

Cannabis Regulatory Commission

Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 1, 2019, 6:30 pm
Council Chambers, City Hall, One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

MINUTES

Members:

Lanese Martin	District 1	Frank Tucker	District 7
Chang Yi	District 2	Jeff Hutcher	At Large
Zachary Knox	District 3	Stephanie Floyd-Johnson	Mayor
Vacant	District 4	Vacant	City Auditor
Claudia Mercado	District 5	Greg Minor	City Administrator
Joshua Chase	District 6		

Available on-line at: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/cannabis-regulatory-commission>

MEETING AGENDA

A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Present: Martin, Yi, Shim, Mercado, Chase, Tucker, Hutcher, Floyd-Johnson, Minor

Absent: Knox

B. Open Forum / Public Comment

Liam Anderson shared a survey regarding cannabis advertising.

C. Review of the Pending List and Additions to Next Month's Agenda

- *Information on Private Use of Cannabis (since May 2019)*

Member Minor mentioned that OPD's annual report should be available soon. Member Mercado asked if OPD can also report regarding crimes committed against cannabis companies in Oakland and unpermitted cannabis operations in the City of Oakland.

Member Martin asked if the CRC could agendize the SB 1294 Local Equity Grant Program Application at this meeting. Member Tucker pointed out that because the item is not already on the agenda, the CRC can discuss this item but not take any actions. Member Martin also suggested agendizing an additional assessment of the equity program.

Members discussed the issue of cannabis tax rates and how best to get the City Council to pay attention to the CRC's recommendations. Member Floyd-Johnson suggested agendizing a possible CRC forum or event.

Persons may speak on any item appearing on the agenda; however, a Speaker Card must be filled out and given to a representative of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Multiple agenda items cannot be listed on one speaker card. If a speaker signs up to speak on multiple items listed on the agenda, the Chairperson may rule that the speaker be given an appropriate allocation of time to address all issues at one time (cumulative) before the items are called. All speakers will be allotted 3 minutes or less – unless the Chairperson allots additional time.

♿ This meeting is wheelchair accessible. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the meetings of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission, please contact the Office of the City Clerk (510) 238-3612. Notification two full business days prior to the meeting will enable the City of Oakland to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. In compliance with Oakland's policy for people with chemical sensitivities, please refrain from wearing strongly scented products to events.

Questions or concerns regarding this agenda, or to review any agenda-related materials, please contact the Cannabis Regulatory Commission at (510) 238-6370.

During Public Comment, speakers spoke about how the City of Oakland's cannabis tax rate is too high.

- D. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the Cannabis Regulatory Commission meetings of May and June 2019.

Member Floyd-Johnson moved to approve the minutes as drafted. Member Shim seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

- E. Reports for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Implementation of Temporary Cannabis Events

Member Minor provided an update about the special event permit for temporary cannabis events moving from OPD to the City Administrator's Office Special Activity Permits Division and that applications should be available in a few weeks.

2. Transfer of Cannabis Permits

Member Minor offered background on the City of Oakland's codes regarding transferring of permits and how they currently apply to cannabis permits, including equity vs non-equity businesses.

Members then engaged in discussion of numerous related issues, including how applicants should be able to pass on permits to next of kin, how transfers are handled in similar contexts like alcohol licenses, how transfers align and do not align with the intent of the equity program, whether value is tied to brands vs. businesses, how limits on the number of permits increase their value as compared to other permit types, and avoiding predatory situations.

Member Tucker then moved for staff to research how transfers are handled in similar contexts and return with that information. Chair Yi seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

3. Oakland Made/Owned Appellation

Members discussed whether the City of Oakland should promulgate rules regarding businesses claiming to be Oakland or Equity owned or made. Chair Yi suggested staff look at other how jurisdictions regulate appellations in other contexts and moved to continue this and the equity made/owned appellation item.

4. Equity Made/Owned Appellation

5. Quarterly vs. Yearly Reporting to City Council

Member Martin emphasized the need to report more frequently to City Council given the rapid pace of the cannabis industry. Other Members shared their perspectives. Member Tucker moved to request additional staff and to provide a quarterly report with action items before the City Council. Member Shim seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

6. Workforce Development Programs

Chair Yi shared that CM Bas is very interested in workforce development opportunities in the cannabis industry. Member Minor provided background on lack of existing workforce programs for cannabis and next steps to gather information on opportunities available via survey of cannabis businesses. Member Martin

emphasized that any workforce development program should be thoughtful about workers and not just employers.

Chair Yi moved for staff to ask for funding for workforce development as part of the SB 1294 state Local Equity Grant Program. Member Floyd-Johnson seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

7. SB 1294 Local Equity Grant Program

Member Minor provided an update regarding the new state application, its new funding formula, and plan to apply for funding in August. Member Martin highlighted issue for equity applicants affording inventory and suggested equity applicants work collectively. Member Mercado echoed the inventory concern and highlighted other costs facing businesses including insurance.

F. Announcements

1. Update on Cannabis Permitting Process

Member Minor provided an overview of the latest permitting statistics.

G. Adjournment