



# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission Announces Independent Investigators

**Linthicum, Md., February 20, 2019**—The Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (the Commission) today announced the award of contracts to two independent firms to evaluate the review process for 2019 medical cannabis grower and processor license applications: Verity, LLC and Zuckerman Spaeder LLP. The contract awards were made earlier this month after a competitive bid process. The Commission anticipates each investigation will take at least 45-days to complete.

Verity, LLC will complete a review of the highest-ranking grower and processor applications to ensure the accuracy of material aspects of information relating to ownership and control. Verity's work will be led by Raymond J. Peroutka, Jr., CPA.

Zuckerman Spaeder LLP will conduct an independent and thorough investigation into concerns about potential bias and/or undue influence in the application evaluation process. Zuckerman Spaeder's work will be led by Gregg Bernstein.

In 2019, the Commission received more than 200 applications for up to four additional grower and 10 additional processor licenses. More than 90 percent of the applications were submitted by

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Disadvantaged Equity Applicants, meaning applicants who provided supporting documentation that at least 51 percent of the ownership interest in the business is held by a member of a qualifying minority group. Following concerns regarding the impartiality of the evaluation process, the Commission committed to engage an independent firm to evaluate these concerns and verify material aspects of the highest-ranking applications.

Upon completion of both investigations, the Commission will report on the findings to the Maryland General Assembly and the public. The Commission will not award any Stage One Pre-Approvals until the findings of each investigation have been reported to the General Assembly and the public.

Anyone with information or concerns regarding potential bias or undue influence in the application evaluation process is encouraged to communicate directly with Zuckerman Spaeder at [mmcc@zuckerman.com](mailto:mmcc@zuckerman.com) or (410) 949-1177.

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