



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

FELICIA A.B. REID

Acting Executive Director

Meeting Minutes

Title:	New York State Cannabis Control Board Meeting
Time & Date:	June 11, 2024 at 1:00 PM
Location:	SUNY Global Center, 116 E 55 th St., Multipurpose Room, New York, NY 10022, SUNY Morrisville, Bicknell Hall, Room 212, 80 Eaton St., Morrisville, NY 13408, and Virtual via Webcast

Attendance

Board Chair:	Tremaine Wright
Board Members Present:	Jessica Garcia, Hope Knight
Board Members Present (virtually):	Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins
Board Members Absent:	Adam W. Perry
Others Present:	John Kagia, Patrick McKeage, Felicia A. B. Reid, Tabatha Robinson

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 10, 2024 Board Meeting
- IV. Consideration of Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses for Approval
- V. Consideration of Conditional Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses for Denial
- VI. Consideration of Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses for Denial
- VII. Consideration of Home Cultivation Regulations for Adoption
- VIII. Consideration of Registered Organization Non-Dispensing Application
- IX. Office of Cannabis Management Report
- X. Public Comment
- XI. Adjourn



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Action Items

Resolution No. 2024-76:	Resolution to Issue Certain Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
Resolution No. 2024-77:	Resolution to Deny Certain Conditional Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
Resolution No. 2024-78:	Resolution Denying the Issuance of Certain Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licenses.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
Resolution No. 2024-79:	Resolution Directing the Office of Cannabis Management to Adopt the Proposed Personal Home Cultivation of Cannabis Regulations.	Passed, Unanimous Vote
Resolution No. 2024-80:	Resolution to Grant a Registered Organization Adult-Use Cultivator, Processor and Distributor License.	Passed, Unanimous Vote

Notes & Comments

- Chair Wright stated that as Chairperson of the New York State Cannabis Control Board (“CCB” or “the Board”), she welcomes you every month as they convene to address the most pressing concerns of the cannabis rollout in New York State (NYS) and that this Board has an unwavering commitment to supporting the successful rollout of the cannabis market. She commented that they are forward looking and dedicated to ensuring that their market meets the demands of innovation, equity, and economic growth and they are actively shaping the next chapter of New York cannabis, and, most importantly, they are leading by listening. She stated that each of you have taken the time to attend these meetings, to send comments, suggestions, and even complaints, have played a crucial role in shaping the future of this industry. She commented that these times demand adaptability and a continued commitment to doing better and as a result, they have been working to integrate feedback from their valued stakeholders. She stated that at their last meeting, the Board passed resolutions to prioritize applications submitted in the November queue to extend the provisional license period an additional 12 months to provide flexibility in dispensary locations for Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) licensees and streamline provisional licensing procedures for all applicants. She noted that they heard you and made changes, and their goals remain the same and they hope their continued commitment to incorporate feedback into their work demonstrates their commitment to making this rollout more efficient for everyone involved. She stated that together, they are embarking on a journey to not only regulate, but also nurture, a thriving cannabis ecosystem in New York and at this moment of transition it is important for all of them to embrace change.
- Chair Wright introduced the new Office of Cannabis Management (“OCM” or “the Office”) Executive Deputy Director and Acting Executive Director, Felicia Reid. Ms. Reid has over a decade of experience in State Government and has spent the last six years at the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) where she served as Deputy Commissioner, overseeing statewide juvenile justice operations. Additionally, Ms. Reid is admitted to the



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New York State Bar Association and earned her law degree from New York Law School. She also has a Bachelor of Arts from Fordham University.

- Felicia A. B. Reid, Executive Deputy Director and Acting Executive Director for OCM, stated that she is certainly looking forward to working with the Board and with all of their partners across the State to really think about how to strengthen New York's cannabis industry and make sure that there is a strong and structured presence of their work. She commented that she loves what Chair Wright said around leading by listening and that tends to be her very specific way of practice from where she comes from in juvenile justice. She stated that they often talk about meeting folks where they are at and that involves going out getting feedback, understanding criticism and seeing where the gaps are where they can make things better. She further stated that her role on the way forward is both understanding more about OCM and the cannabis industry in New York, but also figuring out ways in which to build framework, build systems, build process, and so that they can get the work done at the end of day for all New Yorkers.
- Chair Wright welcomed and acknowledged the new Chief Administrative Officer for OCM, Ms. Susan Fullburn. Ms. Fullburn has more than 20 years in state government, including the last four years as Deputy Commissioner of Employment Security at the Department of Labor. Ms. Fullburn is a U.S. Army Veteran, has a Master of Public Administration from the Syracuse University Maxwell School, as well as a Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Ms. Fullburn will focus on stabilizing and formalizing administrative functions of the agency to support licensing, compliance and enforcement operations. Chair Wright also congratulated Jessica Woolford, who has been working diligently as a part of the OCM Team and was recently promoted to the position of Director of External Affairs. In this role, Ms. Woolford will continue to ensure that communication and community engagement are prioritized as the agency implements transformative change.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Jessica Garcia, and a second from Board Member Hope Knight, the Minutes of the May 10, 2024 Cannabis Control Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

- Patrick McKeage, Chief Operating Officer for OCM, provided an overview of Resolution No. 2024-76, a Resolution to Issue Certain Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses. Before the Board today is the fifth cohort of adult-use cannabis licenses which have cleared the multistep review process and are being recommended to be approved 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 105 applicants include 17 retail dispensaries, 22 microbusinesses, 25 cultivators, 22 distributors and 19 processors. If approved, this will make 654 adult-use cannabis licenses approved in 2024. In addition, the Office is in the process of issuing an additional five provisional retail dispensary licenses.
- Chair Wright asked to clarify that you just said that you are over 1,091 and if someone has not heard from you, but they're queued higher somewhere in the line, can they assume that things are going well, that their application is meeting the expectations and the no news is good news and remain calm.



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- Patrick McKeage stated that they could just still be in the process of reviewing and getting that deficiency notice out the door, so that that could be part of the process, and if not, you can reach out to AU Licensing and ask for an update, and the team will work to provide one.
- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins asked if there are folks that are before 1,091 that are working through this, and she has seen a couple of emails about people that said, I'm this number, I'm this much lower down and we're still going back and forth, or I haven't heard from anyone, those people will hear from the Office soon to know what it is they need to do to finish up.
- Patrick McKeage commented exactly and that the order in the queue determines how they are approaching the application review depending on the specific application and they all take different amount of times, so that the queue order really just represents when they will pick up the application and some of them take more than longer for a variety of circumstances, but that's good thing to keep in mind.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Jessica Garcia, and a second from Board Member Hope Knight, Resolution No. 2024-76, a Resolution to Issue Certain Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses, was approved unanimously.

- Patrick McKeage, Chief Operating Officer for OCM, provided an overview of Resolution No. 2024-77, a Resolution to Deny Certain Conditional 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 21 applications before the Board for denial are initial CAURD applications from the CAURD application window which closed in September 2022, but were delayed in issuance of denials because of the 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:
 - The inability to prove justice involvement as defined in 116.4(a)(2)(i)
 - The inability to prove qualifying business as defined in 116.4(a)(2)(iii)
- Upon a motion from Board Member Hope Knight, and a second from Board Member Jessica Garcia, Resolution No. 2024-77, a Resolution to Deny Certain Conditional Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses, was approved unanimously.

- Patrick McKeage, Chief Operating Officer for OCM, provided an overview of Resolution No. 2024-78, a Resolution Denying the Issuance of Certain Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licenses. Per the Cannabis Law, the Board is charged with the authority to issue or refuse to issue any registration, license or permit. The second set of applications before the Board for denial are from retail dispensary applicants or majority owners that have already been issued a license in this license window. The Board, empowered by Section 10 (2) of Article 2 of the Cannabis Law, determines the number of licenses issued and has further determined that in order to best address small business opportunities and concerns, avoid market dominance in sectors of the industry, reflect the demographics of the state, and give more individuals the opportunity to hold a retail dispensary license, that each retail dispensary application for the initial adult-use application period, which opened in October 2023, would only be awarded



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one retail dispensary license at this time. The applications listed in this resolution have all already received an adult-use retail dispensary license.

- Upon a motion from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, and a second from Board Member Hope Knight, Resolution No. 2024-78, a Resolution Denying the Issuance of Certain Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licenses, was approved unanimously.

- Patrick McKeage, Chief Operating Officer for OCM, provided an overview on the proposed Home Cultivation Regulations. These proposed regulations would amend the existing Personal Home Cultivation of Medical Cannabis Regulations currently in effect to allow all adults 21 and older in NYS the ability to cultivate a small number of cannabis plants at home. The law allows each adult to cultivate up to six plants, provided no more than 12 plants are permitted per household. These amendments would authorize the personal cultivation of adult-use cannabis at or in a private residence and would also authorize the sales of immature medical and adult-use cannabis plants by licensed adult-use dispensaries, microbusinesses, registered organizations, RONDs, and RODs. Upon approval by the Board, the Office will file the regulations with the Department of State to make them effective.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Jessica Garcia, and a second from Board Member Hope Knight, Resolution No. 2024-79, a Resolution Directing the Office of Cannabis Management to Adopt the Proposed Personal Home Cultivation of Cannabis Regulations, was approved unanimously.

- Patrick McKeage, Chief Operating Officer for OCM, provided an overview of Resolution No. 2024-80, a Resolution to Grant a Registered Organization Adult-Use Cultivator, Processor and Distributor License. Pursuant to Article 4 of the Cannabis Law, a Registered Organization (RO) registered by Article 3 of the Cannabis Law that applies for a Registered Organization Adult-Use Cultivator, Processor and Distributor (ROND) license or a Registered Organization Adult-Use Cultivator Processor Distributor Retail Dispensary (ROD) license must provide certain information to the Board prior to license approval. The Office is recommending the registered organization, Vireo Health of New York, LLC, for approval. Vireo Health of New York, LLC has sent the Office all requested documents required on the ROD or ROND application, including the submission of a Medical Patient Prioritization Plan, Community Impact Plan and Energy and Environmental Plan required by the regulations.
- Upon a motion from Board Member Jessica Garcia, and a second from Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins, Resolution No. 2024-80, a Resolution to Grant a Registered Organization Adult-Use Cultivator, Processor and Distributor License, was approved unanimously.

- Patrick McKeage, Chief Operating Officer for OCM, John Kagia, Senior Director of Policy for OCM, and Tabatha Robinson, Director of Economic Development for OCM, provided the following OCM report.
 - Licensing Update
 - The Office has issued a total of 654 adult-use licenses.
 - There are currently 155 final CAURD licenses issued, 132 opened dispensaries, 349 provisionally approved retail dispensaries, 113 microbusinesses, 115 cultivators, 70 processors and 74 distributors.



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- Social and Economic Equity (SEE) Update
 - o 55% of Adult-Use licenses across the supply chain are SEE owned. The breakdown includes 39% Minority-Owned Business, 39% Women-Owned Business, 9% Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business, 8% Distressed Farmer, and 6% Communities Disproportionately Impacted (CDI).
 - o The Office has begun the reconsideration phase of SEE eligibility review. In this phase, applicants who were denied SEE eligibility but wish for the agency to take a second look may request reconsideration after receiving a “Failure to Cure Notice” from the Office. In order to receive this consideration, applicants must have submitted a SEE application and attempted to cure deficiencies within the 30-day window.
- Market Update
 - o New York has sold \$357.3 million in legal cannabis.
 - o May set a new all-time high for monthly sales at \$46.2 million, bringing the 2024 year-to-date total to \$196.5 million.
 - o Half of the retailers are carrying RO brands. RO brands are 11% of the retail market. Flower products are leading RO product adoption.
 - o There are currently 347 brands in the market.
 - o The Office will continue to advance key priorities across the market, including market scaling, efficiency optimization, unregulated market capture, stakeholder engagement, and intersectional alignment.
- Adult-Use Application Review Update – November Queue
 - o The Office is prioritizing the review of the November queue and is reviewing applications in the order of the queue.
 - o To date, the Office has started the review of up to number 1,091 in the queue review order.
 - o 789 dispensary locations are currently receiving proximity protection.

- Board Member Jennifer Gilbert Jenkins stated that she wanted to offer that if there is any way that she can help in coordinating or if there is any work that as a board member that she can be a part of, she thinks that that is something that here in Central New York is really important, as their small one horse town with one stop light has three illegal dispensaries, and that will be the drum that she keeps beating is that the more that they can close these down, the better that their legal market will be and she is here to help in any way that she can other than busting through their doors, and just being like we’re coming for you.
- John Kagia stated that his advice against doing that, but they appreciate the support and will certainly extend that out to their enforcement unit that has been working very diligently on this but thank you for saying that because it is worth underscoring.

- 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 6/11/2024 Meeting – Public Comment

	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
1.	Vinay	Mehta	Gotham Manufacturing	<p>Good afternoon. Thank you for the updates and information today. My name is Vinay Mehta, and I'm here to speak on behalf of Gotham Manufacturing. OCM App license applicant number for processing number 12. Our business was formed in 2021. Since then we have raised investor funds, secured a location, acquired equipment, invested in R&D grants, and are doing everything in our power to provide GMP compliant manufacturing for the cannabis industry. We are here, and we are ready. But we need your help. We are burning through cash on a lease that this government agency required at the time of the application for a facility we cannot do anything with until we are licensed. We submitted our application on October 4, the 1st day the portal was open. We meticulously planned every step we've taken to ensure that we have enough runway for licensing. At 1st we thought maybe we would hear something by February or March. Surely things would start moving in April or May. However, I'm standing here before you in June, with no understanding of what to expect. We understand that you are working hard, we get them. I'm not here to complain or talk about the sacrifices that have been made to be here right now. but we are here, and we are ready. I've listened to the dialogue of the previous committee meetings and have understood there's been limited discussion about the processing pool of applicants. We are not growing the product, and we are not selling it to consumers. However, the infrastructure process and people are critical to successfully scaling the legal New York cannabis market. The dispensaries are opening at a faster rate, more licenses are being awarded and market demand is growing. It is critically important now that we increase supply chain reliability and increase product innovation for dispensaries and consumers. To do this, we need a lot more than 70 processors in the State. And how many of those are open and operating like discussed today? Additionally, we create high paying manufacturing jobs train workers and teach skills that can be used for</p>



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				decades to come. I'm advocating for this committee to immediately start reviewing more processing applicants on this queue. Timing is critical.
2.	Father Chux	Okochi		<p>Afternoon, everybody. I am Father Chux Okochi, a faculty member of St. John's University, teaching Pharmacy students and courses in communications and former Director of Pastoral Care Services at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx. Some of you may have heard of this or have family members in that hospital. This is the countries only fully accredited acute care specialty hospital exclusively providing palliative care for adult patients with advanced cancer and other life limiting illnesses. In most cases patients unable to access comprehensive pain management are entering end of life care prematurely. We are all aware of the struggles of the economically disadvantaged patient population we have, and New York State needs to prioritize the insurance of additional medical RO licenses to ensure patient access to medical cannabis. As an attendee of OCM's recent faith-based leadership coalition meeting, rather than focusing on grants to faith based and community organizations, we should be redirecting cannabis tax revenue to subsidize medical cannabis for Medicaid patients and veterans. New York State OCM has not addressed you know this issue. Those who are affected by poverty as much as pain, you know, we should reconsider where we channel our tax money to be able to have those who I need those who are poor, and especially the veterans within our State. I'll be taking this off again within the ecclesiastical circle to make sure that this is achieved.</p>
3.	Sharon	Dang		<p>My name is Sharon Dang, and I am a single mom. I am a SEE applicant, applicant number 243. I was on the queue for the early 250, actually in the queue of 215 pretty good, odd number and we have not heard back at all from the OCM. Past, I don't know no response from AU or anybody that I reached out to, and I just wanted to bring to you attention that it is probably because, unfortunately, I applied with a advocate that have a, John Mackopoulos, and he has had some predatory actions against my application. He's you know, he submitted an application, he's taken control of the portal. I don't have access to the portal at all, even though I'm 51% in the SEE application. I just wanna leave you with 2 sound bites from this, just to</p>



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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				<p>give you a breadth of who I'm dealing with. Forging documents, there's a lot of things going on with this guy. But, more importantly, I want to show you this one. So he's just saying that you know he's calling the SEE program copy. Yeah, he's also was admitted to forging his documents as well, trying to submit documents on the portal. He was trying to force documents and upload to the portal. I had no control. I just wanted to bring your attention and see if I can respond to you guys. I haven't been able to upload any of my TPI documents. I think our application is stuck. So, thank you so much.</p>
4.	David	Hooper, Jr.	munchies dispensary ny llc	<p>Hello, good afternoon. My name is David Hooper, Jr. And I would like, and I am a CAURD applicant waiting for final licensure. First, I would like to say thank you to Chris, Damian, the Board, and OCM staff who have built the base for the New York legal cannabis market thus far. It's easy to point fingers on the sidelines, and in no shape or form is this my intent. Mistakes aren't a negative thing, and when it's corrected it's just information to get it right but when you continue to make the same mistakes, when it becomes a problem, I've watched many board meetings and witnessed people come to speak about how they are bleeding financially from this process. A process I now find myself in. We had our virtual inspection back in April, and still have not been issued a license. Every 1st of the month that passes, I cannot tell the landlord that I am waiting for OCM. The rent still has to be paid. I emailed and I called, and no one has no information for me except for the application is just waiting on the decision. Again, a process that wasn't clearly outlined to applicants before asking folks who have already suffered from the criminalization of marijuana to make this significant investment. In fact, the report from the State audit was the 1st time hearing about the different hands that the application passes through. The promise was equity, and I hope that this board remains an independent body, not to be influenced by the likes of the Governor's office or the special interests that have set out to railroad New York's rollout. I'm hoping that speaking here today after this board meeting, someone can point me in the right direction. And to close, I like to give a special thanks to Monique in compliance and Vee in licensing. Thank you.</p>



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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
5.	Kevin	Kaminker		<p>Good morning, everybody. Morning, OCM board. Everyone here today congratulations to everyone today who got their licenses. I'm involved in a license that was already approved in a couple of board meetings ago. I'm here on behalf of an associate of mine who is in the 200s. He's been holding proximity protection. He's a SEE applicant. He's had communication, but communication went silent. It's in a great area. It would benefit the community. We're just trying to get some answers. I have other people here as well at this board meeting, who are also in the same position. Just communication, you know. The board has been communicating their members of the OCM that I've personally spoken to, and communications great, but in some certainties it's not, you know, and I don't want to throw shade on anybody, because any 1st rollout is going to be difficult. But, like the gentleman said before, people are bleeding money. The 1st of every month you want us to hold these locations. We need some communication. We need to know if we are or we're not getting it. There's only been a little of I forgot the exact number. It's over a hundred licenses from the general lab from the November queue for retail being specific for retail, have been issued provisional, non provisional. Just communication. And I also did want to thank you guys for shutting down all these illicit shops. I have friends who are operating as we speak to this day, and it has definitely made a huge impact on sales and to the community. So thank you for that. But please people who are in the November queue who have been closer to the number one, and we'll have been contacted in January, February. You guys gotta reach out and let us know what's going on. Thank you for your time.</p>
6.	Charles	Gonzalez		<p>Hi! Good afternoon. I am Charlie Gonzalez, representing else to LLC and doing business as Marijuana Dream. We recently received an enormous amount of assistance from the license team, and we are hopeful and confident that we will be a newly license SEE company in the next few weeks. My question is, when we do get licensed who do we call for guidance and assistance to help us better understand the process from license actual to retail dispensary store.</p>



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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
7.	Robert	Ponce	EMP Cannabis NY	Hi, my name is Bob Ponce. I represent the EMP Cannabis New York podcast. We cover the legal cannabis industry. My statement is all questions. I'm not expecting a response in this venue, but I hope, at a further date, to talk to people at OCM and get some answers. My 1st question is what is OCM and the Governor's current commission to social equity? There's been a lot of turmoil and change, and we understand it was necessary. But we want to know going forward. You know, that that commitment still remains in place, and in particular. How does OCM, the Governor, and the new interim Executive Director plan to revive or rescue the CAURD program that has had its challenge. Another question is, when will Damian Fagan, the Equity officer, be reinstated, and I say reinstated, because in context know that he was put on administrative leave with an issue of an accusation of him targeting a certain processor. We know that OCM's Director of Health and Safety, Nicole Rosa responded to those accusations in an affidavit that basically refuted that Damian Fagan had any role in any action. And so that being the case, it should be a time that we clear his name and get him back to work, so that we have a social equity officer who's on duty and working in that regard as per the MRTA. We also would, I'm curious as to why the OGS in this investigation did not include an examination of what happened with the Social Equity Fund. So these are questions we all want to hear more answers from? And I think I'll leave it there and ask that any appropriate people from OCM be available to talk about family.
8.	Igor	Kotlyar	Smelly Nelly LLC	Good afternoon. Igor Kotlyar, Smelly Nelly, CAURD license 667. I'm sitting at this meeting right now, and I'm just thinking about one thing, how many people at the OCM, on the Board, in the office of operations in the policy office, how many people have business experience. I'm talking about not a degree, but a simple course in business 101, or accounting 101. Think about this. This entire room of people has a problem with mostly one thing communication. You cannot build the business and then build an infrastructure. It does not work like that. It can't work like that. It's impossible 655 licenses, CAURD licenses approved. And what? And 1 31 open. That's not a successful operation. That's less than 22%, 789 licenses are getting proximity protection. How are you gonna



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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				<p>handle that? How? 60 days ago? And I'm speaking to you, Ms. Wright. I apologize. 60 days ago I stood here. I gave you my problem. After the meeting you introduced me. You told me who to go speak to. I spoke to Linda Baldwin. She told me I'm in a better place than I was before. I spoke to John Kagia. He gave me his card, told me to call him told me to email him. He replied to one email, 60 days ago, spoke to the man once, told me that he will handle it. Spoke to Patrick Mckeage told me one week he will have a letter from me with this. I don't know what's going on. Here's a survey for 70 Canal Street, proving that I'm 200 feet away from the Buddhist temple, a survey that I paid extra money for to have ready for this meeting today. since Linda Baldwin told me. I'm in a better place. It has costed me \$40,000 more. The communication does not exist. Mrs. Wright, I'm handing you this original survey with the seal the original seal, not the copy. Please procure this for me. I'm getting thrown out of my place of business because of this 40 grand, 60 days later. Nothing. nothing. How can you approve more licenses? How you're gonna have to run the stadium for the next meeting. This is for you, Mrs. Wright, I'm giving this to you. Thank you. Please get me open, please.</p>
9.	Walter	Iwachiw	wee4justice	<p>My name is Walter Iwachiw. I just want to read you the email I got yesterday. Your application has been reopened for correction. You need an updated certificate of authority. It has your entity name, Iwachiw, 2,001, a nonprofit. The provided certificate authority lists neither the entity name or the Db, wee4justice3. Please submit this updated document and report. This certificate authority that was issued in February says, Iwachiw 2,001 Inc, wee4justice3. So I'm at a loss. They've had it since February. I don't know what to do. Thank you very much.</p>
10.	Jocelyn	Fenton		<p>Good afternoon. My name is Jocelyn Fenton, and I'm a current applicant for a New York cannabis license. Our company is in the December queue and has been diligently following the OCM rules, but with the new policies implemented on May 10, we find ourselves in the fall with navigating treacherous wars. The OCM rules from last summer provided a straightforward process and now we are left in limbo. Those same rules establish 2 queues, the November queue for those with site controls and the December queues for those without. Both queues were to</p>



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				<p>be reviewed concurrently and not consecutively. We are in December queue. We received confirmation from the OCM May 4th, that our application was green lit. So we immediately obtained site control. Shockingly 6 days later, on May 10th but most were probably changed, prioritized them over the queue entirely before the December queue. For many applicants, this endeavor is the super bowl. Imagine the chaos of the referees and rules for change, to super bowl, to halftime. For example, we were only playing 3 quarters instead of 4 quarters, the results would be chaos. This is the magnitude of the disruption caused by the change in the rules. This is a mistaking assumption that the November queue will open faster. But many applicants have delayed site control to manage financial risk. Also, critical results are increased proximity conflicts in market saturation. If the OCM deems the market saturated after reviewing the November queue, the December queue might never be reviewed, and that is a blame, misrepresentation. Decision makers must fully engage rather than make it haphazard and disjoint decisions that create problems rather than solving them. Now, who has the power to make such a politically tumultuous and legally leally careless decision? Changing the rules mid process penalizes those who detrimentally relied upon, and application fees willfully insignificant to compensate for applicant damages, create significant liability, and possibly official and profound remedies must be sought to do no harm to applicants and adhere to equitable principles. Thank you.</p>
11.	Kamel	Jamal	463 Station Inc.	<p>How are you doing? My license number is 001132. We're in 463 Main Street, Beacon, New York. Our corporate name is 463 Station, Inc. In September, we ran the cannabis showcase, and we were number 2 in revenue in New York. We're in the November queue at number 574. We received proximity protection. We were taken off proximity protection. We received our provisional license. Thank you. We submitted for public convenience, and we did every single step needed. And we've been receiving the email, but now it's silent. Then we received the welcome packet, and we started our work. 4 days later we received a welcome packet email, saying it was an error. Countless emails with no replies. I truly feel that I'm in purgatory because it's not that I'm denied, I have an</p>



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	First Name	Last Name	Organization (If Applicable)	Public Comment
				<p>application that's been submitted and approved. I have a location that's a former retired police station in Beacon, New York. We ran a successful showcase that was number 2 in the entire State in sales revenue with 0 errors. We have a city that has enough space for 3 locations, 2 of them are micros that are not open, and both have licenses, and both of their lease, one of them the buildings for sale and the other one has no possible space to put it. The landlord made a bogus lease. We own our property. Our police station is historical, and we could be a highlight to the OCM and the entire state cannabis industry. So I'm asking you, my application is on your desk to please take a look at it. It's costing us \$20,000 a month till today. Thank you.</p>
12.	Ellington	Keys		<p>Hello! My name is Ellington Keys. I'm an applicant for a retail license. I brought with me a marketing deck created by a top marketing firm in the country and an interior design deck created by architects and interior design people for our store. I was listening to everybody speak and the things that were said were confusing to me. There's only been 1,091 applications approved from the November queue, which is only half of that queue. 4,077 in the December queue. So, I have absolutely no idea when I'm becoming a license. Like right everybody else in here, I've been losing money daily. We raised an initial investor pool, but we've had to return a large portion of that money to not be licensed. Investors didn't want their capital tied up. We're supposed to get where we anticipated getting our license in March. That didn't happen, so investors wanted their money back. There's 115 cultivators. Let's assume that each cultivator can grow 10,000 pounds. That's 1.5 million pounds for 131 retails. How's that possible? That would mean that each retailer would have to sell about a thousand pounds per month, or 33 pounds a day at 138 per pound. That's 4,290 transactions per store. There's only a hundred. Let's see 131 retail licenses. But there's 8 million people in the 5 boroughs. That means that each store would have to service a 122,000 people. How's that possible? If you think that Madison Square Garden could hold 19,000 people, imagine a 122,000 people trying to get into one store. There has to be, in my personal opinion, at least 5 times as many details as cultivators in order to make this</p>



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				business work. Oh, and now that you're closing down all the shops, I don't even know where to get my weed anymore. I used to have a delivery service, then I had a bodega, and now I don't even know where to go. That's it. Thank you.
13.	Nicole	Ndiaye	Bossiee Budz	Hello, everyone. Thank you, OCM. I'm not gonna go into all the numbers and statistics. I want to highlight the home grow program. I am the founder of Bossiee Budz. I started as a hemp farmer. I've been at this for a very long time. My license was one of the 1st in the queue and I'm still waiting. Shout out to Sarah that I've been talking to getting things solidified with my deficiencies. Three reasons why I think home grow is so important. It was more of an equity issue, and my friend Dasheeda Dawson made that acknowledgement. Also, decriminalizing the industry, like the mindset of people in this industry has to be changed to educate them and community empowerment. I think that essentially home grow is a mere plan to empower the community as far as equity and resilience and being in control of growing your own cannabis legally. It symbolizes the progress towards OCM and the equity and the exclusivity that you guys have tempted to do and if any of you guys have my license you can just give it to me right now. But you know, shout out to OCM again. Home grow, I'm really happy about home grow and also the research, the research is definitely gonna be needed in the State of New York. Thank you.
14.	Kevin	Pollard	Upstate Pines	Good afternoon, everyone I'm from Upstate Pines, Hudson Valley, Red Hook, New York, waiting on getting a license getting closer, closer every day. We did get a communication since last meeting, and actually got another email today, asking where my fingerprints are They were turned in many, many months ago. But so I'm very happy, positive. They are communicating with you guys so hopefully, it's going forward. I was hoping to be open by the end of the summer. But I don't think that's gonna happen. And like everybody else, we're just bleeding money, paying surveyor, we're doing parking lot work. It's very expensive, very, very expensive, but hopefully it will pay you off. And glad to see that everything's reorganized and just the communication is a big thing, and hopefully it will get better. So, thank you.
15.	Ruchir	Shah	DANKLEY LLC	Good afternoon! Can you hear me? My name is Ruchir Shah. I've probably been coming to OCM meetings for a



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				<p>while, even before the 1st window opened. My partner and I applied for the November window. You've got our review. We submitted our deficiencies in the 24 or 48 hours. The last thing we heard is we were in a background check, and when I asked the lady what was the entailing the background check, our attorney said, it just requires that you're not convicted for fraud and whatnot, that I thought, which none of us are. My thing to you is I'm not gonna complain and not gonna beg anybody to give me my license or give us a license or anything. Pretty sure everyone's in the same boat. There's a lot of people in this room is because they still have faith in the system. And you guys, basically, it shouldn't take this long to say yes or no for an application. It's really, really not much in the so some people just want to, yes or no answer. The enforcement actions are good and everything's great, but like when your are shutting down illegal stores. Also, the process of licensing needs to be streamlined, so then it takes the incentive. That's why we have an illicit market, because there's a way, there's, word is financial incentive to be illicit incentive license. So if the process was a little bit more smoother and more transparent. Thank you.</p>
16.	Robin	Eshaghpour	Rosedale Cannabis Dispensary LLC	<p>Honorary Board members and staff. It may not appear it, but fast forward, 10 years from now it will be seen that and acknowledge that you've done an amazing job. I handled the application process for my wife, who was awarded license number 3. You communicated very well, the office. There was constant communication, when there was a deficiency, we turned it around right away and she was awarded her license the system work wonderfully. I'm sorry to hear that it's not working wonderfully for some, but I did want to put it out there, and it does work, and I saw. My wife had the honor of receiving the license she will be opening on Sutton Boulevard in the Jamaica station area, right next door to my father, God bless his soul, his 90-year-old liquor store. It is really amazing that we were able to, I call it the siblings, my dad's liquor store, get very sentimental with this. Thank you for providing an opportunity to a woman owned business. The industry got launched at a time with various factors that made it difficult to the beginning. These same issues occurred in 1934. All the way up to the 1940's. I have the records. I have the diaries. I have the notes that are buried in my father's 9-</p>



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				year-old store that I would like to share. I'm gonna skip some of this, since I have 1 minute. For the health of the industry, you're in a tough position, but you need to look long term, or please look very long term. A web has occurred. It needs to be untangled, and it's not gonna be untangled easily. It needs to happen with a plan which John spoke of. I have faith in you. I really do believe that it's gonna be, it's gonna work. It's gonna be an amazing industry and thank you for all of your hard work. Thank you.
17.	David	Simon		Thank you, Madam Chair, and distinguished members of this board. My name is David Simon, I am a cultivator. I'm here to speak on the importance of prioritizing, expediting cannabis nursery licenses to existing farms and cultivators who are currently in the approval queue. Traditional agriculture, every successful farmer relies on the consistent supply of quality that is found in other industries. This foundational aspect is equally vital for the cannabis industry by priming the top of the supply chain for less nurseries and assure cultivators have immediate access to high quality plants which is crucial for their operation. Expediting nursery licenses will bring significant benefits. First, they will provide cultivators and speak to marketing crop sooner and reducing the time lap between plants and harvest. This is especially critical in the cannabis industry where market competition. Second, having accessible nurseries saves cultivators both time and money, instead of waiting for approval, and then scrambling to secure plant material cultivators can rely on established industries to supply them with them and when they get this. This streamlined process reduces overhead costs and minimizes delays contributing to a more efficient and resilient supply chain. Additionally, nurseries play a critical role in genetic diversity and innovation by having a variety of strings and genetic material readily available. Cultivators can experiment with and optimize best performing plans for specific. Nurseries also contribute to sustainability and environmental stewardship of cannabis cultivation. You can implement and disseminate best practices for customs, disease management, reducing the need for chemical intervention and promoting healthier growing environments. Furthermore, nurseries can focus on breeding pest resistant and high yield strength significantly, improve overall properties. In conclusion, prioritizing the issues of cannabis nursery licenses is not just a matter of convenience, it's a strategic move that will



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				strengthen the entire cannabis industry in the State of New York. By supporting nurseries, we support the background of cannabis cultivation. Thank you so much.
18.	Jeffrey	Hoffman		<p>Thank you very much. My name is Jeffrey Hoffman. I'm an attorney here in New York City. I wanna thank the board on behalf of my clients that you gave licenses to today. Thank you very much for that. I also wanna recognize the efforts that Chris Alexander put forward in our industry. We all know what's happened recently, but Mr. Alexander was one of the most important people in getting the cannabis law passed. I just wanna make sure that that recognition gets made. He was a very important part of what we did here, and we would not be here without him. The legislative session is now ended. There were 2 bills that were in the Legislature this term. I hope they will come back next term. One is a bill that will require the State funded medical insurance entities to cover medical cannabis as part of their insurance programs. The other would require medical professionals in the State to take continuing medical education about the endocannabinoid system and about cannabis since they will be seeing a lot more patients presenting that are either on cannabis or willing to talk about that when they meet with them. Additionally, I recently talked in the New York Times about the fact that the cat and mouse game is now on, particularly here in New York City, but it will be in other places. We applaud your efforts on enforcement against the illicit stores, but they are usually a step ahead. A lot of the stores around will close in the hours when the sheriff is doing their enforcements and then reopen later in the day. There's all kinds of ways they're getting around it. There was an article in the La Times recently that in La County at least half, if not more, of the stores there are still illicit. That is what you are facing. My recommendation to you is that you work with the legislature, and you take one building from a landlord. You make it so it's a very heavy fine once, twice, and the 3rd time you take the building. You take one building, the rest of the landlords in this state will take care of the problem for you. Thank you very much.</p>
19.	Toni	Smith		<p>Good afternoon and thank you. I'm here from the Drug Policy Alliance. I wanna reemphasize the original intentions and design of marijuana legalization in New York. The historic cannabis law, the MRTA was designed</p>



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				to create a fair cannabis industry in New York, centering communities harmed by the war on drugs, family farmers, and small businesses. OCM's new interim leaders, installed by the Governor, must adhere to this principle and resist corporate and political interest, seeking to undermine the law. The MRTA was a beacon of hope, a testament to the power of community organizing and a model for the nation. A promise to work toward repairing the harms of cannabis prohibition by offering opportunities for those most impacted by the drug war and reinvesting tax revenues into communities that were disproportionately targeted. Despite the slings and arrows that have been thrown at OCM and its leadership, let's be clear about what New York has achieved. New York has opened more adult use cannabis retailers than any other legal market on the East coast other than Massachusetts. So far, 95% of our retail market is small business. In the 1st 15 months of legal sales, New York alone has nearly tripled the number of black owned resale dispensaries nationwide. Despite its achievements, there are those who would prefer to throw the baby out with the bath water and move to quote, expedite in a way that sacrifices equity. Expediency to satisfy large corporate interest cannot be the priority. This is the moment where we must resist corporate pressure with their army and lobbyists pushing to change the execution of the law. Crucially, the next director of the Office of Cannabis Management must protect the vision and values of the MRTA, so that New York implementation of cannabis legalization is centering small businesses and those most impacted by decades of the marijuana arrest you save. We are watching.
20.	Jonathan	Gonzalez	Star Life Retail Group	Good afternoon OCM members. I'm here representing Star Life Retail group. We are a social economic equity group. We are CDI group as priority. We received an email stating that our social economic equity portion of our application is complete. And since then it's been silence. We purchased our property, build out underway, and some of our concerns are been voiced by a lot of other individuals here today. We are really interested in finding a person of contact that we could deal with directly, kind of answer some more of these questions. We're all minorities. We all grew up in communities disproportionately affected, not just by prosecution of crimes, but also you know, in an era or, you know, high crime rates, crack cocaine epidemic, through all that. And recently, at the County Center last week, we attended a convention where we met some very nice individuals from



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				out of State, several other States that were already licensed in the State of New York that were about to open. And that, you know, is a concern for us, obviously, because to us as fellow New Yorkers that's unacceptable for us. And you know, we really appreciate any information you guys could give us to help us move forward and help us get this application. Thank you very much.
21.	Bizarre	Royale		Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Bizarre Royale. I just like to say I've been on this road for this long for almost 2 and a half years. Thanks.
22.	Julian	Melenski		How are you doing? My name is Julian Melenski. On behalf of my application Supply Design, LLC, number 793072, and I was getting contact with the OCM. Last month, I was on proximity protection when they took me off and everything is complete. CDI and preapproval. And I'm off CDI and I just lost contact and just trying to figure out what to do next. If they can respond quicker with some communication. Thank you.
23.	David	Naponski	Freshly Baked NYC	Good afternoon, Chairwoman Wright, members of the Cannabis Control Board. Pleasure to see you again. My name is David Naponski, and I'm affiliate with the EMPY Inc., one of the license cannabis retailers in New York City, and the MTZ Inc., one of the applicants rejected today in Resolution No. 2024-78. Today, I express our profound disappointment and concern regarding the unmodified passage of this resolution. Resolution appears to rely on what many would consider an arbitrary and capricious internal policy, and distressingly was not made public prior to the closing of the application window. So only at last month CCB meeting, 6 months after the application window was closed, this policy was disclosed to the public. We've had no opportunity for applicants like us, to file a disclosed policy to review their application or cure the alleged defect. Changing the rules after the fact, disqualifying people based upon the new rules, it's not fair, it's not okay and quite possibly it's not legal. Such okay practices not only undermine trust in the regulatory process, but also likely to spawn a series of meritorious legal challenges. These are challenges that could have been avoided and will now threaten stability and integrity of State cannabis program again. Stakeholders in the industry, we must question the rationale behind introducing such criteria without prior public discourse or transparency. Regulatory bodies of public servants are subject to the law, as is consistently provided every month here by Attorney Jeffrey Hoffman in his monthly comments report. Deviation from the obligation of the cannabis



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				industry and its cannabis program into repetitive legal battles. This is not about just following the law about prospering and transparent, fair and put forward this requirement. We urge the Board to reconsider the approach with this resolution and thrive for more transparent governance practices in the future. We must ensure that New York cannabis program is fair, awful, and free from unnecessary self-inflicted and challenge. Thank you.
24.	Dasheeda	Dawson	Cannabis NYC - Dept of Small Business Services	Thank you, Madame Chair. My name is Dasheeda Dawson, and I am the Founding Director of Cannabis NYC. I want to first start with a thank you to Chris Alexander for his service and the legacy as an architect of the MRTA for pioneering and holding a line of equity from day one, from advocacy to legislation to implementation. Legal cannabis in New York would not exist without his leadership and grit, and time will tell the story. Frankly, it already is. Our impressive stats, highlighted today by John and Tabatha do not occur in a vacuum. Now, as we welcome the new interim leadership at the State level, it's crucial to understand the following. The city will continue to be a partner in the implementation of the MRTA, which is first and foremost a restorative justice Reform Bill. We must protect equity from opportunists, whether it be illegal stores, predatory loan programs or lobbyists as clients in the November queue that could care less about cannabis, equity reform. Equity must remain at the heart of the development of the industry, and the chief equity officer is the one-of-a-kind role in the country, and the unit's involvement in licensing is critical to our ongoing success and exceeding the MRTA goals, and outpacing the entire country. And CAURD must not be left behind. I appreciate the dilemma of the November queue and holding leases, but I must remind the state that there are hundreds of justices involved, CAURD licensees and applicants waiting for the State to see it through on the promises that were made at the start of 2022. The group that has been most harmed from criminalization continues to be re-harmed. They pay more for application fees. They've endured multiple injunctions, and they were promised support to operationalize. And we must hold a line on these promises. The same way we held a line on the MRTA year after year. In the coming weeks, Cannabis NYC will be launching programmatic efforts that we hope will continue to bridge the gap for those in our jurisdiction. CAURD licensees, please reach out to our office



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				cannabis@svs.nyc.gov The work continues, and in the words of Chris Alexander, equity isn't a thing, it's the thing.
25.	Father Chux	Okochi		I am Father Chux Okochi, a faculty member of St. John's University, teaching Pharmacy students and courses in Communications Studies and a former Director of Pastoral Care at Calvary Hospital, the country's only fully accredited acute care specialty hospital exclusively providing palliative care for adult patients with advanced cancer and other life limiting illnesses. In most cases, patients unable to access comprehensive pain management are entering end of live dare prematurely. We are all aware of the struggles of economically disadvantaged patient populations who need access to medical cannabis. New York State needs to prioritize the issuance of additional medical RO licenses to ensure patient access to medical cannabis. OCM can facilitate economically despondent patients through any number of financial innovations that can generate cost saving measures in pain management for the chronically ill. As an attendee of OCM's recent Faith Based Leadership Coalition meeting, rather than focusing on grants to faith based and community organizations, OCM should be redirecting cannabis tax revenue to subsidize medical cannabis for Medicaid patients and veterans. NYS OCM has not addressed the catastrophically ill, who are affected by poverty as much as pain. NYS's cultivation of a robust Medical Cannabis marketplace, must not supersede our recognition of the torment and agony of the populations we claim to empower with JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion). The plight of the impoverished ill requires better of us, during the changing prescription patterns of the opioid epidemic. I intend to pursue this issue within our ecclesiastical circle, so that every means is availed to ensure the Empire State stands on the side of impoverished patients.
26.	Ali	Atta		All this Legalize that Legalize this still feel illegal by the way you goof balls act stop telling people what to smoke. Give out more license.
27.	Anthony	Lynton	The Smoked Apple	Why is there no que updates available on the website when I've emailed got a generic email sending me to ocm and to download the same information concerning the que or email all applicants with updated que information there where over 4000 applicants in the December que TY
28.	Sami	Abdelazim	Hemp Geek LLC	I would like to know if the Cannabis board has a plan to help revive the retail Hemp industry by repealing the 1:15 ratio hemp regulation that has forced countless hemp



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				license holders to close shops and layoff employees since there are no products that exist that meet that weak requirement nor is it strong enough to help NY citizens with pain management, or sleep aid two huge issues legal hemp products helped, and you could even a new Hemp THC Tax to generate more tax revenue for NY state. We would hope you could bring back the 1:1 ratio so we could carry Snoozy and Xite brands and a lot of other top shelf hemp brands that pose no danger to the public. The new Hemp Regulations have destroyed all the retail hemp shops which are all small business, my shops Hemp Geek included we have gone from 3 stores and 9 employees down to soon 1 shop and 1 employee. 1:1 ratio is proven to help migraines better then the leading prescription meds you can Google it with lots of research backing it up and it's just made with legal hemp. Please bring back the 1:1 ratio for legal hemp shops or we will all be closed in a year, and it gives citizens of NY more access to safe relatable hemp CBD:THC products that are only sold to 21 and older people anyway, most are 50 and older. We have been in buiness for 5 years but we won't last much longer with these restrictive hemp regulations, please bring back the 1:1 ratio and even impose a new hemp THC sales tax it will make the state money and help citizens live a better quality of life and save small businesses, is this something the board would consider doing? With cbd only we can't make enough revue since cbd products have evolved over the past 5 years and become pretty cheap plus with the new hemp regs we can't even sell anything over 4000mg which is crazy since most p cbd strengths are 5000mg an10000mg now or something like 3000mg cbd/3000mg CBG so increasing the cbd tincture limit to 10,000mg would be a big help too, is that something the board can do to save NY small businesses?
29.	Murphy	DHaiti		Brands are selling bad product that is already sealed. We as consumers should be able to see what we're buying from them beforehand. I've worked the industry for 6 years in Colorado and I'm a native New Yorker. Just moved back. Ive never seen any operations ran like this. If you need consultants, I'm available. I have experience as a native, the legal industry and how to get people interested in purchasing from a legal dispensary only.
30.	Robert	Luciano		Affirmative Action Disabled Veteran - Women Owned Dispensary License Priority
31.	Anna	Luciano		Affirmative Action Preference Disabled Veteran and Women Owned Adult Use Retail Dispensary License



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32.	Abdul	Hamid	Canna Buddha LLC	It is Unclear how to contact the Enforcement Division of OCM and we request a direct contact. The only update received for 2 months is that the application is with the Enforcement Division after a sworn attestation was submitted for an application correction, but there's no transparency as to why, what the status of the application is with the division, or how to communicate with the division for clarification or to see if we can provide them with further information. Please advise.
33.	Andre	Lewis		I would like to address the issue of cultivation licensing... I am a small Latino cannabis farmer and as of yet been unable to apply for the license because zero opportunities has arisen since the close of applications last Dec 18 2023 Thank you
34.	Steve	Parks		When are you going to approve license applications from non-minority applicants. I live in Jamestown NY and I personally know people have applied for an adult use dispensary license but he's still waiting for the board to approve his application.
35.	Jason	Stowell	Excelsior Genetics, LLC	<p>Hello and thank you to the Board for providing this opportunity. I am submitting my comment on behalf of all the participants who completed the Cannabis Compliance Training & Mentorship program. I feel it is important to make public mention to this Board, of the commitment, time, and resources CCTM members forwent to participate in the program. During this time, we were repeatedly told that we were "The future of New York cannabis" and would be "priority applicants."</p> <p>I would like to use this opportunity to request that all CCTM applicants are reviewed regardless of their standing in a specific queue. Participants like myself who attended every seminar for three months, made multiple trips (and still do), to work with their OCM appointed mentors, deserve to know if we will all have our applications reviewed?</p> <p>Since submitting our applications, many Micro business/CCTM applicants have been spending resources to build our small businesses and lease/buy space for our future operations. We put in the commitment to participate while giving OCM personal and sensitive information regarding our operations, and for that commitment, request OCM will consider a resolution that all CCTM certificate holders will have their license applications reviewed, regardless of standing in a particular queue. Thank you so much for your time and all the incredible work everyone at OCM is doing to make New York the most diverse and equitable cannabis market in the world!</p>



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				Jason M. Stowell Founder/CEO Excelsior Genetics, LLC
36.	Eric	Callmann		Hi, We submitted a application for a provisional retail cannabis license in October 2023. I was pleased to see we are in the queue for our application to eventually be reviewed and were notified that our application would be reviewed. I've recently been told by a number of individuals that the state is going to cancel all the provisional applications from last years October-December application window. We are passionate about getting our foot into the Cannabis industry in New York state and knowing we are in a queue even it means it may take 12 months for a review of our application would be preferred over canceling our application and having submit another in the future. My hope is that you will take these comments into consideration if in fact you are looking to cancel these applications. Thank you, Eric
37.	Lexi	S		What I really want to know - and that I think AU applicants deserve an explanation for - is why applicants who show up on neither the November or December queue have already received provisional approval. It's 3 micro businesses with the following application numbers: OCMMICR-2024-000006 OCMMICR-2024-000014 OCMMICR-2024-000011 I am skeptical of the response, "these are CAURD applicants" because other applications indicate they are indeed CAURD via the "-CAURD-" section in their application number or their application type. I look forward to an explanation.
38.	Hank	Aaron		As an applicant on the December queue, I urge you to resume the application process as soon as possible. Thank you
39.	Ceara	Hoffman	Village One Stop Smoke Shop Inc	I would Like the ocm to make a list for people being denied in the November list. This way people know where they stand. I myself Have been waiting months for a background check. I send Emails and call every week with no answer as to why this is taking so long to do. I get The same answer, that ocm does not need any further information. I have been stuck in this situation for months



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				now. I would Like to know if I am Being considered or not so I can Move past this if not being considered.
40.	Joel	Madden		After correcting all deficiencies, how long should it take to receive a decision on licensing?
41.	Joe	Smith		Please address home cultivation
42.	Absolutely	Devestating	AUCC-Micro	<p>We are extremely displeased with the ongoing turmoil within the department, which has significantly undermined our commitment to the NY Adult Use programming. As an approved AUCC, our decision to adapt our business model was based on information provided in CUNY webinars and publicly posted policies. Specifically, the policy states that “ALL AUCC and AUCP who are transitioning to a ‘non-conditional’ license will continue to be reviewed.”</p> <p>This misleading information has placed our entity in the December queue, awaiting the completion of the November queue, which includes new applicants. However, the approvals in the May meeting were given to those near the end of the November queue, and it seems the reviewers are now restarting the process from the top of the list. This creates an endless cycle of constant change and ongoing review of the November queue while the December queue awaits with no recourse.</p> <p>This situation is undeniably unfair and highly detrimental to entities like ours that have invested substantial resources over the past two years in support of a potentially successful regulated NY adult use program. Policy changes must consider the needs of farmers and providers who have costly infrastructure in place and must adhere to seasonal growing requirements. These types of inputs do not surface from a desk but in the field where the work is essential to feeding our families.</p>
43.	Kyle	Brown		<p>Dear CCB</p> <p>I am writing to express my concern over what appears to be ongoing mismanagement within the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM). It has come to my attention that there may be irregularities in the licensing process that warrant a thorough investigation by the Cannabis Control Board (CCB).</p> <p>Specifically, it seems that the OCM examiners are not adhering to the established queue system for reviewing license applications. There is a growing perception that certain applicants are being unfairly prioritized, while others who have fulfilled their obligations, such as maintaining property leases in anticipation of licensure, are being overlooked. This deviation from the promised</p>



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				<p>procedure of processing applications in the order they were received is troubling.</p> <p>The evidence I have gathered on this matter is substantial and suggests a pattern that could be indicative of fraudulent activity. As a stakeholder in this process, I find it imperative that the CCB takes immediate action to ensure transparency and fairness within the OCM's operations. I urge other concerned parties to come forward with their experiences. It is crucial that the OCM staff be held accountable for their actions, especially considering the impact on applicants who have made significant financial commitments based on the assurance of an expedited review process.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss this matter further. I am committed to collaborating with the CCB to rectify these issues and restore confidence in the OCM's licensing process.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kyle Brown</p>
44.	Mayank	Kapoor	DANKLEY LLC	<p>I'm an applicant in the November queue and made a public comment at the last meeting that everyone who had a legitimate lease in the Nov Queue should get a provisional license. After that it seemed like that was the direction it was going. Now after seeing the meeting agenda for the June 11th CCB meeting there is still nothing that specifies what is going on. I have been in background review for 3 weeks, I responded to all my deficiencies within 24 hours, and now again I'm sitting here with no response on what is going on. I heard there was a fund being created to reimburse CAURD applicants for money they spent during their wait - Is there a fund being created for applicants in the November queue like me who are paying rent while waiting? When will we all be hearing an update or actually getting this provisional license? It will be 7 months soon since the November application window closed.</p>
45.	Yael	Polanco		<p>I am currently positioned at number 100 in queue for indoor cultivation tier 2. Is the list final given the recently published of AU Applications Recommended for Approval? Or does the OCM plan to continue evaluating other applicants in queue within this first lottery?</p>
46.	Lee	Pierce	CalmUnity Farms	<p>We are the worker-owners of CalmUnity Farms, microbusiness applicant #60, queue #585. We urge the office to prioritize outdoor applicants, especially those that practice sustainable growing practices such as no irrigation, no input farming. Given the focus on</p>



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				sustainability in the regulations, it seems that the environmental constraints and impacts of grow operations should be a factor in prioritizing applicants for review.
47.	Nicole	N'diaye	Bossiee Budz	<p>Nicole N'Diaye, Founder, Bossiee Budz "It's an Equity Issues"</p> <p>In the evolving landscape of New York's cannabis industry, home growing transcends simple cultivation; it embodies a journey toward equity, accessibility, and community empowerment. Legalization in New York brings deeper significance to home grow, representing a shift in engagement with cannabis.</p> <p>Equity and Justice: Home growing cannabis is a step towards correcting historical injustices that marginalized communities faced under punitive cannabis laws. These laws disproportionately targeted these communities, perpetuating inequality. Legalizing home grow in New York acknowledges past wrongs and offers individuals the freedom to manage their health treatments and explore cannabis therapeutics without legal repercussions. This empowerment aims to create a more equitable and inclusive cannabis landscape.</p> <p>Democratizing the Industry: Home grow democratizes the cannabis industry by breaking down financial barriers that traditionally limited market entry. Entering the cannabis market often required substantial investment, making it inaccessible for many aspiring entrepreneurs. Home grow provides an opportunity for everyday New Yorkers to engage in cannabis cultivation regardless of their financial status. This inclusivity fosters a diverse community of growers and innovators, bringing fresh perspectives to the industry, stimulating innovation, and enhancing education within the cannabis community.</p> <p>Community Empowerment and Education: Home grow promotes community empowerment and knowledge sharing, fostering a resilient and interconnected cannabis community. Programs like Bossiee Budz's home grow affiliate initiative support and educate home growers across all five boroughs, empowering them to cultivate cannabis responsibly and sustainably. These initiatives create collaborative learning spaces, enriching the community with shared expertise and experiences.</p>
48.	Shaun	Marks	The Infusary (NYS SCDA LLC)	What number application (from the que) are you currently reviewing?



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49.	Steven	Mrowzinski	Seven Thirty-Two Cottage Street Inc	When will New York State Office of Cannabis Management start accepting applications for the cannabis delivery license? And when will that window close? Also how long does it take for an application to be reviewed?
50.	MICHELLE	Tracis	Compatian care New York	How can people of color get help with a license
51.	Moranda	Bromberg	H valley Inc	I'm wondering how as a business we should prepare for our license to be awarded or denied if the license awarding process is not going in order of the published lottery queue? Why is the CCB unavailable to provide timelines to current applicants on when they will hear whether they were denied or approved for their license?
52.	Danielle	Seem	Northern Pearls, LLC	<p>There has been an improvement in OCM's responsiveness to enquiries from applicants and that is appreciated. Thank you for that.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we have not received useful guidance on how to proceed with a zoning issue with a house of worship. Northern Pearls chose a location on a different street than a local house of worship, we are not on a corner lot, and we do not face the church. OCM states that because one of two entrances to our parking lot is on the same street as the church, we are bound by the radius requirement. Despite our disagreement with that reading of the regulations, we affirmed that the church's Main Entrance is over 200 feet from our entrance, but OCM then asked us to get the church to provide us with a letter confirming what we know—we reside in the neighborhood—to be their Main Entrance. Despite the denominations stated opposition to the use of cannabis, we approached the church with a letter for them sign and their regional leadership has declined. There is no mechanism for us to compel them to do so. Which entrance is their Main Entrance is not even debatable. We have sat and videoed their property well before the start of Sunday service and 20 minutes after and during that time nobody used the entrance that OCM wants ruled out. We contend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We are not bound by the 200 feet radius requirement. b) Our proposed entrance is over 250 feet away from the church's Main Entrance. c) We should not be kept from opening a legal cannabis shop due to the non-action of an unaffected house of



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				<p>worship. Our licensure becomes arbitrary; based on the whims of the church and not law or regulation.</p> <p>d) We have provided OCM with all the required items for licensure.</p> <p>e) We are willing to sign an affidavit affirming that we are over 200 feet away from the Main Entrance. We understand that falsely filing that affirmation with OCM would create civil/criminal liability for us.</p> <p>f) We need a roadmap and direction from OCM to solve this. There is no legal action that we can file to compel the church's signature, nor would we want to do this to a neighbor.</p> <p>g) If provided with the forum, we can demonstrate that our location meets OCM requirements. We are a SEE applicant that received a good lottery number and are ready to move forward. We chose a suitable location. Please allow us to do so. Thank you.</p>
53.	Paul	Steinbrucker	S&S Cultivation Inc.	<p>I am writing to you today to hopefully get a proper answer for the first time out of this office. To be clear, this is far from the first time I've contacted this office, including with FOIL requests. I'm hoping this is the first time someone in this office actually answers my question and gives us some peace of mind so we can finally get a night of sleep which hasn't happened since January.</p> <p>We want to know the reasoning behind why the Lease-Required Supply Side Applicants in the December queue was completely ignored in the review and in the guarantee that came after it to the November Queues Lease-Required Retail side? The guarantee to them is that they would all be reviewed and licensed provided there are no issues with their applications.</p> <p>The stated reasoning why all the retail applicants from the November Queue were given said guarantee is because of all the money they were effectively committed to lose through months worth of rental costs associated with the site control requirement (Executed Lease or Deed) to apply. That it was completely unfair to commit these applicants to such a financial hardship with no or very little communication out of your office(NYS OCM).</p> <p>It is absolutely astonishing that the OCM and Governor Hochul found that it was only the retail side that was suffering undue financial losses while ignoring the supply side from the December Queue that is in the exact same position! Except the supply side lease's tend to have a much higher cost associated with them then a smaller retail location. Additionally, as soon as a retail location finishes their build-out they can start assuming profit,</p>



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				<p>whereas in most cases the supply side after build-out will take anywhere from 2 months to a whole year(cultivation) before their first product is sold to a retailer on credit. We are requesting that the 1109 of us LEASE-REQUIRED APPLICANTS IN THE DECEMBER QUEUE are immediately given the exact same guarantee that the retail and microbusiness applicants from the November queue recently received.</p> <p>This will allow us to start our build-outs so that we are ready for final licensing when the office finally gets around to it, instead of wasting our capital on months of continued delays. Otherwise, this office will effectively be putting thousands of entrepreneurs out of business before you give us a fair chance to start.</p> <p>For reference here are all numbers surrounding lease required applicants from both windows: Total Applications Received in both windows: 6,877 Total Number of Applicants in both windows that were Lease-Required: 3,341 Percentage of All Applicants that were Lease-Required: 48% Percentage of All Applicants that were NOT required to have site control: 52% November Queue Lease-Required Applicants(All Retail + Micros): •AU Retail Dispensary: 1,831 •Micro-Business: 401 Total: 2,232 (32% of all applicants) December Queue Lease-Required Applicants(All Supply Side): •Cultivation: 260 •Processing: 538 •Distribution: 288 Total: 1,109 (16% of all applicants)</p> <p>Respectfully, Paul J. Steinbruckner S&S Cultivation INC. Co-Founder/Director of Cultivation (716) 602-3453 sswny@sscultivation.com PaulSteinbruckner@gmail.com Indoor Cultivation Tier 1 Applicant Application #: OCMCULT-2023-000341</p>
54.	Jack	Conroy		<p>For those applicants in the December queue, who have received correspondence from OCM and have corrected all deficiencies; what is the time table for our application decision?</p>



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55.	Jocelyn	Fenton	Braboca/Su preme Elevation LLC	<p>Our dispensary is in the December queue and has been diligently following the OCM rules from last summer, but with the new policies implemented on May 10, we find ourselves left in limbo.</p> <p>As per the OCM, the process of review was to begin reviewing both queues concurrently, not consecutively. Our company was in the December queue with a very low number, meaning early review process, and after receiving a deficiency email and promptly curing all deficiencies and paying all the associated costs to do so, we received confirmation from the OCM on April 23rd stating that we were “all set” and that our application was greenlighted. Because of this confirmation, we secured a business site. We hadn’t done so previously. And according to the rules, we were soon to be up next.</p> <p>Shockingly, on May 10, the rules of the review process were changed mid-process; prioritizing the entire November queue (not just the first 250 queue applicants) before the December queue. For many applicants, this endeavor is akin to the Super Bowl. Can you imagine changing the referees and rules of the Super Bowl game at half-time? It would be utter chaos! This is the magnitude of the disruption this decision is causing in the New York legal cannabis industry.</p> <p>One reason for these changes is the mistaken assumption that the November queue will open dispensaries faster. That is not necessarily true! We did not saddle ourselves with rent until after we received the greenlight from the OCM confirmation but now we are ready to go.</p> <p>Two other points that can’t be overlooked is the danger of proximity protection caused by November queue applicants bumping a December queue applicant’s location. This problem would be mitigated by the concurrent queue review process. And secondly, there is the threat of potential market saturation after reviewing the November queue. In that, the OCM might never review the December queue! Despite the assurances given at the CWCB Expo on June 6th, by the Assistant Secretary for Cannabis Chelsea Davis, where she emphatically stated that the December queue would be reviewed. To not review the December queue would be a blatant misrepresentation that will surely incur consequences. Decision-makers must refrain from making haphazard decisions that create problems rather than resolving them. The OCM is an extension of the government and a regulatory body whose agents act according to that authority. Therefore, when officials make commitments in</p>



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				<p>the marketplace, and then do not honor them, it is detrimental to the companies that depend on them and creates an environment of liability. We, and I am sure many others, will be detrimentally harmed by this arbitrary, mid-process change in the OCM rules. If the November queue was potentially the only queue to be reviewed, then just simply say site-control is a pre-requisite, and companies like ours would have acted accordingly. The OCM must honor its commitments. By changing the rules mid-process, the government is penalizing those who detrimentally relied upon the commitments of duly authorized government agents. Moreover, a refund of application fees is a mere pittance and woefully insufficient to compensate for an applicant's damages, creating significant liability and possibly official impropriety if this ill-advised decision is not halted, modified, or rectified. The OCM must find a remedy that does no harm to applicants and adhere to equitable principles. The OCM must ensure decisions are made with the mental sophistication required to transition this industry from illegality to legality. At the very least, the OCM, who was given the authority to issue provisional licenses, should finish what it already started and continue reviewing the first 250 applicants in the December queue now and not after it reviews the November queue in its entirety. OCM do not be the proverbial Lucy pulling the football away from us Charlie Browns.</p> <p>All we need now is our provisional license!</p>
56.	Todd	Dreyer	Monty's 3-Card Cannabis, LLC	<p>I am writing to make you aware that I am awaiting OCM administrative appeal determinations concerning two FOIL requests I made to OCM sometime ago that remain unaddressed. The first FOIL request (R000267-02623) requested scoring records about my application and was submitted on June 22, 2023. The FOIL request was denied on August 4, 2023, and I submitted an administrative appeal on August 8, 2023, which has not yet been replied to despite repeated requests. The second FOIL request (R000299-073123) requested records pertaining to comments received from third parties about my CAURD application and was submitted on July 19, 2023. An e-mail reply from OCM on August 15, 2023, indicated that a determination was expected by August 29, 2023. Subsequent inquiries from me finally resulted in a reply indicating that a determination was expected to be issued by January 24, 2024. However, that date has come and gone without further response despite subsequent inquiries.</p>



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				Therefore, I would like the Cannabis Control Board to direct that these two FOIL requests be appropriately considered and replied to properly. I look forward to the courtesy of your attention to this matter.