



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

560 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

## **Cannabis Control Commission**

### **Open Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** Friday, January 16, 2026

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02886

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Robert B. Jacquard, Esq.  
Commissioner Olayiwola Oduyingbo, Esq.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michelle Reddish, Administrator, Cannabis Office  
Mariana Ormonde, Chief of Legal Services, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Kelsey McQueeney, Chief Implementation Aide, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Carla Aveledo, Esq., Chief of Policy, Cannabis  
Control Commission  
Katelyn Garside, Project Services Coordinator, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Charon Rose, Chief of Public Affairs, Cannabis Control  
Commission  
Kelly Verte, Chief Financial Officer, Cannabis Control  
Commission

Commissioner Oduyingbo called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The first item of business was:

**Motion to approve the minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on November 14, 2025.**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on November 14, 2025.

The next item of business was:

**Quarterly update presented by Cannabis Office Administrator, Michelle Reddish, MS, MPH, which included updates on:**

- The Adult-Use retail license application period;
- Pending application requirements including background checks and zoning approval;
- Current count of retail licenses across Rhode Island’s cannabis and industrial hemp markets;
- Medical cannabis patient totals by zone as of January 15, 2026;
- Retail sales performance by product type from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025; and
- Summary of applications received during the Adult Use Retail License application period.

Following the update, discussion ensued which included:

- Commissioner Jacquard questioned whether the “wholesale” transfer totals included Compassion Center wholesale transfers;
- Commissioner Jacquard questioned, whether a Social Equity Applicant who applied for a social equity license in Zone 1 but was not selected for licensure could then transition that same application to seek a General Retail license;
- Chief of Legal Services stated that under that example, the Social Equity Applicant would have needed to submit a distinct application for a General or Workers’ Cooperative License to be considered for those particular license types, and that if an application is not selected for licensure then the application cannot be rolled or used to seek a different license type.

The next item of business was:

**Review, discussion and potential vote to approve and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Rhode Island Division of Taxation for the purposes of effectuating the transfer of information pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 44-70-16.**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard, it was unanimously

VOTED: Voted to approve and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Rhode Island Division of Taxation for the purposes of effectuating the transfer of information pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 44-70-16.

The next item of business was:

**Review, discussion and potential vote on the pending variance request of Morrbud, LLC, micro class cultivation license (CV0047), to transfer full ownership interests to new owners.**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard, it was unanimously

VOTED: Voted to approve the variance request of Morrbud, LLC, micro class cultivation license (CV0047), to transfer full ownership interests to new owners Nicholas Trimarche and Tim Arnold.

The next item of business was:

**Public Comment**

4 people gave public comment, which included:

- Concern about efforts to challenge or delay rival applications through zoning appeals.
- Noted a recent appeal filed after the applicant had secured final zoning approval for their proposed cannabis establishment in North Kingstown.
- Questioned what safeguards or checks and balances the Commission has in place to prevent such tactics.
- Inquired about the Commission's anticipated actions following the executive orders regarding the rescheduling of cannabis.
- Emphasized the importance of consumer-protection education, healthcare-adjacent guidance, and best practices.
- Urged the Commission to expedite store openings in light of ongoing market imbalances for cultivators.
- Raised concerns about the 2025 packaging bulletin prohibiting the list of total cannabinoids.
- Referenced practical packaging constraints such as unnecessary Delta-8 THC and zero-value CBD listings.
- Encouraged greater support for cannabis workers cooperatives and clearer municipal guidance.

- Highlighted conflicting information in Pawtucket, noting that recent discussions suggested interested in a local cannabis market despite special-use permit requirements.
- Recommended enhanced education for city councils and municipalities to better understand the implications of zoning amendments and opportunities for attracting high-quality dispensaries near the train station.

The next item of business was:

### **Executive Session**

At 1:35 p.m., upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard it was unanimously voted:

**To go into Executive Session, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1), for the purpose of:**

- a. Vote to approve minutes of the Executive Session held on November 14, 2025, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1).
- b. Update and discussion on pending litigation in *John Kenney v. Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission, et al.*, 25-1173, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2).
- c. Update and discussion on pending litigation in *Justyna Jensen v. Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission, et al.*, 25-1132, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2).
- d. Update and discussion on pending litigation in *Justin Palmore v. Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission, et al.*, 25-00622, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2).
- e. Update and discussion on pending litigation in *Rhode Island Compassion Center, Inc. v. Ahern, et al.*, PC-2025-03908, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2).

The next item of business was:

### **Motion to return to Open Session.**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard, it was unanimously

VOTED: To return to Open Session at 2:12 p.m.

The next item of business was:

**Motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session on January 16, 2026.**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard, it was unanimously

VOTED: To seal the minutes of the Executive Session on January 16, 2026.

The next item of business was:

**Report out on actions and votes taken in Executive Session, which included:**

Commissioner Oduyingbo reported the following Commission action(s):

- a. Voted to approve minutes of the Executive Session held on November 14, 2026, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1), and that no other votes were taken.

Adjournment:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Oduyingbo and duly seconded by Commissioner Jacquard, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: **February 13, 2026.**