

# **Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission Meeting**

## **Minutes**

**August 8, 2024**

The Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission met on August 8, 2024, at the Alabama State House, room 200. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rex Vaughn at 1:22 P.M.

Dr. Sam Blakemore led the Commission's invocation. The roll was taken with a quorum present. Commission members present for the meeting were Chairman Rex Vaughn, Vice Chairman Sam Blakemore, Dr. William Saliski, Mr. Dwight Gamble, Dr. Angela Martin, Dr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Loree Skelton, Judge Charles Price, Mr. James Harwell, Dr. Jimmie Harvey, and Mr. Dion Robinson. Ms. Taylor Hatchett and Dr. Mac Barnes were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Vaughn presented the minutes from the July 11, 2024, Commission meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Blakemore, seconded by Dr. Jensen, and received approval from the Commission.

Chairman Vaughn recognized the Commission's legal counsel, Mr. Mark Wilkerson to provide a litigation update. Mr. Wilkerson broadly discussed pending litigation, including motions before the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals and Montgomery Circuit Court. Mr. Wilkerson addressed questions from Commissioners regarding the possibility of a settlement agreement, the approval of filings made on behalf of the agency and individual Commissioners, the status of discovery ordered by the Montgomery Circuit Court, the number of parties currently participating in the litigation, and the status of the Dispensary Temporary Restraining Order.

Chairman Vaughn moved to discuss decision items before the Commission. Since there were no requests from licensees, he moved to discuss the Administrative Law Judges' (ALJ) Recommended Orders from the investigative hearings in the Cultivator and Secure Transporter license categories. Chairman Vaughn reviewed the procedural history of the investigative hearings process for those license categories.

Chairman Vaughn presented the ALJ's recommendation that the Commission find First Choice Farms, LLC not suitable for a cultivator license and deny its application for a cultivator license. A motion to accept the recommended order was made by Mr. Gamble, seconded by Dr. Jensen, and received approval from the Commission.

Chairman Vaughn presented the ALJ's recommendation that the Commission find James Gang Dispensary, LLC not suitable for a cultivator license and deny its application for a cultivator license. A motion to accept the recommended order was made by Dr. Jensen, seconded by Dr. Blakemore, and received approval from the Commission.

Chairman Vaughn presented the ALJ's recommendation that the Commission find Pure by Sirmon Farms, LLC suitable for a cultivator license and award a cultivator license to the applicant. A motion to accept the recommended order was made by Judge Price, seconded by Mr. Gamble, and received approval from the Commission. Dr. Saliski voted against the motion.

Chairman Vaughn presented the ALJ's recommendation that the Commission find Blackberry Farms, LLC suitable for a cultivator license and award a cultivator license to the applicant. A motion to accept the recommended order was made by Dr. Blakemore, seconded by Judge Price, and received approval from the Commission.

Chairman Vaughn presented the ALJ's recommendation that the Commission find Soraya Schultz not suitable for a secure transporter license and deny her application for a secure transporter license. A motion to accept the recommended order was made by Mr. Harwell, seconded by Dr. Jensen, and received approval from the Commission.

Following the consideration of recommended orders, Chairman Vaughn noted that, without objection by the Commission, he would sign Final Orders in each case to memorialize the actions taken by the Commission. He noted that the applicants awarded a license are required to submit payment of the license fee and undergo pre-issuance inspection. Chairman Vaughn also stated that investigative hearings are underway in the Processor license category and that the Commission has requested that the Court lift or modify the TROs preventing investigative hearings in the Dispensary and Integrated Facility license categories.

As a matter of old business, Chairman Vaughn noted that revisions to existing rules due to the passage of HB390 were submitted to LSA and published both in the Administrative Monthly and on the AMCC website. He stated that the Commission would accept comments on the proposed revisions until September 4.

Chairman Vaughn recognized Ms. Amanda Taylor to discuss her patient advocacy group. Ms. Taylor discussed the group's recent events and website. She also discussed her own recent health challenges and the urgency for access to medical cannabis in Alabama.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Judge Price, seconded by Dr. Blakemore, and approved by the Commission. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 P.M.