

Cannabis Regulatory Commission

Regular Meeting

Thursday January 4, 2024 6:30 pm

MINUTES

1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, City Hall, 3rd Floor City Council Chambers
Oakland, CA 94612

Reminder: This meeting will take place in person. Members of the public can observe remotely via zoom but must attend in person in order to participate.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

TO OBSERVE:

- Attend in person; or
- To observe the meeting by video conference, please click the link below to join the webinar:
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TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: There are two ways to make public comment within the time allotted for public comment on an eligible Agenda item.

- Attend in person; or
- Comment in advance. To send your comment before the meeting starts, please send your comment, along with your full name and agenda item number you are commenting on, to Greg Minor at gminor@oaklandca.gov. All submitted public comments will be provided to the Cannabis Regulatory Commission prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions about these protocols, please e-mail Greg Minor, at gminor@oaklandca.gov

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.

Members:

Javier Armas	District 1	Hellen Harvey	District 7
Tracey Corder	District 2	Chaney Turner	At Large
Taib Alaoui	District 3	Yulie Padmore	Mayor
Tariq Ikharo	District 4	TiYanna Long	City Auditor
Vacant	District 5	Greg Minor	City Administrator
Tanya Boyce	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: Armas, Ikharo, Boyce, Turner, Padmore, Minor

Absent: Corder, Alaoui, Harvey, Long

The meeting began with a moment of silence for fallen OPD Officer Tuan Le.

B. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the CRC Meeting on November 2, 2023

Member Boyce shared that the minutes as drafted do not capture the full conversation with OPD. Member Boyce then made a motion for staff to review the OPD item from the November meeting and add more details to the draft minutes, particularly around the discussion about Measure Z. Chair Turner seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

Chair Turner then made a motion to agendaize the topic of the City sending text messages to cannabis operators regarding public safety issues. Member Armas seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

C. Reports for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Draft 2022 and 2023 Cannabis Regulatory Commission Annual Reports

Member Minor summarized the two draft reports and the process for presenting the CRC's annual reports to the City Council. Chair Turner then recommended that the annual reports include the number of burglaries of cannabis businesses and how much revenue was lost. Member Boyce noted that only the 2022 report includes an overview section.

Member Boyce then made a motion to combine the 2022 and 2023 CRC annual reports into one report with an overview section, data on the number of burglaries of cannabis businesses and the impacts of these crimes.

Member Ikharo asked how the City can measure the financial impact of cannabis burglaries. Member Minor shared that the City likely lacks comprehensive direct data, but has annual data from the Finance Department, some data from police reports, and the number of withdrawn cannabis permit applications.

2. Establishing a Department of Cannabis

Member Minor offered background on the current staffing for the City's cannabis programs. Chair Turner provided history of efforts to form a Department of Cannabis and how the City's financial position is different

than a few years ago. Member Armas stated that it is important for the City to develop a department and reduce reliance on contractors. Member Boyce, Chair Turner and Member Padmore all expressed support for a department with resources to support equity businesses, proactively inspect and enforce regulations, and communicate with the public and the industry. Members also acknowledged the financial challenges of funding a department. A public speaker supported creating a department and sharing stories, not just data, with the City Council so that the City will take the industry more seriously.

Chair Turner made a motion for the City to form a Department of Cannabis and for the CRC to form a subcommittee to continue working on this issue. Member Armas seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

3. Community Beautification Requirements

Member Boyce shared that the areas outside of large cultivation facilities are atrocious and the City needs to monitor their community beautification compliance. Member Armas offered that unpermitted operators are worse than permitted operators in terms of leaving debris in the public right of way. Chair Turner noted that many garbage issues in the City existed before cannabis operators started operating.

Member Boyce made a motion to request that Public Works and code enforcement staff present to the CRC on how they enforce beautification requirements related to Conditional Use Permits, particularly in industrial areas. Chair Turner seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

4. Implementation Update on State Grants

Member Minor provided updates on various state grants in progress

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

- *Building and Fire Baseline Permitting Timelines (since January 2022)*
- *Planning Department Discussion re Zones Eligible for Cannabis Businesses (since October 2022)*
- *Draft 2022 Cannabis Regulatory Commission Annual Report (since October 2023)*
- *Updated Information from Finance Department (since October 2023)*
- *CRC Attendance Policy (since November 2023)*
- *Contracting Hazardous Materials Inspections (since November 2023)*

E. Open Forum / Public Comment

Open Forum took place at the beginning of the meeting as members waited for a quorum. Public speakers included equity applicant asking about upcoming grant opportunities and thanking the CRC for listening to operators' concerns and forwarding policies to the City Council for approval, as well as non-cannabis business owners experiencing challenges obtaining insurance due to proximity to cannabis businesses, and announcements regarding upcoming cannabis courses at Merritt College.

F. Announcements

1. Update on Cannabis Permitting Process
2. Apply to serve on CRC here:

<https://oakland.granicus.com/boards/w/8552f8c4c0e15460/boards/6697>

Member Minor shared that the Emerald Cup is coming to Oakland's Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center in May.

Member Boyce then announced that she is moving and will no longer be serving on the CRC. CRC members then expressed their appreciation for Member Boyce and her work on the CRC.

G. Adjournment