Department of Commerce, Community,





ALCOHOL & MARIJUANA CONTROL OFFICE 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1600 Anchorage, AK 99501 Main: 907.269.0350

and Economic Development

# Marijuana Control Board Meeting Minutes January 2, 2018 Telephonic Meeting

## ADMINISTRATION

2:01pm

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call

#### **Board Members Present:**

Peter Mlynarik, Chair, Public Safety Member Mark Springer, Vice Chair, Rural Member Brandon Emmett, Industry Member Nick Miller, Industry Member Loren Jones, Public Health Member

#### **Staff Members Present:**

Erika McConnell, Director Sarah Oates, Program Coordinator James Hoelscher, Enforcement Supervisor

#### Legal Counsel Present:

Harriet Milks, Assistant Attorney General

## TESTING RESULTS

2:02pm

James Hoelscher states that the tests in the Excel spreadsheet include all of the tests since the CannaBanana Bread.

Peter Mlynarik states that the new ones the Board is looking at are the Cookie Crumbs and the Capsules.

James Hoelscher describes the enforcement team's procedures for preparing the marijuana product samples before giving them to the marijuana testing facilities for testing.

The Board members discuss the major discrepancies between the test results.

James Hoelscher points out that the capsules are liquid, and yet two from the same package tested very differently.

James Hoelscher states that because SteepHill consistently tests higher on the products, and CannTest consistently tests higher on bud and flower, he believes that the inconsistencies are likely due to differences in sample preparation procedure and methodology.

Brandon Emmett states that he concurs with Chief Hoelscher, and adds that it would probably be helpful to have a third-party testing facility do independent proficiency testing.

James Hoelscher states that New Frontier Research is a new marijuana testing facility that will be opening up very soon.

Mark Springer asks if we have received any input from other states regarding their testing programs and whether they're seeing these types of variations.

James Hoelscher states that he has reached out to all three states (Washington, Colorado, and Oregon) to see if they're seeing these problem, and they said that they are. However, their variations are far less extreme than the ones here.

Brandon Emmett states that due to time constraints and resources, this state has not been able to get testing procedures ironed out, as other states have.

Peter Mlynarik states that he does not think the public should be put at risk when the Board doesn't know what's going out there, as it's the Board's responsibility to protect the public.

Brandon Emmett asks the Board to consider what the risk actually is. He states that the Board is not seeing emergency room visits due to consumption of marijuana.

Brandon Emmett suggests that until the testing committee can come up with some solutions to these issues, the public should be warned in the interim, either through another press release or through labeling, rather than shutting down the industry entirely.

Peter Mlynarik states that he doesn't have any confidence in the testing results, as there's such a wide variation.

Loren Jones states that he does not believe the Board is in a position yet where it can justify shutting down the industry, based upon the current issues.

Brandon Emmett moves to approve the draft consumer alert, as written, (for release to the public). Loren Jones seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

Peter Mlynarik adds that the Board is still expected by the federal administration to manage and reasonably run the industry. He states that to him, this is not the most responsible way to do that.

*Mark Springer states that he would like to see the Board maintain an intellectual reserve – to know that the Board has resources available (like the University and the Crime Lab).* 

Brandon Emmett states that the testing working group was able to get Dr. Tom Green to join. He adds that the testing committee will be looking closely into the Aspergillus issues.

## **ADJOURN**

2:42pm

Mark Springer moves to adjourn. Brandon Emmett seconds the motion. None opposed, motion carries.

Minutes prepared by:

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Sarah D. Oates Program Coordinator