



MEMORANDUM

TO: Marijuana Control Board

DATE: January 1, 2020

FROM: Glen Klinkhart, Interim Director

RE: Director's Report

OPERATIONS:

As the scope and urgency of the COVID-19 virus issue has multiplied exponentially over the past two months the AMCO offices have had to switch gears and go to some of our additional contingency plans with the intent of keeping staff safe while still maintaining some of the critical functions of AMCO.

The AMCO staff have been working diligently processing renewal applications as well as ongoing Marijuana applications for today's meeting(s). We are still down one examiner however Ms. Craig has been working to find a good candidate to fill the spot. In the meanwhile, Jacqlene Drulis has been working to bring Randi Baker up to speed and teach her the difficult and often complex marijuana examiner duties. Special thank you to Jacqlene for having to pull a double duty. Additionally, thank you to Jane Sawyer for jumping in to assist the marijuana examiners during this busy time.

OUTREACH:

Even in the midst of COVID AMCO continues to work with the Marijuana industry to in order to improve our communication and to provided helpful information and recommendations to the board.

MARIJUANA FINE WORKING GROUP:

AMCO, members of the board, the public, and the industry have continued to meet, and we met last month to continue discussing more reasonable fines for marijuana licensees. The group is dedicated to developing fine proposals which are not punitive in nature but are more in line with established and proposed Alcohol Fines. To help speed up the process, the AMIA offered to survey their members in order to obtain some consensus regarding the repetitive minor offenses. Once that data is compiled we will bring it the working group to discuss the results before presenting the work to the board. I wish to thank Ryan Tunseth, Chelsea Foster, and Trevor Haynes for their work on the survey.

Speaking of surveys AMCO now has their own online survey system. This is something the board inquired about earlier in the year and we are excited for the board to be able to use it occasionally in order to obtain data on various issues.

TAXATION ISSUES:

AMCO is working with the Department of Revenue to help the board reference the sensitive issue of marijuana taxes in order to provide the board members more tax information regarding monies owed. The industry itself has been concerned with a few businesses who have not paid their taxes. We hope this new information will allow the board to sanction those worse offenders and get others onto payment plans and out of arrears.

AMCO PERFORMANCE REVIEW PROCESS:

AMCO recently received support from both boards for cultivating a culture of “community based policing” and “community based licensing” wherein AMCO works with the licensees to overcome issues at an early stage by using warnings, follow-up, and education to minimize violations, along with a process of progressive discipline designed to get industry members into compliance. With that in mind, we have added this culture shift to our AMCO Strategic plan, which fed into the AMCO Performance Expectations program. Each of the staff participated in this pilot project for the State of Alaska, including myself. If it is good enough for the AMCO staff, then my work performance too should be evaluated by the board. I am requesting the board consider providing me with additional evaluation feedback on my performance over the past 12 months. Constructive criticism would very much be appreciated. Additionally, in the sake of transparency, I would ask that such a conversation be done on the record so the public can hear and, if the board allows, to participate. Finally, I encourage the board to have a discussion to create a formal, written, list of performance expectations for me for 2021 or for whomever is lucky enough to sit in the AMCO Director’s chair.

ENFORCEMENT:

Several large scale and lengthy investigations have been completed by the Enforcement Unit, most of which have been forwarded to the Office of Administrative Hearings as per regulation. We are working with many of the respondents to fix their issues and to bring them before the board for a final review.

Assistant AG Joan Wilson and I have been working on the lengthy and massive amount of policies, procedures, processes, and other enforcement topics both boards covered during the enforcement meetings that were held this past autumn. We will soon be asking both boards for a special meeting to go over the changes and recommendations to help support the public safety mission of the AMCO Enforcement Unit.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next MCB Board meeting is scheduled for March 31 and April 1, 2021 online, or if applicable, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Glen Klinkhart

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