



**Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission
Full Commission Meeting
September 18, 2019-3:00 pm
Conducted Via Conference Call at
MMCC Offices: 849 International Drive, Linthicum, MD 21090**

APPROVED MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Brian Lopez, Commission Chairman
Ehsan Abdeshahian
Jinlene Chan
Jeffrey Gahler
John Gontrum
Charles LoDico
Jean Marshall
Tiffany Randolph
Charles Smith
Saundra Washington
Scott Welsh

Commissioners Absent

Barry Pope
Nancy Rosen-Cohen

Invited Guests

Ellis Brown, Morgan State University, Division of Research & Economic Development
Dr. Timothy Akers, Morgan State University, Division of Research & Economic Development
Kim Williams, Morgan State University, Division of Research & Economic Development

MMCC Staff Present

Lori Dodson, Deputy Director
Heather Nelson, Assistant Attorney General
Will Tilburg, Director of Policy and Government Relations
Christi Megna, Policy Analyst
Scott Simmons, Director of Enforcement and Compliance
Mary-jo Mather, Director of Administration

Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. A roll call was conducted, which verified that a quorum was achieved. Chairman Lopez briefly outlined the meeting order and matters to be considered, including a Closed Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice pursuant to the Open Meetings Act (General Provisions Article §3-305). He welcomed special invited guests from Morgan University, Mr. Ellis Brown, Dr. Timothy Akers and Kimberly Williams.

Committee Reports

Chairman Lopez invited the standing committees of the Commission to present reports. The Executive, Research and Education and Outreach Committees did not present reports. John Gontrum, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided some preliminary information, with more to be presented at the September 26, 2019 meeting. He reported a year-end fund balance of \$5,730,708.00. He also expressed his appreciation while serving as a Commissioner, and recognized former Commissioner Eric Sterling for his extensive efforts in the drafting of the first set of regulations.

Final Review Subcommittee Report

Brian Lopez provided the Final Review Subcommittee's Report in the absence of its Chair, Nancy Rosen-Cohen. Mr. Tilburg noted that extension requests were only being considered through December 31, 2019. The Final Review Subcommittee recommended that the Commission approve extensions to become operational until December 31, 2019 to the following pre-approved entities: Bethesda Biomedical (Dispensary in D-22); Bloomworks Wellness LLC (Dispensary in D-3); Columbia Care Maryland INC (Dispensary in D-18); Jenny's of Maryland LLC (Dispensary in D-24); Kind Therapeutics USA (Dispensary in D-30), Pure Hana Synergy (D-21), Maryland Natural Treatment Solutions (Dispensary D-31); and Sugarloaf Enterprises (Dispensary D-17). The meeting was paused at 3:35 pm due to technical difficulties with the conference call line. The meeting resumed one minute later at 3:36 pm. Mr. Lopez resumed the Final Review Subcommittee's report, and resumed its recommendations to approve ProGreen Medical LLC, a pre-approved Processor, an extension to become operational to December 31, 2019. Commissioner Randolph and Commissioner Gahler provided the appropriate Motions to approve the extension requests. The Commission voted unanimously to approve all extensions through December 31, 2019; there were no abstentions.

Mr. Lopez continued presenting the Final Review Subcommittee's Report in regard to recognition of provisional registrations for two independent testing laboratories, Advanced Bioanalytical Systems LLC, and Blunt Assessment LLC. Commissioner Chan asked the Director of Compliance, Lori Dodson, for the Independent Testing Laboratories for further follow-up. Will Tilburg reported on Ms. Dodson's behalf that all standards for a provisional registration had been satisfied. After the appropriate motions were offered, the Commission voted unanimously to recognize and to approve provisional registrations for these two independent testing laboratories. There were no abstentions.

Introduction of Special Guests From Morgan State University

Chairman Lopez thanked Morgan State University for their thoroughness and expertise, and asked Mr. Tilburg to provide a brief summary of the application process. Mr. Tilburg provided a brief summary of the process. The application period ended on June 24, 2019. Following that deadline, MMCC staff performed an initial sift to verify each entity had submitted a complete application and performed proper redactions of names of all owners, investors, employees, and contractors. After the initial sift and removal of any application that failed to meet the minimum standards for review established by the Commission, including improperly redacted applications, the remaining applications were provided to Morgan State University through a secure file transfer for evaluation of these applications. Representatives of Morgan State noted that the application evaluation process matched the rigors of competitive federal scientific grant reviews. The evaluation and scoring by Morgan was performed by 33 faculty and administrators, who each signed a certification of their expertise and non-disclosure agreement. The evaluators scored and ranked 98 processor and 102 grower applications.

Commissioners were given secure access to the scores, rankings, and sixty-page report produced by Morgan State. In addition, Commissioners had access to redacted copies of each of the grower and processor applications. Commissioners were given 14-days to review the redacted applications and scores, rankings and report of Morgan State and Commission staff.

A Motion to Close the Meeting was offered by Commissioner Randolph, and seconded by Commissioner Lodico. The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve moving into Closed Session to receive advice of counsel pursuant to the General Provisions Article §3-305 (b)(1) and (b)(14). The Closed Session began at 3:52 pm and reconvened into Open Session at 4:39 pm.

The Chairman restated the statutory authority as to the reason for the Closed Session, and asked that Commissioner Randolph, the Chair of the Application Evaluation Subcommittee read a summary statement. Chairman Lopez asked if there was any discussion and hearing none proceeded with a request for a Motion to approve the rankings for Grower applicants from the highest score to the lowest score. The Motion was offered by Commissioner Washington, and seconded by Charles LoDico. A roll call was taken. The Commissioners, with the exception of Commissioner Welsh, who was not present for the vote, unanimously accepted the recommendation to accept the grower rankings as presented by Morgan State University, from the highest score to the lowest score. The Subcommittee recommendation, and Commission vote, did not include the consideration of awarding any Stage One Pre-Approvals. Rather, the vote to accept the subcommittee recommendation for the ranking of blinded applications allows Commission staff to perform a preliminary investigation into the highest-ranking applications in order to confirm the veracity of certain material information in those applications so that staff will be able to identify whether any false or misleading information appears to have been offered in support of certain responses to questions on the applications. After the Commission staff has an opportunity to complete this preliminary investigation, the Commission will determine whether it will be in a position to inform the membership that no indications of false or

misleading information have been identified, and then the Commission members will entertain a recommendation on the issuance of Stage One Pre-Approvals. There were no abstentions.

Chairman Lopez proceeded to ask Commissioner Randolph to present the second recommendation of the Application Evaluation Subcommittee pertaining to the ranking of the Processor applications, as presented to the Commission by Morgan State University, from the highest score to the lowest score. There was no discussion. A Motion to accept the recommendation of the Application Evaluation Subcommittee was offered by Commissioner Marshall, and seconded by Commissioner Washington. A roll call vote was conducted. Commissioner Welsh was not present for the vote. Commissioners present voted unanimously to accept the recommendation, and to accept the blinded processor rankings as presented by Morgan State University, from the highest score to the lowest score. As with the grower applications, the vote did not award a Stage One Pre-Approval to any entity. Rather, the vote allows Commission staff to perform a preliminary investigation into the highest-ranking applications in order to confirm the veracity of certain material information in those applications so that staff will be able to identify whether any false or misleading information appears to have been offered in support of certain responses to questions on the applications. There were no abstentions.

Having no new business to conduct, Chairman Lopez requested a Motion to Adjourn, which was offered by Commissioner Marshall and seconded by Commissioner LoDico. The Motion to Adjourn was approved unanimously by voice vote, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm.