



2025

Council Market Outlook

WORKING GROUP

9/24/25 Agenda

10:00 AM	.....	Opening Remarks
10:15 AM	.....	Guest Speakers
10:45 AM	.....	Working Group Overview
10:55 AM	.....	Committee Co-Chair Introductions
11:10 AM	.....	Co-Chair Remarks
11:45 AM	.....	Guest Speakers
12:00 PM	.....	Closing Remarks

Welcome!



Scan the QR code to access our welcome packet.

Speakers





Brandon L. McGee, Jr.

*Chief Executive Officer,
Social Equity Council*



Who is the Social Equity Council?

- Established in 2021 by the Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis Act
- Promotes economic equity by supporting Social Equity Entrepreneurs (SEEs)
- Reinvests in communities Disproportionately Impacted by the War on Drugs
- Funded by licensing fees and a dedicated portion of state cannabis tax revenue
- The Council addresses barriers to entry, expands opportunity, and fosters long-term participation in Connecticut's cannabis industry

Council Members

Andréa Comer, Chair

*Office of the State
Treasurer designee*

Kyle Abercrombie

*Department of Economic and
Community Development designee*

Tina Beamon

*Office of the
Governor Appointee*

Corrie Betts

*House Minority
Leader Appointee*

Fanita Borges

*Office of the
Governor Appointee*

Greg Davis

*Speaker of the
House Appointee*

Avery Gaddis

*Senate Minority
Leader Appointee*

Andrea K. Hawkins

*Office of the Governor
Appointee*

**Michael A.
Jefferson, Esq.**

*Senate President
Appointee*

Council Members Continued

Daniel Karpowitz

*Office of Policy &
Management designee*

Melvin Medina

*Black and Puerto Rican Caucus
(BPRC) Chair Appointee*

Ojala Naeem

*House Majority
Leader Appointee*

**Charles Venator
Santiago, Ph.D.**

*Puerto Rican and Latino
Caucus (PRLC) Appointee*

Edwin Shirley

*Senate Majority
Leader Appointee*

**Shirley Skyers-
Thomas**

*Department of Consumer
Protection designee*

Kelli Vallieres, Ph.D.

Governor's Appointee

Kevin E. Walton, Sr.

Governor's Appointee

Andréa Comer

*Assistant Connecticut State Treasurer &
Chief of Staff, Connecticut State Treasurer*



Bryan T. Cafferelli

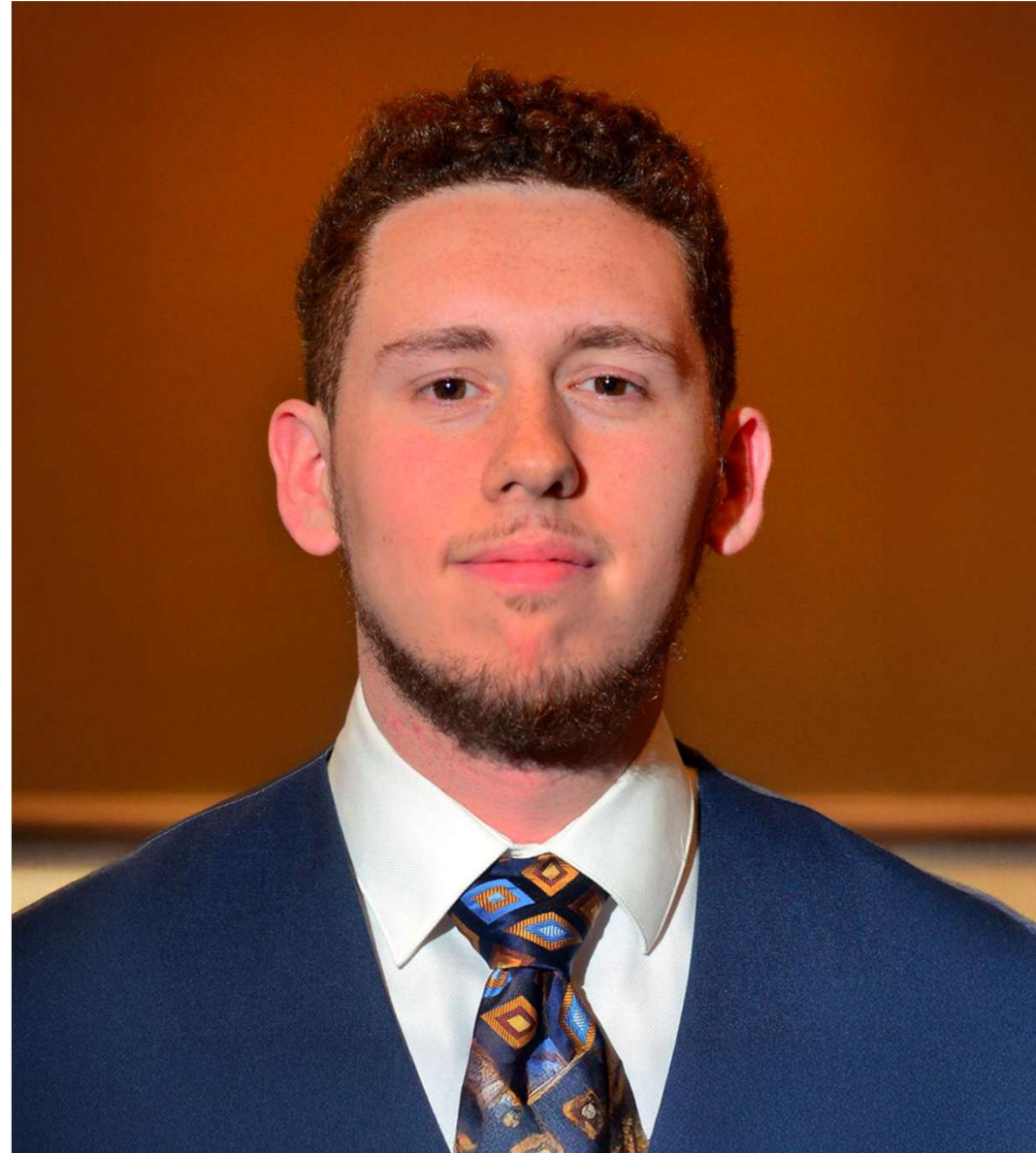
*Commissioner
Department of Consumer Protection*



Antonio Felipe

Honorary Co-chair

*Co-chair,
State Representative,
House District 130 (Bridgeport)
Black and Puerto Rican Caucus (BPRC)*



Derell Wilson

Honorary Co-chair

*Vice Chair,
State Representative,
House District 46 (Norwich)
Black and Puerto Rican Caucus (BPRC)*



Ned Lamont

*Governor,
State of Connecticut*



The Working Group

Divided into Three Specialized Subcommittees

**Marketplace
Subcommittee**

**Municipal Relations
Subcommittee**

**Youth Champions
Subcommittee**

GOAL: To drive thoughtful policy development and strategic insight informed by these subcommittees.

Marketplace Committee

Key Findings

Marketplace: Cannabis

CT Cannabis Licensees have built the foundation for our burgeoning Adult-Use Market. However, the industry continues to face financial barriers which has slowed the maturation of the Adult-Use market.

Marketplace: Non-Cannabis

Using the Governor's Workforce Strategic Plan, the Council is working towards empowering DIA residents interested in non-cannabis career opportunities. The Council is looking to strengthen connections with industry partners and grassroots organizations currently supporting these ideals.



Municipal Subcommittee Key Findings

CT's municipalities, alongside their residents, vary in their support of the Adult-Use industry.

We have found support revolves around increased economic opportunities for towns and their communities while opposition revolves around concerns of irresponsible use and exposure to youth.

Inconsistent zoning regulations pose significant challenges for both municipalities and the adult-use industry, creating obstacles to business development and potentially impacting future tax revenues.

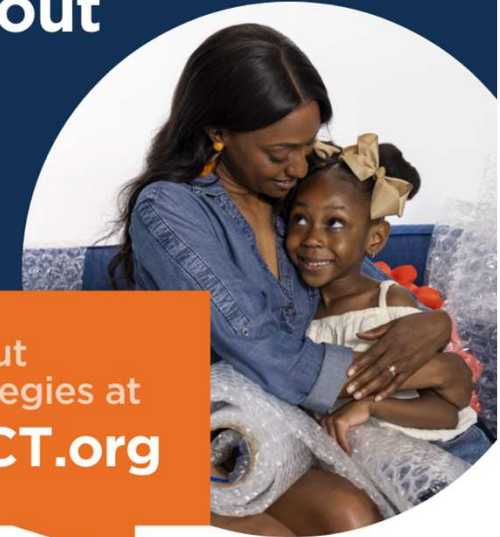


Youth Champions Subcommittee Key Findings

Research has shown a small fraction of youth in CT are consuming cannabis, as a result, the Council wants youth input to create effective educational programs to support responsible use, and research potential youth centered allocation of cannabis funds.

Talk to the youth in
your life about
substance
misuse.

Learn about
Prevention Strategies at
PreventionCT.org



Meet Our Co-Chairs!



Nikole Burns
Marketplace Co-chair

*Executive Director,
CT Cannabis Chamber of Commerce*



Chris DiPentima

Marketplace Co-chair

*President & CEO,
Connecticut Business Industry Association
(CBIA)*



**Arunan
Arulampalam**
Municipal Relations Co-chair

*Mayor,
City of Hartford*



**Mayor Vincent
Cervoni**
Municipal Relations Co-chair

*Mayor,
Town of Wallingford*



Eddie Brown
Youth Champions Co-chair

*Managing Director,
Hartford Communities that Care*



John Torres
Youth Champions Co-chair

*Executive Director,
Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders*



Special Guest

Tauhid Chappel

*Executive Director of New
Jersey Department of State's
Cannabis
Training Academy*



Thank You!

Scan the QR code to take our survey and let us know which committee you are interested in being part of.



Social Equity Council



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SEC@ct.gov