



## Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 10:00 am  
This meeting was held in a hybrid environment

### Meeting Minutes

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair David Postman called the regular meeting of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board to order at 10:00 am on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. Member Ollie Garrett and Member Jim Vollendroff were also present.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – LITIGATION REVIEW

*At 10:00 am, Chair Postman announced that the Board would go into Executive Session for Litigation Review. He anticipated that the Executive Session would be 60 minutes.*

*At 11:00 am, Chair Postman brought the meeting back to order.*

#### 3. SOCIAL EQUITY IN CANNABIS – UPDATE

**Becky Smith, Licensing and Regulation Director; Kaitlin Bamba, Senior Policy and Education Manager, Licensing**

Becky Smith: Good morning, Chair Postman, and Board Members Vollendroff, and Garrett. Again, thank you for having me here this morning. I did want to share a couple of things about our DIA Maps. They are complete. As you recall, we made some changes in the DIA Maps. We changed the percentage in which we looked at the indicators from 20% to 30%. That was the only piece that we could change, and we were able to change. So Katlin is going to go through this morning and share some information about the DIA Maps we did. There was a request for us to be able to look at whether or not a certain address met criteria with the indicators. And so she will be sharing that information just to see where an address is: yes, they have met this indicator, or no, they didn't meet this indicator.

I will say, and I know Katlin will say it, as well, is that it is so important for folks to put in their entire address. They have to slow down when they are putting their addresses in. We have had phone calls and emails. And we send everything to our portal. And in those addresses that they have provided, a customer will call in, and they don't see themselves in the DIA Maps. But if they would slow down and put the whole address in, sometimes the answers are different. Not always, and not everyone is going to find themselves in the DIA Maps, certainly.

Chair Postman: I noticed that I was planning on maybe putting a neighborhood name in there, it could show up, but an actual street address is more likely to, frankly.

Becky Smith: Yes, correct. More likely.

Chair Postman: Yeah.

Becky Smith: And then for questions, I just wanted to go back to that we have been getting a number of questions coming directly either to myself or to my staff or to other individuals. We're not answering anyone's questions directly. We're putting everything back in the portal. We're sending folks to the portal, as well. It's important that if you have that question, so do others. And so I just encourage folks to go back and check. We're not instant, so if you ask a question in the morning, you won't see it back on the portal that afternoon. But certainly by the end of the week. We try to get questions just turning around as quickly as possible. We don't put names on those questions. We just answer a question and post it. So I encourage folks to go back there and check into the portal for Q&As.

Chair Postman: Can I ask another question about that since Brian is here, too? So the Submit Your Questions at the bottom of our FAQ, there is a place that says, Your questions answered. Submit your question here. And then I click on that. For the next two weeks, can we move up the Ask Your Question button somehow? Is that possible just to highlight that?

Brian Smith: Yes, alright.

Chair Postman: Good. I just think to avoid that delay or whatever, we'll put a big button up there because you have to click through to find it, and it would be good just to let people get there because we do need it all in one place.

Becky Smith: Yes, we do.

Chair Postman: Yes, I believe so. Okay. Thank you.

Becky Smith: And we are excited. March 1st is right around the corner, and we're excited for the application window to open, and folks will be able to submit their application to the Department of Revenue.

Chair Postman: Great.

Becky Smith: So with that, I'm going to turn this over Katlin.

Chair Postman: Great. Okay. Ms. Bamba, we'll turn it over to you. And if you're going to be sharing your screen or whatever, I think -- yep, we're there.

Katlin Bamba: Can you hear me okay and see the screen?

Chair Postman: Yeah, you bet. It looks good. Thank you.

Katlin Bamba: Great. Thanks. So good morning, Chair Postman, Members Garrett and Vollendroff. My name is Katlin Bamba. As Becky mentioned, I'm here today to provide more information about the disproportionately impacted area maps in hopes to provide more clarity. We have received questions from

the Board and the community. As Becky Smith, the Director of Licensing just shared with the Board, after thoughtful consideration of community feedback and ensuring that we follow the criteria established by the Legislature, the Agency has increased the number of census tracts that qualify as a DIA by increasing the threshold of high rate from the top 20% to the top 30%. There are four indicators that determine if a census tract is a DIA, and the LCB does not have the authority to change these indicators.

We are hoping that legislative changes are made this session for us to provide more flexibility. But as the law is currently written, we must include all four indicators to determine if an area is a DIA. Our Agency contracted with the Environmental Systems Research Institute to geocode the data and create the maps. And also with the University of Washington to identify and interpret the data. To account for justification, data is displayed by census tract for 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010. The first three indicators were sourced from the US Census Bureau, and the court data was obtained from the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts. On the screen here is an image directly from our website, the LCB's website.

In response to feedback that we had received, we wanted to highlight that we have provided maps for each decade that provides a visual of the census tracts throughout the state. This is for informational purposes only. You can see on this screen here this. shows an example of one of those maps. The orange represents census tracts that are considered a DIA, and we have added maps to our website for each decade that will show you all of the DIAs throughout the state. On the screen here is an example of the 1980s map. Going back to our website, we have a link directly on our website to access the address lookup map. This is the tool that an individual needs to use to look at a specific address in a DIA. It is really important to use this link here instead of the map viewer.

So I thought it would be helpful if I walked through an example. On the screen here, you can tell in the highlight that I have entered an address, and the results are displayed on the left-hand screen. It is important, as Becky was just sharing, that when entering an address, this is where you want to really make sure that you are typing slowly. The system will provide a suggested address that you can click on, and you don't want to enter things like King County or Tacoma. It's likely that no results will be found. So it's really important to type in a physical address.

So looking closer at the results for this specific address. On the screen here, you can see that this specific census tract on this address is not a DIA for 2010, 2000, or 1980. However, you can see that it is highlighted that this census tract is considered a DIA for 1990. So we wanted to provide some further clarity on the "why" behind those results. So I have pulled the data for each census tract by decade. I'm going to walk through what I have on the screen here. And starting at the top for 2010, the poverty and unemployment threshold was below 70%, meaning that that census tract is not considered a DIA. It would have needed to be 70% or higher for each indicator. For 2000, the poverty threshold was below 70%, meaning that that is not a DIA. For 1990, you can see that all indicators were 70% or higher, making this census tract qualify as a DIA.

For 1980, unemployment and public assistance were below the 70% threshold, meaning that this is not a DIA. With all of that, there are nearly 4800 census tracts for all of these decades that we have data associated with. It would create a challenge to display this information on our website. Census tracts are associated with codes and not specific addresses in this dataset. Additionally, census tracts change over time, and there is a large amount of data that is difficult to sort through and find the correct information. So, for example, an address may have been in one census tract and then the census tract has changed in the following decade. However, if an individual does want more information about why a specific address did not qualify, we are more than willing to share that information and provide that additional information. We just ask that those email us, and we will respond.

Sharing some important reminders along with the email address that Becky had recently talked about. Important reminders: Application window opens March 1st. It's a 30-day application window. You may only apply one time. And it's important that you apply through Businesses Licensing Services. Please check the LCB website for information. We strongly encourage potential applicants to use these resources, including the training videos. We have completed our webinar events. However, you can still access that recording on our website.

Along with the Department of Commerce Technical Assistance Program, we have videos specific to the social equity application process, including information on how to apply, an overview of the application process and specific laws and rules. These videos are free and can be accessed through our website. We are here to answer questions. Please send us the questions to this email address here. As Becky also shared, we're frequently updating our Frequently Requested Questions. And so please stay tuned to those, as well. And with that, are there any questions that we can answer?

Chair Postman: Yeah. Well, I've got one just on the email. So I thought we wanted questions through the portal. Is this for just questions about DIA this address, are you saying?

Katlin Bamba: It's the same. This is where the portal submits questions to. You can go through the portal on our website. This is the same email address.

Chair Postman: Okay. And then if somebody had a question about address or DIA or, you know, census tract, what information should they send you for that? Do you need the census tract number or just the address?

Katlin Bamba: Just the address, and then we can look into that.

Chair Postman: And say why isn't this showing up as a DIA? And you'll be able to show that breakdown that you showed us for that census tract, or that address.

Katlin Bamba: Yes.

Chair Postman: That's helpful. Okay. Other questions from the Board? Okay. That's great. Thank you. Appreciate that. And just to remind everybody, that's the email for questions. It is on the website under the FAQ but look back there. And then you have to go back and look at that site, too, for the answers that are posted. Answers to everyone's questions are posted on that site. So you may see something there that is useful, even if you hadn't asked that question. And applications open March 1st. Okay, appreciate that.

#### **4. RULEMAKING TIMELINES – ALL INDUSTRIES**

##### **Kathy Hoffman, PhD, Policy and Rules Manager**

Kathy Hoffman: Good morning, Chair Postman, Board Members Garrett, and Vollendroff. I provided a pretty comprehensive overview yesterday, so I will try to keep this a little brief since I provided a lot of information yesterday. But anyway, with respect to our Canopy Project, the project team did meet yesterday. We have some additional discussion that we would like to have moving forward. But at this time, tentatively, a CR 102 in mid-May with final rules toward the end of August. And we are preparing some messaging to stakeholders to prepare for the coming grow season. So stay tuned for that. With respect to cannabis advertising, Cassidy has worked on that project, and there are draft conceptual rules

being created now that we can share with stakeholders in our new version of Listen & Learn in the coming weeks. At this time, CR 102 is scheduled tentatively for early June, and a CR 103 also in early August.

Cassidy will also be bringing us CR 101s, so we'll inquiry on the two rule petitions that we received concerning minors on licensed cannabis premises. She hopes to bring that to you at the end of March. That would bring a CR 102 to mid-August with final rules tentatively in early November. And then with respect to cannabis sampling, that was another of the petitions that the Board accepted. Jeff will be bringing a CR 101 to you on March 1st. That would put the CR 102 mid-May and CR 103, so final rules for adoption in early August. Any questions?

Chair Postman: Just one on Canopy. When you talk about something in time for growing, what are we talking about? About when do you think we would have to put something out?

Kathy Hoffman: I would say close to the end of this month, or early part of March, so very soon.

Chair Postman: Okay. Okay. Good. Look forward to that conversation.

Kathy Hoffman: Yes. And then just briefly, we're working on two rule petitions, one received from John Kingsbury that has to do with potential revocation or discontinuation of a medical endorsement for retailers that may not be using the endorsement. And then another petition received from Micah Sherman that would provide that instead of paying cash for cannabis prior to or at the time of delivery, allow payment for cannabis within three days of delivery. So those are two very specific rule changes. And we will be bringing recommendations to you on both of those petitions on March 29th.

So moving on to the alcohol side and then just general rulemaking, Daniel will be bringing the 101 to bring forward the petition, that what you just accepted a couple of weeks ago concerning a MAST 13 Privilege Review on March 15<sup>th</sup>. So just a couple weeks, well, actually about a month from now, that 101 will come to you under that timeline and could have a 102 ready to go tentatively towards the end of June and a 103 first part of August. So we think that'll move pretty quickly. And then, finally, with respect to general rulemaking, of course, Daniel brought the 101, and you approved Cloud Storage Rule Development, so he's working on developing rules with the internal workgroup. At this time, CR 102 is tentatively scheduled for early May, with final rules, hopefully, adopted on or around July 19th. So that's my update for today. Any questions?

Chair Postman: No, I'm good. Nope. It looks like we're good. Thank you. Appreciate that, Kathy.

## **5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Laura Kaminski: Hello, Chair Postman, and other Board members. It's been quite a while since I've addressed you publicly, but I wanted to do so today just to bring your attention to the scoring rubric for handing out social equity licenses. The reason I'm coming to you today is because I do have some concerns, and I want to bring to the Board's attention a feeling of similarity when the licenses were given out after 5052 was passed. It's really, really important that we get it right, and we give licenses to those who are actually qualified. And so to that point, there is a couple of things in the rubric that I think can be clarified in terms of intention of the language and definitions.

So, for example, owner and operator, those two terms would be good to have definitions. What does it actually mean? As well as cannabis dispensary or collective garden, these are terms that we need to know what the rubric actually means. And then the last piece that I want to draw your attention to is the eighth point. There are two different ways that it can get scored. In one, it says, "Did you own OR operate a medical cannabis dispensary or collective garden?" And then it says, "Did you own AND operate..." So there is a difference between an OR and an AND, and I have a feeling that was maybe not intentional. So just making sure the language is clear, we have definitions. Everybody knows exactly what it is that we are being scored on so that we can make sure to give those licenses to the people who deserve them.

Chair Postman: Thank you. Yeah. Actually, all of those questions are on our list. They will be answered if they haven't already, and they will be available on the website, we're hoping by the end of this week, including everything that you just mentioned. So we're looking at the same ones. Thank you. Next up is Sami Saad.

Sami Saad: Can you guys hear me very well?

Chair Postman: Yes.

Sami Saad: Yeah, good morning. I'm very, I'm very frustrated from what you guys did to us. We thought this market -- and Ollie Garrett, she said she will help those pioneers. And they ask on KING 5, I'm not against you, Ms. Garrett. We should not even fight as black people. We should help each other. What you guys done to us as pioneer. You guys closed our shop. Do you guys have feeling? What I think you guys don't like Muslim. I am Muslim, and I don't think so Mr. David, you don't like me. And I still have your video when you said you're sick of me. And I don't know why you're sick of me because at that time, Peter was speaking on the phone. I went outside. You know I had a phone call. I went outside. I didn't even speak. I have much respect for you. You guys disrespected us, and Legislature disrespected us. You guys want to adopt this program, you adopted for us as pioneers.

I don't think so you guys are helping us. And I don't think so you guys like me because I'm Muslim. In this field, I'm the only Muslim. I am black. I'm not ashamed to be a Muslim, and I'm not putting this hat because I'm not Taliban or nothing. I'm American just like you guys. I had my shop because I'm helping back home and I'm helping here. I'm helping everywhere. I have people to help. I have people lost their parents to help. You guys are not acknowledging what you guys did to us. You guys are murdering us. You guys gonna make us do something stupid. That's not me. I don't know about others. This is a mafia for us. You guys need to listen. I have a community [audio cuts out] by the Legislature that I make [audio cuts out] social equity say the pioneer should get their license first.

And we are at 100 of us and we signed by the City of Seattle with the Social Equity Group. Ms. Morgan was there. Sherry McLean, she was there. Jennifer, she was there. All of them, they was there, and they said it. The pioneer, those the community. That's what they're requesting. Those are the people they live in Rainier and Renton and Tacoma and Everett. Are you guys listening to me? We are singing the same song. Even we disagree, me and Peter and all of us, but we agree with one thing. The pioneers they should get the shot first. And second thing, Ms. Ollie Garrett, she have KING 5 speech. Why I'm not there? It's only her ex-boyfriend is Jim Buchanan. That's not to be ashamed for Ms. Garrett, but he have license with Black Excellence, with Emerald Haze. Two of people who used to date you, they have license there with Emerald Haze. I said they think I'm not selling because he have a lawsuit against him.

You made a deal with Black Excellence, not with me, Sami Saad, the Muslim guy. The one they told me about by the LCB you need to destroy your application. You're not going to get not license. I need my

license. That's what I need. Are you guys including me as other black people as they should have. I didn't receive a phone call not to speak about you, Ms. Garrett. And from Paula Saldaña and Peter Manning. They told me don't talk about you; they will help me to get my license. But they want me to stay away from Christopher King and Libby, the one she's the first lady is being -- her license has been taken after she won a lotto as a black lady, because her husband is in prison. And Kevin Shelton. It's not fair. I said no, I'm not selling nobody. I am not a lobby. You guys listen to us. Those Legislature, they don't know what they doing to us, Democrat and Republican. They say, "Democrat will rob you, but they don't kill you." But you guys killing me. Mr. Jim you are being assigned by -- you are not listening to me. You need to listen to me this time. You guys ignore me last time. You guys not calling my name. You need to call my name every meeting. You need to listen to me, Mr. David. You guys not respecting us. This is the disrespect. We are being promised for this program to get our shop. We are being promised to be acknowledged. This is fail, and I made it fail. Me and Peter Manning there, and they make less, go make it work Mr. Saad.

Dustin Dickson: Sami, that's your time. Please conclude your thoughts.

Sami Saad: You get my time, but you are not giving out nothing. You are listening to us. You treat us like ISIS. You're making me sick.

Chair Postman: Okay. The next person we have signed up is Christopher King.

Christopher King: Thank you. A couple of things. You guys have continued on this path where you don't really provide any information. Okay? Right after Kevin Shelton and Libby and Sami get their 9th Circuit appeal reply refiled, you guys sentenced more continuances on the public information that we have been seeking for like a year now. All right? What happened to the information? The letter from Kevin Shelton to Ollie Garrett and the Board that came from Nate Miles, all that, still haven't got an answer. Okay? They put it for more continuances on that. I asked for the results of the Civil Rights Internal Affairs investigation, where you guys have filed civil rights violations and all kinds of stuff that happened. All right? I asked for that. You stalled on that again. Okay?

And there is something else you stalled on, too. So that's the first thing. Okay? We still can't trust you. There is no transparency. Next thing, as far as this lottery goes, the more I'm looking at it now, it's the rubric that Jim Buchanan came up with, a known criminal, known associations with Ollie Garrett, and that rubric he and I argued about it with Kevin Shelton when we were talking like a year and a half ago. And they're going to reward all their old pals and all that stuff to people who didn't stick their necks out to open legal stores. And, yes, Ian Eisenberg, they are legal stores. It was legal. All right? Because Ian Eisenberg hung up on me one day and said I was bullshit -- pardon the French -- those were his words. So that profanity was his. All right? But I'm not bullshit. I'm real shit. Anyway.

So the deal is this. The next thing you know, what's going to happen is you are going to have a lot of people doing the same thing they did with those budtenders nine years ago. People were like going around and gather up these black folks who got records and bring them together in a conglomerate and watch. The wealthy white people, regardless of religious or ethnic affiliation, they are the ones who are going to be profiting off of this. I'm waiting for it to happen. Okay, I'm telling you. That's another thing. God, what else is going on with you guys? It's just more of the same. You know, like there is no transparency. I mean, how are we supposed to respect you guys when you won't even answer simple questions, things that we have been waiting on forever? I mean, come on. It doesn't make any sense why you won't be transparent and provide us answers to things that we are entitled to, man?

And you know, Dave, you're a journalist, man. You know, I'm a journalist, man. We got to ask these questions. Don't we, brother? Yes. Difficult questions. Why is this difficult? And also what is difficult is I'm still waiting on Peter Manning, by the way. I'm still waiting on him to finish my apology, but I worked things out with his lawyer. We're still -- the lawsuit regarding the stealing of Black Excellence in Cannabis from Aaron Barfield. That's going to go forward. There are motions to file. We are going to proceed on that. But [indistinct] have squared our stuff up, and we're cool. And Peter is supposed to give me an apology, by the way, for saying I was disbarred, when in reality that is not what happened. And you said something happened in New Hampshire that didn't happen. I ended up getting Civic awards in New Hampshire. And the City attorney agreed with me on other stuff involving civil rights and speech. And the Mayor gave me a Mayoral Accommodation for first amendment work and investigative journalism.

You know, these are the facts. Okay? I deal in facts. Every day I go to work I deal in facts. Okay? Where's that tower supposed to be? Where is this going to be? I deal in facts. Concrete stuff, man. And we concretely have not got answers from you. All right? How can we respect you?

Dustin Dickson: Christopher, you have 30 seconds.

Christopher King: I'm just going to sit here and wait and use my 30 seconds, Mr. Postman, Ollie Garrett, and everybody else. Just think about that. How can we trust or respect the Board given what they have done with my information request alone? And if I had a nail file right now, I'd file my nails and wait for the answer. You know what I mean? Because we're not going to get anything. Yeah.

Dustin Dickson: Christopher, that's your time.

Chair Postman: We will move to those who have signed up in the room, and you can speak from the podium again if you can just give us your name and affiliation. Still four minutes. When you have 30 seconds left, you'll see a clock, but you may get a reminder. And the first person we have signed up is Danny Pollak.

Danny Pollack: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I'll yield my time.

Chair Postman: Okay. Thank you, Sir. Then, Peter Manning.

Peter Manning: Good afternoon, Chair Postman, Vollendroff, and Ms. Garrett. I'm Peter Manning with Black Excellence in Cannabis. I'm here today because there is still uncertainty about which direction we are moving. Our organization currently as it stands is not happy with the rubric the way it is written. We have asked questions about the owner operate. These questions are of concern because this is the same verbiage they used with 5052, which we are completely aware of. The reason we have a Social Equity Program in Washington today is because the 5052 was mismanaged. It excluded black and brown people out of it. It took them out of their neighborhood. It took their livelihood from them. If we do not get clarity, I believe on this owner operate dispensary or collective garden, if this is not made known to us, then I can only foretell what the future of the black and brown community will be.

It will be where you will have white-owned dispensary owners currently line up this licensing process with black people that they would just prop up to gain more control over the market. This wasn't our intention when we first set out to work with the LCB. We are not here to criticize the LCB, and we are not like buddy-buddy with the LCB, contrary to what people are running around and talking. What we do realize in our organization is this -- it is better to work with people than work against people. We are solution-based. We are working to make this -- to bring resolution to the problem with the black and brown community are



faced with. That is our motivation. We are not looking for favoritism. We are looking for fair opportunity. Understand that to all those who are out there pointing the finger and talking about our affiliations and association. Understand one thing, that LCB is regulated by the State of Washington to issue licenses.

If I am an organization, and I am speaking for black and brown people to obtain a license, the last thing I want to do is piss off the people who are handing them out. Think about that for a moment. Let that resonate. We are solution-based, and we are going to continue to be solution-based. We are going to look -- if we are going of the have any type of animosity, we're going to take it to court. We are not going to come in here and bash people. And to add this, as a black organization as black and brown people, how can you possibly live with yourself when you go before other people who are not of your nationality and tear down someone who looks just like you but profess out your mouth that you are for black and brown empowerment. That is hypocrisy. We don't deal with hypocrites either. Thank you very much.

Chair Postman: Thank you. And the next person, Mike Asai.

Mike Asai: Good morning, Chair, Board Members. My name is Mike Asai, owner/founder of Emerald City Collective. This has just been a frustrating process for many years. What I have over here in my hand is in 2015, this was put on the LCB website: This was no rush to apply. This was highlighted in bold lettering on the website. If you go on the website now, you can't find it. It's scrubbed. In 2020, Ms. Garrett, she asked me, "Mike, can you provide me with that document that you provided at the Listen & Learn session. Because when she came here in 2016, she wasn't told about it. She never saw it. LCB, we have been very cordial in working with you in trying to be solution-based and trying to do the right thing. We sounded the alarm on the DIA. We got pushback from the LCB about the DIA that we were completely wrong. It took five, six days later to acknowledge you guys were right. We're not here to try to be right. We're here to be transparent.

I, as a pioneer, and others have been cut out. I was in an accident months ago. I got headaches. My neck hurts. I don't even want to be down here. I don't even want to come to any more Board Meetings. But because of the things that are transpiring, I have to speak up. We can't get any answers directly from the LCB. We are being told that we need to go to the website. We need to go to the portal. Okay. I understand that. We're not asking for any special treatment. But if we ask a question directly to someone in the LCB, we should get an answer directly. But it seems to be just juking and jiving that's been going on. We have respect for everyone here, but I don't know how much respect the LCB has for the black pioneers and the ones who got cut out. My son is in prison, and he should not be in prison right now. But he's in prison because I don't have the millions of dollars that have been made to help him get out or to help his time have got reduced. Does anybody really truly care? You don't have to. But I'm telling you, that's my story. That's my pain.

And that's a lot of other brothers' and browns' pain. Black folk and brown folk that were in this industry have that pain that we were cut out. And when we speak up and our voice is loud, now all of a sudden, we're the attacker. We're the victims here. LCB is not a victim. So to sit here at these times and act as if now because we are speaking up, we want some answers. We want some clarification. And now you guys are turning into the victim? Right here. Right here. This documentation. This shows the cronyism, the corruption, the nepotism. Right here. Selling magazines or other remedies is not a dispensary, and those are the people who got licensed here in this state. You guys let them in. Emerald City Collective, Game Collective was transparent on their incorporation and what they did. And you guys very well know this. This has been wrong for many, many years. Now, with all due respect, Chair Postman, you just got here. With all due respect, Vollendroff, you just got here. With all due respect, Ms. Garrett, you got here after this corruption happened, but this is being brought to your attention. When is the corruption going to

stop? When are we going to make the things right? You guys understand about the owner operated. It's more manipulation that is going to happen. We have expressed this to you for many, many months. It needs to be straight-up owners, the pioneers, which qualified for the Social Equity Program, get license. Thank you.

Chair Postman: Last person signed up, Gregory Foster.

Gregory Foster: Good morning. Good to see you, Board members, and everybody here. Gregory Foster with Cannabis Observer, and I'm just going to speak impromptu today. I want to address a bill that was introduced on Monday, HB 1822, by Representative Melanie Morgan. This bill is pretty interesting because it would allow owners of short-term rental properties to gift a pre-roll to adult guests who come to stay at their facilities. And this is interesting for a number of reasons. And I appreciate the Agency quickly turning around a fiscal note on that bill, which was heard yesterday and is up for an Exec tomorrow, I believe. And it's an important bill as my colleague, Mr. Hirshberg pointed out in testimony yesterday, because this would be the first time that Washington state authorizes another space other than the privacy of one's home to actually consume cannabis products. All right?

Right now, if you are renting a property, and the property owner doesn't want you to consume products in that space, you're out of luck. Right? Like you don't have a space that you are legally allowed to consume cannabis in Washington state. So, while this is a small step, but it's an important step because I think we need to be moving in that direction of lessening the stigmatization doing something about offering some sort of means of social consumption or public consumption, which is authorized in many other states that have come afterward. So I encourage the Agency to help support and to move this particular bill. My colleague also had a good suggestion, which is to expand the scope to other product types, including infused beverages or edibles because not everybody likes to smoke. Not every property owner wants people to be smoking in their property. And so I think that would be a responsible and thoughtful thing to do, as well.

My understanding is that Representative Morgan actually introduced this bill seeking kind of parity with HB 1731, which is allowing short-term rental operators to offer a bottle of wine to guests, and so, this is sort of a response to that. And one difference I noted with that bill is that the property owners can purchase from wholesale. So from distributors. And I don't know how that would possibly work on the cannabis side, but I do know that our producers and processors would appreciate having another outlet other than the locked-down retail space to be able to provide products directly. I know that wouldn't be getting in the excise tax and that sort of thing. There are probably more complications on that side. And if we are seeking parity, that is an approach, and it would address some pretty long-standing concerns as far as the limitations of tiered structure that we have right now. So, yeah. All right. Thank you. And please support that Bill 1822.

Chair Postman: Thanks, Gregory. I will take a look at it. Could we just require Airbnb people to have decent coffee in their places? If we could do that, then I would support it. That is the end of our Agenda. I am going to restrain myself from responding to too much, but I do have to say one thing addressed to Mr. Asai. Nobody here has ever told me that they feel attacked or that they feel they are victims. People here are just doing the best they can. We're coming close to this March 1st launch. We're trying to get all these questions answered as I told Ms. Kaminski earlier. They will be answered. They will be available for everyone to see. Some of them, I believe, have been answered. And if we need to get more clarity, we will. And we are going to make sure that everybody internally and our third-party vendors understand what those answers are. That's our obligation, and we have the commitment to do that.

But I swear to God, nobody here has told me they feel like they are a victim or they feel -- I do think -- I will just speak for myself, sometimes I don't want to be told that I said stuff that I know I didn't say, to be told that I am anti-Muslim or to have people talk about my religion, or to have people tell me I'm either corrupt, racist, or both. Some days I try to be better than that, and some days I'm not. And some days I'm a little short when I hear those things. But I have never told you I feel like I have been victimized. I don't believe any of our staff have been victimized. I think people get stressed. People get tense on all sides of this. Even you sometimes. And so we deal with that, and then we come back, and we deal with it again the next time. But nobody here is turning the tables. Nobody here is claiming we're the victims. That's why we got our head down trying to get this thing launched by March 1st, and we want it to go well. That's why we are doing it. So we're going to get those questions answered. They are going to be on the website. We'll make sure that you know where they are going.

And the fact of that, sending people to one place, and before, we did have more meetings and emails and traffic. And as we get closer, we have been trying to narrow it down very purposely because we need to make sure that the answers are thoroughly vetted on our part. If need be, looked at by Licensing, Counsel and everybody else. Does it meet the Board's intention? And then we want everybody to see the same answer. So we are. We're trying to filter it, that's true, but it doesn't mean we're not answering questions. We're going to answer them all, and we will keep answering them all. I think that email address will be live as long as we are doing this. I would think it should be, and like we'll promote it a little more. We're not feeling victimized. We're just feeling like we got a lot of work to do, doing the best we can. So that's all we can do. And now we'll adjourn for the day.

## 6. ADJOURN

Chair Postman adjourned the meeting at 11:47 am.

Minutes approved this 15th day of January 2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Vollendroff  
Board Chair



\_\_\_\_\_  
Ollie Garrett  
Board Member

Minutes prepared by: Deborah Soper, Administrative Assistant to the Board

*Complete meeting packets are available online: [http://lcb.wa.gov/boardmeetings/board\\_meetings](http://lcb.wa.gov/boardmeetings/board_meetings)  
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