

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL | REGULAR MEETING - **DRAFT**  
NOVEMBER 12, 2024 Meeting 10:00 A.M.  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1) Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting of the Social Equity Council was called to order by Andrea Comer, Chair, at 10:01 a.m. She welcomed council members, state officials, and members of the public before initiating the roll call. Chair Comer announced a new addition to the council, Tina Beamon, who was appointed by Governor Lamont on November 5th. Ms. Beamon, an attorney with over 20 years of experience in healthcare and pharmaceutical industries, has served on the Food and Drug Law Institute Cannabis Derived Products Committee and helped organizations implement corporate social responsibility platforms. In her remarks, Ms. Beamon expressed her enthusiasm to contribute to the council’s mission of empowering communities affected by the war on drugs.

2) Attendance

Andrea Comer  
Fanita Borges  
Corrie Betts  
Tina Beamon  
Avery Gaddis  
Andrea Hawkins  
Daniel Karpowitz  
Michael Jefferson  
Melvin Medina  
Ojala Naeem  
Shirley Skyers-Thomas  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres  
Kevin Walton

Executive Director: Brandon McGee

3) Approval of October 1st, 2024 SEC meeting minutes

Chair Comer introduced the agenda item for approval of the October 1, 2024, meeting minutes and called for a motion.

Motion – by Avery Gaddis  
Second – by Ojala Naeem  
In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – Tina Beamon

Motion passed unanimously.

4) Executive Session

a) Updates on Pending Litigation

The Chair Andrea Comer introduced the agenda item, requesting a motion to enter executive session to discuss updates on pending litigation.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson

Second – by Ojala Naeem

In Favor – All

Opposed – None

Abstentions – None

Motion passed unanimously.

Andrea instructed the participants to leave the Zoom meeting and join the executive session via a separate Teams link, and she thanked the public for their patience during this transition.

5) Vote on Equity Joint Venture Application Recommendation

a. Approval

i. ACRE.0015696 /Budr Holding 5 LLC

Chair Andrea Comer introduced the agenda item, a vote on the approval of Equity Joint Venture application ACRE.0015696 for Budr Holding 5 LLC.

Motion – by Kelli-Marie Vallieres

Second – by Avery Gaddis

In Favor – All

Opposed – None

Abstentions – Tina Beamon

Motion passed unanimously.

ii. ACTP.0000497 /Leaf Line Logistics LLC

Chair Andrea Comer introduced the Equity Joint Venture application ACTP.0000497 for Leaf Line Logistics LLC for approval.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson

Second – by Melvin Medina

In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – Tina Beamon

Motion passed unanimously.

6) Executive Director’s Report

McGee began by welcoming Council member Beamon and introducing a new addition to the team, Caesar Valentin, the Council's inaugural research analyst. Valentin shared his enthusiasm for contributing to the Council's mission, highlighting his Connecticut roots and academic background in public policy and cannabis research.

McGee provided an update on the strategic planning process, noting that the Council, alongside consultant Slalom, is in the third week of a six-week project. Key accomplishments included:

- Completion of seven stakeholder interviews and two focus groups.
- A workshop revising the Council’s mission and vision, emphasizing clarity and alignment with goals.

**Mission:** Promote equitable economic prosperity by supporting social equity entrepreneurs and reinvesting in communities most impacted by the war on drugs.

**Vision:** Create thriving, prosperous communities that have been disproportionately affected by the war on drugs.

McGee highlighted strategic focus areas, including:

**Metrics:** Ensuring trackable performance measures across all programs.

**Stakeholder Experience:** Streamlining support for social equity entrepreneurs through programs like loans, workforce development, and accelerators.

**Community Engagement:** Prioritizing disproportionately impacted areas (DIAs) and aligning efforts for maximum impact.

**Council Collaboration:** Strengthening the relationship between Council members and staff.

**Staff Infrastructure:** Enhancing staffing to support the Council’s objectives.

Next steps include additional workshops to refine initiatives, prioritize goals, and finalize a three-year strategic plan. Slalom will deliver a comprehensive project readout to stakeholders.

Chair Andrea Comer acknowledged Council members Hawkins and Karpowitz for their leadership on the Strategic Planning Committee and thanked all participants for their contributions to the process. No questions were raised by attendees.

## 7) Good of the Order

Chair Andrea Comer invited updates from committee chairs, but none were offered initially. Kevin Walton raised a question regarding revenue updates from recreational cannabis sales. Brandon McGee deferred to Jennifer Stevens, the staff accountant, who explained she was awaiting final reports from DRS and the state treasurer. Stevens noted the Council would receive 60% of the 10-15% cannabis tax but did not have the precise figures available.

Tiffany Araujo provided preliminary data, indicating approximately \$17.99 million in adult-use cannabis sales through August 2024, and total sales of \$184 million. However, McGee emphasized waiting for finalized figures to avoid public confusion. He assured the Council that a comprehensive report would be shared once confirmed.

Melvin Medina suggested implementing a structured reporting schedule, such as quarterly or annual updates, to ensure transparency and consistent tracking of revenue. McGee agreed, proposing a monthly financial summary, to be developed in collaboration with Councilor Avery Gaddis.

## 8) Adjourn

Motion – by Avery Gaddis  
Second – by Kelli-Marie Vallieres  
In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – None

Motion passed unanimously.



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**Date: November 27, 2024**

**RE: Minutes: November SEC Council Meeting Minutes Minutes (Draft)**

**Please be advised that the above-referenced typewritten minutes are a true and accurate description of the proceedings obtained from the recorded conversations to the extent that the audio could be clearly heard/understood. Portions that could not be heard/understood have been notated with a (an “inaudible” or “?...”).**

**Sincerely,**

*Brenda LaFleur*

**Brenda LaFleur**  
**Owner, A Plus Reporting Service, LLC**

**I certify that this document is a true and accurate description of the proceedings obtained from the recorded conversations contained in the listed audio file.**

*Boden Truitt*

**Boden Truitt,**  
**Transcriber**