing social justice. I'm appreciative



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				<p>of this opportunity. However, the situation I'm going through right now. The nightmare that I've been experiencing trying to get my business open. I feel compelled to come here and speak today to agree with a lot of the things that have been said. Also, just to add my own story. Back in July, I submitted a location, for TDO. The location was approved. I signed a lease. Started hiring people. Since then, I've been paying rent. I've been playing employees for five months through the injunction, we weren't sure if we were going to be able to open. We asked you guys for your advice. You told us to keep working. Eventually, we'll be able to open. After the injunction, my location was denied for proximity to schools. The first letter that I received for approval said that I was okay for proximity from schools, after you guys denied my location for proximity to schools. We fought about the regulations. And, you guys said that although I am, a delivery only location, that you're going to apply, dispensary laws, in terms of deciding whether or not proximity apply to our location. After fighting for a month about it, I decided to take the loss and try to move to a new location. I've been told in the last week that you guys are not going to allow me to submit a new TDO location, and then if I want to open my business, I have to go get a retail store. The whole purpose of the TDO location was to make it, you know, open and retail is cost prohibitive. I used more than \$100,000 of my own money, and I'm about to go bankrupt. I'm still paying rent. My, my landlord's calling me right now looking for money, and I still don't have clarification from the office whether or not I'm actually going to be able to open a TDO or whether I'm going to, have to go find an investor or, you know, pressure you guys to offer the resources that you said a year ago were going to be available to us at this point. We haven't been offered a fund location. We haven't been offered any zero interest loans or low interest loans so that we can go out and do this on our own. What I have been offered are what I consider predatory investment opportunities, where someone wants to take 49% of the license and control the license before we even get open, please, we need help. I'm suffering. I need to open immediately, and I have the process to do it. If you guys would just allow us to submit a new location and and we can be open. Thank you.</p>
10.	David	Nicponski	Freshly Baked NYC	<p>Good morning. Members of the Cannabis Control Board and of the OCM. My name is David Nicponski. I'm a founder of Freshly Baked NYC, a licensed cannabis</p>





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				<p>retail dispensary, and I'm the director of business development, for the New York Cannabis Retailers Association. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you again today. We all understand the significant challenges that the US faces, particularly in terms of limited resources and immense workload and pressure. However, there is ongoing and growing concern among licensees and applicants regarding transparency and communication, which I wish to address. You've heard this story repeatedly here today already. In recent months, it has become increasingly difficult for licensees to receive responses to inquiries, whether by email or phone. As just one specific example, you've heard others today. We have been contacting the OTM thrice weekly for the last seven weeks in an effort to schedule our pre-opening, site inspection. We have had no responses to any of those 21 communication attempts. The lack of communication is not an isolated case. As you've heard today, it is surprisingly common issue amongst licensees, with some licensees waiting months with no response. We understand the OCM is under considerable pressure and capacity constraints, but we must improve the situation clearly. Let me not only raise problems, let me offer solutions. Well. The real solution will involve better staffing for the OCM. We can we can mitigate many of these challenges with the appropriate use of technology. A practical example would be the introduction of a processing tracking system that tracks processing state and steps for the application. It shows who is the responsible party at the OCM for the next step, and who has taken recent steps on an application in the recent past. This alone would provide the needed transparency for applicants to understand what is happening, and to know that their applications are not being forgotten. As a software engineering professional with decades of experience, I'm more than happy to offer my own expertise and assist or consult the OCM and selection, of such technologies. In conclusion, enhancing the transparency and communication can only benefit all parties and can increase public support and confidence in New York's cannabis industry. I look forward to helping however I can. Thank you for your time and attention and as always, thank you OCM staff for everything that you've done. Thank you.</p>
11.	Mayank	Kapoor	DANKLEY, LLC	<p>How are you guys doing this morning? My name is Mayak Kapoor. I'm an applicant in the November queue. I've been coming to CCB meetings since card started. If there</p>



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				<p>was reward points for comment, I probably get a free license by now. But on a more serious note, I have just made my sixth lease payment. I'm in the November queue. I'm waiting to be reviewed. I was the person who actually recommended the proximity. So a long time ago, I remember Mr. Adam Perry stopped our meeting upstate and said, this is a good idea and we should borrow from the SLA and put this up. Even though I recommended that and have an application and I have no proximity protection. I'm six months in with rent. I don't know when it's going to stop. So my point is, I'm happy you guys came to a resolution for provisional licenses. I think a good solution is everybody who submitted a legitimate lease should get a provisional license, because they still have to prove their location and everything else going forward, but it will at least give me and everyone else who's in the same position paying rent, who are about to pay rent or spend your life savings. A yay or nay. You know which way you're going it, and you know how much more funds you're going to deplete. I still believe in everything you guys are doing. I appreciate your efforts, and I think we can eventually get to the point where everybody has their licenses, or everybody's on a position where they're waiting to hear what's happening. But giving up provisional licenses is probably the key to go and give it to everybody who has at least just make sure it's legitimate lease, because they've been spending money like I have, and they just want to know, am I going to still be spending money or do I have a shot? Or is it over now? That's all it's really about. So I appreciate your efforts. Thank you guys. Just please. And whatever you can do to expedite. I would love it. Thank you.</p>
12.	Pilar	DeJesus		<p>Hi. Good morning everyone. I just want to say thank you to these amazing people and all the hard work they're doing given that there's a lot of people in this room who have applied for licenses and don't understand government or policy or legislation and advocacy. I wanted to touch really quickly my comment. I have a few comments to make one, I want to talk to the privilege that I heard in this space. Sir I'm sorry that you're waiting. You're going through this. But let me tell you, as a woman of color, a Latina woman, and my brothers and sisters from East Harlem, we've been getting arrested and harassed, lost access to housing, higher education for decades. I don't know how many of y'all know, but marijuana was decriminalized since 1977, and since then, about a million black and Latinos were the ones who were</p>



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				targeted when it came to cannabis, the plant. It was a lot of us. And look how long we had to wait to even get to this point. I was one of the advocates who helped shape this bill. You know how long it took for us to get this bill to the written to the way it was, almost ten years. A lot of y'all. I didn't see y'all there doing the work, but now y'all doing the work y'all claim. And I'm sorry, this sounds offensive. I'm not trying to be disrespectful, but it just really frustrates me. All of this rushing rushing a lot of you all don't know how what it takes to build a new regulated office in a new industry where stigma has been real by a lot of non-black people, where that stigma was really aggressive and we're overcoming that. We have to build the policy. These people got bosses. And if y'all don't know, Governor Hochul, in my opinion, based on my experience, is a racist son of a sugar. She wasn't there for legalization. I know she wasn't because I was in these rooms for almost ten years. She wasn't there. These people are doing the best that they can. And I hear you a lot of y'all made bad decisions. Listen to bad consultants who were not from New York and giving you all this advice on what was going to go on in New York. You should have listened to the real advocates and the real people who are from here trying to give you this information way long before legalization. And many of y'all were like, no, it's not going to happen. I know legalization now look at ya. Thank you.
13.	Vanessa	Yee Chan	CANY	Hello, everybody. Oh good morning. Hello. OCM and board. So I am, a licensee as well. I got my November. That was a really tough act to follow, but, I, I, I applied in November, and, I got my proximity. I, I got my license, the February 16th CCB board meeting, and then I got my there were some issues I got, I went in for non provisional. I got provisional, but there were some issues with it. I fought it and then I got proximity protection on March 1st that everything cleared. However, I haven't heard any updates since then and I just wanted to move forward and just kind of, you know, start. I did start building some stuff. I still have my house. Of course, I have my real estate and I and I'm moving forward with it. But in this limbo period, I just feel like there's a lot of miscommunication between someone hands and the right hand and the left hand. So I was just hoping to get some clarification and kind of just, you know, pay my fee and start moving forward with it and go and really transitioning it over to non provisional, as I had, initially anticipated.



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14.	Walter	Iwachiw		My name is Walter Iwachiw. I'd like to commend the board and the staff in this impossible task. And I hope you get more help to to process these applications. One of the big issues I'd like to address is safety of the licensed staff in these cannabis stores. The budget process is on and I hope that you can push through some way of protecting the staff from being attacked, like a felony charge, demand for people, you know, hurting somebody in the cannabis store is a recent daily News story. I'm just following up on that. I was attacked myself at the SOMOS Conference in in Albany. So it's an issue I'd like that addressed, if you can, in this budget somehow. On the other side, I'm trying to help the CAURD and the cannabis applicants. I'm trying to raise \$1 billion through my phone company to to buy vehicles and lease them out to the various licensees. So anybody who wants to get in touch can check the comments in the boards. Thank you very much.
15.	Eneaqua	Lewis		My name is Eneaqua Lewis. I'm here representing Sugar Grass. Thank you, OCM. Actually, Sugar Grass just made the queue for the general license, so we're excited about that. We're a little nervous, because, everything that we hear that's going on. But we're excited, because we were in these streets, you know, getting arrested. So I feel like, this time, it was a long time coming, but it's worth it. And we just hope that you guys could get just your customer service a little bit better. I think that OCM is kind of misunderstood a little bit. And if you could do that, that would just be a step into making people just understand and not just be so upset with you guys. I want to talk about the liquor stores. How it was back in the days. I remember when they were trying to shut down illegal liquor stores, they were going into the store coming out with liquor like we see them doing now. But they were not letting these people sell certain things in their store anymore. They were taxing them. They were going really hard to stop these stores. And we seen it stop. You do not see bodegas selling liquor out of their store. Also, I feel like it's kind of modeled off of the liquor store model. So it's like, why is it such a difference in the way that it's handled? It's kind of, I don't understand the way that it is. And I just feel like if it was a little bit more aligned with that, then it would just be a little better process. Also, I just want to say thank you. I'm happy that we made the queue, and I'm excited to see a lot of brown faces in this space. And I just hope that we all can work together, because this is going to change New York City and



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				change a lot of people's lives that didn't have, you know, the chance to get their lives changed. Thank you.
16.	Peter	Beznos	High NYC Dispensary	Hey, guys. My name is Peter. Sorry. Peter Beznos. I am the owner of High NYC Dispensary. We're going to be the first legal recreational dispensary opening up in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. And that's all thanks to you guys. And I really, really appreciate all the work that you've done and given us the opportunity to actually be over here. It's taken a lot of it's been a roller coaster I've been in some meetings where I was upset and I said, the things that I wanted to say, but I actually wanted to come over here one to extend the invite to. Okay, the grand opening is the 19th of April. Two, I want to talk about the illicit shops. I have them I'm on Bedford between North eighth and North ninth. If you know Williamsburg from Bedford and North Eighth, there's a big one called Smokers World going down towards Metropolitan or Grand. Probably more than ten just on Bedford. And I'm not counting the side streets. I'm not counting the all the drigs or why, kent. There's plenty. I would really like for you guys to come to the grand opening, because it would help me to show that the state is standing with us. Okay. And you're there to support legal cannabis as opposed to illegal cannabis. And I hope we could do something about these illegal stores because obnoxiously, they know that I'm opening up and obnoxiously two doors down. They're renovating and they have a big sign that says Smoke Shop coming soon with a big as I'm sorry, big bud sign right there. And it's just like, I don't know what to do. You know, I'm not I'm not police. I'm not going to be over here enforcing anything. We need you guys. To help enforce that stuff. Okay. Thank you so much.
17.	Jennifer	Miller	Cozen O'Connor	I would like to speak on behalf of the Board of Managers in opposition of the approval of the license application at 161 Hudson Street, New York
18.	Jessica	Cain		Have you guys started reviewing applications from the December queue?
19.	Leslie	Rodriguez	Lexhale LLC	Thank you for issuing Licenses, however on Long Island the municipalities continue to discriminate and have additional restrictions making it impossible to open. Can the state give us permission to open over municipal denials. Thank you
20.	Kayla	Lazore	FREE CABLE TATTOOS, LLC	Will the NYSOCM, dramatically improve it's direct lines of communication with Applicants, Licensee's, etc...? The email system, nobody ever responds. The phone system, everyone is working from home, supervisors or transfers are not even possible at times. As a governmental body,



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				applicants, licensees, and the general public should have unregulated access to OCM and its representatives, agents, and most importantly, its Board Members! Please address and thank you!
21.	Joseph	Prestia		Hello Board Members, I am currently 29 on the December Que for a micro license with SEE status. My SEE status is in jeopardy, but my application is finalized and meets the requirements. The SEE office stated originally that I can proceed without SEE status. A week later responded saying that If SEE status wasn't awarded, I would not be eligible for the license "Please refer to our regulations § 120.12 License Denial for more information". It doesn't say this in 120.12 and I have not read anything that supports it. Is there an answer on the matter? Thank you for your time.
22.	Juan	Aguirre	NDICA	<p>I am reaching out on behalf of NDICA GREEN LLC, OCMCAURD-2022-000794, a nonprofit qualifying CAURD applicant that was contacted by OCM in October 2022 regarding deficiencies in our application. Our staff promptly submitted corrected documents and in November 2022, OCM informed our entity that it scored high enough to receive a CAURD license. Furthermore, our executive director received a phone call on Thursday November 16th, 2022 at 12:30PM PST/3:30PM EST from Mr. James Lawson from the enforcement department, who congratulated us and informed us that our application was cleared and being sent over to the licensing department for final approval. We were promised by Mr. Lawson, in his official capacity as an agent of OCM's enforcement department, that our application would be approved at "the next board meeting or worst case scenario by the end of the year (2022)." It has been nearly 2 and a half years since November 2022 and our nonprofit still has not received a CAURD license.</p> <p>We have sent PDFs to OCM, Damian Fagon, Christopher Alexander, all Cannabis Control Board Members, and the Cannabis Control Board Chairwoman communications between OCM and our entity regarding this matter. We are formally requesting written communication from OCM regarding the status of our application, which scored high enough to be awarded a CAURD license.</p> <p>We understand that there are multiple nonprofit organizations that have been awarded TWO (2) CAURD licenses, such as Housing Works and Travel Agency. The fact that our nonprofit has not been awarded a single CAURD license, while other nonprofits have been awarded TWO (2) CAURD licenses, has led our legal</p>





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				<p>counsel to question the constitutionality of this discriminatory practice against our organization which has caused undue financial harm; as noted in the email correspondence, our organization paid multiple expenses while awaiting licensure from OCM, in addition to paying the \$2,000 application fee and paying staff payroll to prepare for post-licensure action items.</p> <p>Due to the fact that there has been no transparency for the scoring process, in 2023, we submitted a FOIA request for the scores of all nonprofit CAURD license applicants, but have been awaiting release of these documents by the OCM. We are more than confident the records requested will show that OCMCAURD-2022-000794 was one of the highest, if not the highest, scoring nonprofit qualifying CAURD applicant. Furthermore, we are the most experienced nonprofit that applied for a CARUD license in regards to capacity and experience in regards to our 7+ years of work in the social equity and cannabis equity space. Our board of directors also has decades of experience in the legal cannabis industry, while also dedicating our organization's mission to servicing justice involved, formerly incarcerated, low income, minority, and marginalized communities.</p> <p>As aforementioned, our nonprofit's executive director was informed by OCM that NDICA GREEN LLC's application scored high enough for CAURD licensure, so we can only reasonably conclude that our nonprofit is unlawfully being discriminated against.</p>
23.	Stephen	Parks		Why are no Adult-Use Dispensaries in all of Chautauqua County?
24.	Carlos Alberto	Sacaza Palacio		Who will be distributing the license to sell cannabis and how do you think the new regulations will impact New York City.
25.	Larry	Robinson	TAYDAD, INC.	My understanding that the NYS Cannabis Program was originally formed for those that were incarcerated unjustly and that they would be the first in line to open up a cannabis shops or location in which to serve mostly in their communities. Why are the wealthy or organizations who have not suffered from the injustice placed on those incarcerated are now receiving the benefits and profits off of the backs of those that were incarcerated or are still incarcerated. This process is not doing the job that it was originally designed to do and that is help and uplift those that was unjustly incarcerated for something that they should have never been incarcerated for in the very beginning. Please correct this process and do what it was suppose to do. Help those that should be helped and not



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				those that would just want to make a profit off someone's else misfortunate and injustice. Thank you.
26.	Joseph	Peruso	River Flower Farm	As a retired Korean Veteran with a NY STATE VETERANS PLANTS AND FLOWERS LICENSE...I SEEK APPLICATION TO A MICROMINMIE Cannabis License
27.	Vicki	Porges		I am not opposed to licensing of cannabis dispensaries. I AM opposed to the approval of the license specifically at 161 Hudson due to the proximity to schools, park, ADA, traffic, it being a residential neighborhood, violation of governing documents of the building, etc..
28.	Narine	Lall		Hello, I am writing on behalf of my two young adult daughters who want to start a new business in New York City. However, they are facing difficulties in meeting the requirements for obtaining a license as new entrepreneurs. They are interested in opening a licensed cannabis store in Brooklyn, but the process has been discouraging due to the challenges involved. Illegal cannabis stores have diluted the market, which is another obstacle. I have noticed two illegal stores in my neighborhood that could be legalized and become a financial asset to the city and the owners. What can your agency do to help improve this process and ensure that good citizens are protected from the illegal market?
29.	Rick	McCauley		What are the "...extraordinary circumstances..." preventing Garcia from attending the meeting?
30.	LEONARD	MANNING	THE WEED SHOPPE INC.	We started as CAURD license 631, thne to 092 now we are 209. We got approval in July 2023 and moved on to post application. We finished our Virtual Inspection and have everything in place to open our doors. We have met every guideline. EXCEPT that Licensing is not giving us our license. All we hear is that we are in review and that licensing has over 6000 applications and we have to wait our turn! OUR TURN! We were there from the beginning applying in 09/22. We have tried to navigate a process that has failed again and again to achieve its purpose of opening up Cannabis dispensaries. I have been funding this myself and have wiped out my savings and pension. Going broke with a state of the art store sitting there that I cannot open the doors to. I E Mail licensing every day. Literally begging for help. All I get are automated responses or a terse message that says between the lines "Leave us alone and wait your turn". I cannot do that anymore. I get my license today I open I am ready for final inspection in 3 days! That's how long it will take my product to arrive. I have a full staff waiting to start, managers in place, grand opening sign in a box, advertising in place, web site waiting. Everything! Again all



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				I can do is beg to have a person finalize my application and grant us a license.
31.	Bradley	Olson		<p>As a resident of 161 Hudson Street, I am troubled by the proposal to establish a marijuana dispensary right in our building.</p> <p>I believe this proposed dispensary would be in legal violation of N.Y. Cannabis Law § 72 (6): No cannabis retail licensee shall locate a storefront within five hundred feet of a school grounds as such term is defined in the education law or within two hundred feet of a house of worship. Whereby N.Y. Education Law §409 (2): ...“School grounds” means any building, structure and surrounding outdoor grounds, including entrances or exits, contained within a public or private pre-school, nursery school, elementary or secondary school's legally defined property boundaries as registered in a county clerk's office. There are at least 13 child-related facilities in the approximate area including Bright Horizons at TriBeCa Daycare and Pre-School which is well within the 500 foot radius of the potential dispensary.</p> <p>Moreover, as someone living with a physical disability, I am concerned that the retail space's lack of an ADA entrance will result in very high traffic through our residential entrance and using our ADA lift to access the retail space (vs. prior tenant, a medical practice with low traffic).</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
32.	Jared	Wien	161 Hudson Street Condo	<p>I am a Tribeca community member and resident at 161 Hudson street. I have no issue with the licensing of cannabis dispensaries, in general, just significant concerns regarding the approval of the license specifically at 161 Hudson for all of the various reasons laid out in CB1's denial: (1) proximity to schools two DOE schools (pre-K through K), (2) a NYC park directly across the street, (3) lack of ADA access directly to the unit, (4) increase in traffic congestion by the tunnel, (5) this is a residential neighborhood, (6) this use is a violation of governing documents of the building.</p>
33.	Annabel	Vered		<p>I live at 161 Hudson Street, New York, NY. I wanted to note that this is an absolutely terrible location for a dispensary, and I am definitely not against legal dispensaries! The building is located approximately 500 feet from not one, but two, preschools, Bright Horizons and Tribeca Community School. These kids play regularly in the park across from 161 Hudson during their breaks. Furthermore, the unit in 161 Hudson is NOT ADA compliant. There are stairs leading into the unit, and there</p>



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				is no access into the unit from the street without climbing up these stairs. Traffic from the Holland Tunnel makes Hudson St. both unbearably crowded and dangerous most days and that's a whole other problem that really does not need to be compounded with traffic for dispensary, where I imagine delivery will be an important part of their business. The building's bylaws, also, do not allow for this kind of business and putting a dispensary here is against that spirit. Thanks for listening, have a great day.
34.	Mayank	Kapoor	Dankley LLC	I'm very disappointed in the current licensing review process for the November 2023 Queue. After attending multiple CCB meetings, having a comment at every meeting I've attended, and always standing up for OCM - I'm sad that you aren't doing what you said and changing the guidance after the window was closed - it's WRONG. I'm an Extra Priority SEE applicant who has a lease in place in an Opted In town in Long Island. The original guidance made it seem like I was guaranteed a review but then it became a lottery system which was originally only mentioned for the December Queue. Now how is a lottery system fair when you have applicants with multiple duplicate applications which now would be skewing the queue and not really being a fair lottery method at that point. Money is being spent every month as I wait on rent, with no Review in sight. There's no guarantee I will be reviewed AND I HAVE NO PROXIMITY PROTECTION cause no one has reviewed my application yet. How much worst is it suppose to get? This isn't Social Equity - It's Robbery in the sense of a slow rolled review process with no guaranteed for the Extra Priority SEE applicants as your guidance had originally stated. I've always stood up for OCM and everything you have done to this day for social equity. Now I'm just incurring debt with no guarantee that I will ever even get a license. No landlord whether a lease or agreement to a future lease is letting you get anything without paying. PLEASE DO WHAT YOU ORIGINALLY PROMISED IN YOUR ORIGINAL GUIDANCE. I STILL BELIEVE IN YOU! OCMRETL-2023-000606 Dankley LLC SEE Applicant 806 in November Queue
35.	Michael	Demary		I am a person who applied for my license who was targeted by the NYPD task force back in the late nineties and early 2'000's I even had a company from California who wanted to partner with me. But I never got a response from OCM. I had over 20 conviction and was never given a reason for denial . what do I have to do to get a answer.



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36.	Elisabeth	Kozack		<p>As a parent to two elementary school children who moved to this building for the family orientation, I strongly recommend CCB deny approval of the license specifically at 161 Hudson.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) proximity to 2 schools, both less than 500 feet away</li> <li>2) clear lack of accessibility - the only primary entrances require stairs and given the height/depth of the stairs, ramps are not an accessible option</li> <li>4) presence of a dispensary would be in violation of the governing documents of the building</li> <li>5) higher vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Hudson and Laight is already deemed to have traffic safety concerns being address within the community - on Hudson Street and from the Holland Tunnel. It is easy to envision double parking and higher traffic on streets were there to be a dispensary in the building - adding further risk to the many kids biking, scooting and walking</li> <li>6) park/open space across the street, notably where my children and others play, wait for the school bus etc</li> </ol> <p>To reinforce the child-centric and family friendly nature of this building - the last two tenants of the commercial space were a Pediatrician's office, and Moomah's Children's Cafe.</p> <p>And currently in between the two schools on Beach Street/Hudson Street, there are 2 children's clothing stores, and a kid's hair salon.</p>
37.	Lenny	Manning	The weed shoppe inc	<p>My store is fully ready to open as the second brick and mortar on Staten Island. We have had our inspection and met every requirement. Everything is in place. Security, hardware, software, state of the art alarm system, approved DEA cage and safe. A cannabis bank, and cannabis insurance, managers and employees. Grand opening signs and a word of mouth campaign that had been building. All our opening inventory orders are in.</p> <p>What is stopping me ? Licensing has buried my application, it won't tell us where we stand. Are we in a queue? What is our queue number? Is anyone actually working on it or are we waiting for someone to get to it? What is our time frame? When we submitted the final application we were told by licensing it would take 3-5 business days. We were ecstatic and ramped our plans up. Hiring employees some who had to give their jobs notice. Contraction with a private security company. Contracting with a money pick up service. Having our web developer get the site up and running. We are 100% Ready!</p>



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				<p>Now a month has passed and no one wants to talk to us. I E Mail every day and get the same response A n Mail E saying we are in review and will be notified with any questions.</p> <p>All dressed up but with no application. All it takes is one person in the OCM TO PULL OUR APPLICATION AND FINALIZE IT.</p> <p>we are all on the same page wanting to open up as many shops as we can as quickly as possible. Illegal shops so far outnumber us and more are opening every day. Stealing revenue from legal shops and hundreds of millions from NYS. With impunity. So I beg for someone to look at us, help us. Get our shop open in days not months or years.</p>
38.	Jamie	Hort		Please keep TriBeCa the family friendly safe neighborhood that we all love and are raising our children in. These stores will drastically take a negative toll on our community.
39.	Mr. S. Myles	Group	Resident 161 Hudson Street	I am a resident of 161 Hudson Street in Tribeca an extensively family orientated community and I'm fully opposed to having any consideration for a cannabis dispensary in our building number one our building shares a common lobby with the commercial number two is the commercial space does not have Ada access Ada access is achieved throughout common residential Lobby two or across the street of around about Park number four we're under a thousand feet located to it a school registered by the state of New York and this would destroy the value of my home and this belongs more in a commercial District thank you
40.	jennifer	gilbert		there should not be a cannibus store on Hudson Street
41.	Rema	Hort	161 Hudson Street Resident	Hi there! I believe that 161 Hudson Street is not the appropriate place for a cannabis store. Firstly, there are two preschools in close proximity to the building: Bright Horizons and the TriBeCa Community School. Secondly, there is a public space right across the street where children play constantly and I feel that if a cannabis store would open, people would just smoke across the street and that space would no longer be suitable for children. For these reasons, and many others, I feel that the commercial space at 161 Hudson Street should be occupied by something more appropriate for the locale; it used to be a pediatrician and children's cafe. I hope you agree. Thank you for your time.
42.	Toni	Silber-Deliverie		it's proximity to schools, park, ADA, traffic, residential neighborhood, violation of governing documents of the building.





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43.	Pierre	Delerive		the proximity to schools, park, ADA, traffic, residential neighborhood, violation of governing documents of the building,
44.	Alicia	Kornreich	34 Laight street	It is an absolute shame that the license is still pending for 161 Hudson street. It is a completely residential area with terrible traffic already and schools and children's stores within a 500 foot radius. It is not ada compliant and in a residential building. There are plenty of other locations the applicant can look at outside of a block meant for families. The sheer number of people opposed to this, along with the community boards recommendation to reject this location not once, but twice, should reject this once and for all.
45.	161 Hudson	Resident		<p>Dear Members of the NYS CCB,</p> <p>I am a resident of 161 Hudson Street and appreciate your consideration of the below reasons as to why a cannabis dispensary license should not be provided for a commercial space in the building.</p> <p>Please note that the proposed dispensary location is within 500 feet of entrances to two schools - which is in conflict with the OCB guidelines.</p> <p>The location is also right across the street from a public area where children from the neighborhood and also some nearby schools play and gather. The area is home to over a dozen facilities, including schools, childcare, pediatrician and orthodontics that cater children.</p> <p>161 Hudson itself is home 20 minors - where they live and play. This is a residential building in a residential area that is full of families with young children. The previous tenant of the commercial property applying for the license was a pediatricians office. All of this puts the location at odds with the spirit of the cannabis guidelines - to protect minors while providing access through legal dispensaries with care and consideration to specifics of the immediate community. Importantly, as previously outlined, please note that in addition to the spirit of the guidelines, this location conflicts with the parameters related to the proximity to schools and public facilities used for recreation.</p> <p>Please also note that the commercial unit in question (1 of 3 units - two of which are used by a private business) is in a building of 26 units whose bylaws drafted 20 years ago (prior to the State's accommodation of marijuana), expressly prohibit activities such as bars, methadone clinics, adult bookstores and tobacco products. They were drafted with the clear intent of protecting resident children. Besides their clear intent, the bylaws expressly prohibit</p>



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				<p>anything illegal, and we note that cannabis is not federally legal.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the commercial unit does not have the ability to provide ADA access directly from the street to its entrance. Any such access would need to be provided by entering and walking through the residential building - further exposing minors.</p> <p>I expect the Community Board has likely advised, per their opposition to granting a license at this location, the traffic on Hudson Street is already bad and has resulted in numerous safety issues and accidents affecting pedestrians and neighborhood families, including children. A dispensary in this residential location with no other high-foot-traffic commercial businesses on the block can only worsen safety, congestion and traffic.</p> <p>The residents of 161 Hudson understand the need for legal dispensaries in NYC and NYS, but this location is not compliant with the spirit and guidelines related to the location of dispensaries. Nor is it compliant on legal grounds.</p> <p>Thank you for your kind consideration, 161 Hudson Resident</p>
46.	Salahaddin	ALi		<p>Dear New York State Cannabis Control Board,</p> <p>I am writing to you as an applicant from November, with serious concerns regarding the process by which the state has been issuing licenses. It appears that my application has not yet been reviewed or considered, which is causing me significant distress.</p> <p>I am particularly concerned about the state's decision to issue licenses for the December queue, despite the fact that the November queue applicants have not been given the priority review as legally stated. If the Office of Cannabis Management proceeds with reviewing the December queue, it will inevitably lead to multiple lawsuits from myself and other November queue applicants.</p> <p>This action is not only against your own rules and FAQs, which clearly state that the November queue would be expedited, but it also seems that this has only happened for a select few hundred in the November queue.</p> <p>Furthermore, this will nullify the proximity protection for applicants in the November queue who have not even begun the review process.</p> <p>The Board and the Office of Cannabis Management are not legally allowed to start reviewing the December queue until the November queue has been fully reviewed with priority treatment. I would strongly advise the state to avoid this potential lawsuit.</p>



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				Unless these issues are addressed, myself and a group of applicants from the November queue will be compelled to file a lawsuit in the coming weeks.
47.	KIM	BIBLE		I live at 161 Hudson St. I have young children and I oppose a cannabis dispensary in our building. We have two pre-k schools within 500 ft, a park directly across the way where preschoolers play. Thank you.
48.	Susan	Schuman		While I am not opposed to the licensing of cannabis dispensaries, I am opposed to approving a cannabis license specifically at 161 Hudson. 161 Hudson Street is a primarily residential building within a residential neighborhood. 161 Hudson is within proximity to schools and parks. A cannabis dispensary is also a violation of the governing documents of the building. There is also an ADA issue because the store entrance to 161 Hudson is not ADA-compliant. This means that anyone who wants to enter the dispensary and requires ADA-compliant access would have to enter through the residential lobby of the building and access the store through a door in the back around the corner located directly next to the only residential elevators and would have access to the elevators during the day. And lastly, 161 Hudson is on the corner of the entrance and exit to the Holland tunnel—a major thoroughfare. There is already congestion and traffic issues daily. This has the potential to add significantly more traffic issues, congestion and noise.
49.	walter	iwachiw	WNIS	IN AN EFFORT TO FUND AND REDUCE THE COST TO OPEN A CANNABIS DISPENSARY IN NYS, WORLD NETWORK INTERNATIONAL SERVICES INC. IS RAISING 1 BILLION TO FUND THE PURCHASE AND LEASE TO CANNABIS DISPENSARIES OF UP TO 22,000 USED AND NEW TESLA'S. 420VEHICLES@WNIS.ORG.
50.	WALTER	IWACHIW	i4PANYC LLC, FEEBUSNT RAINS LLC, IWACHIW2 001 INC.	IT APPEARS, THAT BY HUMAN ERROR, DEFICIENCY LETTERS HAVE GONE OUT FOR THE SAME DEFICIENT ITEMS, THAT WERE ADDRESSED PROMPTLY PREVIOUSLY. DUPLICATING AND ARE DELAYING APPROVALS OF LICENSEES APPLICATIONS AS THE QUEU GROWS LENTHENING THE TIME TO PROCESS AND REVIEW. THE IMPLIMENTATION OF AI WOULD ELIMINATE THE MISSED HUMAN REVIEWS.
51.	WALTER	IWACHIW	iWACHIW2 001 INC., A NON PROFIT , fFREEBUSN	REQUEST A DISCUSSION ON RESOLUTION No. 2024-68 USE OF "MAY" INSTEAD OF "SHALL" SINCE GETTING INVESTORS TO FUND THE OPENING OF STORES REQUIRES DELIBERATE FINDING THAT THE APPLICANT HAS SUBMITTED THE REQUIRED



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			TRAINS LLC, I4PANYC LLC	DOCUMENTS AND ELIMINATES THE UNCERTAINTY THAT BANKS AND LEASING AND RENTING COMPANIES REQUIRE TO LEND AGAINST ASSETS (LICENSES). THE MJUNPACKED EVENT HAD FEWER VENDORS THAN LAST YEAR, TROUBLING INDEED.
52.	Frustrated	Applicant		<p>We are microbusiness applicants now going on FIVE months of paying the TWO leases that we signed to qualify for the November queue, expecting to receive an approval or denial before the end of last year, as originally indicated by the OCM. The application guidelines stated that those with locations would receive priority and reviews would begin in order of the queue. Yet, despite us having a relatively low number in the queue, dozens of businesses WAY below us on the list have received licenses ahead of us. I understand that the queue is the order in which the review process begins and not the order that licenses are granted, but I don't see how someone 1000th or 2000th on the queue could possibly receive a license prior to someone in the 200s. 2000th shouldn't even begin a review before 200s are completed!</p> <p>We have received proximity protection, completed all paperwork, TPI disclosures and fingerprinting requirements, and when we send emails requesting updates we are only told that they have all the information they need. We have received no reconciliation requests and there is no transparency as to why our application is being delayed. We continue to be frustrated by this process and are losing money every month on leases and other exorbitant related expenses while in limbo about whether or not we're ever going to receive a license.</p>
53.	Kyle	b		<p>To the Esteemed Members of the New York State Cannabis Control Board,</p> <p>I type this email as a concerned applicant from the November batch, deeply troubled by the state's licensing process. It seems my application remains untouched and unconsidered, causing me considerable anxiety.</p> <p>My worry stems from the state's decision to grant licenses to the December queue, while the November applicants, who were legally promised priority review, are left in the lurch. If the Office of Cannabis Management continues to review the December queue, it will inevitably invite a flurry of lawsuits from myself and other November applicants. This move contradicts your own guidelines and FAQs, which explicitly mention that the November queue would be fast-tracked. However, it appears that this has only been implemented for a select few hundred in the November queue. This also jeopardizes the proximity</p>



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				<p>protection for November applicants who are yet to start the review process.</p> <p>The Board and the Office of Cannabis Management are legally bound to complete the review of the November queue with priority treatment before commencing the review of the December queue. I strongly urge the state to steer clear of this impending legal battle.</p> <p>If these concerns are not addressed promptly, I, along with a group of November applicants, will be forced to initiate legal proceedings in the upcoming weeks.</p>
54.	Anne	VR		<p>A dispensary at the envisioned location 161 Hudson is not what is in the best interest of the neighbors. The crossing of Hudson and Laight is one of the busiest in the neighborhood often completely congested with traffic leading into the tunnel. Many very dangerous situations with crossing pedestrians and kids have been documented and this will get much worse if there is added traffic for the dispensary.</p> <p>The second reason is the proximity of the school and the nursery a block away. This is not an area where we need to have a large cannabis clientele hanging around.</p>
55.	lucid	flight		<p>Hello, I am an applicant in the November queue and am very concerned with the amount of money I have spent on rent and to find out the OCM is trying to start issuing and reviewing applicants from the December queue is absolutely outrageous!!! I have paid over 60k in rent and still have not even had my application opened!! I am extremely concerned that the ocm wants to move on to DEC without finishing the NOV. I know there is a group of people going to file a lawsuit if this is done and will be forced to as well if this is done. PLEASE DO NOT MOVE ON WITHOUT FINISHING EVERYONE IN NOVEMBER FIRST. PLEASE!!!!</p>
56.	Matthew	Nicoletti	Art of Flower Farm and Dispensary dba Quality High	<p>We applied for our microbusiness license in November of 2023. It has now been 5 months since we applied with no understanding as to when or if we will be approved.</p> <p>We are carrying the costs of a retail dispensary and a cultivation facility as securing these locations was required to apply in November. We are paying over \$7,500 a month in rent alone. As a microbusiness we are a small business so taking on these expenses indefinitely without income is not sustainable.</p> <p>We are number 240 on the queue that was released by the OCM in January but many applicants with higher numbers have been approved before us with no indication as to why. We have not been asked to provide any new</p>



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				<p>information since February and our dispensary appears on the states proximity map.</p> <p>What is the states timeline for reviewing the remaining microbusiness license applications from the November 2023 submission?</p>
57.	Pamela	Gross		<p>I am in 100% opposition approving a cannabis store at 161 Hudson Street NYC 10013. There are too many children, schools, playgrounds in the immediate area which would be adversely affected by a dispensary. Furthermore, the congestion traffic on Hudson street in the immediate area leading to the Holland Tunnel is already intolerable for the residents . This should not receive CCB approval.</p>
58.	Timothy	Williamson		<p>Dear Board</p> <p>I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to you as an applicant who submitted my application during the November window. I have been patiently waiting for my application to be reviewed and I am eager to move forward in the process.</p> <p>I understand that the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) has a significant number of applications to review and I appreciate the efforts being made to ensure a thorough and fair process. However, I have some concerns and questions that I hope you can address. My primary question is: Will the OCM review all the applications submitted in the November window? I am aware that there is no cap on the number of licenses that can be issued, but I am unsure if this means that all applications from that window will be reviewed.</p> <p>Furthermore, I would like to express the concern that applicants from the November window have been waiting for a considerable amount of time. It would seem fair that no applications from the December queue should be reviewed before all those in the November queue have been addressed.</p> <p>Additionally, I am curious about the review process for the first 500 applications from the November queue. Was there any favoritism involved? The FAQs stated that the November queue would be expedited, but it seems strange if only the first 500 applications were given this priority.</p> <p>Your clarification on these matters would be greatly appreciated. It would help myself and other applicants understand what to expect and how to plan for the future. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.</p>





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59.	WALTER	IWACHIW	IWACHIW2 001 INC, FREEBUSN TRAINS LLC , I4PANYC LLC	<a href="https://www.yahoo.com/news/security-guard-shot-during-illegal-023500205.html">https://www.yahoo.com/news/security-guard-shot-during-illegal-023500205.html</a> IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED. ILLEGAL STORES DEFINING ACCEPTABLE EXPECTATIONS OF THEFT AND GUNS AT CANNABIS STORES. FELONY LAW NEEDED FOR ASSAULTING A LEGAL CANNABIS STORE EMPLOYEE AND LEGAL STORES MUST BE ALLOWED TO HIRE ARMED SECURITY GUARDS LIKE BANKS.
60.	Dwayne	Monty		I tried to update my application by submitting missing information and was told I couldn't update or submit miss information until my application was in the review process. There will come a time when OCM starts reviewing the applications. Upon review, if they notice incorrect or missing information they will give you a certain number of days to correct or submit the requested information. Why aren't applicants allowed to update information when they first realize it's incorrect or missing or continuously?
61.	kim	newton		Hello please help and answer at the board meeting if everyone in the November window will be reviewed? i know there us no caps but feel like not everyone will be reviewed????????? I feel chris alexander is tricking everyone.
62.	Andy	S		Hi I have applied for retail dispensary license back in November with location and with a lease and I saw at the Proximity Protected Locations ocm has issued someone else the location who had provided a LOI and I had no knowledge of it that the real estate agent had given him the LOI So is there a possibility that my application will get reviewed or not and if so who will be issued a license based on the lease or the LOI
63.	Jesus	Canales		I would just like to say i dont think its fair that some people have paid 2000.00 and another 1000.00 dollars in application fees and have waited going on 2 years for a answer on the permits like a cuard license or the from November of 2023 the order of permits responses should go in order of who applied first from 1 to million should be by who submitted in the order of submission this random picking makes people feel like the board is picking out who they want it should be in order of submission !
64.	Joe	O		How does the court ruling effect advertisement? Can I wrap a truck to promote my opening
65.	J	Friedman	Corner House	Please don't forget all of us who have committed to spaces, spent significant amounts of money, time, and energy to get this industry off the ground in our local communities. Tell us how far into the November Queue you will review. We are still spending significant amounts of energy and



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				money and time and were promised expedited review. We are waiting patiently for this expedited review we were promised. Thanks.
66.	Linda	Dentice	Cannabis Crafters LLC	What number are you on in the November Que?
67.	Kevin	Pollard	Upstate pines Inc.	Good afternoon OCM board and fellow Cannabis connisours, my name is Kevin Pollard retail 001284, I am a disabled veteran applicant and NYS resident. Myself, my son in law and our best friend dreamt of starting this bussiness, who have, respectfully been waiting for a response from the board for months on my application for a dispensary. We spent months searching for the perfect spot, secured a lease and have been paying rent and utilities every month on top of the costs to build out the spot. I have put in so much blood, sweat and tears into this journey, while still working 60 hours a week delivering eggs to 4 different counties. I have been approved by my town and we could be ready to open in 60 days but I am now at the mercy of the board waiting for my number to get called. I am begging the OCM to get moving, this veteran does not want to keep delivering eggs I want to be open my shop. Thank you for your hearing me out. I hope to hear from you soon.
68.	Victor	Marte		Here to say good job. Some things can be better
69.	Ernest	Au		I am opposed to a cannabis dispensary at 161 Hudson Street because of its proximity to schools/parks and the potential to create additional traffic issues.