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COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CANNABIS COMMISSION

A meeting of the CNMI Cannabis Commission will be held on **Thursday, October 29, 2020, at 10:30 A.M.** at the Office of the Commonwealth Casino Commission Conference Room located at the Springs Plaza on Middle Rd., Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
- III. Consideration and adoption of Agenda
- IV. Consideration and adoption of Minutes of prior meetings
- V. Public Comment

- VI. Old Business
 1. Discussion and Voting of Adoption into Regulation: (Part 1400 Laboratory License) Cannabis Laboratories as it relates to cannabis licensees and research certificate holders: Laboratory Licensing Requirements, Laboratory Tracking and Reporting and Laboratory Licensee Prohibited Conduct
 2. Discussion and Voting of Adoption into Regulation: Cannabis Events
 3. Discussion on Cannabis Tracking Systems

- VII. New Business
 1. Discussion on recent zoning meetings
 2. Managing Director's Report

- VIII. Adjournment

Copies of this notice and agenda have been posted at the Administration Building Entrance Hall, the House of Representatives Entrance Hall, and the Senate Entrance Hall.

Written comments on the agenda may be submitted to the CNMI Cannabis Commission, through the Office of the Governor or emailed to info@cnmicannabis.org on or before the meeting date. Oral testimony may be presented during the meeting on Thursday, October 29, 2020.

**CNMI Cannabis Commission
Regular Session Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2020**

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman Nadine Deleon Guerrero called the CNMI Cannabis Commission's meeting to order at 10:35 a.m., which was held at the Office of the Commonwealth Casino Commission Conference Room located at the Springs Plaza on Middle Rd., Gualo Rai, Saipan.

II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

Chairwoman called roll of the commissioners:

Vice Chairman Matthew Deleon Guerrero, representing Saipan, was present;

Secretary Journie Hofschneider, representing Tinian, was present;

Member Thomas Songsong, representing Rota, was present (teleconference);

Treasurer Valentino Taisacan, representing Northern Islands, excused absence.

Also in attendance were Commission Managing Director Monique Sablan, Special Advisor Joseph Deleon Guerrero, and AAG Keisha Blaise.

III. Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

Chairwoman motioned for the adoption of the agenda, seconded by Vice Chairman.

IV. Consideration and Adoption of Minutes of prior meetings

Secretary motioned to adopt June 23, 2020 minutes, seconded by Chairwoman.

V. Public Comment

Chairwoman opened the floor for public comment; Chairwoman later announced that no members of the public were present for public comment.

VI. Old Business

- 1. Discussion and Voting of Adoption into Regulation: (Part 1400 Laboratory License) Cannabis Laboratories as it relates to cannabis licensees and research certificate holders: Laboratory Licensing Requirements, Tracking and Reporting, Laboratory Licensee Prohibited Conduct**
- 2. Discussion and Voting of Adoption into Regulation: Cannabis Events**

Chairwoman motioned to table the above agenda items 1 and 2 for next meeting, seconded by Secretary; Vice chairman/Managing Director requested to at least discuss the proposed fees for cannabis events, which Chairwoman agreed.

After a brainstorming session on the proposed schedule of fees for cannabis events, Chairwoman motioned to table items 1 and 2 of agenda for voting of regulations in the next scheduled meeting; all commissioners voted in favor, motion carried.

3. Cannabis Tracking Systems

Managing Director described her research on Cannabis Tracking System (CTS) software companies in use by majority of state-side cannabis businesses, and expressed that she is working on pinpointing:

- A user friendly system that is affordable for both the Commission and its licensees;
- A CTS company that is able to work with the Commission's start-up agency in tailoring its CTS software in-line with CNMI cannabis law, regulation and taxation;
- Ability for real-time cannabis plant and excise tax tracking.

After much discussion on CTSs and Information Technology personnel/staffing, Chairwoman moved that the Commission prepare a presentation to the Senate Committee on Cannabis to justify cost/funding for a CTS.

VII. New Business

1. Discussion on recent zoning meetings

The Managing Director discussed the zoning public hearings of October 7, 2020 involving four (4) cannabis producer applicants and October 20, 2020 on retail and lounges which were all approved by zoning, although there were approximately one hundred twelve (112) members of the public that signed a petition opposing certain cannabis cultivation activity in residential areas; next zoning public hearing is tentatively scheduled for November 10, 2020.

She continued to mention an applicant's expressed frustration over the tedious time consuming and deadline time-crunching ordeal in dealing with zoning requirements, and

that these zoning issues may be addressed in the house's proposed legislative bill on zoning.

Managing Director went on to discuss her meeting with additional cannabis applicants and her productive presentation with the Department of Public Safety taskforce, and looks forward to conducting presentations with the Rota and Tinian DPS taskforce.

She also advised the Commission about her up-coming Rotary Club presentation on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, and meeting with the Senate Committee on Cannabis on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Managing Director concluded her discussion about an inquiry on whether the CNMI cannabis law required a certain percentage of cannabis businesses to be owned by Northern Marianas descent, in which the current statutory answer was no.

2. Managing Director's Report

The Managing Director presented the Commission's draft Citizen Centric Report and went over its contents. Upon completion of the draft CCR review, Vice Chairman moved to adopt the Commission's CCR, seconded by Secretary.

Managing Director concluded her report by updating the Commission with on-going activities with the Commission's new office in Capital Hill, e.g., cleaning, moving, etc., and scheduled opening.

Chairwoman asked Member Songsong if he had any question/concern in which he responded about an incident on Rota with certain individuals that applied for government jobs and were later disqualified due to testing positive for cannabis use which is being gossiped in the community. Consequently, discussion ensued over this issue with applicants for government jobs testing positive for cannabis use, e.g., jurisdiction, legislature, etc.

VIII. Adjournment

Chairwoman will inform the Commission accordingly as soon as she schedules its next meeting, and motioned for meeting adjournment at 12:07 p.m., seconded by Vice Chairman. All commissioners voted in favor for adjournment, motion carried.