



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

P.O. BOX 500135 Saipan, MP 96950
Email: info@cnmicannabis.org

A regular meeting of the CNMI Cannabis Commission will be held on **Friday, October 28, 2022, at 10:30 AM.** at the office of the CNMI Cannabis Commission Conference Room at Ascension 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 of prior meetings
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Acting Chair Report

- VII. New Business

- VIII. Old Business
 1. Discussion on Regulatory Amendments

- IX. Acting Managing Director's Report

- X. Executive Session

- VIII. Adjournment

Copies of this notice and agenda have been posted at the Administration Building Entrance Hall, House of Representative Entrance Hall, 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 Ascension 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 Friday, October 28, 2022.

**CNMI Cannabis Commission
Regular Session Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2022**

I. Call to Order

Secretary Journie Hofschneider called the CNMI Cannabis Commission's meeting to order at 10:46 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

Secretary apologized for the delay and explained the commission's inability to connect with the Acting Chair Mathew Deleon Guerrero to provide him with a temporary forty-five-minute Zoom meeting link, mentioned the AAG Kiesha Blaise not being present at the moment but will recognize her upon arrival, and that she will proceed with the meeting as acting chair in the absence of the Acting Chair Mathew Deleon Guerrero and noted for the record that he is excused from today's meeting.

As acting chair, Secretary Hofschneider called roll of the commissioners:

Treasurer Valentino Taisacan was present via Zoom; and
Member Thomas Songsong was present via Zoom.

Secretary explained that Member Songsong was having microphone technical difficulties but typed in his presence with the word "here."

Secretary acknowledged the Acting Managing Director Erik Basa's presence, welcomed the Executive Secretary Natasha Palacios to her first board meeting and indicated that all commissioners were in attendance via Zoom while the acting managing director and executive secretary were in office.

III. Consideration and adoption of Agenda

Member Songsong typed his motion for the adoption of today's agenda, seconded by Treasurer Taisacan. There was no discussion, commissioners voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

IV. Consideration and adoption of Minutes of prior meetings

Secretary suggested tabling the August 27, 2021 and September 29, 2021 meeting minutes due to recording issues and approving the December 29, 2021 meeting minutes.

Treasurer Taisacan then motioned to table the August 27th and September 29, 2021 meeting minutes, and to approve the December 29, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Songsong. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

V. Public Comment

Secretary opened the floor for public comment. The executive secretary subsequently reported that there were no members of the public present for public comment. The secretary reported the same for the record.

VI. Acting Chair Report

Secretary indicated that she has no items to report on behalf of the Acting Chair Mathew Deleon Guerrero and moved on to the next agenda item.

VII. New Business

Secretary noted for the record there are no items under new business for discussion in today's meeting.

VIII. Old Business

1. Discussion on Regulatory Amendments

Secretary stated that the commission always has discussion on regulatory amendments included in the agenda in case there are any items for discussion, and expressed understanding that there are some regulatory items coming up in the next meeting that are not ready to be discussed in today's meeting; therefore, the commission will move on to the next agenda item.

IX. Acting Managing Director's Report

The acting managing director advised the secretary (acting chair) that the commission has four minutes left before the Zoom meeting link expires.

Secretary acknowledged the looming Zoom meeting link expiration and expressed that the commission may be able to conclude its meeting within four minutes unless the acting managing director has a lengthy report.

Acting managing director proceeded with his report on the commission's activities with its three divisions for the month of October 2022:

- **Permit and Licensing:** License renewals occur during the month of October in which all existing licensees have submitted applications and required documents for license renewal which are currently being reviewed and that a summary report will be provided to the commission upon review completion; there are four inactive applications, six pending applications in which one, Common Wealth Cannabis Farms, has submitted its pending documents who is now ready for the issuance of an approval-in-principal (AIP) letter to be issued today, and that there will be a total of nine AIPs to date.
- **Enforcement and Investigation:** Licensee monthly reports are being received and consolidated by Kelby, and upon completion, will be uploaded into the shared drive for the commission's review; the citation book was discussed with the AAG... (paused as AAG Kiesha Blaise entered the meeting).

AAG Kiesha Blaise entered the meeting, mentioned that she did not receive an agenda for this meeting and was not aware of today's meeting.

Secretary noted for the record of the AAG's presence in the meeting and her unawareness of today's meeting and apologized for not being properly informed.

The acting managing director continued his report about the citation book and his discussion with the AAG who has clarified the implementation of the citation book that will be implemented by the Department of Public Safety and not the commission, and that the only concern raised by the AAG was where the fines from the citations would be allotted to, which he will report in the next meeting for further discussion.

- **Administrative:** The acting managing director welcomed Ms. Natasha Palacios as the commission's newest employee as the executive secretary who has completed two weeks of overwhelming introductory training with the commission, the Department of Finance's Munis system and other administrative training matters and concluded his report.

Secretary thanked the acting managing director for his report and expressed that the commission has no matters for discussion in executive session.

X. Executive Session

There were no matters discussed in executive session.

XI. Adjournment

Treasurer Taisacan motioned for meeting adjournment, seconded by Member Songsong. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion; motion carried. The CNMICC's October 28, 2022 meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.