



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

Title:	New York State Cannabis Control Board Meeting
Time & Date:	May 10, 2024 at 10:30 AM
Location:	Empire State Plaza Concourse, Meeting Rooms 2 & 3, 100 S Mall Arterial, Albany, NY 12242, 181 Ellicott St., Buffalo, NY 14203, and Virtual via Webcast

Attendance

Board Chair:	Tremaine Wright
Board Members Present:	Hope Knight, Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins
Board Members Present (virtually):	Adam W. Perry
Board Members Present (virtually from a private location due to extraordinary circumstances):	Jessica Garcia
Board Members Absent:	N/A
Others Present:	Chris Alexander, Linda Baldwin, John Kagia

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 11, 2024 Board Meeting
- IV. Consideration of Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses for Approval
- V. Consideration of Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses for Denial
- VI. Consideration of Withdrawal and Approval of Emergency Enforcement Regulations
- VII. Consideration of CAURD Provisional License Extension
- VIII. Consideration of Registered Organization Dispensing Facility Requests
- IX. Consideration of Supplemental Policy Guidance for the Review of Adult-Use Applications from the October 2023 Application Window
- X. Executive Director Report
- XI. Public Comment
- XII. Adjourn



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Action Items

Resolution No. 2024-69:	Resolution to Issue Certain Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
Resolution No. 2024-70:	Resolution to Deny Certain Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses.	Passed, Unanimous Vote – Board Member Perry abstained from the vote.
Resolution No. 2024-71:	Resolution to Deny Certain Adult-Use Cannabis License.	Vote to table resolution – Passed, Unanimous Vote – Board Member Perry abstained from the vote.
Resolution No. 2024-72:	Resolution Directing the Office of Cannabis Management to File a Notice of Withdrawal of Previously Adopted Emergency Rule Proposed Rulemaking and File a New Emergency Adoption and Proposed Rulemaking of Updated and Amended Violations, Hearings, and Enforcement Regulations.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
Resolution No. 2024-73:	Resolution to Extend the Provisional License Period and Change Certain Requirements for Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licensees.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
Resolution No. 2024-74:	Resolution to Approve Certain Registered Organization Dispensing Facility Requests.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
Resolution No. 2024-75:	Resolution to Adopt and Approve the Supplemental Policy Guidance for the Review of the Adult-Use Applications from the October 2023 Application Window.	Passed, Unanimous Vote

Notes & Comments

- Chair Wright stated that as you can see from today's agenda, they will consider a number of significant steps designed to enhance their state's cannabis regulatory, licensing and enforcement framework. She noted that they have heard the comments and read your emails, and they understand and appreciate the need to streamline and expedite their processes. She stated that they are committed to developing a system that provides clarity and reliability, as well as adaptability. She noted that the initiatives before them today provide an opportunity to bolster the success of entrepreneurs in the market, and the number of New York State (NYS) cannabis entrepreneurs continues to grow. She stated that their State now boasts over 120 operational cannabis dispensaries and that their licensing efforts have exceeded equity goals, demonstrating their commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive marketplace. She commented that alongside this market growth, they have enhanced their efforts in combating the illicit market with increased enforcement powers, and they are



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steadily working towards a safer and regulated environment for all. She further commented that these achievements, paired with the commitment to ongoing examination and a willingness to adjust or adapt, reflect the dedication and collaboration of all stakeholders involved, and that she looks forward to their discussions on further advancing these goals.

- Upon a motion from Board Member Hope Knight, and a second from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, the Minutes of the April 11, 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. 2024-69, a Resolution to Issue Certain Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses. Before the Board today is the fourth cohort of adult-use cannabis licenses 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 104 applicants include 23 retail dispensaries, 14 microbusinesses, 27 cultivators, 23 distributors and 17 processors. In addition, the Office has issued an additional 17 provisional retail dispensary licenses. If approved, this will make 540 adult-use cannabis licenses approved in 2024.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, and a second from Board Member Hope Knight, Resolution No. 2024-69, a Resolution to Issue Certain Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses, was approved unanimously.

- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided an overview of Resolution No. 2024-70, a Resolution to Deny Certain Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses. Per the Cannabis Law, the Board is charged with the authority to issue or refuse to issue any registration, license or permit. The applications before the Board for denial are initial Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) applications from the CAURD application window which closed in September 2022, but were delayed in issuance of denials because of CAURD litigation. The applications recommended for denial are CAURD applicants that did not meet the requirements of the CAURD program as set out in Part 116 of Title 9 of New York Code Rules and Regulations. The most common deficiencies include:
 - Unable to prove justice involvement as defined in 116.4(a)(2)(i)
 - Unable to prove qualifying business as defined in section 116.4(a)(2)(iii)
- Board Member Adam Perry commented that this is the first time that he recalls them being presented with a list of licenses to be denied and asked why that is.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander stated that this is just the process of closing out the CAURD application window, and that they did have an injunction that was caused by litigation, and then a settlement that created a further pause in processing, which would include denying of these applications, so due to litigation, they were frozen for several months and taking action on these applications.
- Board Member Adam Perry asked does this mean that for every license the Office chooses not to recommend, they have to take an action to deny those licenses or to ratify the Office's decision not to recommend it to the Board.



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- Executive Director Chris Alexander stated that is currently the process for the Board to deny and they can adjust that in the future if that is the desire of the Board.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that he is just not understanding why this is the first time that they are doing that when the Office has been processing licenses and recommending licenses to them to approve and that he understood from the statute that the process was if the Office recommends a license, that the Board has the power to grant or deny, but not that they were going to look at every single action that the Office took that reviews an application that may have some deficiency.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander commented that this is the first time that they are doing this but if the desire of the Board is to take a different approach that is fully something that they can absolutely discuss.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that you are giving them this big list of denials, which he assumes in the aggregate is going to exceed the list of grants and asked do they not have some need then to go into each one of these and consider the basis for the denial as well.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander stated that they provided to the Board a spreadsheet that demonstrated the reason for denial.
- Chair Wright stated that part of the process that has not been mentioned yet is that their resolutions are actually the approval of the preliminary determination that is made by the Chairperson of the Board who receives the information from the Office and goes through all of the responses that the Office provides them so that if there are any questions and or concerns related to these denials, as well as when they are doing approvals, that they can source through and find out what the baseline really is in each instance, so the process has not changed, that's been the process that they have been using since they have been issuing any licenses and it is not changing anything, it really is still just passing along the information to the Board, having a preliminary determination, which is actually what they are approving in all of their resolutions.
- Board Member Adam Perry asked doesn't the statute require a period of time after the Office provides the initial determination to the Chair that the Board has a period of time to object and ask for further action on the initial determination presented by the Office to the Chair.
- Chair Wright responded yes, and she thinks that it is 14 days.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that if you have made an initial determination on these things, he does not recall having 14 days to review that initial determination.
- Chair Wright stated that he is highlighting what has been one of their sore points since they have begun operations here and that the Office has not delivered information to them in advance so that they could have a 14-day period and ever since they have been in operations, this Board has sort of waived that 14-day period and just relied on the preliminary determination. She stated that however, that is well within the powers of this Board to make a determination that they need further information or that they have questions and they can vote against this resolution or any resolution that is based upon a Chairperson's preliminary determination and request additional information and that is what has been in all of the resolutions that they have passed since their inception, and they definitely have that power, it is really just been an issue of timing and scheduling and in the haste to push forward the work, and when they get things in one week in advance for review and determination, no one



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has opted to say, let's have an additional 14 days, however, the power remains in the hands of the Board and they are well within their rights if that is what they choose to do.

- Board Member Adam Perry stated that he wanted to make clear that he was fine with grants reviewed and recommended by the Board having an expedited process, but he takes very serious issue with the suggestion that that extends to board members, including those who represent the legislative interest, acquiescing to now having this denial process with no advance notice. He stated that granting a license, fine, and he is fine with shortening or waiving the 14-day review process but this is a denial process and he does not find that the Office has delayed providing them things and he has not had any problem with that and what he does have is a problem now that the Chair is provided with items on denial, that apparently she has made a preliminary determination on that he has not had any significant time to consider, and now he is being asked this is about denials, not about everything else, and this is the first time this has happened.
- Chair Wright stated that they have all had the same amount of time to review information and she gets it along with everybody else on the Board and they have been working under extremely tight time constraints. She noted that a number of the issues that were raised during their discussion regarding these denials was the lack of understanding of many of these applicants regarding what qualified them under the conviction or charges under the marijuana laws as they existed before March 2021 and there was a lot of discussion and that as you will see from the information provided to them and attached to this resolution was the cause why most people were unable to meet the eligibility requirements. She stated that additionally, the other part was as identified by their Executive Director, people who were unable to provide tax returns to prove that their businesses were profitable, and very often the problem appeared as people submitting individual tax returns that did not provide sufficient information on where the income was coming from or that it was a viable business, additionally, they had some concerns related to profitability because that was also one of the mandates of the CAURD program so each of these applicants who submitted applications, they have created a chart that is attached to this resolution to identify what the cause or the rationale for their denial is and it was discussed with their Office this past week. She stated that they received this information on Friday and she has talked with their Office at least three times this week about this packet of information, and they have gone through to make sure that it is clear, what it is was the standard and what it is that they are saying what the denial is, particularly in an instance where people have been waiting over a year for a response from them and they wanted to make sure that this information was clear and that is the information and they all have had it for this week. She stated that she is very sorry that it is and she agrees that it would be much better if they all had the full two weeks to review information but considering this moment, the date of their meeting, she knows that the Office was very concerned at getting this forward before the public and they have done their best to make sure that they could accommodate that request.
- Board Member Adam Perry asked if they were lumping together here denials based on things that are not curable, like someone doesn't have a conviction, for example with things that may be curable, in other words, they didn't provide adequate tax records to justify the approval.



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- Chair Wright commented that the two causes are lumped together here, however, the people that are lacking tax returns have been unable to cure for over the past 12 months.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that in other words, they are getting all these complaints about how long it's taken to license when the Office has been working with people to ask them for records multiple times that they haven't been provided, so some licenses that are taking extended times are not because the Office isn't processing them, but the Office is asking some of these people who are apparently in this queue for denial for records, and they haven't been provided despite multiple efforts. He stated that also he is curious about the timing and understand from publicly available information and from people who apply for liquor licenses, liquor licenses typically take at least six months, and some of them where there are issues, take up to a year, so the information it is confusing him as to the timing that it takes to get a license when it appears that some of the license grants or delays or denials are due to individuals not providing information they've been requested, among other reasons, but he assumes that some licenses they grant are at least in line with or shorter than the typical six months or longer periods it takes to get licenses from other NYS entities.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander stated that they do have folks who they have taken a significant amount of time and effort to try to get to demonstrate either that they have the conviction or they did in fact operate the business and in some cases, it was that they just didn't have the tax documents prepared it but that was a part of the requirements of the program and the inability to provide that was something that they did spend a good amount of time trying to ask folks to get if they did attest to actually operating a business that then they wanted to push to see what they could do to get the required documentation. He stated that CAURD moved a bit faster in terms of the issuance in the beginning and now, and obviously was paused due to the injunction, but now with their current adult-use from the applications from November and December, they have gotten 500 out the door this year and so it's a shorter wait time than that you express there. He stated that the one thing that he wanted to add here in terms of the cure process and what it means, they have a statutory requirement to give folks time but in working with individuals and applicants, the Office wants to give these licenses out and going through those deficiencies is something that they take very seriously in providing an ample opportunity for folks to provide the required documentation and he didn't want to glance over that because these folks who are presented here for denial, the Office has gone to great lengths to ensure that they were ready to make that decision. He stated that he will also add that the reason for the timing of this coming now is the settlement that they had entered into paused them on reviewing or doing anything with the CAURD pool of remaining applicants up until April 1st and they are just now in the point where they started to reopen those files, check and see the status of those applications and as these and outcomes, they do hope to get some approvals as well in coming meetings.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that it sounds like there's been a suggestion that the Office has had some difficulty processing things, and he is wondering if they can understand why the Office hasn't made any requests to the Office of General Services (OGS) or the Governor's office or whoever for additional staff.
- Chair Wright stated that there have been requests for additional staff, and there are currently 12 full time employee (FTE) openings that have just been posted recently and they are



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growing their team with some people on loan from other agencies that are coming on board to assist with this work of processing applications, so requests have been made, they are being answered and the Office is working with the team at OGS, as well as the Governor's office to get additional resources so that they can process applications.

- Board Member Adam Perry asked so you're saying that it's not that the Office didn't make requests, the Office did make requests, they just weren't fulfilled or approved.
- Chair Wright commented that she can't say all of that but what she is saying is that currently they have open jobs that had not been posted, and they have now currently been posted and they have requests that are trying to be fulfilled and that the number of employees of authorized employees have been increased for their Office so that it is a work in progress, and that they are trying to make sure that the needs are met and that they are able to process applications in an expedited and efficient manner.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that he is not trying to make a headline for a news article, just metaphorically speaking, but if the idea is that the Office was sitting there not asking for additional staff at any time, and all of a sudden somebody's saying that they need to ask for additional staff, it sounds like that's not accurate, it sounds like the Office has asked.
- Chair Wright stated that she does not know and they do not have the information in front of them to say who asked whom and that they may be able to go back and have the Office contact him directly to give him an update on what requests they may have made but don't think at this moment that this is the space or that they are prepared to give a report on what their communications have been with the Governor's office or with OGS at this time.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that any commentary that is accurate about the historical facts, and if there's anybody who's going to be making any commentary reporting on this, that like every other public authority who has had an external review, the agency is provided with a draft. He stated that he has served on public authorities for now more than two decades, and counseled many of them and every single time an outside reviewer does a report, the NYS Comptroller, including some federal agencies, they provide a draft report so that the Office can say, hey, there's some facts that should be added to this or there's an error and he thinks everybody knows that who has served on a public authority, and he would like to see that to address those things. He stated the other thing is that as a business litigator for 30 years, and as a public authority board member for 20 years, as a lawyer for those authorities and understanding the tide and type of litigation over entities in New York, he has never seen the volume and breadth and type of lawsuits that the Office has faced in this short period and he would like to have any report on anything about what's going on to have a substantive discussion by someone qualified to do so about how that litigation has impacted the process and he does not think that any discussion that they have, including the resolution that's before them, he would like to have a honest, fair, balanced and accurate, but most of all helpful commentary that includes all of the key salient facts and this tidal wave of litigation is certainly one of them, and it can't be ignored in his.
- Chair Wright commented that if they are in an opportunity where they are going to have one of those reports, that these are key components. She stated that at this time, the Board has not been presented with any report and with regards to the audit and oversight that has recently been conducted of their Office, she has requested that their Board receive an update



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on their findings, and as soon as that is available they will be assembled so that they can get that update and that these are great points that they can bring up at that meeting.

- Board Member Adam Perry stated that it's important that people understand the OCM is akin to an executive department of NYS and some people who talk to him seem to think that the Board is responsible for all these things and they are a separate Control Board that receives recommendations and as has other statutory powers, but they are not responsible for running the Office and he wanted people to be clear on that. He stated that every single audit he has ever seen has been provided to the target department, including NYS departments, NYS public authorities in advance so that there can be a dialogue between the reviewers and the review or the auditors and the people that are auditing so that facts can be pointed out here and he assures you at the MTA in New York and here at the NFTA in western New York, he has never in 17 years seen a report by the NYS Comptroller, that's Tom DiNapoli and before where his staff did not point out to the auditors, hey, there is a mistake here or this information may be misleading, or perhaps you're unaware of that. He stated that it's a very appropriate professional and universal process and in almost every case, the auditors take some or all because they are very prudent about what they want to point out and the auditors take some or all of our factual corrections and recommendations and update the audit and he just don't understand why anything that's going to touch on any of these things wouldn't be provided separately to Madam Chair and for the Board to make its determination, and then separately for the Office to make its determination, recommendations and suggestions.
 - Board Member Jessica Garcia commented that to bring them back to the resolution, and she appreciates him going through the curing process and acknowledging how much time that the staff spends on that, but she has been a little unclear about the notification to folks, particularly this group of denials and asked have they already received notification or are they waiting for this board meeting to happen and therefore, the first time they might have seen their name is on the notice for this meeting. She then asked if he could walk her through how folks hear about what they are moving for them and at what point they hear from the Office versus the Board about what actions they are taking with their license application.
 - Executive Director Chris Alexander stated that during the review of the CAURD applications and as their review was concluding, they had communicated repeatedly to licensees that they had failed to meet eligibility for the program and the communication that they had most recently received, though it might have been last year, was that they failed to meet eligibility for the program and this is their first time seeing their name on a board meeting agenda but they have received notifications multiple times that they failed to meet eligibility for the program so this is not the first time they are hearing this.
 - Upon a motion from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, and a second from Board Member Hope Knight, Resolution No. 2024-70, a Resolution to Deny Certain Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses, was approved unanimously. There was one abstention from Board Member Adam Perry.
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- Upon a motion from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, and a second from Board Member Hope Knight, Resolution No. 2024-71, a Resolution to Deny Certain Adult-Use Cannabis License, was approved unanimously to table Resolution No. 2024-71. There was one abstention from Board Member Adam Perry.



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- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins commented that this motion is a very good example of the type of action that they can take when they see a denial that they want more information about, and while that first group were ones that they weren't highlighted, didn't pop up that they wanted more information about, they are able to say, no, we want more information about this.
 - Chair Wright commented that the reason that they are asking for it to be tabled is that they would like for the Office to further consider the process involved in the management of this particular case and they would like for them to have more conversation.
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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 as follows:
 - Outlines the method in which the Office may implement a secret shopper program for compliance purposes.
 - Adds that the stop work order shall include a warning notice posted in a publicly visible location, and removal or alteration of the notice is subject to fines.
 - Outlines Enforcement's broadened authority to issue orders to seal for unlicensed activity if imminent threat to public, safety and welfare exists, where the location is not used for residential purposes and when the unlicensed activity is more than a de minimis part of the business, and the circumstances for delayed padlocking.
 - Outlines the process for respondents to request an emergency hearing on an order to seal.
 - Requires respondents to provide a verified statement of ownership information upon the Office's request as a condition to proceeding with a hearing.
 - Chair Wright asked if this means that they are removing the previously April 11th draft and what they will be approving is this current draft that includes the changes that she believes were passed on April 10th or 15th.
 - Executive Director Chris Alexander stated this is a new updated copy, and these will go into effect as on an emergency basis, and if adopted now they will incorporate the changes.
 - Linda Baldwin, General Counsel for OCM, stated that the SAP process requires the filing of a complete notice of proposed rulemaking and along with that notice of proposed rulemaking, they will be filing emergency regulations so that those regulations can go into effect immediately and those two processes work in tandem. She stated that during the notice of proposed process, the public will get an opportunity to comment and then at the end of that process, final regulations will be presented to the Board for adoption and that the reason why they are replacing the package is to afford the public an opportunity to review all of the changes, including those that were adopted by the Board last month, so they are replacing last months' notice of proposed with a new notice of proposed to restart the process.
 - Board Member Adam Perry commented that he understands that State Tax and the State Liquor Authority (SLA) had hundreds of licensed sworn armed personnel to do enforcement activities and that's just his general knowledge. He then asked how many they have at OCM to address illegal operations comparatively to SLA and State Tax.
 - Executive Director Chris Alexander stated that State Tax has hundreds, and SLA has less, and that they are still building their enforcement team and they are under 30 and are hiring.



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- Board Member Adam Perry commented that they are under 30 but as of last year and the year before they have had a lot less.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander responded yes, 12 to 15.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that it seems to him that there was a time when they had 5 or 10.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander responded that is correct.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that he saw someone commenting that their enforcement efforts, or lack thereof, may have had some impact on the number of illegal stores and that he does not know how they do that with ten people for a statewide problem, including in New York City, so that was confusing to him. He commented that just as a matter of projecting the number of licenses relative to the number of illegal stores that are operating or had been operating, and asked is it true that if they had issued 2 or 3 times the licenses, or exceeded some of the comparison states that don't have equity like New York does, that that would have eliminated the illegal shop problem, and it seems like somebody's saying that it's a fact that if they would have issued instead of 200 licenses, 400 licenses, the illegal shop problem would have disappeared and asked is that a fact.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander responded no.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that he does not know why anybody saying that but it's baffling to him that there would be a suggestion that flooding the market with licenses would all of a sudden cause it sounds like the illegal store issue is an issue of state legislation and outside executive action, instead of issuing 122 or 242 retail licenses, if they would have issued double that, it would have had an impact and that he does not know how anybody can make that statement as a matter of logical fact and he is confused by that.
- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins stated that she does not know if anyone is making that statement and thinks that in tandem with closing down shops, they need to open up more legal shops so that they are replacing the illicit product that people are currently buying in bulk with legal, tested, safe product. She stated that it's incredibly important that they take into account the number of illicit shops when they are looking at the number of legal dispensaries that they are trying to open because the more of these illegal shops that they can close, the more that they support the legal market and thinks that is the argument that is being made.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that he is always concerned when he sees people who don't have a history in cannabis as you do and that he has seen something suggesting that if they would have issued more licenses faster, that would have had it here with a cause and effect, no controls, no scientific study, no evidence that would have substantially reduced the number of illegal shops and that he would like to see some proof that a scientific or academic reviewer, would look at and say, yes, that's true and he does not see any proof of it and he wanted to compound that and combine that with the fact that from the beginning they only had a very small enforcement staff, and they still have a small enforcement staff compared to NYS agencies charged with going in and closing down places. He stated that State Tax does a lot of enforcement and stops businesses from selling things without collecting sales tax and so forth and the SLA has a number of personnel and so forth, and they have very little and what he sees is those two criticisms and then the if this, then that, and he does not see any evidence. He stated that he does agree that there needs to be an effort, if all things being



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equal, if they existed in a vacuum and they didn't have a tidal wave of lawsuits, requests for personnel that weren't being acted on quickly and a whole bunch of other things, and a statute that requires equity, like many of the others don't and if they didn't have any of those issues and he does not know if that would have had an impact on the illegal stores and right now, today, and they are not the legislature, CCB is not the legislature and the OCM is not the legislature, and it seems that the legislature needed to act much sooner, and that they needed to pass regulations after that to support that which is what they are doing now but he does not see how that's the fault of the Office or the Board for that matter, in this alleged proliferation of, or the actual number of illicit shops, and he does not see any evidence that the two things are connected, and he would like someone to prove that to him in a way that can withstand peer review in a scientific manner.

- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins stated that she is very happy to move these along and start seeing more enforcement throughout the state.
- Board Member Adam Perry asked are their 30 agents going to do all the enforcement.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander stated that their team is small but mighty and they have been running around the state, all 15 of them, doing all that they can to seize illicit products.
- Chair Wright asked aren't they creating a task force as one of the terms of the new legislation. She stated that she is referring to it as a task force, but it is a partnership with Tax, the sheriff's department, local police departments and OCM.
- Linda Baldwin commented that was some of the partnership that Chris Alexander referred to and the legislation itself provided the authorization to the OCM to seal unlicensed businesses and upon inspection, if those businesses met a certain criteria, such as selling cannabis products that were not from NYS or tested in NYS, sales to minors, proximity to churches or schools and other types.
- Chair Wright asked is there no alignment and no agreement that they are going to be working in partnership with these other agencies.
- Linda Baldwin stated that the legislation did quite a bit, and the first step was to create this authority for the OCM and the second step was to authorize local governments to adopt their own laws, implementing very similar legislation for themselves so that they could specifically with regard to unlicensed entities, also conduct parallel local enforcement efforts to close those unlicensed businesses, and together, across the state, they hope that by multiplying the forces, in addition, the task force that you're referring to is an effort that the governor has spoken about and is currently under development. She stated that they have seen, for example, NYC begin initially because the legislation granted NYC immediately the authority to bring in the local enforcement efforts, so that's a great example of how other local governments can do the same, counties and cities are authorized to do this, in addition, OCM plans to put in place full force multipliers to expand its enforcement efforts to cover all areas of the state, NYC included, so it will make a significant impact once that effort gets rolling.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that it sounds like this is another basis to create criticism down the road where there is an expectation that with this legislation and 30 or less personnel for a statewide effort. He stated that there are small towns in Erie County who have police forces larger than 30 for a few square miles but it sounds like where they have this new legislation, they have these regulations, OCM do it, and if the number of shops doesn't



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decrease to someone's arbitrarily set reduction point, that it's going to be the grounds for more criticism. He stated that where he would like to see are the provisions for them having, say, 100 more or two hundred more sworn personnel with police powers to implement these things and asked where that is.

- Linda Baldwin stated that there will be additional information posted on the OCM website so that everybody can have an opportunity to learn and understand what the impact of the new legislation and how it will be implemented. She stated that in addition to those provisions that she explained previously, there are new provisions that increase penalties against landlords because that is also a source of the problem. She stated that if landlords did not rent to unlicensed businesses, and it's very easy to check if a business is licensed or not, they have a list of unlicensed businesses on their website, and if they did check and did not rent to businesses or brought hold over proceedings to evict unlicensed businesses, they would not be in this situation, and the legislature recognized that they need to be held accountable as well, and there are provisions under the real Property Actions and Proceedings law, with enhanced penalties going forward for landlords who do not take action when they're notified of the unlicensed activities.
- Chair Wright asked is it correct that the provision says that the fines can run as much as five times the rent or some multiplier times the rent that they're charging any illicit shop.
- Linda Baldwin stated that amount runs from the date that the notices provided to the landlord, and they intend to notify every single landlord every time they inspect and determine that a business is selling unlicensed cannabis without a license, and that is the penalty outside of NYC and inside NYC is a flat \$50,000.
- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins commented that there is an opportunity here for collaboration with local law enforcement and would like to see the Office, moving forward, try and do some education with towns and municipalities of how they can be their partner because she knows speaking with local law enforcement in her region, they feel like their hands are tied and there's nothing they can do and now with this new legislation, there is something they can do and education is needed to let people know things have changed.
- Executive Director Chris Alexander stated that they have taken significant efforts to do that education and to build that partnership and it does still remain a felony to sell to an underage person, to sell over a certain limit, and to sell or possess over a certain limit.
- Board Member Adam Perry stated that creating new notices that need to be given to landlords and then following up on every single one of those notices and then following escalating notices and then taking third level enforcement actions, that all takes additional personnel time, and he understands that the Office just can't go out and hire whoever it wants and it has to get an approval from OGS or from the governor's office or somebody and asked are they being guaranteed that they will have workers to use the tools or are they just creating a bunch of tools with no one to actually work on them.
- Linda Baldwin stated that they have reached out to other agencies to supplement their staff because they recognize that this is an extremely important endeavor, and they cannot wait until they are provided with additional staffing resources, so they are taking a number of measures to complement their existing staff so that they are able to conduct all of these activities and that's required.



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- Chair Wright asked if the nuisance provisions are really designed to be managed by local enforcement agents and not by OCM. She asked isn't the actions against landlords, and the fines against landlords going to be managed by the local.
 - Linda Baldwin stated that the real actions and proceedings law, it is a law that can be used in the law, it's written in that local governments can bring those actions and actually that is something that they do plan to reach out to local governments on because they can piggyback off their notices, they can provide their own notices and set the clock ticking in order to bring those actions themselves and they will be able to bring those actions and collect those penalties for the local government, and that is another way that local governments can participate in solving this problem.
 - Board Member Adam Perry stated that he is very concerned that this is a big problem clearly, and that he has worked very closely with enforcement staff, with local police departments very closely here in western New York to help to address this problem as aggressively as possible, and have also assisted cities in questions they had about drafting very aggressive permits and inspections on provisions, but what he does not want to repeat is a situation where they passed a bill, passed some regulations, were given no additional resources, and a few months down the road, it's well the OCM isn't doing anything when the fact is, is that it's a matter of actually having personnel assigned and resources assigned to get the job done.
 - Chair Wright stated that this is an ongoing conversation, and they will continue to bring updates so that they can stay abreast of what the progress is in their organization as well as through their collaborations with other state agencies and local municipalities.
 - Upon a motion from Board Member Hope Knight, and a second from Board Member Adam Perry, Resolution No. 2024-72, a Resolution Directing the Office of Cannabis Management to File a Notice of Withdrawal of Previously Adopted Emergency Rule Proposed Rulemaking and File a New Emergency Adoption and Proposed Rulemaking of Updated and Amended Violations, Hearings, and Enforcement Regulations, was approved unanimously.
-
- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided an overview of Resolution No. 2024-73, a Resolution to Extend the Provisional License Period and Change Certain Requirements for Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licensees. The regulations which establish the CAURD program requires that all CAURD licensees shall commence operations no later than 12 months from the date the license is granted, or as otherwise determined by the Office pursuant 116.7(c)(8). Due to litigation, the Office and the Board were unable to issue or process CAURD licenses during the period of injunction, which was roughly 4 months. This resolution would extend the provisional license period for an additional 12 months from the date a CAURD applicant received their provisional license. Additionally, the resolution would allow a CAURD to locate their retail dispensary in any region across NYS. CAURD would no longer have to locate in the region they received their provisional license.
 - Upon a motion from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, and a second from Board Member Adam Perry, Resolution No. 2024-73, a Resolution to Extend the Provisional License Period and Change Certain Requirements for Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licensees, was approved unanimously.



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- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided an overview of Resolution No. 2024-74, a Resolution to Approve Certain Registered Organization Dispensing Facility Requests. Included in this resolution are 4 new medical dispensary locations. Registered Organizations (ROs) must have 4 operational medical sites before they can open their 5th and 6th locations. Both the 5th and 6th dispensaries must be located in unserved or underserved areas of the State. If approved today, these new dispensaries will help to improve and further expand patient access to medical cannabis as the Office continues to highlight the benefits of the medical program. The medical dispensary locations include:
 - Curaleaf NY, LLC – 5th Medical Dispensary
 - o New Dispensary Location: 532 Chili Ave, Rochester, NY 14611
 - Curaleaf NY, LLC – 6th Medical Dispensary
 - o New Dispensary Location: Valley Plaza, 4141 South Salina St, Syracuse, NY 13205
 - RISE East Syracuse (Fiorello) – 5th Medical Dispensary
 - o New Dispensary Location: 6701 Manlius Center Rd, East Syracuse, NY 13057. This location will be co-located adult-use and medical pending the ability for ROs to have a second co-located adult-use and medical dispensary in accordance with 123.18 of Title 9.
 - Gudflwr - Hudson Health Extract (HHE) – 1st Medical Dispensary
 - o New Dispensary Location: 80 Main St, Nyack, NY 10960
- Upon a motion from Board Member Hope Knight, and a second from Board Member Jessica Garcia, Resolution No. 2024-74, a Resolution to Approve Certain Registered Organization Dispensing Facility Requests, was approved unanimously.

- Executive Director Chris Alexander provided an overview of Resolution No. 2024-75, a Resolution to Adopt and Approve the Supplemental Policy Guidance for the Review of the Adult-Use Applications from the October 2023 Application Window. The guidance document outlines the following:
 - The Office will review all retail apps in the November queue.
 - The Office will prioritize the review of the November queue before reviewing and issuing licenses for retail and microbusinesses from the December queue.
 - Clarifies reasons why a retail applicant will be eligible to receive a provisional license, including if an applicant's location conflicts with a location that is receiving proximity protection, a school or house of worship, or if the applicant lost control of the location.
 - The Board will provide an update on the license targets for applications in the December queue based on updated information from supply and demand analysis in the cannabis supply chain.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, and a second from Board Member Jessica Garcia, Resolution No. 2024-75, a Resolution to Adopt and Approve the Supplemental Policy Guidance for the Review of the Adult-Use Applications from the October 2023 Application Window, was approved unanimously.



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- Executive Director Chris Alexander and John Kagia, Director of Policy for OCM, provided the following Executive Director report.
 - Legislative Update
 - Enforcement Bill
 - Padlocking Illicit Storefronts – The Office can immediately padlock an unlicensed business following an inspection. Removing or damaging a padlock will result in a Class A misdemeanor.
 - Actions Against Landlords Who Fail to Comply – Landlords will be subject to penalties of 5 times the rent from when they received and a \$50,000 fine notice for landlords notified in NYC.
 - Expanding Local Authority – County and city governments can adopt their own laws to regulate and padlock illicit stores.
 - Statewide Enforcement Task Force – A statewide task force including key state agencies, county and local government focused on civil enforcement to shut down illicit stores.
 - Immediate Enforcement Powers for NYC – NYC has been granted immediate enforcement powers. The New York City Administrative Code will be amended, allowing the city to act under the law immediately.
 - How to Report an Illicit Dispensary or Issue with a Cannabis Product
 - Adverse Health Events – troublesome or undesired medical occurrences or symptoms related to a cannabis product.
 - Concerns about Cannabis Businesses – unlicensed locations, sales to minor or consumption in unauthorized areas.
 - Concerns about Cannabis Products – product safety, mislabeling, formulation or expired products.
 - What Happens Once a Complaint is Received via the Incident Reporting Tool.
 - The public submits complaints of illicit cannabis shops at cannabis.ny.gov/report-an-incident.
 - OCM communicates with designated city or county officials, as well as other state agencies, to determine who best to execute the investigation.
 - If a determination is made for OCM to initiate an investigation and the shop is seen threatening health and safety, OCM may immediately padlock the shop, seize illicit cannabis, and issue penalties and fines.
 - OCM will provide regular public updates on locations that have been padlocked.
 - Changes to Cannabis Taxes
 - Changes to cannabis taxation were included as part of the 2025 State Budget.
 - THC potency tax on cannabis has been repealed and replaced.



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- There is now a 9% wholesale tax for adult-use cannabis products.
- The medical excise tax on cannabis has been reduced from 7% to 3.15%.
- Licensing Update
 - There are currently 139 final CAURD licenses issued, 122 opened dispensaries, 350 provisionally approved retail dispensaries, 91 microbusinesses, 90 cultivators, 51 processors and 52 distributors.
 - 60% of all adult-use licenses are owned by Social and Economic Equity (SEE) applicants.
 - The Office is prioritizing the review of the November queue and is reviewing applications in the order of the queue. To date, the Office has started the review of up to number 885 in the queue review order.
- Market Update
 - New York has sold over \$300 million in legal cannabis.
 - April set a new all-time high for monthly sales at \$41.6 million, bringing the 2024 year-to-date total to \$142.5 million.
 - The week of 4/20 sales set a new record of nearly \$11.6 million in sales.
 - Consumer options are expanding quickly with increasing brand diversity and specialization. There are currently 268 brands in the market.
 - Expanding strain diversity offers an opportunity to educate consumers on strain effects. There are currently over 800 total strains in the market.
 - There are over 120 legal adult-use retail dispensaries open in New York.
- Pre-Operational Reminders
 - There is a 60-day security camera footage retention requirement.
 - Ensure Certificate of Occupancy (COO) is current and up to date if any renovations have occurred that required local municipal inspection and a revised COO.
 - All areas containing cannabis must be covered by cameras without any blind spots or obstructions.
 - Signage allowed/restrictions – Be familiar with all PLMA guidance and regulations.
 - Inventory – Initial inventory template and weekly inventory reporting errors.
 - Don't schedule opening until after the inspection.

- 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 5/10/2024 Meeting – Public Comment

	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
1.	Kevin	Kaminker		<p>Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Kevin Kaminker. I'm part of provisional license that was awarded a couple board meetings ago. I spoke before. I'm here again, so just network speak again. Congratulating everyone today who got their licenses. I just want to bring up again. One of my teams main concern is the proximity protection map. Again, there's a lot of locations that are on the map that are not secured or controlled by the entity or applicant. So I know you guys are working really hard. Just again, just want to everyone to hear my voice so they know that they're not alone. I know I'm not the only one in this situation. There are people here that I've already spoke to. But besides that, I have friends who have opened up Williamsburg, Coney Island. You know, I'm from Brooklyn. I'm going to stay in Brooklyn. I want to open in Brooklyn. And just a little better communication. I know the team is not big. There are few, members of the OCM who do respond in a timely manner. But again, time is of the essence. I already have my license for about two months, and I'm still hesitant to sign a lease because I don't know if that location is going to be well or not. So there was a process before that. I know CAURD was able to present the location before they signed a lease, or at least the I know we could do a conditional lease. But landlords don't want to hear that. They want something concrete. And, you know, if there's going to be another way that we can know that that location would work, that would be great as well. But besides that, if not, you know, we'll continue to work with OCM and hopefully my team and I will be able to invite everyone here to our grand opening. And good luck to everyone else as well. Thank you.</p>
2.	Bryan	McKenzie		<p>Good afternoon. My name is Brian McKenzie. I'm also from Brooklyn. I don't have a license yet. But I do have Proximity protection on the space that I submitted. And one thing that I would challenge, which I know you guys are working your best to do, is to be a little bit more transparent with the people that are applying for these</p>



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				licenses, as well as more communication. Too often when you email the OCM, all you get is a standard reply, and you can never get anyone on the phone to actually answer your questions. So from my perspective, I'm just asking for a little bit more transparency and communication, and that's all I have to say. Thank you.
3.	Chris	Kostyun	Misty Blue Farm	<p>My name is Chris Kostyun from Misty Blue Farm. I want to kind of start and end with thank you to the board, the office, and particularly the staff members that answer the phone and answer the emails and all that kind of stuff. I know it doesn't always make it back to them if any of them are watching. Thank you for everything you do. We are a conditional cultivator that has transitioned to a micro business license. We were awarded a license in the March meeting where you also made a motion to waive fees for conditional cultivators. And that was huge for every license type except one, the micro business. We are currently kind of frozen, in limbo because none of the computer systems know how to handle a fee waiver. So if somebody could tell us how that's going to get resolved, my retail locations are probably going to be ready for me to schedule a inspection in about three weeks. So it would be nice to know where we go from here. And I have a check in the car if anybody can, you know, just take it. It's good.</p> <p>Second is, my second point is, biotrack cultivators were given an email a year ago that said, hey, listen, you are going to be required to use bio track in a certain period of time. I now spend \$481 a month for biotrack to be able to print an unlimited supply of my own little tags. A couple of weeks ago, we got one that says, no, no, no, you got to buy, \$3 tags from biotrack. And we also kind of found out that it's not going to really happen until September of this year anyway. So if we could just be consistent with biotrack information and try not to make us spend money for no reason. That would be nice. And I'm going to finish with thank you again for all of this. It's a lot of work. You're, you know, climbing a huge mountain. Thank you.</p>
4.	Brian	Seiler	Upstate Pines	Hi. I'm Brian Seiler, representing upstate Pines. We're we're looking to do a retail in the Hudson Valley. I got a lot of clarity here today, though. You guys told us where you were on the queue and that we're all going to be reviewed from that November. I mean, we've been holding our lease for over six months now. We got a building permit from the



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				town, and it took a lot small town to get that building permit. We just want our proximity. We're hoping to lock it in a good location. You know, we already have our lease, but after seeing where you are, you are on the queue. I think it's coming. So thanks for the clarity here today. I know it's it's tough. A lot of people, not a lot of you guys. So thank you so much. I hope we hear from you guys soon.
5.	Shayne	Matthews	Green Hall Solutions	<p>Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Shayne Matthews and I'm the owner of Green Hall Solutions. We're a cannabis and hemp sampling firm. I'm also a founding board member of the New York Association of Cannabis Sampling Professionals, a non-profit 501 C3 Corporation for the representation of cannabis sampling technicians. Currently we represent or we're connected to over 80 independent sampling technicians and five firms throughout the state. As we all work together to move the industry forward, I can't overstate the importance of building trust in our supply chain. Trust is the bedrock that underpins a successfully regulated market. It's also it's also the reason why consumers will travel further and pay more for their legal product. To that point, the requirement for independent third-party sampling technicians is the type of unique regulation that should be both leveraged and advertised. As cannabis sampling professionals, we are 100% dedicated to the integrity of the marketplace. In fact, we've all signed legal commitments to honesty and transparency. Excuse me. Recognizing that we could individually be held criminally liable for dereliction of duty. To put it colloquially, we have no horse in this race other than the health and sustainable growth of our industry. With that said, I ask you to be reminded of the robust tool that is our group of unbiased professionals and to creatively leverage us in building marketplace trust. The New York Association of Cannabis Sampling Professionals is in preliminary contact with the OCM labs group, and we look forward to collaborating with our OCM partners in building a brighter future for all of us. Please direct any correspondence to board at NYACSP.org. Thank you.</p>
6.	Sam	Spohn	SGM Handicraft	Hey, I'm Sam Spohn with SGM handicraft cannabis company and I signed up to earlier this week to make a



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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
			Cannabis Company	public comment about more transparency in the queue and everything. And I got that today, so I'm very happy about that. You know, I, I was number 800 in the November queue, and I've been contacted by the OCM and of what's up deficiencies. And the emails were actually very quick and I got all my deficiencies done in one day with about 6 or 7 back and forth emails. So I am very, very happy for that. So thank you. You know, so I just would like to thank the the Cannabis Control Board, the OCM, and to Joe Rossi of Product Strategies. He is helped me tremendously in a lot of other, micro business applicants, you know, treading the water here. So. Thank you.
7.	Patrick	Nolan	Tanglewood Distribution	Thank you. My name is Patrick Nolan, the chief executive officer of Tanglewood Distribution. We're number 15 in the queue from December. I'm also a founding member of the New York State Cannabis Distributors Association. And as somebody who's only interested in distribution, I have a background in logistics. It's felt a lot like there's, you know, that distribution has become like the stepchild of the whole process, where cultivators and processors are getting what we thought were limited licenses, and then there's conversions happening to perhaps permanent, unrestricted licenses. Then we hear something, you know, there's a, there's a there's very little communication coming. In the distribution channel. You know, we love to know, you know, how many distributor licenses are going to be going out to those cultivators and processors, you know, will they be limited? Will they expire? We have no idea. You know, we were notified on March 30th, that we were in review. We completed all we cured all deficiencies by April 1st. By April 4th, we had our fingerprint submitted and we were confirmed with OCM by email. But nothing was missing and that our application was complete. I'm not sure what the process is inside the office, of how these things get pulled out of the pile. But what I can say, and I understand that the queue doesn't indicate the order in which the licenses will go out, but I've had a lot of people congratulate me on finishing number 15. And everything that I've heard since doesn't really award much value to that. If they're going to be coming out in, in any order. Numbers 13, 14 and 16 all got licenses. And we'd like to know what the reason is that we that we were not included



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				in today's agenda, you know, is there a legal, a legal reference, you know, for giving that preference to, to those other applicants? And what can we do? You know, what are the you know, how are the applications cured, selected for the agenda? How are the applications selected for the agenda? That's something that we that we'd love to know. But again, thank you very much for your time. I appreciate you being here.
8.	Kamal	Jamal		Thank you for your time. My name is Kamal Jamal from beacon, New York. I'm four, six, three station. We were number 574. We received the proximity protection. They asked us to submit our TPIs and fingerprints. We did that, and we received emails stating that everything was good and ready. We later noticed that our name was knocked off the proximity protection and granted to a micro business, which doesn't have a storefront, nor does it have, a place to do business. Another micro down the street from us got an approval that their building is for sale. So my question is, how are these properties getting the protection when buildings are for sale and landlords are applying when your storefront, when they can write their own lease? We own our property. We wrote our own lease because it's our property. Later when we got knocked off the the city we're in, went out and asked for public convenience. And we started the process with OCM for public convenience for our location. And then we got a welcome packet in there, an email, welcome packet. And we started doing our work and putting our cameras in to get open in a timely matter, only to receive another email stating that it was sent in error. So for two years now, we've been getting crumbs of the cookie and building based on that. And we're bleeding right now for two years and we really need to be, you know, some better answers to what steps happen next. Thank you for your time.
9.	Charles	Robinson	Hold Up Roll Up	Yes. Charles Robinson. Hold up, roll up. I started this process three years ago when I first started this process, I thought it was going to be expedient. I didn't understand what was happening at that time period, but I stayed in there. I stayed in, and as hard as it was, I stayed in there. But I came here today to commend this board. I wouldn't want to switch places with all the pressure that's on y'all right now. I don't think everybody feels as though they are entitled, but yet know when this whole program was first



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				announced three years ago, it was only very limited people that apply. I went around trying to explain people what was actually going on in real time, and they looking at me and calling me crazy, saying it's not going to happen, but I believe it is going to happen. And I believe in this board that there was times I didn't believe in this board, but I understood when just reading articles that I was reading and in the back ash that y'all was getting, I was just saying to myself, that's not fair. You know, I, I came here today to commend you because I understand that political favors are playing to or are in play right now to ostracize y'all and y'all doing a great job. Keep up the hard work. Thank you.
10.	Matthew	Robinson	Legacy Dispensary	Good morning, everyone. Some of you know me. Some of you don't. First, I want to start off by saying thank you to the board, to everybody. I've supported you from day one. I will continue to support you. I don't care what anybody says. I know you guys are working your hardest, and there's nobody better suited to do this than what we have right here. I read an article as well, Chris. I don't want you to step down. Nobody wants you to step down. I don't care what anybody says. And that's your decision if you decide to. But we want you here. Legacy dispensary. Most dispensaries that I know support you. The cultivators, they support you, they stand behind you. You got back, and we support you. Behind you 100%. It's an atrocity to have someone, a group of people, start something so hard. Open up over 100 dispensaries, 300, almost. Almost 300 cultivators, almost 50 processors. And because they did a good job. They get in trouble or they want to, you know, want you to step down. That's just wrong. Could you imagine starting a business, any of you, and getting so far and building all the way up? And then we finally get there. They say, we need you to step down. How disrespectful is that? That is disrespectful. So. I'm gonna leave it at that. Thank you very much. Chris, you have my. You have my support. And everybody on my team support. So thank you.
11.	Reggie	Keith	CannaHouse	Hello, everybody. I don't know how I follow that. Shout out to, the board as well. Everybody here. Thank you for showing up. Being consistent. My name is Reggie Keith. Those don't know. I actually am the founder of Canna House. And today, I'm super ecstatic to announce that we



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				<p>are actually, as of today, a license micro business. So. Yeah, I just want to give some encouragement to all my fellow applicants. Man, I know how hard it is. I know we broke. We are, we are, we are struggling saying that, you know, pay the bills. Stay fast at it. Stay. Stay with it, man. Stay committed. Keep your sh** aligned. Make sure you got your things in order. So when your time is call, you know, you ready to actually answer that call? So I just want to send some encouragement. Also to the board. I know that's been a sentiment that's been shared here, but I also want to make sure that I recognize, you know, I've been in front of you guys a ton of times. I've asked a lot of difficult questions. And I want to applaud you guys for always standing there, whether you have it right answer or not, for being there and being able to say something. Right. So I respect that, you know, I respect you guys, consistently working hard. It hasn't always proved to be what we want on our end, but that's kind of how it works sometimes, right? Everybody isn't going to get exactly what they want. And they say that's a sign of a good deal, right? And so, I appreciate that. I also want to say take the time out to thank my team. You know, everybody that supported me. Shout out to Chris. Shout out to Damien, man. Hold your head, man. We support you as well. I want to make sure we show that love. Big shout out to Crystal People-Stokes again. I'm from Buffalo, New York. So, big shout out to the majority leader. To Dasheeda Dawson is in the building. If y'all don't know, dig to see this here. And shout out to my team, my brother, Rich Keefe, Valentino shy, my wife NAS, our parents. Man, we really had a huge support system help us get to this day. And it would be remiss for me to sit here and stand here and be, congratulatory to myself without recognizing my team. So shout out to everybody Brandi as well. I know she's watching. She's been a big, help to us. So again, everybody hold your head, man. I know it's a it's a it's tough, but, you know, we got this, so thank you guys.</p>
12.	Ian	Burke	Chronic Cannabis Company	<p>Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Ian Burke. For those who don't know me, I'm an Albany resident, born and raised in Albany. Went to Albany Academy. So New York through and through. I'm the owner and founder of Chronic Cannabis Company. We've been in business doing everything around the lifestyle of cannabis for about</p>



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				<p>four years now. And I was 20, 24, and I'm just gearing to to open up for when the, the legal market came to fruition. And so right now we have applied for the CAURD program in 2022, we did not receive a CAURD license, unfortunately, with, with the aspiration of applying for the, the next round opening. And, we currently have a, a building situated a lease on Central Avenue in the Albany area as well. But since we've signed the lease and submitted our application, we have not heard much or anything back from, from the state or the Office of Cannabis Management on the status of our application or just clarity on if we need to do anything going forward. So I'm just here today to kind of just ask the board. First of all, thank you for the board for allowing me to speak. And congratulations on all the progress that you guys, have made so far in this program. I just and asking today, on behalf of all the other, leaseholders throughout the state and ourselves, just for more clarity on what's going on in the process. I know you guys announced that you're up to 800 plus, through the queue and we're coming up very soon, so we're happy to hear that. But just want more clarity and, communication with people who are, shoveling out thousands of dollars a month on lease spaces. And we're all small businesses and all that. So just little more clarity going forward. And again, congratulations on all the progress. And you guys have been working very hard going along with what Matt was saying. It's definitely, you know, that you guys have faced a lot of, unfair ridicule throughout the years going forward. But congratulations on all the progress. And thank you for allowing me to speak today.</p>
13.	David	Miller		<p>I'm going to reiterate the same questions they had at OCM this past Tuesday in Brooklyn and Buffalo. What's it going to take for OCM to the CCB to start designating medical dispensaries competent and capable of dealing with veterans with the compassion and expertise that we need for cannabis? Cannabis has over 500 interactions with psychotropic medications, with all types of other kinds of different classifications of pharmaceuticals. I'm a member of Evac three educating veterans about cannabis. We are in the largest change in prescription patterns in modern medical history. No one is getting opioids like we did ten years ago. So veterans with peripheral neuropathy, with</p>



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				phantom limb pain, with chronic pain management issues have one place to turn. That's cannabis. And I'm telling you again, we can't afford it. We are living. Most of us who are very disabled living below the poverty line. That is not going to be addressed by Biden, Trump or God. And we can't afford cannabis. Even though OCM and CCB all said that we are a priority. It doesn't take two years for the leadership of these organizations to sit down with the VFW, with the American Legion, with Team Rubicon, with Taps, with the Iraq and Afghan Veterans of America, and start trying to figure out solutions. But that's not happening. None of the medical dispensaries have psychiatrist psychologists training, not even a damn brochure. And I need you to do better. You've got more than the praise saying to you today. Thank you for doing your job. Thank you for doing your job. Now please help. Avac and evac three and all the other organizations involved with veterans issues. Save some of our lives.
14.	Shanduke	McPhatter	G Mack	Let's have a moment of silence for the black men and women. That won't be here. It's not here that died because of the laws that were before. My name is Shanduke McPhatter. I'm the CEO and founder of A 501 C3 non-profit known as G Mack in Brooklyn, aka gangsters make an astronomic committee changes that has been fighting for years to change the community, including lobbying before people even thinking about fighting for justice involve people to have an opportunity and cannabis people think it just happened. Somebody had to fight it. People fought for that. Here it is, 500 something plus days since I submitted my application. Justice involved black man born and raised in Brooklyn with a justice involved nonprofit. When they say we're giving out 25 licenses to nonprofits. It's been since November 2022. Since I have had an update. We're in April I went to the Variscite. The veterans when OCM agreed to settle and put CAURD aside. I was extremely quiet and still held, patient and respectful. Now we're going through the November queue and we're talking about even going to number 1500 applicants. Where's my license? That's my question. And we're not going to point the finger at the black man or the black woman. We're not going to do that. We're going to point the finger at the lobbyists who are paying the people behind the scenes to try to forget about CAURD. What about the MRTA? What about handling the rights of the past? I'm not even going to pay attention of that time, but



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				I'm going to leave respectfully. What about righting the wrongs of the past? Is that not why we passed the MRTA? So why am I still standing here? I go to Jersey and there's people in Jersey who applied in November and telling me they've been licensed in Brooklyn and I'm still waiting. Something has to change, and we need to hold the governor accountable to bring CAURD back. How do we now put out denials? But forget about the people like me. Jason, his wife Brittany. I'm also a board member of the New York Cannabis Retail Association, and we've been fighting since this happened, since this started for some type of as a response to transparency. Enough is enough. We need some change. And I need to know where's my license. Thank you.
15.	Mark	Donohue		Thank you for having me on board. My name is Mark Donohue, local resident for the past 40 years, registered nurse in the community. After that, I'm sorry about that. After that last speech, though, just for a quick moment, as one of the other gentlemen who is not the applicant but does hold the license, there's a reason why other people are prioritized, and we do respect that. Anybody who's actually lived this lifestyle understand some of us got to skate through a little bit easier. So respect where that is for those reasons. To my issue directly, I'm a micro business license holder. I noticed in regulation 2024-75, which you were, Madam Chair, mentioning how you feel like you're aligning with the folks with this. One thing that I think is underserved right now is the microbusiness population. I would like to see other things, such as a pathway to establish a new retail location if you were initially not allowed for it but approve for your micro business as part of our plan, as we move forward, is very limiting to not have that at least as a viable option to articulate a pathway forward and do those other things. I'm going to leave it simply at that. I know a lot of other people have higher priorities, but a little bit of attention to that matter would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.
16.	Mark	Robinson		Good afternoon, Madam Chair. Christopher Alexander and the member of the board. Madam Chair, first of all, I like to, say that my younger brother Steve, who was not here today, he wanted just to make sure I tell you. Hi. You know, he's doing a little. He's a little under the weather, so. But, normally when I come, I come scripted because I



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				<p>know that is a two minute, time limit. And I try to get my point across as far as the frustrations of, you know, just being in a space where is not. Is not. It is not a secret to what have took place with my family during this war on drugs to cannabis prohibition. I mean, I'm at a place today where, I was told from the board, just believe in the process. I am an elected official. I'm a county legislator for the county of Albany. I did a term of city council, so I know legislation. When the MRTA came out. May my father rest in peace. But I had a conversation with my dad like, yo, dad, the project is going to change. You know. Because, you know, I believe that. I know interpretation, I know that when I read something, I mean, I can interpret it well. So through that act, it says that, you know, the whole design of the act was to right the wrong of the past. And the first round came. My family wasn't called. The second round came. My family wasn't called. The third round came. God has blessed us with not one license, with two licenses. Okay, but during that process, I'm not even just talking about what strain have it took on my family emotionally. But financially we at our wits end blessed that, hold up roll up the. I'm saying they opened their doors. But Robinson's cannabis flowers. The municipality navigating the municipality was very, very rough. And if it wasn't for a explosion from a building that was across the street from where we located, I believe that our, our, our application to try to get a certificate of occupation would still be on that desk. Sorry. That now, that now, that now dropping that now and that, now that, you know, the municipality did grant us our certificate of Occupation. OCM has not yet to respond to come and do their virtue inspection. This is three months after three yet. I mean, I'm just saying I thank you, I thank you, I thank you, I thank you, and I do apologize for going over the time limit.</p>
17.	Jackie	Robinson		<p>Good afternoon a little bit. My voice is a little bit raspy right now. First of all, I want to thank the board. I want to thank the state for allowing black people to be in a business that they ran for many years. But now we I don't know how the state can continue to not. It's just hard for people to navigate through your process. When we got the CAURD, you handed it to us with no direction. You asked us to secure a building. We secured a building. Rent is not cheap. Commercial rent is not cheap. All we're saying is the process needs to be. And I understand what the</p>



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				gentleman said about the liquor license. It takes more than six months. But for the people that you're giving an opportunity, six months of rent is a very long time to pay. When we're not big businesses, we are just people that want to continue to make a better life for future generations to come. So, like I said, I commend you. I know this has got to be the hardest job, the hardest job, especially dealing with the different entities that are involved, the entities that want to take in, like I said five years ago, would put me in prison, put me in prison. But now you want to come in and you want to take the fruits of everybody's hurt and tell us we're not. We're not worthy. We're not worthy of anything. We have to wait for the state to give us money, our communities moneys. But if we can take and just say. Okay. We gave them opportunity. Let's let them go forward. Let's see what they are about. Just I don't know, I just, like I said, I commend you. Thank you.
18.	Dasheeda	Dawson		Good afternoon. My name is Dasheeda Dawson, and I'm speaking on behalf of myself and cannabis equity leaders and regulators who have actually done this work across the country. Thank you. Thank you to Chris, Chris Alexander and the Office of Cannabis Management to for attempting to hold the line on the historic efforts that you set out, to do here in New York. As I said before, we've never seen what social equity actually looks like in America. If we define it as fairness and regulation and policy to ensure that all people have an equitable and equal opportunity to, economic and environmental and human equity. And as I've worked in nearly every legal market as a highly sought after business strategist and legacy market consumer, I am an expert in weed market dynamics. It has been incredibly disheartening to see so many missteps, largely due to not understanding the cannabis industry. Ranging from the governor's social equity fund managed to DASNY poor defense of the MRTA and private equity, winning over social equity and the discussions about the OCM's effectiveness. What happened to upholding equity from day one? What happened to following the law? There is a difference between operationalizing licenses and issuing licenses. New York has more than 300 provisional CAURD licenses still working to get investment, and real estate people applied under this program under the impression that Governor Hochul social equity funding would support that effort. Now, as these folks finally have the lawsuits behind



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				<p>them and the runway to move forward, New York State wants to change the priority to focus on thousands of new applicants, many of which were far more resourced and clearly lobbying on behalf of themselves. We are already seeing the deterioration of investment deals. Yes, we can actually put valuation on a license alone in New York City that ranges from 1.5 million to 3 million. I know because I've been doing this work and unfortunately, we do not have a plan to actually support many of the CAURD licenses that have come before us. And so I asked, what is the plan for doing not doing further harm to this group that we know have been most harmed? What is the governor's plan to ensure that, starting from day one with equity and the work that OCM has been doing will continue even after we are reviewing all 1500 licenses in the November queue I think New York City, again, is really critical to ensuring that we see this through, and we are obviously here to support. But as a person who grew up in East New York, I'm a bit ashamed at how we've cast aside the very people that we propped up to celebrate our historic wins. Thank you.</p>
19.	Kassandra	Frederique	Drug Policy Alliance	<p>Good afternoon. My name is Kassandra Frederique. I'm the executive director of Drug Policy Alliance. I'm also the person that ran the campaign to legalize cannabis for the last 12 years in New York State. I'm a born and bred New Yorker, first generation Haitian American. And I'm deeply, deeply, deeply disappointed. And the conversation here today about how this industry is rolling out. I am deeply disappointed because part of the reason why we created the control board was to protect it from the whims of a governor. It was supposed to be an independent body that was not supposed to be swayed by business interests, or by the politics of the legislature or the governor. And it has been months where I have not at all spoken about cannabis in New York, because I thought that the infrastructure that was put in the MRTA would hold. And what we have seen today is that not only was the impetus for the MRTA, which was focused on repairing the harms of the drug war, the drug war that we fought for to basically dismantle the policing infrastructure of harassing, targeting, stigmatizing, incarcerating black and brown New Yorkers where the arrest rates have gone down to 98% from when we first started. They were supposed to be first.</p>



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				<p>And Doctor Jenkins, I hear you on the idea of meeting the demand and why we need to open up the licenses so that we can meet the demand, but that cannot come at the expense of the people that met the demand of this carceral system in this state, because they had no problem filling all those cages. They had no problem with that. But now they have a problem with the patience of actually creating an industry that is set up for the people that were targeted. And now we are at this moment where it is lobbyists who are running the system here. It is not the people. Those lawsuits didn't come out of nowhere. That was coordinated. And we have not protected people. And then people want to ask why folks of color do not stand up to be in these positions as elected officials, as progressive prosecutors, as leading the industry. It's because we get set up. And then they cut our heads off in public. And that is what is happening to the OCM. It is not lost on me that for the first time, we have black leadership at the legislature, black leadership and mayors, progressive prosecutors, and now in leading the cannabis industry. And that is when we are using lawsuits. We are having all these whisper campaigns was changing the goalposts, and the cannabis board was supposed to be independent to make sure to protect the intentions of the work. We wrote the law for you to protect this. And that is not what's happening. It is disappointing. Because when they are people, before you start trimming, before there are people were in this room. I was on the streets with a lot of people working to end the arrests. Working to stop people getting their kids taken away. Figuring out how people can be repatriated back to the U.S. because people were getting deported. The industry was the cherry on top. And now we have only figured out ways to continue criminalization and to subjugate the same people who were supposed to help, to make sure to use black faces as a way to make white money. Welcome back.</p>
20.	Nate	Garland		<p>As Corporation Counsel for the City of Auburn, I am requesting that the CCB promulgate a model law that municipalities can tailor and adopt to take advantage of the enhanced local civil enforcement provisions in this year's budget. Without a such model law, a patchwork of local laws will come in to being which may or may not end up being legally defensible. In any event, a model law will bring certainty and lower the administrative burden that</p>



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				municipalities face in fighting against illicit cannabis retail operations. Thank you for your consideration.
21.	Ellexcion	Ojo	El barrio legacy group	Extend the amount of micro licenses , extend the amount of adult plants for home cultivation. Thank you in honor
22.	Patrick	Chesney	Cannalabs	Regarding OCMs first application queue: OCM did NOT verify Extra Priority or SEE statuses BEFORE arranging lottery queue - it was just an attestation on application and SEE & E.P. was never verified. Those that claimed SEE or Extra Priority were given multiple queue spots over other applicants. Some are not SEE or Extra Priority even though attested to - When will this be remedied? and will those illegitimately awarded licenses be revoked? Also; OCM has granted Proximity Protection to, over legitimate applicants, applicants (many granted SEE & E.P. status illegitimately - see above) that have previously been shut down by law enforcement for selling cannabis without a license. When will this be remedied & that protection granted rightfully to legitimate applicants? OCM also extended the original application deadline (11/4) so Damians cronies could form LLCs real quick & get licensed. And OCM did go on to license them. Will those licenses unfairly issued be revoked?
23.	Kim	Coleman	Dansville Dispensary	Please state to the public if you are still reviewing/working through the 1st queue. Please state to the public if you intend on reviewing ALL applications in the 1st queue. Please state to the public if you have started reviewing applications from the 2nd queue. Please state to the public why the proximity map has not been updated when the board previously said it would be updated about every 2 weeks. We, the applicants, need more transparency. We, the applicants, need more answers on the status of each queue. We, the applicants, need to know where we stand.
24.	Ellington	Keys	Greens on Demand LLC	Hello, My name is Ellington Keys, I am a retail licensee. Since the last OCM board meeting, I have lost my investors, am on the verge of bankruptcy and don't know what to do. We expected to receive our license by March. It is now May and we have not heard when we will receive our license and don't know how to move forward. Please advise. Kind regards
25.	Carly	Bodmer	Dama	1. What are you doing to ensure that growers know of tools like GrowFlow that make BioTrack state reporting



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				easier, rather than paying for traceability through the state provided contractors paid software? 2. Can you describe how plant tags will work in NY - will they be downloaded and applied to a compliance label?
26.	Evan	Adcock	Dama Financial	Is there any update on the release of the New York Biotrack API documentation & credentials for license holders?
27.	Russ	Rob		Dear Board NYS is doing a terrible inept job at recreational dispensaries. Don't you compare your plans with other States who are successful. Try Massachusetts and Colorado. The few dispensaries are way overpriced and the roll out is a title walking backwards. I also think it's a mistake to reward drug dealers with priority licenses. In the old movies it was always the mob who controlled alcohol, drugs, firearms, gambling and prostitution. Today its the government. Only vice left is to legalize prostitution which is overdue. Also the taxes are ridiculous. Your plan is a failure. The black market is already thriving. So your plan is to rollout as slow as possible dispensaries, overcharge for cannabis, then tax it more than any other product. It would make more sense to have farmers sell it direct and give licenses to people who are not criminals. And cut the tax its onerous.
28.	Courtney	Henley	Cannaspac e	The rollout of the licenses combined with the allowance of thousands of illegal businesses to open has been a hot mess. We need vertical integration for small businesses and also the on-site licenses. When will those be available? In addition, we need to be able to get our on-site licenses BEFORE we lease a space. Because it makes no sense to require us to lease real estate before we even know if we will be licensed and able to open the business!
29.	Michael	Warren		More, any dispensaries in the ELMIRA area. Travel too far at this point. Ithaca or Binghamton, why?
30.	Arthur	Small Farmer		Currently, farmers are being DEVASTATED by credit and consignment agreements proposed by processors, which grant them an indefinite time frame to remit payment. New York Cannabis Law 125-4 clearly states that all credit and consignment sales are prohibited. I urge the current regulators to promptly issue a notification to all licensees reinforcing this prohibition and ensuring strict enforcement to protect our cultivators and maintain fair market practices.
31.	James	Inzerillo		Cannabis



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				<p>My name is James P.Inzerillo.I want to bring one major issue to the front.I am a New Yorker and I am very happy that there are legal medical and recreational marijuana dispensaries open in NY State.They are facing a serious issue that has to be dealt with so they can continue to be a cost efficient and profitable operation.Because of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 marijuana is still considered a controlled substance and because of this fact compassionate marijuana dispensaries cannot have a relationship with a US Bank.</p> <p>I am a lifetime executive with extensive experience in financial management and compliance for which I can help dispensaries become compliant with all local,state and federal regulations which can lead to greater profitability for the dispensaries and greater tax collections for all forms of government and increased availability for compassionate marijuana users who need it. I also have created a Google Drive Slide Course which supplies what is needed now for successful compliance.</p> <p>If you have any questions,you can reach me at: James P.Inzerillo 1676 59th.Street Brooklyn NY 11204 Tel.347-374-4305 or at the above email address</p>
32.	Bernard	Votypka	Farmer Barney Cannabis LLC	<p>I am A provisional licensee but I can't continue the process of becoming fully licensed because I cannot find any real estate on Long Island that meets All the regulations I have been looking and have enlisted several entities and individuals to look for almost a year now had I known how difficult it would be I would've chose another region as my first choice I have a location that I could use in another region which isn't as problematic as Long Island Will you please allow me to change my regional reference from Long Island to Another on my list of preferences</p>
33.	Salih	Sabri	West 30th Street Block Association	<p>My fellow block association members and I continue to be astounded that New York City is unable to close ANY of the illegal cannabis stores in the city. Forget about the inequity you have created for those who are willing to follow the guidelines set forth by the state, but you have put regular citizen's in harm's way by not rectifying a situation where unregulated chemicals are being sold to consumers (including minors). It is incredible that there is not forceful apparatus already at work shutting down these venues and being both loud and relentless about it. Recent laws passed in the budget should have IMMEDIATELY been followed up with illegal stores being</p>



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				closed. There should be no gap between when the law is passed and when it is enforced.
34.	Roland	Nicholson, Jr.	Roland Nicholson, Jr. & Associates for McClean Cannabis, LLC	Are our clients in Yonkers, who have not made the cut likely to make it in the next round? Is there a geographic quota.
35.	Rick	McCauley		What are the extraordinary circumstances that prevent Garcia from attending in person?
36.	Moranda	Bromberg	Hudson Valley Herbals	Can the OCM or CCB or anyone in the know provide a feasible and reasonable timeline in which applications will be read and replied to? As a business owner, many hopeful applicants have now been waiting 3 years since the MRTA passed to hear anything from the state. It is very difficult to plan a business, save money, and start strategizing without any semblance of a timeline. The NYS liquor authority provides general timelines to applicants and the same should be done for cannabis licensees. Can timelines be provided and schedules be published in advance so that the general public can hold the offices accountable? Otherwise it's lots of hope with no reward.
37.	Joan and Josh	Friedman	Corner House, LLC	First, thank you to the Board for making it clear that licenses will continue to be issued from the November Queue. Each month, I invest time and money into this business and I appreciate the board saying that licensing will continue. I am still in the dark, but I am counting on the statements of the board that there is NO CAP to the current license round. THANK YOU. Investing so much into a dream and wanting to be at the uncertain beginning of this industry is scary, your comments assuring us in the November Queue that you will continue to award is comforting.
38.	Chris	McKay		I have been in this industry for over 30 years. I watched California bankrupt many people and mom and pops business. With how NY is mimicking many things from that state i see Many Businesses already having financials trouble. If you really want to build a new industry that can beat the black market then maybe start talking to those who have been in this business since it was the black market only
39.	Sue	L		I will like to Thank Dr. Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins for advocating for more licenses. Can OCM please provide the public with an update on where we are in the November queue, as many bottom Q applicants are



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				<p>paying rent. Also any idea on when OCM will review the December queue, the Q for people without secure location. Perhaps OCM can review 2 November Q per 1 December Q? Instead of clearing up all November Q before checking in December Q? and how many December Q licenses will be available? Thanks</p>
40.	Kasim (Ka-Seem)	Lanzot	Old Oak Craft Cultivator	<p>Dear Members of the OCM & CCB,</p> <p>As a Social Equity Enterprise (SEE) applicant within New York's cannabis licensing framework, I am seeking clarification regarding my position and review timeline. My application, currently numbered 1996 in the queue, is vital for my business and community outreach initiatives.</p> <p>I was initially informed that as an SEE applicant with extra priority, my application would be subject to automatic review. However, given my current position in the queue and the number of applicants ahead of me, I am concerned about the realistic timeline for this review and the potential exhaustion of available licenses before reaching my application.</p> <p>I would greatly appreciate the board addressing the following questions in the upcoming meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the board confirm that my status as an SEE applicant qualifies me for automatic review, and what specific priorities does this status entail regarding the queue? 2. Given the large number of applications, what is the estimated timeline for SEE applicants like myself to have our applications reviewed? 3. What measures are in place to ensure that SEE applicants are not disadvantaged by delays, and how can we plan our business operations in accordance with these timelines? <p>Clear communication on these points is crucial for me to effectively plan and align my business operations with state regulations and community expectations.</p> <p>Thank you for your dedication to transparency and fairness in the licensing process. I look forward to your insights and support as I aim to contribute positively to New York's cannabis market.</p> <p>Sincerely, Juan "Kasim" Lanzot Old Oak Craft Cultivators, LLC OCMMICR-2023-000020 OCMSEE-2023-000048</p>
41.	Rick	S		<p>Dear OCM Team,</p> <p>I have reviewed the recently issued Supplemental Policy Guidance regarding the Application Review for the Adult-</p>



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				<p>Use Cannabis October 2023 Application Window, dated May 10, 2024, and I would like to share some thoughts concerning the provisional licensing criteria outlined therein.</p> <p>It seems reasonable to offer provisional licenses to applicants who have secured locations adhering to all proximity and municipal opt-in requirements, demonstrating their commitment to compliance. However, granting provisional licenses to those in clear violation of these critical criteria could potentially undermine the legitimacy of the process. Such an approach might also disadvantage those applicants who have made significant efforts to comply fully with the guidelines.</p> <p>The guidance indicates that applicants with proposed retail dispensary locations either in violation of the proximity requirements to schools or houses of worship, or in municipalities that have opted out of permitting adult-use retail dispensaries, may still be eligible for a provisional license. While I understand the intent to accommodate various logistical challenges, I believe this approach may not entirely align with the principles of fairness and adherence to established guidelines.</p> <p>I propose that applications not in compliance with the proximity and opt-out rules should be voided. This would not only uphold the integrity of the regulatory framework but also allow applicants in the November and December queues, who have met all guidelines, a fair chance at obtaining a provisional license.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this feedback. I look forward to any adjustments that might be made to ensure a fair and equitable application process.</p>
42.	Kasim	Lanzot		<p>Subject: Utilization and Impact of Financial Contributions by Registered Organizations</p> <p>Dear Members of the OCM & Cannabis Control Board,</p> <p>As an SEE applicant committed to contributing positively to New York's cannabis industry, I am seeking clarification on the financial implications of the market entry by Registered Organizations (ROs). It is my understanding that ROs participating as co-located Adult-Use (AU) and Medical dispensaries are required to contribute significantly, including an upfront payment of \$5 million, with additional amounts to follow.</p> <p>Given these substantial financial commitments, I would like the board to provide detailed information on the following aspects during the upcoming meeting:</p>



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				<p>1. How are these funds being accounted for, and what specific plans are in place for their allocation and disbursement?</p> <p>2. In what ways are SEE candidates expected to benefit directly from these contributions?</p> <p>3. How will the broader community gain from this financial influx, especially considering that some ROs have engaged in legal actions that have delayed market access for others?</p> <p>The behavior of some ROs, which includes suing the state to secure their market positions, raises concerns about equity and fairness within the industry. It is crucial for all stakeholders, including small business owners and community members, to understand how these dynamics play into the overall strategy for a balanced and equitable cannabis market.</p> <p>Your attention to these queries will aid in fostering a transparent, equitable, and community-focused cannabis industry in New York.</p> <p>Thank you for your commitment to fairness and proactive community engagement. I look forward to your detailed response and guidance.</p> <p>Sincerely, Juan "Kasim" Lanzot Old Oak</p>
43.	Stewart	Ritchie	Rural Resurgence ,LLC	<p>I oppose the licensing of CEBEDE OCMretail-23-1360 because at the time of application Ellicottville had a moratorium on Cannabis businesses. No Notification to Municipality was filed. The Moratorium was lifted December 1st after the application window had closed.</p> <p>I oppose because Rural Resurgence, LLC OCM-AUCC-000163 applied appropriately and legally, secured a lease as per the application requirements and we have the Ellicottville Planning Boards approval to operate.</p> <p>I oppose because it is unjust that our farm was required to enter into a three year lease for considerable expense as a condition for receiving a micro retail license in Ellicottville.</p> <p>I oppose because CEBEDE's location is not zoned for cannabis sales.</p> <p>We are a small family farm and the success of our business depends on our planned retail location in Ellicottville. We are the only legal Cannabis farm in the County. This is our community.</p> <p>For all the above reasons CEBEDE, LLC should not be approved for retail sales in Ellicottville.</p>



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44.	Marc	Kusewich	Goldleaf cannabis	I have a retail license and need to move my location. The ocm has been nonexistent in helping me do this. Can someone please provide guidance on this for me? This is really delaying our opening
45.	Kyle	Brown		<p>Cannabis Control Board,</p> <p>I would like to discuss a matter of utmost importance, a matter that pertains to the administrative efficiency of our institutions and the dynamics of our market. The matter in point is the prolonged processing time for the November window applicants, a period that has now extended to an alarming seven months. This delay has left many applicants in a state of limbo, uncertain if the Office of Credential Management (OCM) will be granting them the licenses they seek.</p> <p>The question that naturally arises is why it would take more than half a year to review a mere few hundred applications. This is not just a question, but a plea for transparency and efficiency. The only logical explanation that one could infer from this delay is a possible attempt to ensure that the (RO) companies gain a thorough understanding of the New York market and its consumers, thereby gaining complete control of the market before the licenses are issued (chris alexander?).</p> <p>This situation, is a classic example of market dynamics at play, influenced by administrative processes. It highlights the need for efficiency and transparency in our systems and the profound impact market control can have on consumer behavior. As we deliberate on this matter, let us remember that at the heart of this dilemma is the principle of fair play and the right of every applicant to a timely review of their application.</p> <p>Thank you Kyle Robert Brown</p>
46.	Marc	Kusewich	Goldleaf cannabis	I have a retail license. I am looking to purchase a building near my current licensed location and need to move immediately. This is delaying us opening. Can someone provide guidance for me doing this?
47.	An	Applicant		The updated guidance contradicts previous guidance on license applications. I am pretty sure that is illegal and will be consulting with my lawyers as will many applicants affected by this change before requesting the refund you are offering because you KNOW this violates NY law. I definitely won't be giving you my name today after seeing the lawsuit alleging vindictive enforcement carried out by Damian Fagan and the OCM.
48.	Nina	P		I am writing to express my concerns about the recent Supplemental Policy Guidance for the Adult-Use Cannabis



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				<p>October 2023 Application Window, particularly the decision to grant provisional licenses to applicants near schools or houses of worship, or in municipalities that opted out of allowing dispensaries.</p> <p>This policy seems to reward those who do not comply with established rules, while penalizing diligent applicants like myself who chose to respect local opt-outs. Granting licenses to those who initially disregard key guidelines risks undermining the integrity of the entire regulatory process.</p> <p>I propose voiding applications that fail to meet proximity and municipal requirements and suggest reallocating these licenses to compliant applicants in the December window, to ensure fairness and adherence to the rules.</p>
49.	Elizabeth	C	FRRCA	<p>We urge the Board to deny an Adult Use Cannabis retail license to application # OCMCAURDP-2023-000086 located in Staten Island at 465 Forest Avenue. The site is smack in the middle of a residential neighborhood which allows only for low density commercial use (C1). This placement will adversely affect pedestrian and vehicular traffic, cause a nuisance to neighbors that immediately about the property and should be placed in higher density commercial zones. The proposed site is close to schools and places of worship in addition to being on a well traveled route for students. ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE OPPOSED THE LICENSE IN WRITING. I have these support letters I would be happy to share these with the Board. Please contact me for these. WE URGE THE BOARD TO OPPOSE THIS LICENSE. The overwhelming majority of our neighborhood is opposed to this licensee at this location.</p> <p>Board member, Forest Regional Residents' Civic Association.</p>
50.	Robert	Griffiths	Columbia Care / Cannabist - Registered Organization	<p>Columbia Care - Registered Organization is in an active anti-union campaign against their employees in the Manhattan and Brooklyn locations. Not only have they been accused of unlawful firing of a pharmacist days before the October 2023 union election at both locations but have also polled, threatened and have changed the terms of our employment. I was personally written up for "losing a sale" in March 2024. I am the top budtender/salesperson by revenue in the state on NY for the company for the past three years. I filed a ULP for that act of discipline as well. UFCW Local 338 are our representatives. Columbia Care signed an LPA. Now they are intending to close their Manhattan location and reducing the hours at their Brooklyn location to (2) days a</p>



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				<p>week. The employees remaining at these two locations know that the company is doing this in a retaliatory fashion during our "contract" period which is suppose to remain status quo.</p> <p>Any assistance and/or attention drawn to this matter would truly be appreciated.</p> <p>Robert Anthony Griffiths Jr. (347) 634-4506</p>
51.	Mary and Charles	Blaich	local resident	<p>The location in question on Forest Avenue is a highly trafficked area with local residents and school children passing by all day and into the early evening. In addition the vehicle traffic is extremely heavy as morning and evening vehicles bypass the expressway and use local roads to get around Staten Island. Also, a church is directly across the street, as is Key Food Supermarket that brings in more foot and vehicle traffic. This is a close knit community with many generations having roots. We stay for the quality of life and the Cannabis store is not what a family neighborhood needs. It is totally inappropriate.</p>
52.	Joann	Kudrewicz	Ravens View Genetics	<p>As an operational AUCC since 5/20/22, I am currently a week away from license expiration while awaiting my license transition approval. I applied in October. As Chair of the CANY Cultivation committee, I am aware of other AUCCs who are already expired. Additionally, self-distribution of product is about to expire on 6/1 and AUCCs not approved/transitioned will not be able to operate beyond 6/30. The ramifications of not transitioning prior to license expiration dates include but are not limited to facing bank accounts being closed, loss of revenue, and inability to plan for future operations. How are the AUCCs not yet approved for transition meant to go on???</p>
53.	Walter	Iwachiw	i4panyc llc	<p>I4panyc llc has apparently denied the CAURD application and simultaneously voided an SEE application in Retail cannabis license denied over a multitude of failure to communicate with this applicant and other applicants. All required information for approval has been submitted and the denial and voidance is entirely unwarranted. Attributed to the delay in licensing and deficient staff at the OCM. Please consider this a request to review the record in the Denial and Void status. No ability to communicate with the reviewers.</p>
54.	Tracy	Shar		<p>I hear that you plan to not open new licensing rounds until illegal places close down. So are you saying that we won't get any more opportunities to get licensed any time soon?</p>
55.	Mary	Tirone	Forest Regional	<p>We urge the Board to deny an Adult Use Cannabis retail license to application # OCMCAURDP-2023-000086</p>



Office of Cannabis Management

	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
			Residents' Civic Association	located in Staten Island at 465 Forest Avenue. The site is smack in the middle of a residential neighborhood which allows only for low density commercial use (C1). This placement will adversely affect pedestrian and vehicular traffic, cause a nuisance to neighbors that immediately about the property and should be placed in higher density commercial zones. The proposed site is close to schools and places of worship in addition to being on a well traveled route for students. ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE OPPOSED THE LICENSE IN WRITING. I have these support letters I would be happy to share these with the Board. Please contact me for these. WE URGE THE BOARD TO OPPOSE THIS LICENSE. The overwhelming majority of our neighborhood is opposed to this licensee at this location.
56.	MICHAEL	McVEY	FRRCA (FOREST REGIONAL RESIDENTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION)	We urge the Board to deny an Adult Use Cannabis retail license to application # OCMCAURDP-2023-000086 located in Staten Island at 465 Forest Avenue. The site is smack in the middle of a residential neighborhood which allows only for low density commercial use (C1). This placement will adversely affect pedestrian and vehicular traffic, cause a nuisance to neighbors that immediately about the property and should be placed in higher density commercial zones. The proposed site is close to schools and places of worship in addition to being on a well traveled route for students. ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE OPPOSED THE LICENSE IN WRITING. I have these support letters I would be happy to share these with the Board. Please contact me for these. WE URGE THE BOARD TO OPPOSE THIS LICENSE. The overwhelming majority of our neighborhood is opposed to this licensee at this location. MICHAEL ,McVEY, MEMBER, Forest Regional Residents' Civic Association.