



Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 10:00 am
This meeting was held in a hybrid environment

Meeting Minutes

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, November 8, 2023. Member Jim Vollendroff and Member Ollie Garrett were also present.

2. SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT FACILITY (SEF) PILOT PROGRAM REVIEW AND DECISION Nicola Reid, Compliance and Adjudication Manager

Nicola Reid: Good morning, Chair Postman, Board Members Garrett and Vollendroff. Today we are here with a team effort to do a presentation on sports entertainment facilities. Moreover, the pilot programs and how those operate and the collaboration that occurs between the licensees and our agency. Before we get started though, we would like to introduce ourselves. So my name is Nicola Reid, Compliance and Adjudications Manager in Licensing.

Ed Goines: Good morning. I am Ed Goines, Chief Legal Officer for Lumen Field and First & Goal.

Russell Finizie: Good morning. Russell Finizie, Director of Operations for Levy Restaurants in partnership with First & Goal and Lumen Field.

Brian Carriveau: Good morning, Brian Carriveau, Vice President of Food and Beverage for Climate Pledge Arena.

Jennifer Dzubay: Jennifer Dzubay, Captain in Enforcement here at the Liquor and Cannabis Board out of Seattle.

Joe Rademacher: Good morning. Joe Rademacher, Compliance Consultant with the Licensing Division.

Brooke Davies: Hi, I'm Brooke Davies. I work as a consultant with the Kraken in the Climate Pledge Arena.

Dave Malone: I'm Dave Malone, an attorney with Miller, Malone, and Tellefson, representing Levy and First & Goal.

Nicola Reid: So Enforcement and Licensing staff have worked directly with representatives from Levy at Lumen Field and Climate Pledge Arena. We have worked collaboratively throughout their pilot program, and so we worked with these two arenas to do a presentation together because both are still actively within a pilot program, and we would be coming forward for consideration of the pilot program anyways. So next slide, Dustin. Thank you.

Okay. So the history of pilot programs and why they are allowed. Unlike most license types, the sports entertainment facility rule does have a clause where if a level of service is not included in the matrix and rule, that you can petition the Board for consideration for an increased level of alcohol service. And so per WAC 314-02-058, if alcohol service is requested out of the parameters below, requests can be submitted to the Board for consideration and justification of why the increased alcohol service level is being asked for. And if you click on that grid, I just want to show you quickly what it does look like in Rule.

Nicola Reid: No problem. So if you scroll, Dustin, that is the matrix. Basically, on the left-hand side, it goes through the different types of events that could happen at a sports entertainment facility, whether it be professional sporting, amateur, entertainment, private events, things of that nature. And then throughout the chart, it has an X in the level of service that can occur at each type of event. So, for example, hawking, which is where someone will walk around selling beer throughout the stands. That is only allowed at professional sporting events. So I just wanted you to see and get an idea of what the rule looked like, and Licensing knows where they fall within the parameters of what's in the rule.

So to date we have had four pilot programs. The first was in 2019 with T-Mobile Park. They were in the pilot program for a couple of years, and they are now in permanent status. We still have three active pilot programs, Levy at Lumen Field, Climate Pledge Arena, and the University of Washington. Some of the levels of service primarily asked for would be premade canned cocktails of 8% or less ABV, and batched cocktails, I think, it is Levy at Lumen Field has wine hawking, so there are some different levels of service that can come before the Board for consideration. If a request comes in, Licensing will get feedback from Prevention, Enforcement, and the licensee. We also will seek approval from the local jurisdiction and police department, just ensuring that the increased level of service does not cause any concern for public safety.

On August 3, 2022, the Board signed off on a paper delegating the consideration and approval of canned cocktails for canned cocktail requests to be able to go through Licensing and the Director. So if approved, there's a collaboration of open line of communication. We will meet frequently to go through the pilot program request. We then will meet after consideration and, if approved halfway through the program. So usually around the six-month mark, staff will be present from Enforcement, Licensing, sometimes Prevention and then, of course, stakeholders for the licensee, and we just talk about how the program is going and if there are any changes or areas that we need to improve. We then at the one-year mark will meet again, and that is

when we will do the consideration paper to come before you today. So I am going to hand it over to Jennifer.

Jennifer Dzubay: Thank you. So can we go back to that slide? So when we are out there, Enforcement, we go out there, we visit these locations and we're looking for, for example, the 8% cocktails or less, we're looking for overservice. Was there a change from previous years and this year? All three of those locations appear to be doing very well, so that wasn't an issue for us. Assisted check out, I'm going to comment on Climate Pledge. I know that we have witnessed the process. I know Nicola has gone there, and she'll report back, just on her own personal time she reports back, "Hey, I saw that." It's kind of cool, so we do take input from all of that. The University of Washington, they are on the third pilot, and so the reason is the first year might have been a tough year for them, but every year they have been getting better.

So at all of these locations we have done a tremendous amount of ID checks. I think at like one location, maybe 90 ID checks, and what we're finding are a lot of fake IDs. Not necessarily -- so we cannot -- it's not about holding them accountable, but there are educational opportunities. But that is a really tough one for the clerks or bartenders to find. And so in the beginning, it was just so whether we were going to go check. What are we going to do with these locations? And so we met with Licensing on what is it we're going to report on. So we got together and devised a plan on when we're going through the pilot program. Since it's a pilot, we want to address, and we want to have more visits to make sure that we don't have problems later or complications. And so we came up -- I don't need to read them to you, but they don't just do soccer games, football games, baseball games. They do other things, so we make sure that we're committed to visiting them at their locations during those times, but we also go to concerts and other events. So the clientele may change. So we just want to make sure that overall it's been a good practice.

Brian Cariveau: Thank you. Once again, Brian with Climate Pledge Arena. So Climate Pledge Arena reopened October of 2021, but our relationship with the Board went back to early 2020. We were trying to just get our overall plan of scope for all potential services at the Arena, and we worked with the Board to figure out every step we have and where it falls in line with it now and what we want with this pilot program. So that was with our batch cocktails and canned cocktails. They also assisted us at self-checkout. We worked together with them over the course of a year plus, first in-person meetings then moving to virtual with COVID times and all that, lots of back and forth and just worked with what worked best for everyone. We even brought in Toshiba, which is the manufacturer for our self-checkout, to help walk the Board through to see how the system would work with ID verification steps. This kind of helped put together a plan for us moving forward to allow us to do these types of service, which has been great. We're over 3,000,000 fans through the Arena now and we have had very few issues.

We have open line communication with the Board to come in, and they come in quite often for checks on the space, full access to all of the security cameras if they want to look into any of that, and it has been a great communication back and forth. We have kind of -- even now since we have been through this program -- been still working together just with any issues or

questions, we had between myself with the Arena and our concessionaire. Even with the Kraken hockey team there are lots of questions, and just a few weeks ago we had to go to some of the Board just to discuss what it is that can and cannot happen, just so we're all on the same page, which has been kind of nice back and forth and helping everyone out there.

Russell Finizie: Russell Finizie with Levy Restaurants at Lumen Field. One thing I would like to talk about, as the pilot program has gone over time, we have developed a really wonderful relationship with the captain and some of the lieutenants that come in. It's great informative visits. We welcome them openly, not just to some of our large events but also to some of our smaller events in the event center next door, and whatever it is. You know, we have been really, really fortunate to have a great strong back and forth as we have entered into our Ready-to-Drink Cocktail program and as we have rolled out our batch cocktail spirits. You know, the captain, especially has been instrumental in educating us and helping us make the right decisions, and so we are putting forth a wonderful plan, so that has been a great plus for us as this program has kind of evolved.

Ed Goines: Chair Postman, Members Vollendroff, and Garrett, Ed Goines again from First & Goal at Lumen Field. I'm actually entering my 10th season with the team, and I got to say in the 10 years since I have been here, I have seen stark improvement in relations between our venue and the staff. I remember -- just a story that when I first got here, I would get calls from our operations team saying "LCB Enforcement staff is on site. What do we do? What do we do?" And now it's more, "Hey, they are on site", and we have conversations. We talk, we learn, so it's really -- we're pleased with the relationship. We're pleased with the engagement. I think the pilot programs have gone well. I feel as though with these sort of large-capacity SCFs with our -- from our onsite security local, state, federal, all of our technology, our high-definition cameras, the trainings -- the thousands of people who are trained, that we can make quick adjustments when there are issues that are brought to our attention.

I will say that I think the pilot program framework is so good that we could start to think about increasing levels of service, perhaps using the pilot program. The NFL has "The Voice Of The Fan Survey" that sends out to a percentage of game-goers every game -- after every game, and food and beverage is almost always up top with, you know, whatever. There are a lot of things about food and beverage that people complain about, but one of the most consistent ones is this notion of not being able to have a mixed drink, sort of, in the general bowl. The pilots have relieved some of that pressure because we got a few pre-batched, but sort of just a cocktail, whereas they sit next to their friend who is a beer or wine drinker then will sit in the bowl enjoying the beer or wine, but the cocktail person has to stand in some sort of restricted beer garden area missing the game. I have heard comments about, "I bought tickets to the game to watch the game live, not to watch it on TV because I drink my cocktail." So I would love to be able to -- given our capacity and given our technology is to look at doing a pilot around allowing spirits in the bowl with safety measures that we think are reasonable.

And I would love to see that as a pilot as well given how well things have gone. And then it would be great to move on to other sort of technology-based improvements as well. So far, I

guess the bottom line is we are very, very, very pleased. We would love to use this framework going forward.

Nicola Reid: Okay, so moving forward. It was important for us today to come together and present. It's really been a partnership throughout the pilot programs. It's been great. I know as an agency, we want stakeholder engagement and the communication to be open and the lines of communication, and it really has turned more into just Enforcement showing up and staff going up to Enforcement and not trying to figure out the other way around. All of our check-ins really keep open dialogue. Communication ideas can be given back and forth. The licensees have always been so receptive to any feedback from Enforcement or Licensing or different things that we think could be done to improve public safety, even in the little things. You know? And so for moving forward, we want to continue this collaboration with the sports entertainment facilities. We do understand they are a unique business model due to the capacity of people that can attend and the events they hold and just how big they are within the city or local jurisdiction they are in.

Sports entertainment facilities have a desire to continue the partnership moving forward. Today, this has been a positive experience for all of us, and we look forward to continuing and doing more of these. Together, we're exploring also the concept of scheduling quarterly meetings with Enforcement, Prevention, Licensing, and representatives from the sports and entertainment facilities. We thought this was occurring already, and it doesn't seem like it is. We might move forward and get that going ourselves, and I know that in discussions everyone has been really interested in doing that. Another collaboration, we had an operating plan, which is required by the rule, and it was pretty outdated and been around for a long time. So we worked on a new template, and now we're engaging representatives and getting their feedback, and then we're going to meet and just -- it just shows. Like, having the conversation and us working together, it just brings more success for everyone. And they are the ones completing the plan, so their feedback would be instrumental in ensuring that is accurate moving forward.

And so we wanted to thank you for allowing us to present today. And before I pass it over to Joe Rademacher, I wanted to know if you have any questions I could answer for you, and that we would answer as a team, all of us.

Chair Postman: Two quick questions. Well, can you remind us of what was the feedback you got from the law enforcement in both of these cases and others?

Nicola Reid: Yes. And so Joe will come up after the -- if you have any questions, and he'll present the decision papers and go over the feedback we got for each location.

Chair Postman: That is my other question.

Chair Postman: Jim's got a question. Member Vollendroff.

Member Vollendroff: First of all, I want to thank you for the presentation and Nicola for you and your staff and the collaboration that you've developed with the industry. You know, I go to a lot of sporting events. And I think that the reality is that alcohol is part of the game day experience for a lot of fans, and the vast majority of people who consume alcohol don't have a problem with alcohol. And what I have seen is the more we have partnered and the more that we have been creative the less problems I have seen at these types of events, and so I think it's been a great collaboration, and I want to thank all of our partners and organizations that have been working with us. One thing that I have mentioned, and I would like to just go on record as saying is that I also would be very interested in us partnering with the industry, with the University of Washington, perhaps, or Washington State University and our own research team and develop best practice approaches that we can share nationally with other organizations.

So how do you in this space provide alcohol in a safe manner and in a way in which you are minimizing problems and develop these best practice approaches to share? I would be very interested in that. And the idea of quarterly meetings is very interesting to me, and I think it would demonstrate further collaboration and ways for us to share information across organizations that are large venues like this. The area of fake IDs is what I am super interested in. I would love to think about -- well, given the reality of the number of fake IDs out there, is there an innovative way in which we can approach minimizing that, given the large number that we're seeing? I don't know if there is or isn't, but fake IDs, I think, are a problem in general, and trying to figure out a creative way to address them would be something I would be interested in having further conversation. Um, and I guess that is it. I think those are my final comments. So thank you. I really appreciate the presentation quite a bit.

Nicola Reid: And thank you, Member Vollendroff. I did want to say the quarterly meeting. So initially you had brought that idea up. We thought was a great idea, and we looked out into the sports entertainment facility licensees, and we thought there was one occurring, but we haven't gotten feedback on it. So then we thought we should just get one going ourselves and find licensees and stakeholders that would like to participate, ensure we have Prevention, Enforcement, and Licensing, maybe yourself if you would like at the table, and that would be to talk about best practices, trends, what we're seeing out there and just things we can do that we can work with together and then present out to the community and the Board and other stakeholders for sure.

Jim Vollendroff: That would be great. I have one -- a couple of follow up things. One is when I have toured some of the facilities, I have heard really great things. First of all, overall, I have heard really great things. I have heard some challenges with access by Enforcement that it's easier in some, not necessarily that it's bad in others, but that it's easier when they show up that we have got the relationship where it's quicker for them to access the facilities. So I just wanted to bring that up. I don't know whether that is an issue or not. The other thing that I wanted to briefly talk about is I was interested in the biometrics and conversations around biometrics and what the future of all of that holds, and I was also curious if there are any trends. Like when I went to the facilities, I always looked at other like-facilities across the country to look at their alcohol policies and then compared the two. I'm really interested what the facilities are seeing in

terms of national trends, things that are happening elsewhere that perhaps they would like to see happen in Washington state. So those are my final comments.

Nicola Reid: Thank you, Member Vollendroff. One of the things we are going to do is reach out to NCSLA Liquor Conference, and we are going to ask them of the sports arenas, do any of them allow for biometrics, and, if so, what their rules are so we can start to get an idea. But also that is a great resource to look into other questions and to see what other trends are in the other states for sure.

Nicola Reid: Before I pass over to Joe, I want to give a special thank you to Member Vollendroff for planting this idea in our minds. We have really enjoyed working together. And then also to Licensing Director Smith and Enforcement Director Watts for being so supportive and helping us in these efforts. So thank you. I'm going to pass over to Joe Rademacher now.

Joe Rademacher: Thank you. Good morning, Chair Postman, Board Members Vollendroff, and Garrett. I'm Joe Rademacher, Licensing Compliance Specialist with the Licensing Division. As a closing to our SEF pilot program presentation, I'm here to request consideration from the Board regarding the current pilot programs for Climate Pledge Arena and Levy at Lumen Field. First is the pilot program for Climate Pledge Arena. This facility has been in a pilot program since September 2021. This pilot allows exceptions to their authorized levels of service to include pre-made batched spirits, cocktails, and low-proof pre-made batch canned cocktails, both 8% ABV or less, and assisted checkout for non-alcoholic products. Over the course of the past year we have worked closely with representatives of Climate Pledge, our Enforcement team, and our public health and safety liaison to evaluate their performance with these additions. We have also sought input from the City of Seattle Police Department and the City of Seattle.

In the past calendar year Enforcement has made 22 premise checks to Climate Pledge Arena and have found staff to be responsive to any feedback and performing with public safety in mind. The arena has state-of-the-art security features, along with zero violations since initial approval. They have shown that the licensee takes alcohol control seriously and public safety seriously as well. Climate Pledge and their representatives have also been very responsive to Licensing staff as we have conducted this re-evaluation, providing requested information quickly, and showing a willingness to act. Both the Seattle Police and the City of Seattle have voiced their support of Climate Pledge Arena's current operations as they stand.

After discussions regarding Climate Pledge Arena with Enforcement, our public health liaison, and the licensee regarding our findings, we feel that they have done very well to operate successfully with public safety in mind, and we would like to recommend the Board consider making these exceptions to levels of service an approved part of their operating plan and end the pilot program. The licensee and our agency have an understanding that should there be any negative impacts in the future due to these exceptions, we have the authority to remove these exceptions and require them to return to a standard level of service. Chair Postman, Board members, if you have any questions regarding this pilot program and our recommendation, we would be happy to answer them.

Chair Postman: Tell me, Joe, just again to refresh everyone's memory, as I recall when you came forward with the last update, the feedback was you had no negative feedback at either facility.

Joe Radermacher: Neither facility, correct. City of Seattle as well as the Police Department and our Enforcement team have all had positive feedback throughout.

Joe Radermacher: Second is the pilot program for Lumen Field. This facility has been licensed under Levy Premium Food Services since September of 2020, and we initiated a pilot program with them late in 2021. This pilot allows exceptions to their authorized levels of service to include pre-made batched spirit cocktails, low-proof pre-made canned spirit cocktails, and the addition of wine to hawking. Over the course of the past year, we have worked closely with representatives of Levy, our Enforcement team, and our public health and safety liaisons to evaluate Levy's performance with these additions. We have also sought input from the City of Seattle and the Seattle Police Department as well. In the past calendar year, Enforcement has made four premises checks at Lumen Field and have found the staff to be responsive to their findings and performing with public safety in mind.

Across the eight licensed premises that Levy operates to include Lumen Field, they have zero violations on record and take alcohol control and public safety very seriously. Levy and their representatives have also been very responsive to Licensing staff as we have conducted this re-evaluation, providing the requested information quickly, and showing a willingness to act on our findings when necessary. Both the Seattle Police and City of Seattle have voiced their support of Levy's current operations. The Board decision paper and attachments on Levy's pilot provided to you speak to the success and support from those who have participated in the review. After discussions with Enforcement, our public health liaison, and the licensee regarding these findings, we feel that they have done very well to operate successfully and with public safety in mind, and we would like to recommend making these exceptions up to levels of service an approved part of their operating plan and into the pilot program.

The licensee and our agency have an understanding again that should there be any negative impacts due to these changes, we have the authority to remove these exceptions and require them to return to normal levels of service. Thank you for your time and consideration. This concludes our presentation today.

Chair Postman: We'll do this in two separate votes. I will just say I think the pilot programs have worked really well. The Board is a fan of them. In fact, we have tried to do it on something we were told we couldn't do a pilot program on. And so it's nice to be able to road test things and adjust things and be able to extend them as we have with the University of Washington to try to make the improvements that we all need, so I appreciate all of you working together so well. It's a lot of work, I know, for both sides, but it is where the Board gets its confidence that going forward this is the way to do it, so we look forward to continuing that relationship in that way.

With that then, we will start with a motion on Climate Pledge Arena to make the exceptions stated to their level of service and then the pilot program. Is there a motion?

Member Garrett made a motion to approve these exceptions to levels of service as a part of their operating plan and ending the pilot program at Climate Pledge Arena. Member Vollendroff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Postman: Great, then that is approved. Thank you, both. And now we will do Levy at Lumen Field, which again is a motion to make the exceptions outlined to the level of service to their operating plan and to end the pilot program. Motion?

Member Vollendroff made a motion to approve these exceptions to levels of service as a part of their operating plan and ending the pilot program for Levy at Lumen Field. Member Garrett seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. RULEMAKING TIMELINES – ALL INDUSTRIES

Cassidy West, Policy and Rules Manager

Cassidy West: Good morning. Thank you, Chair Postman, Board Members Garrett and Vollendroff, members of the public, and LCB staff. I will go ahead and start with an alcohol rules update today. So Daniel will be presenting the petition for the 102 MAST 13 and Alcohol Delivery, so that is the implementation of 5448, the Trade Areas rule project 102 and the petition related to Beer To-Go endorsements on December 6th. So busy day for him. Daniel presented a 101 for a medical cannabis endorsement with regards to a petition that the Board had previously approved, and he tentatively plans to request the Board's approval for the 102 in January. I will be holding stakeholder engagement to review and gather feedback on draft proposed rules in early December for both the THC bill and the cannabis sampling rules. I hope to file the 102 by the end of the year, but this really depends on how the stakeholder engagement goes. So we have a petition for rulemaking that we received on October 30th regarding extending the certificate of analysis expiration dates from 12 months to 18 months, and so we will be presenting a response to the Board on December 20th. Although, 60 days from October 30th is December 29th, we won't be having a Board meeting then, and so 12/20 is the date that we will be presenting that.

So before I begin with the Social Equity Rule Project, I also want to provide some corrected dates for what I mentioned yesterday. So if the Board approves the 101 today for filing, the notice will be published in the Register on December 6th. The deadline for the informal public comment period for the rule project will be on February 4th, and so that gives people 60 days. Then the 102 is still tentatively planned to be filed on April 10th, with the public hearing to be held on May 22nd, and the 103 planned to be tentatively filed on June 6th, with an effective date of the rules on July 21st.

4. CANNABIS RELATED RULEMAKING

Cassidy West, Policy and Rules Manager

ACTION ITEM 4A – Board Approval of CR 101 for Implementation of E2SSB 5080 – Social Equity in Cannabis

Cassidy West: So in recognizing that cannabis prohibition laws were disproportionately enforced for decades and that cumulative harms from this enforcement remain today, in 2020, the LCB developed agency request legislation that created the Social Equity Program to reduce barriers to entry and establish a cannabis industry that is equitable and accessible to those most adversely impacted by the enforcement of cannabis prohibition laws (HANDOUT 4A). The legislation authorized the LCB to issue a limited number of cannabis retail licenses to social equity applicants, created the Technical Assistant Grant program to be administered by the Department of Commerce and established the Social Equity Taskforce, among other things. Some of the criteria for being a social equity applicant included residence in a disproportionately impacted area and conviction of a drug-related offense.

In 2021, the statute was amended in several ways, including but not limited to, expanding the purpose of the taskforce to make recommendations to the Board regarding the issuance and reissuance of new and existing retail processor and producer licenses for social equity applicants and for revising the social equity license applicant eligibility. In 2023, the LCB once again developed agency request legislation while allowing the taskforce recommendations that were issued in January of 2022 to expand and improve the social equity program through various provisions, including but not limited to allowing 52 new -- or up to 52 new retail licenses to be issued over time, up to 100 processor licenses to be available immediately, and beginning January 1, 2025, up to 10 producer licenses to be issued in conjunction with the processor licenses, to social equity applicants. It also revised their criteria to be considered a social equity applicant and provided social equity licensees more flexibility to locate a store while also maintaining local control over zoning and outlet density.

Rules are needed to implement the provisions of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5080, including but not limited to, updating the definition, such as disproportionately impacted area, social equity plans, social equity applicant, and other relevant definitions within the scope of the Social Equity in Cannabis Program creating a framework and process for local jurisdiction input on outlet density, expanding the social equity license issuance and reissuance, providing license mobility and county threshold establishment and other revisions as necessary to align the current rules with the scope of the legislation. Based on this, I am requesting the Board's approval to file the CR 101 to initiate rulemaking on 5080.

Member Garrett made a motion to accept the CR 101 for Implementation of E2SSB 5080 – Social rule petition. Member Vollendroff seconded. The motion was approved.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Postman invited citizens to address the Board regarding any issues related to LCB business. The Board heard from the following people:

Sami Saad: I just want to say thank you for everyone and to clarify something. If we always work -- try to make things work, and sometime we agree, and sometime we disagree, which is nothing personal. Much respect to the Board and the social equity. I have sat with Mr. James a long time ago, and I didn't trust -- the work I'm not going to lie, and he showed me a point, this, this, this if we agree or disagree. But at the end of the day it came exactly what he said, so much respect. I just wish, you know, more people to be and those people that didn't get the license yet to be there, but it did build a trust, and this is what the community said, "Thank you. We can see some progress, but we would love to see work in commerce to do something and those pioneer maybe, you know, sooner to get, and they are not a lot. They can be success as well, and we can reach out to them." But I just wanted to say if somebody, we would never get a license because of being -- not speaking to the Board at the time because I didn't trust the Board, it would be me. I will never get a license.

But I want to say, hey, this was no favorite, no nothing, because I was in the last meeting, and a lot of people concerned. And I had mistaken, and I apologize for everyone, I was not being, you know, but I will -- you know sometime you go for what you see, or sometimes you go for what the people said, but sometime you have to sit down and look. I had received a call back in the day, and somebody, "Hey, don't be negative. Sometimes you have to wait and see at the end." And apologize, Ollie Garrett. And this is the truth because I have to -- you know, sometime you have to say stuff. Not because, "Hey, Sami," because you're being gaining something. No. The truth, the truth. You have to look at, and you have to be fair. So I was disagreeing with the Board, but I have seen a lot of stuff with some progress. Ms. Ollie Garrett, I had find out I said, "Hey." She help somebody she know who have license. No, those people they got the license before you even exist in the Board. That is the truth. And I found out that, so I have to say that. Truly.

So sometime you have to be a man and to say things, but I am positive because I love to shop, and I get my license. I'm not going to lie. Yeah. Because I'm deserve it. I was the first one, and I want to show the public, - hey, it was some progress there. And sometimes you have to be positive and to show, hey, this body is working, and let's go. We can work more, and they have more people in my going to be soon, you know, to gain what they lost, and it's all about equity, but we would love to see the work in commerce, you know, to progress something faster so those people they can get their shop open because this is good for legislature and is good for as well as it benefit and generate more income for the state, and it's good, you know, even for helping the community. We building is going on in my community, and we have the drawing. And the time I get accepted, I have seen the email the same time they send me the blueprint for the school, and we have a big community that has been licensed and recognized by the Secretary of the State, and it is online. Sudanese American Association.

I wanted to say thank you, and I will look forward to seeing Kevin Shelton to get their license where they been existing, they been in the community, but the community of Rainier and Tukwila, and Tacoma, our community, they were saying, "Thank you. We can see progress, but we look forward to see work in commerce to give those funding sooner to those people." I can be wealthy but other not, but it's going to be good for social equity. That is what I think. But thank you, all. Yep. And much respect, Mr. James. We disagree in the past, but no disrespect. It's all about, you know, those kinds of things, but thank you, again.

David Busby: Hey, good morning. Thanks. I wanted to talk very briefly on something that I have never touched on here, I don't think. But it's about, sort of, what the social equity process and that organization, Ponder. You know, there were some questions about some of the transparency there in some of the delays with some of the paperwork or notifications that was causing some difficulty for some of the applicants in the social equity process. And this is another case where pre-existing opensource tools were already available to the LCB that would have allowed the LCB to manage this process internally leveraging those tools in a way that is significantly more visible to the general public and has a lot more transparency available to those licensees, especially regarding scoring, especially regarding which documents needed to be submitted at what particular time and what was missing, and that could avoid -- you know, it's just another spot where there are these tools available that is seems like the LCB tries to not use and then runs into sort of problems that were completely foreseeable. That is the end of my statement. Thank you.

6. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.

Minutes approved this 13th day of August 2025



Jim Vollendroff
Board Chair



Ollie Garrett
Board Member



Peter Holmes
Board Member

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

LCB Mission - Promote public safety, public health, and trust through fair administration, education, and enforcement of liquor, cannabis, tobacco, and vapor laws.
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