

Recreational sales may start at medical pot facilities

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — The state Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) is making it relatively simple for medical marijuana Alternative Treatment Centers (ATCs) to expand their business to include recreational cannabis. Two ATCs are located in Atlantic City.

At a Feb. 24 meeting, CRC Executive Director Jeff Brown said existing ATCs do not need to go through a formal application process to begin selling recreational marijuana.

"ATCs just need to prove they have adequate supply to serve patients and recreational consumers, prove they can expand to recreational dispensing without impacting service to patients, submit proof of municipal approval for the licenses sought and some other requirements that are in our regulations," he said.

Brown said eight applications have been received and are under review with five deemed complete which have moved onto substantive review.

CRC Commissioner Charles Barker, a member of the Public Engagement and Education Committee, said the CRC would host three regional public hearings throughout the state primarily to solicit public input about social equity

investments and how tax revenue should be appropriated and used.

A hearing for southern New Jersey is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. March 16 on Zoom. Visit nj.gov/cannabis for more information.

"As we know, one of the driving forces behind legalization of cannabis is the ability to use the tax revenue collected to restore people, to restore families, to restore communities most harmed by the failed war on drugs especially our black and brown people who bore the brunt of that," Barker said.

Brown said the CRC had to create a universal symbol to appear on cannabis products that will be sold in the recreational market. He said the symbol is to denote that the item is a cannabis product.

The symbol must be recognizable to a wide range of individuals including children and use components that are utilized across multiple jurisdictions, Brown said. The symbol must incorporate elements of warning labels from other industries, he said.

Brown said the symbol should include elements recognizable to people who cannot read, such as children, or non-native English speakers.

A symbol was developed for the packaging of cannabis which features a red

stop sign, a version of the international intoxicating cannabis products symbol, and an image of a cannabis leaf, he said.

"It includes the plain language warning 'not safe for kids,'" Brown said.

A warning symbol would also be directly imprinted on the cannabis products such as edibles and ingestible products. The symbol would use a simple warning triangle with an image of a cannabis leaf, he said.

Brown said the imprint symbol would be more costly for the cannabis industry to implement, so the design is being kept simple.

The CRC approved a waiver for medicinal cannabis products regarding concentrates. He said previously under medical cannabis regulations, permit holders could produce topicals, lozenges, and oils which can be in a vaporizable form or in tinctures as well a whole flower.

The commission is providing a waiver of those limitations on products to specifically allow for a category of products for which the CRC has a number of product proposals for concentrates, Brown said.

Concentrates are pure forms of either solid or semi-solid cannabinoids that are extracted from the plant. He said generally no insipient ingredients are added and may be referred



Labeling and Packaging



Product Imprint

The Cannabis Regulatory Commission created a warning symbol that it will require to appear on all cannabis products sold in New Jersey.

to as wax, rosin, or shatter.

Brown said concentrates were available in other northeast medical markets. He said concentrates were a fast-acting product and purposeful for someone who does not want flower or a vape cartridge.

"This could provide a very high and effective dose of cannabinoids in one inhalation," he said.

Brown said the CRC will only approve ATCs to manufacture those products under this waiver if they engage a third-party lab to do their product testing.

Barker said he hoped his fellow commissioners would commit to working on a framework that permits a waiver for expanded edible options. He said the stakeholder and patient communities continue to emphasize the need to have expanded edible options that offer more suitable methods of medicinal consumption.

"I do believe that they stress how expanded edibles will better serve them and allow them to benefit in many ways," Barker said.

CRC Chairwoman Di-

anna Houenou said the CRC plans on updating its regulations within the medicinal space for concentrates to be used for ingestible items. She said the commission needed to make sure it was providing patients with a wide variety of products so that they can determine what is most useful for their medicinal needs.

Brown said there were some complexities involved with commercial kitchens, but he was confident the commission could work through those issues.

"Our goal is to continue to work to offer more products to patients," he said.

TIDES: March 9-16, 2022

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
9	12:18	12:46	6:44	6:30
10	1:12	1:47	7:46	7:25
11	2:15	2:55	8:51	8:27
12	3:20	3:59	9:52	9:29
13	5:19	5:53	11:44	11:24
14	6:10	6:40		12:28
15	6:55	7:22	12:14	1:07
16	7:35	8:01	12:59	1:43

MOON PHASES

First quarter, March 10 • full moon, March 18

City Hall may get solar panel array on roof

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is seeking bids to place solar panels on the roof of City Hall as an energy-saving measure.

Based on available roof space, the city is seeking bids for a system size of a minimum of 50,000 kilowatts.

At a March 1 City Council meeting, Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan asked if the proposal should be seen by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) since City Hall is a historic building, the former Cape May High School, constructed in 1917.

Sheehan proposed language in the request for proposals stating the solar panels

could not be visible from the street. Mayor Zack Mullock said the HPC would not allow visible solar panels on City Hall.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the HPC would provide an "advisory review." He said the city could move forward even if the HPC objected to the project as presented.

Gillin-Schwartz said the standard under the Secretary of the Interior guidelines is for "minimally visible" solar panels. He said he didn't believe the solar panels would be visible from anywhere except possibly Victorian Towers.

"I think the array is going to be oriented in such a

way that you're not going to be able to view it from the streetscape," Gillin-Schwartz said.

Councilman Shaine Meier said the HPC would examine solar panel plans but the city was exempt from HPC standards for its own projects. He asked if the weight of the solar panels would impact City Hall's roof.

"It's a very old building, I don't want to cause any more leaking," Meier said.

The soundness of the roof is an element of the construction planning phase, and the city would require an assessment of the roof, Gillin-Schwartz said.

"I'm pro-solar panels but the historic integrity of this

building is very important to me," Meier said.

He said it was important to determine if solar panels would be visible from Ocean or Lafayette streets.

The city's request for proposals states it is seeking "minimally visible" solar panels.

Contract

Continued from Page A1

nificant amount of money, on the summer concert series."

With the new agreement, the booking agent is paying the city rather than the city paying the booking agent, Mullock said.

"Perhaps when you include the \$5 per ticket, it most likely will be close to breaking even, but I tell you this is no homerun by any means. It does provide entertainment to the town and I will tell you ... based on the previous contracts, this is a far, far better contract," Mullock said.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the new booking contract requires Spy Boy Productions to pay the bands in advance and provide the theater lighting and sound production, which are significant costs.

"We are incentivizing the producer of the show to sell

tickets," he said.

Mullock said under the new agreement, Spy Boy Productions has more "skin in the game."

"I think that you've probably saved us a couple hun-

dred thousand dollars per year by doing this, even if we lost money, which is a possibility if they are low turnouts and we've got a lot of staffing," Councilman Mike Yeager said.

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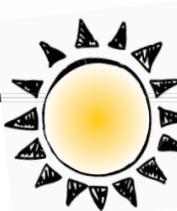
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