

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CANNABIS REGULATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024
FIGUEROA PLAZA
BUILDING AND SAFETY BOARD ROOM, 9TH FLOOR
201 N. FIGUEROA ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**

MINUTES OF THE CANNABIS REGULATION COMMISSION HEREIN ARE REPORTED IN ACTION FORMAT. THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION RELATED TO EACH ITEM IS ACCESSIBLE IN AUDIO FORMAT ONLINE AT <https://cannabis.lacity.gov> TO LISTEN TO THE AUDIO FILE: UNDER **ABOUT, CANNABIS REGULATION COMMISSION** SELECT **COMMISSION MEETINGS**, SCROLL DOWN TO LOCATE COMMISSION MEETING DATE AND SELECT MEETING AUDIO.

The meeting was called to order at 2:27 p.m. with President Mason and Commissioners Farmby, Lim, and Nash in attendance.

Also present were, Michelle Garakian, Executive Director; Jason Killeen, Assistant Executive Director; Dr. Imani Brown, Social Equity Program Director; Rocky Wiles, Compliance and Enforcement Division Chief; Emily Wada, Deputy City Attorney; Josie Trevizo, Commission Executive Assistant; and Irene Diaz, Sr. Administrative Clerk.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT AND SINGLE OR MULTIPLE AGENDA ITEM

General Public Comment and Single or Multiple Agenda Items were taken together. There were no comments from the public.

ITEM NO. 1

COMMISSION BUSINESS

- **Election of Vice President:**
Commissioner Farmby moved to continue the election of Vice President to the next Cannabis Regulation Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lim and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Farmby
Second: Lim
Ayes: Mason, Nash

Vote: 4 – 0

MOTION PASSED

- **Advanced Calendar:** President Mason announced that on July 4th, Commissioners would not be available. Commissioner Farmby stated that he will not be available on April 4, 2024 and May 2, 2024.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Farmby moved to approve the minutes of February 23, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nash.

Commissioner Nash stated he was not present for the meeting of February 23, 2023 but he listened to the audio recording from that meeting and is prepared to vote. Commissione Lim stated the same and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Farmby
Second: Nash
Ayes: Lim, Mason

Vote: 4 – 0

MOTION PASSED

- **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Lim moved to approve the minutes of August 17, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmby. Commissioner Nash stated he was not present for the meeting of February 23, 2024 but he listened to the audio recording from that meeting and is prepared to vote and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Lim
Second: Farmby
Ayes: Mason, Nash

Vote: 4 – 0

MOTION PASSED

- **Commission Announcements and Updates:** President Mason announced that she attended a Los Angeles County Bar Association event at a consumption lounge in West Hollywood on Sunday, January 14th and stated that it was interesting to see how a consumption lounge can be designed and operated
- **Future Agenda Requests:** There were no future agenda requests during this item.

ITEM NO. 2

REPORT FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Garakian, Executive Director, provided a general year-end review of Department activities with a review of events, licensing numbers, fiscal year budget update, a preview of the 2023 annual report, and goals for the 2024 calendar year.

During the presentation, Commissioner Mason requested a report back at a future meeting on the amount of outreach dedicated to the community outside of the entrepreneurial space, with respect to another round of licenses, specific to the 700 distance due to undue concentration.

Commissioner Farmby requested additional information on the new policy proposals.

ITEM NO. 3

REPORT FROM DCR ON THE SOCIAL EQUITY PROGRAM

Dr. Imani Brown, Social Equity Program Director provided a year-end summary of the Business, Licensing, Compliance (BLC) Program accomplishments and deliverables, purpose and participant requirements for the Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

While the staff was resolving technical difficulties, President Mason requested a staff report that summarizes Equity Stakeholder group feedback and that there be an option for at least one Commissioner to attend the next DCR Equity Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup meeting.

The City attorney advised President Mason to recess the meeting. The meeting was recessed at 3:24 p.m. to allow for technical issues to be resolved. The meeting resumed at 3:25 p.m.

Dr. Brown continued her presentation providing updates on the Cannabis Equity Grant for Local Jurisdiction, SEED Rental Assistance Grant funds allocated and disbursements to date. She concluded her presentation by providing an overview of the services provided through outreach and in-person events.

ITEM NO. 4

REPORT FROM DCR ON THE LICENSING PROGRAM

Jason Killeen, Assistant Executive Director, reported on current licensing data related to all pending Annual License Application record types, including the number of all active commercial cannabis Temporary Approvals/Licenses issued, pending applications, complete applications, applications transmitted for approval, and corresponding environmental reports.

ITEM NO. 5

REPORT FROM DCR ON THE COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Rocky Wiles, Compliance and Enforcement Division Chief, reported on program updates, including implementation of its progressive enforcement strategy and licensee compliance inspection program, progress on the issuance of Emblem Placards to retailers in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and an overview of the Complaint Portal enhancements and year-to-date complaint data.

Commissioner Nash requested that the Department provide a report on the timeframe to conduct investigations, the number of open and closed investigations, and how long they have been in the department's backlog.

Executive Director Garakian, stated that as the City exhausts the remainder of licenses available, the department will naturally transition into compliance monitoring and provided an update on the budget request to add two positions to the Compliance and Enforcement Division.

Commissioner Farmby requested that the Department provide a report on how resources and focus would be transitioned from annual licensing toward compliance. The City Attorney advised that the matter be agendaized at a future Commission meeting.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, President Mason stated that there are a number of reports requested by the Commission from this meeting and also requested that a report back be provided on the Emblem Placard program, including the number of businesses that currently have a placard broken down by council district.

There being no further business before the Cannabis Regulation Commission, President Mason adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m.



Thryeris Mason, Commission President
Cannabis Regulation Commission



Josie Trevizo, Commission Executive Assistant
Cannabis Regulation Commission

ADOPTED
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

FEB 15 2024

**CANNABIS REGULATION
COMMISSION**