

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL | SPECIAL MEETING - **DRAFT**  
JUNE 25, 2024 Meeting 10:00 A.M.  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1) Call to Order and Welcome

Chairwoman Andrea Comer called the Social Equity Council's special meeting at 10:01 a.m. and welcomed Council colleagues, Social Equity Council staff, state agency and legislative representatives, and members of the public. She officially called the meeting to order and proceeded to take the roll.

2) Attendance

Kyle Abercrombie  
Corrie Betts  
Avery Gaddis  
Subira Gordon  
Andréa Hawkins  
Michael Jefferson  
Daniel Karpowitz  
Melvin Medina  
Ojala Naeem  
Edwin Shirley  
Shirley Skyers-Thomas  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres  
Kevin Walton

Staff: Ginne-Rae Clay, Executive Director

3) Vote on Equity Joint Venture Application Recommendation.

a. No application votes.

Andrea Comer introduced agenda item number 3, which involved voting on equity joint venture application recommendations. However, she noted that there were no application recommendations to be voted on at this time.

4) Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Ginne-Rae Clay presented her monthly report, covering staffing updates, social equity and workforce development plan updates, program updates including the business revolving loan fund, outreach education, workforce training, and the office's goals for July. Clay detailed the ongoing interviews for key positions, the status of social equity and workforce development plans, and progress on the revolving

loan fund applications. She highlighted outreach efforts, such as community conversations in several cities and workforce training programs, including a pre-accelerator bootcamp and retail dispensary training.

Andrea Comer raised a question about potential conflicts of interest regarding community conversation contracts awarded to entities that had previously received grants. Ginne-Rae Clay acknowledged the oversight and agreed to investigate further. Councilman Avery Gaddis expressed concerns about the alignment of job training programs with industry demand and emphasized the need for thoroughness and accountability in future council activities.

Subira Gordon echoed Gaddis' concerns and stressed the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of current programs by connecting with existing licensees before proceeding with new initiatives. She urged the Council to schedule a follow-up town hall with current licensees to gather feedback and ensure that future programming aligns with their needs.

Clay confirmed that the next town hall meeting is planned for September. Subira Gordon expressed concern about the lack of prior discussion regarding the timing of the town hall. Melvin Medina emphasized the need to understand job market demands in the cannabis industry and suggested that applicants should affirm whether they have received previous grants from the Council.

Kelli-Marie Vallieres discussed the development of a regional sector partnership for cannabis, highlighting a proposal from NextGen to organize the cannabis industry businesses. Skyers-Thomas also mentioned a survey to be sent out to employers for feedback on job training needs, although she noted that direct conversations with businesses would be more effective.

The conversation then shifted to addressing inaccuracies in the monthly and quarterly reports, specifically regarding district information. Andrea Comer and Clay discussed the need for consistent and accurate reporting of contact information and business addresses for social equity plans. The corrected reports are intended to inform legislative leadership and the Governor's office.

## 5) Committee Reports and Recommendations.

- Approval of Committees

Andrea Comer initiated the segment by seeking formal approval from the Council to establish strategic planning and legislative committees, which was moved by Avery Gaddis and seconded by Kyle Abercrombie. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion – by Avery Gaddis

Second – by Kyle Abercrombie

In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – None  
Motion passed.

- Policy/Governance Committee

The Policy and Governance Committee, led by Edwin Shirley, motioned for the approval of the presented revised bylaws incorporating recent legislative requirements, which were subsequently approved without opposition.

Motion – by Edwin Shirley  
Second – by Kyle Abercrombie  
In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – None  
Motion passed.

Shirley also introduced an updated social equity plan rubric and criteria, which received unanimous approval following motions by Michael Jefferson and Subira Gordon.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson  
Second – by Subira Gordon  
In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – None  
Motion passed.

- Reinvestment/Workforce Committee

Ojala Naeem reported on behalf of the Reinvestment/Workforce Committee, noting that their recent meeting included discussions about the reinvestment plan and the strategic planning scope of work, which had been shared by the Executive Director's office.

Naeem confirmed the receipt of the scope of work document and concluded her report. The session reflected a collaborative and efficient approach to advancing the Council's initiatives.

6) Good of the Order

Andrea Comer initiated this segment, inviting updates from committee leaders. Avery Gaddis of the Finance Committee announced an upcoming meeting on July 9th, noting pending items and coordination with the comptroller's office.

Subira Gordon of the Outreach Committee mentioned their next meeting planned for July. Andrea Hawkins, representing the Strategic Planning Committee, shared that they had their first meeting on June 27th, reviewed proposals from two vendors for strategic planning, and were awaiting further clarification.

Ginne-Rae Clay added that four vendors had been contacted, and two had responded. Michael Jefferson reported that the Personnel Committee met with the Policy and Governance Committee and that future meetings would be planned in coordination with the Executive Director.

Edwin Shirley emphasized the need for updates on the cannabis industry's health in Connecticut and nationwide, suggesting a survey to gather financial data and insights. Andrea Comer concurred, highlighting the importance of understanding market conditions and operators' needs. The session concluded with no further updates from the committee members.

## 7) Adjourn

Avery Gaddis called a motion to adjourn.

Motion – by Avery Gaddis  
Second – by Kyle Abercrombie  
In Favor – All  
Opposed – None  
Abstentions – None  
Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.



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**Date: June 25, 2024**

**RE: Minutes: April 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**