

# Nevada Cannabis Advisory Commission

## Meeting Minutes July 13, 2021

The Nevada Cannabis Advisory Commission (CAC) held a public meeting at 555 East Washington Ave, Room 4500, Las Vegas, Nevada on July 13, 2021, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

### **Cannabis Advisory Commission Members Present:**

**Tyler Klimas, Chair**  
**Benjamin Chew**  
**Aaron D. Ford**  
**A'Esha Goins**  
**James Hammer**  
**Jillian Nelson**  
**Michael Nihman**  
**Kema Ogden**  
**Jennifer Pearson**  
**Daniel Stewart**  
**George Togliatti**  
**Melanie Young**

**Chair Tyler Klimas called the meeting to order and took roll.** Commissioner Chew, Attorney General Ford, Commissioner Goins, Commissioner Hammer, Commissioner Nelson, Commissioner Nihman, Commissioner Ogden, Commissioner Stewart, Director Togliatti were present in Las Vegas. Commissioner Pearson and Executive Director Young were present via video connection. Deputy Attorney General Asheesh Bhalla confirmed that the meeting complied with open meeting law requirements.

### **I. Public Comment**

Chair Klimas stated all public comment received via email would be posted online.

Ron Baker thanked everyone for coming out for the meeting and has been involved for 15 years.

### **II. Introductions**

#### **A. Introduction of the Cannabis Advisory Commission**

Chair Klimas provided an introduction of the Cannabis Advisory Commission and its role and purpose in Nevada. The Commission's role was envisioned ensure there was a place with strong industry expertise to look into specific issues within the industry and perform research and analysis that may be needed before regulatory decisions are made. The goal is to expand the state's knowledge base on cannabis-related issues and ensure the Board has the ability and tools to get the information it needs to make regulatory decisions.

The subcommittees to be established in the meeting will be where most of the groundwork occurs before the Commission deliberates and then votes to send recommendations to the Cannabis Compliance Board. The Commission may deliberate on requests from the Governor or Legislature. The Commission may meet on a quarterly basis depending on the work product of the subcommittees.

#### **B. Introduction of Commissioners**

Chair Klimas asked each of the Commissioners to provide a brief introduction.

Ben Chew has bachelor's degree in chemistry from Cal Tech and a PhD in chemistry from Cornell. He has worked in analytical testing laboratories for about 20 years and has run independent testing laboratories in the cannabis industry. He currently works at DB Labs.

Aaron Ford is the Attorney General for the State of Nevada. While he is not in the cannabis industry, the Attorney General's office has a role to advise the Cannabis Compliance Board and he looks forward to participating in the Commission and subcommittees.

A'Esha Goins has been in the industry since its inception, beginning with Nevada Wellness Center which was one of the first dispensaries to open. Ms. Goins had lobbied for legislation for decriminalization, inclusion, and equity. She is the founder of CEIC, Cannabis Equity & Inclusion Committee and is currently an advocate, activist, and lobbyist for equity and inclusion in the cannabis marketplace.

James Hammer has been in the cannabis industry in Nevada for five years mostly in retail. Mr. Hammer opened Show Grow dispensary in 2016 and recently opened and is managing Wallflower Cannabis House, which was part of the CWNevada receivership.

Jillian Nelson is the Vice President of Evergreen Organix, one of the first edible production companies in Nevada that opened during the medical era. Ms. Nelson has seen a lot of with the growth of the industry and is looking forward to what the Cannabis Advisory Commission can do to move forward.

Michael Nihman is the owner of Nevada Group Wellness and has been in the industry since 2014. Mr. Nihman considers himself a hands-on owner and is excited to be a part of the Commission. He is looking forward to sharing his knowledge.

Kema Ogden has been in the cannabis industry in Nevada since legalization with a dispensary and cultivation license. Ms. Ogden was on the board of Doctors for Cannabis Regulations and testified before lawmakers.

Jennifer Pearson is an Associate Professor of Health Policy at the University of Nevada Reno. Her research focuses on regulation of tobacco and cannabis products, characteristics, packaging and advertising affects consumer behavior and public health. Ms. Pearson thinks legalized cannabis is the right thing to do for public health. Ms. Pearson is excited to be on the Commission and provide science-based recommendations to the Board.

Daniel Stewart is an attorney with Hutchison and Steffen. He worked with legislature in 2015 to set some of the new rules. He has clients in various areas of the cannabis industry. He added the feedback from the community about the Commission has been good.

George Togliatti is the Director of the Nevada Department of Public Safety. He is retired from the FBI and is adjunct professor at UNLV for 13 years. He has worked as a consultant and in the private sector. He hopes to add to the Commission and bridge the gap with law enforcement. His main concern is public safety.

Melanie Young is the Executive Director of the Department of Taxation. Ms. Young has been the Executive Director for two and half years and has been in public service for 27 years. Ms. Young was excited about the passage of the bill that created the Board and Commission and is looking forward to the work.

Tyler Klimas is the Executive Director of the Cannabis Compliance Board and as part of that role is Chair of the Cannabis Advisory Commission. Director Klimas was appointed by Governor Sisolak in October of 2019 to establish the CCB. Director Klimas oversees the operations of the CCB.

### **III. Subcommittee Appointments**

Chair Klimas stated that in his capacity as Chair, he has the ability to establish subcommittees and designate a chair. There are suggested topics of interest contained in statute. Chair Klimas established four subcommittees and each subcommittee contained commission members and members outside of the Commission.

The Subcommittee on Social Equity, Diversity and Inclusion will review and make recommendations on matters relating to the accessibility for and participation of diverse owners in the cannabis industry. Commissioner Goins will chair the subcommittee. The other members will be Attorney General Ford, State Senator Dallas Harris representing Senate District 11, Commissioner Ogden, and Tina Ulman, President of the Chamber of Cannabis.

Ms. Goins said it is a pleasure to serve the community.

The Subcommittee on Public Health will review and make recommendations on matters relating to the labeling, packaging, marketing, and advertising of cannabis and cannabis products, the potency of cannabis and cannabis

products, and other issues related to public health. Commissioner Pearson will chair the subcommittee. The other members will be Commissioner Chew, Lauren DiPrete from the Southern Nevada Health District, Teresa Hayes from the Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health, and Commissioner Nelson.

Ms. Pearson stated she is excited to chair the subcommittee.

The Subcommittee on Public Safety will review and make recommendations on matters relating to the effects of cannabis on law enforcement, businesses and consumers. Assemblyman Steve Yeager, Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee and representing Assembly District 9, will chair the subcommittee. The other members will be Director Togliatti, Detective Josh Garber of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Assemblyman Tom Roberts representing Assembly District 13, and Executive Director Melanie Young.

The Subcommittee on the Cannabis Industry and Market Stability will review and make recommendations on matters related to the overall health and stability of the cannabis industry and marketplace in Nevada. Commissioner Stewart will chair the subcommittee. The other members will be Commissioner Hammer, Layke Martin Executive Director of the Nevada Dispensary Association, Commissioner Nikhman, and Sami Real from the Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning.

Commissioner Stewart added it is very important to get it right, and it will be derivative of the work of the other subcommittees especially the one on Social Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Chair Klimas added that the subcommittees will begin their work in the upcoming weeks and those meetings will be facilitated by CCB staff and open to the public. Each subcommittee will have role to play in recommendations around consumption lounges and that topic will likely be addressed first given the need for recommendations for the Board to consider.

#### **IV. Future Meetings**

Chair Klimas reiterated that most of the groundwork will be performed by the subcommittees. When they are ready to bring work in front of the Commission, the body will meet again as a whole. A Commission meeting may be called in the next 60-90 days.

The contact information for subcommittee members will be provided to the chair of that subcommittee.

#### **V. Public Comment**

Stephanie Fisher-Till is a historian studying the cannabis industry in Nevada and nationally since she graduated from UNLV with a masters degree. She would like to avail herself to the CAC and CCB if any research is needed. She would like to help with the social equity subcommittee.

Mike McHugh works with Safe Arbor in Nevada. Thanked the commission for the work they are doing. Safe Arbor sells Amazon type lockers that can be used for cannabis sales, digitally tracks and processes orders in dispensaries.

Gerardo Gonzales works in the industry and does cannabis events outside of industry. He is happy that there is another Commission that has extensive knowledge and it is good to see Nevada continue in the process of moving forward. He is looking forward to future meetings.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.