

STATE OF CONNECTICUT | SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL  
June 7, 2022, Meeting 10 A.M.  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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### MEETING MATERIALS

- May Meeting Minutes
- Workforce Plan Scoring Approach and Rubric

#### 1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Andréa Comer at 10:06 a.m.

Chairwoman Comer made the announcement that Council Member Fabian Durango had resigned from the Council.

#### 2. Attendance

Marilyn Alverio  
Corrie Betts  
Andréa Comer  
Avery Gaddis  
Subira Gordon  
Michael Jefferson  
David Lehman  
Ojala Naeem  
Marc Pelka (Designee for Jeffrey Beckham, OPM)  
Christine Shaw (Designee for Shawn Wooden, OTT)  
Edwin Shirley  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres

Council members absent:  
Ramón Arroyo  
Kevin Walton

Staff: Ginne-Rae Clay, Interim Executive Director, SEC, Jennifer Edwards, Program Manager, SEC, Komla Matrevi, Staff Attorney, SEC, Kristina Diamond, Communications & Legislative Program

Manager, SEC, and Crystal Morris-Crenshaw, Administrative Assistant, SEC; Kyle Abercrombie, Director of Government Affairs, DECD

Andréa Comer welcomed the council and the public. She discussed going forward, public comments will not take place during the Council meetings, and outlined opportunities for the public to provide feedback, including emailing [SEC@ct.gov](mailto:SEC@ct.gov). Chairwoman Comer stated they are working with the Outreach Chairs and the marketing & communication vendor to provide additional engagement opportunities outside of the meetings. More information will be provided once finalized.

Chairwoman Comer re-addressed the differences between the roles of the Social Equity Council and Dept. of Consumer Protection (DCP). Any questions regarding SEC's actions, policies or procedures to DCP are misdirected. DCP is responsible for regulating the Cannabis industry while SEC is responsible for promoting equity within the Cannabis industry within the parameters of the legislation.

Chairwoman Comer also addressed the many questions regarding next steps. CohnReznick, the accounting firm contracted by SEC, is reviewing social equity applications to ensure adherence to the criteria and anticipates they will finish their review of the 41 section 149 cultivator licenses to be complete by the end of this month. The recommendations will be presented to the Council for a vote at the July meeting. Some of the applications that have been submitted for the lottery, are being reviewed as well and may be voted on by the Council in July.

### 3. Approval of the April Meeting Minutes

Andréa Comer asked for a motion to approve the minutes

Motion – by Marilyn Alverio

Seconded by Avery Gaddis

Discussion – Councilwoman Shaw had a drafting comment regarding her report. The section of the report should reflect it is a report to the Council on behalf of the Committee. Councilwoman Shaw offered a revised summary if time allowed.

Councilwoman Shaw made a motion to amend the minutes.

Seconded by Edwin Shirley

In Favor – All

Opposed – None

Abstentions – by Ojala Naeem (did not attend May meeting)

Motion passed.

### 4. From the Executive Director                      Ginne-Rae Clay, Executive Director

Director Clay presented her June 2022 Report to the Council. She gave a staffing update. She announced an offer was extended for the Associate Accountant position and she is preparing the postings for a Brand Manager and Fiscal Administrative Officer.

### 5. Committee Reports/Requests for Action

- **Outreach Committee** Marilyn Alverio & Subira Gordon, Co-Chairs  
Councilmember Alverio encouraged Council members to join an information session with Camelo Communications. She also informed the Council that Camelo Communication will present the draft logos to the Committee at the next meeting. Upon seeing the logos, the committee will discuss which logo will be presented to the next full council meeting. Camelo found a custom URL that is available and is looking to purchase on the SEC's behalf. Councilmember Alverio has informed the Council they have a vacancy in the Outreach Committee and would welcome a member to fill that vacancy.
- **Workforce Committee** Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Chair  
The Workforce Committee met last month. The committee took another look at the rubric based on new data received while establishing another rubric for a similar project; this information was used to create the SEC rubric. Because of the new data, the committee made some modifications to the rubric. The point range was deleted, and a single pointed system was established.  
Councilmember Vallieres asked for a motion to approve revised Workforce Plan and Rubric.  
Motion made by Avery Gaddis  
Seconded by Michael Jefferson  
All in favor - All  
Opposed - None  
Abstentions – None  
Motion passed.
- **Accelerator Ad hoc Committee** Ojala Naeem, Chair  
Councilmember Naeem asked if there were any questions regarding the report given by Director Clay for the program.

Chairwoman Comer stated the Council will move to executive session to discuss draft documents. She asked for a motion to move to executive session.

Motion was made by Ojala Naeem

Seconded by Michael Jefferson

All in favor – All

Opposed – None

Abstentions – None

Motion passed.

Council went into executive session at 10:30am

Council returned from executive session at 11:20am

Chairwoman Comer completed roll call to ensure a quorum because Councilmembers Betts and Jefferson had to leave the meeting.

Councilmember Shirley asked for a motion to accept the procedure for approving applications as proposed by the Policy Committee to the Social Equity Council.

Motion made by David Lehman

Seconded by Ojala Naeem

All in favor – All

Opposed – None

Abstentions – None

Motion passed.

Councilmember Naeem asked for a motion to approve the DCP/SEC MOU as drafted by Attorney Matrevi.

Motion made by Edwin Shirley

Seconded by Avery Gaddis

All in favor – All

Opposed – None

Abstentions – None

Motion passed.

## 6. For the Good of the Order – New Business, Updates, and Information

## 7. Adjourn

Andréa Comer asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion – by David Lehman

Seconded by Ojala Naeem

Discussion – None

In Favor – All



## Social Equity Council

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Opposed – None  
The meeting adjourned at 11:23 am.

*Minutes are a draft until approved at a subsequent meeting.*