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Media Contact:

Joy A. Strand, MHA
Executive Director
Email: joy.strand@maryland.gov
Office: 410.487.8050

Medical Cannabis Grower and Processor Application Period Re-Opened for 14 Days

Extended Application Period Allows Applicants to Correct Widespread Redaction Errors and Eliminate Online Technical Issues

Linthicum, MD - (June 10, 2019) - The Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC) today announced the 60-day application period for new grower and processor license applications will be re-opened for an additional 14 days. The application period will now close on Monday, June 24 at 5:00 PM.

The MMCC is re-opening the application period following a series of technical issues that presented obstacles to a significant number of those attempting to submit applications electronically by the May 24th deadline, as well as widespread errors in redacting applicant and business name information from the applications. In order to ensure fairness and impartiality in the evaluation process, the MMCC required applicants to redact the applicant's business name, as well as the name of any owner, investor, employee, or contractor associated with the business from sections of the application that will be competitively reviewed and scored. Across both the grower and processor license categories the vast majority of applicants failed to redact all identifying applicant and business name information. The MMCC is re-opening the application period until June 24, 2019 to ensure all interested applicants have the opportunity to submit a competitive application.

Any interested applicants, including those that previously submitted, must hand-deliver their application package via USB drive to the MMCC offices by the June 24, 2019 deadline.

“The unexpected issues are disappointing, but we are pleased with the significant interest and large number of applications,” stated MMCC Chair Brian Lopez. “The large number of applications show how effective the Commission’s outreach and education efforts over the past year have been, and we are confident that these efforts will likely result in a diverse applicant pool.”

The award of additional grower and processor licenses is part of a larger effort to broaden the racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic diversity of Maryland’s medical cannabis program. The 14-day re-opening will assist these efforts by providing all applicants an opportunity to review their submissions and correct errors, and permitting those applicants who may have encountered technical issues submitting their application prior to the 5:00 PM deadline on May 24 to complete their application submission.

In an effort to reduce the risk of applicants committing redaction errors, the MMCC is also streamlining the application process by (1) reducing the number of required attachments associated with the application - the most common source of redaction errors, and (2) providing additional guidance to applicants on the most prevalent redaction issues.

Finally, the MMCC will require all applicants, including those who previously submitted, to hand deliver their applications on USB drives to the MMCC offices (849 International Drive, 4th Floor, Linthicum, MD 21090) between the hours of 8:30am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Detailed guidance and instructions on application submission may be found on the MMCC website at <https://mmcc.maryland.gov/>.