

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

ALCOHOL AND MARIJUANA CONTROL OFFICE 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1600 Anchorage, AK 99501 Main: 907.269.0350

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Marijuana Control Board

DATE: November 7, 2023

FROM: Joan M. Wilson

RE: Director's Report

Introduction

This report details AMCO activities from the last regular meeting of the Marijuana Control Board ("Board") on August 16 - 17, 2023, to the present.

Program Coordinator, Licensing, and Enforcement Reports

I defer to Ms. Sawyer's, Ms. Craig's and Chief Hoelscher's reports.

Intoxicating Hemp Products

The Department of Natural Resources was sued to prevent the implementation of the prohibition of hemp based, delta-9 products. The suit is not against AMCO or the Marijuana Control Board. Nevertheless, we will provide a report on the status of the litigation at the Board meeting.

Pesticide Testing and Lab User Group

Please stay tuned for the first meeting of this user group. Ms. Sawyer will schedule the same following the Board Meeting.

Free Sampling from Marijuana Stores

Please see the Regulations Specialist's tracking sheet. The lifting of the prohibition on offering samples of marijuana and marijuana products by retail stores became effective in October. Many licensees have requested guidance on how the lifting of this prohibition should occur. We have included the written inquiries in the marijuana mailbox.

Marijuana Control Board Sunset Audit

The Board will meet in executive session to consider the conclusions and recommendations of the audit. Chair Miller will lead that discussion.

Remaining Calendar Year

So that the Board and licensees are aware, the date for full implementation of the Title 4 (Alcoholic Beverages) Rewrite -- January 1, 2024 -- is fast approaching. While our office remains dedicated to providing excellent service to marijuana licensees, they may see some time delays owing to the still hefty lift required to meet all requirements for successful implementation. These efforts include ensuring over five hundred licensees have applications in the queue and reviewed so they can continue to engage in activity currently permissible under their licenses and permits. Those licensees are now learning and utilizing our new online licensing system and our office is also reviewing applications through this licensing system for the first time. This is also renewal season for alcoholic beverage licensees. Please know that whatever additional attention we provide alcoholic beverage licensees at this time will be reciprocated when it is time to move marijuana licensing to this system. If there are any concerns about our plan and how it is exercised, I ask the board members and licensees to contact me directly at (907) 269-0351.

Conclusion and Next Meeting

I welcome your comments and questions about any matter addressed in this memorandum,

The Marijuana Control Board is expected to set its meeting dates and locations for calendar year 2024 at this board meeting.