



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CANNABIS COMMISSION**

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A meeting of the CNMI Cannabis Commission will be held on **Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at 10:30 A.M.** at the Office of the CNMI Cannabis Commission Conference Room located at Ascencion Ct., Bldg. 1341, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

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

- VI. Managing Director's Report

- VII. Executive Session
 1. Legal matters – AAG

- VIII. Adjournment

Copies of this notice and agenda have been posted at the Administration Building Entrance Hall, the House of Representatives Entrance Hall, the House of Senate Entrance Hall and www.cnmicannabis.org, the CNMI Cannabis Commission's official website.

Written comments on the agenda may be submitted to the Office of the CNMI Cannabis Commission located at Ascencion Ct., Bldg. 1341, Capitol Hill, Saipan or emailed to info@cnmicannabis.org on or before the meeting date. Oral testimony may also be presented during the meeting on Wednesday, December 29, 2021.

**CNMI Cannabis Commission
Regular Session Meeting Minutes
December 29, 2021**

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman Nadine Deleon Guerrero called the CNMI Cannabis Commission's meeting to order at 10:32 a.m., which was held at the Office of the CNMI Cannabis Commission Conference Room located at Ascencion Ct., Bldg. 1341, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

Chairwoman Nadine Deleon Guerrero called roll of the commissioners:

Vice Chairman Mathew Deleon Guerrero, representing Saipan, was present; and Secretary Journie Hofschneider, representing Tinian, was present.

Chairwoman announced that Commissioners Thomas Songsong and Valentino Taisacan, representing Rota and Northern Islands, respectively, were absent and excused.

Chairwoman confirmed quorum with commissioners representing Saipan and Tinian being present and in attendance via Zoom video conference. Managing Director Monique Sablan and AAG Carl Dela Cruz were also in attendance via Zoom.

III. Consideration and adoption of Agenda

Chairwoman opened the floor for consideration for the adoption of the agenda and explained the agenda's shortness for the purpose of updating commission board members with commission undertakings within the past month, and the Managing Director (MD) taking the lead with her report in today's meeting.

Secretary motioned for the adoption of the agenda as is, seconded by Vice Chairman. Chairwoman announced the adoption of the agenda.

IV. Consideration and adoption of Minutes of prior meetings

Chairwoman asked that Commissioner Songsong make note of the May 5, 2021 meeting minutes that it be tabled for the next meeting because additional time is needed for its review/clarification. Chairwoman then motioned to table the May 5, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

V. Public Comment

Chairwoman opened the floor for public comment. MD reported that there were no members of the public present for public comment. Chairwoman announced the same.

VI. Managing Director's Report

Chairwoman opened the floor to the MD, but first expressed her appreciation for the MD's tremendous work and in meeting with the legislature's house committee on cannabis and tourism on behalf of the commission, in addition to showing up and supporting Commissioner Valentino Taisacan during his reappointment public hearing to the CNMI Cannabis Commission board.

MD thanked the Chairwoman and communicated that her meeting with the house committee was the first thing she would like to discuss; she mentioned that it was a cannabis, commerce, and tourism committee meeting that took place in the morning of December 17, 2021, and that House Bill 22-78 was present on the table, which is the proposed bill that the commission drafted for the cannabis regulatory amendments; and although the committee tabled the bill at that time to their next meeting, they expressed support of its purpose and intent; she met with members of the house committee, Representatives Richard Lizama and committee Chairwoman Denita Yangetmai, and discussed the necessity of the proposed cannabis regulatory amendments.

MD continued that in the afternoon of that same day, she attended Commissioner Valentino Taisacan's public hearing on his reappointment to the cannabis commission board in which she submitted a written support letter for his reappointment; and that the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD) asked a myriad of questions relating to the commission's operations and budget, the commission board members, enforcement and licensing, etc., where she was given the opportunity to explain, which SNILD appreciated and commended as it was somewhat their initial introduction to the administration of the CNMI Cannabis Commission.

Vice Chairman thanked the MD for her great work and presence during the above-described events, and asked if the SNILD bill arose in the conversations, particularly relating to the Saipan zoning law.

MD acknowledged that the proposed bill to amend the Saipan zoning law was discussed and they urged the commission's reintroduction of it to the members of the legislature, and mentioned that that draft zoning bill is again ready for resubmittal, which was initially submitted to the previous 21st legislature; and that she recently communicated with Representatives Blas Attao and JP Sablan about the reintroduction of House Bill 22-78, and had the opportunity to explain the purpose of the proposed bill, the logic behind

certain cannabis licenses that should go through a conditional use permit process versus the smaller producer license, such as the micro-producer license applicant who may not have the financial means to go through the current lengthy processes, e.g., public hearing.

MD moved to update the commission board members on the current statuses of seventeen (17) total applications in its possession and active licensees as follows:

- Eight applicants were issued approval-in-principals (AIPs), which means that they have one year to inform and schedule with the commission their first inspection for operational readiness before being issued a license; of the eight AIPs, three are producer class 3, one processor, one wholesale, two retail, and two lounge class 1;
- Nine pending applications, which means that the commission issued those applicants an incomplete notice due to the absence of required documents and are awaiting its submittal, and that these applications consists of four producer class 3, two producer class 2, one micro-producer, one retail, and one lounge class 1; and
- Eight active licenses (six licensees) who are Primo Farms, Max Farms, Saipan Select retail and producer, T-Marianas, Common Wealth Cannabis retail, and CanaMarianas retail and producer class 1.

MD continued that she has also been in communication with potential applicants consisting of a producer class 3, one retail and lounge located in Garapan in which a pre-site visit was conducted, and one interested applicant from Tinian who were assisted with information and guidance through the processes and requirements for the establishment of their application packages, and expressed that the commission's application processes and procedures are working well so far.

MD moved on with mentioning the Homegrown Registry, then expressed having covid issues with the commission with two staff having been tested positive, a third staff just getting off of quarantine, and a fourth staff entering quarantine, so things are being situated at this moment to ensure commission staff and client safety, and that updated information on the homegrown registry will be provided to the commission members.

MD continued that a great thing encountered in the month was that she met with Mr. Sean Collins, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Board, and went through great introduction and conversation with him who agreed to mentor the MD on cannabis regulatory duties in addition to having his staff, e.g., chief investigator,

prosecutor, etc., mentor commission staff at no cost; monthly training was agreed upon, however, the MD is waiting for the end of the year to begin implementing those training sessions; she expressed enthusiasm over the commission having this mentorship opportunity with a jurisdiction that is performing very well with their cannabis industry, and also plans on reaching out to other U.S. mainland jurisdictions.

MD proceeded referring to the commission's last meeting where the board adopted the proposed regulatory amendments regarding penalties, etc., which is still in review/routing to the governor and attorney general's offices for endorsement, although the two week government shut down delayed its movement; that the commission's administrative specialist is working towards keeping the commission regulations up-to-date, while the enforcement, permitting and licensing staff are working on inspections and mitigating any concerns that may prop during their inspection findings, however, due to Covid issues, administrative operations were challenged with staff absence; there has been concerns raised relative to the regulations that were amended in which the MD expressed excitement that the commission would be able to implement and begin using these new protocols, because at the moment there has been a bunch of communications and addressing correspondences of official enforcement notices to mitigate certain concerns, which are being documented.

MD asked if anyone has any questions for her. Secretary expressed that everything seems to be working great so far and commended the MD for her excellent work, Vice Chairman expressed agreement. MD stated that her team work tremendously well in accomplishing their duties and responsibilities, and mentioned that she is seeking the hiring of additional staff with backgrounds in permitting and licensing; with the ongoing happenings with covid, although covid is not the issue, but the fact that staff have to quarantine and be away from the office has been challenging in terms of communication, thus, is definitely looking to hire more staff to be able to address this kind of concern in the future.

Vice Chairman conveyed his appreciation and commended the MD for her great work. Chairwoman expressed the same sentiment and commended the MD's resolve with the little resources she had to work with, and thanked all the commissioners, including the Vice Chairman and Secretary's invaluable expertise, due diligence, and pro-activeness in helping the MD move things along. Vice Chairman and Secretary responded likewise.

Vice Chairman stated that this is the last meeting of year 2021. Conversations led to current covid situations in the CNMI, other non-commission matters, and commission matters relating to any planned inspections to be performed prior to the commission's January 2022 meeting.

Chairwoman asked the commission board members if there was anything they would like to discuss before her calling motion for meeting adjournment, and thanked AAG Dela Cruz for his presence.

VII. Executive Session

1. Legal matters – AAG

- No legal matters were discussed.

VIII. Adjournment

Hearing no further discussion, Chairwoman motioned for meeting adjournment, seconded by Secretary. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Chairwoman and everyone wished everyone a Happy New Year.