



Policy and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 18, 2025

Time: 2:05 PM

Location: TEAMS

1. Call to Order

Chair **Ed Shirley** called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

2. Roll Call

- **Councilmembers' Present:**
 - Kyle Abercrombie
 - Avery Gaddis
 - Tina Beamon
 - Ed Shirley, Chair
- **Also Present:**
 - Brandon McGee, Executive Director
 - Marie Collazo Cruz, Legal Advisor
 - Christina Diamond, Legislative Liaison
 - Hilary May

3. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of the March 20, 2025, meeting were reviewed.
- Motion to approve: Kyle Abercrombie
- Seconded by: **Avery Gaddis**
- Vote: Approved unanimously

4. Executive Director Updates & Discussion

Presenter: Brandon McGee, with support from Legal Advisor Marie Collazo Cruz

Topics Discussed:

1. Backers and Change in Ownership

- Current statute prohibits adding backers to an application until final licensure.
- Challenge: applicants may lose financial backing during provisional stages but cannot secure new investors until final licensure.
- Staff and stakeholders are exploring statutory amendments to allow greater flexibility.
- Committee consensus: Supportive of pursuing amendment; no vote required at this stage.

2. Voting on EJVs (Equity Joint Ventures)

- Currently, recommendations from third-party reviews must be voted on at Council meetings, often causing delays.
- Discussion on whether approvals could be expedited via:
 - Email voting, or
 - Delegating approvals to staff when all criteria are met.
- Committee consensus: Explore statutory or policy changes to allow staff-level approvals and reduce delays.

3. Workforce Development Criteria for DIA Cultivators

- Legislative changes allow cultivators to operate outside disproportionately impacted areas (DIAs) but impose workforce requirements (e.g., 25%, 50%, 75% DIA workforce thresholds).
- Staff proposal: Develop a standardized policy or rubric to ensure compliance and reduce subjectivity.
- Committee consensus: Supportive of efforts to draft policy for review; no vote required.

5. Additional Updates

- **2025 Market Outlook Working Group** kickoff scheduled for **September 24, 2025, at 10:00 AM** at the Legislative Office Building, Hartford.
- Working groups include: marketplace, municipal relations, and youth champions.
- Governor, elected officials, business, and community stakeholders invited.

6. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: **Avery Gaddis**
- Seconded by: **Kyle Abercrombie**
- Vote: Approved unanimously
- Meeting adjourned at **approximately 2:59 PM**