



Gary Christenson, Mayor

**CANNABIS LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

Board Room #105, Pleasant Street, Malden, MA

Community to watch Via Zoom Webinar

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 5 PM

**Committee Members in Attendance**

√	Jenelle DeVits, Chair	Council Appt.
√	Ron Hogan ( <i>remote</i> )	Finance
√	Kevin Molis	Chief of Police
√	Nelson Miller	Bldg. Commissioner
√	Diana Jeong	Mayor's Appt.
√	Kathleen Manning Hall	Clerk <i>Non-voting mem.</i>

**MINUTES**

1. **Roll Call of Committee members.** Meeting was called to order at 5 PM and there was a quorum sufficient to conduct business.
  
2. **Review and Approval of April 14, 2021 Minutes.** *Motion by Chief Molis to approve the April 14 minutes; seconded by Diana Jeong. All in favor, Motion passes unanimously.*
  
3. **Deliberation/Discussion of applicant interviews.** The City Council made their preference that one of the five licenses will be protected for a diversity candidate and a Malden resident. City Council also expressed their desire that the permitting granting authority be removed from City Council and given to the Planning Board, however we are unsure of the status of this. At the end of the year papers can die, however, the City Council can vote to carry them over. Kathleen will reach out to Councilor Spadafora to get a Joint Cannabis Ordinance meeting to discuss proposed ordinance changes. The following candidates recently came before the CLEC:
  - a. Lazy River Products, 270-280 Medford Street
  - b. Benevolent Botanicals, 926 Eastern Ave.
  - c. Faded LLC d/b/a Your Green Package d/b/a Dris, 496 Broadway (formerly 88 Broadway)
  - d. DMS Trinity, 36 Charles Street
  - e. Center Harvest Corp., 65 Commercial Street

**Benevolent Botanicals:** Ron believes that we had a good group of candidates, he felt that Benevolent Botanicals had the best Malden ties of all applicants. Also, they have a good location. Ron believes that business owners Warren Lynch and Stee McMorris spoke from

the heart. Ron has some concerns about their financials. To the extent the council will revisit, how do we make sure that the door is open for a good candidate but who hasn't yet raised large capital? Chief Molis likes the location and likes the Malden connection and feels the applicants were sincere about embarking on a business in Malden and were most representative of Malden's fiber. Diana concurs with what the Chief and Ron said. Nelson also agrees that Warren and Stee were great, but how do we balance out their lack of funding with what this Commission has done in the past. Jenelle is comfortable that we evolve so that we give the smaller mom and pop shops time to get financing. Jenelle felt comfortable with their financial manager's answers and the strength they have to raise money. There are cities who have evolved over time, and perhaps our ordinance changes will reflect that a large amount of funds may be too high a hurdle to overcome. How do we do this to be fair to all? Nelson read the ordinance with regard to finances. If they are moved forward, they go before the Council and then to the state. The process may need amending so it doesn't appear that we are ignoring our own rules. For instance, if we approve someone, they get funding, do we still have a say on how they get their funding? After the state reviews, it comes back to us and we will have final say on their licensure. We should send a clear message to the candidate, for them to go out and raise the funds they will need to be successful. They are within 75 feet of a residence, but otherwise compliant. There would be a variance required in this case, it is an existing non-conforming building. Ron suggests sending the message to the applicant to start raising funds to allow them to move forward. Lender may have a hard time entering into a convertible debt document without having the go-ahead from the City or getting a commitment letter. A comment in the chat was read that state money is available to assist. *Motion by Ron Hogan to invite Benevolent Botanicals LLC back in 90 days with the benefit of this discussion so that they may clarify the finance aspect to show us if we move them forward we haven't had a completely different standard than in the past; seconded by Chief Molis. All in favor, motion passes.* Kathleen will reach out to Benevolent Botanicals, they should watch this dialog.

**DMS Trinity** – Chief Molis was impressed with this group, they are delivering a product with a broader impact, and had passion in a variety of issues related to the product. Ron commends them for sticking with the process, believes they have strengthened their team, location has some variance issues, parking issues primarily, part of their parking is through a leased portion of land through MBTA. If the MBTA breaks the lease, it could be an issue for them. Jenelle likes the diversity of location and feels it will be more accessible, likes that it is woman owned, they retained the same team, and same two suppliers. Chief Molis hopes that all realize that this committee is doing everything to keep safe. *Motion by Chief Molis to move DMS Trinity Forward, Second by Ron Hogan, all in favor. Motion passes.*

**Faded LLC d/b/a Dris** - Diana thought they had a good presentation and was minority owned, also a social equity applicant who will apply for minority status. Ron was also impressed by the hunger and spirit of the candidate, want to diversify. Ron has concerns that they changed their location very late in the game. Nelson liked the applicant as well but does not believe it is a good location, there are two other uses in the building both of which just received special permits. It is in a buffer violation of four different parcels and they have no parking. This is not in any lack of effort on the part of the applicant, he was very

actively speaking with people in the city for a location. Jenelle agrees he would be a good candidate in the future, someone that the city could want to partner with.

No other discussion on other candidates at this time. Applications are still before us but we are not moving forward at this time.

**4. New Business:** No new business.

**5. Next meeting:** Meeting next month will be May 26, 2021 at 5 PM to discuss ordinance changes, micro businesses, and the delivery topic.

Motion to adjourn at 6:05 PM by Chief Molis and seconded by Nelson Miller. All in favor, meeting adjourned.