

COMMISSIONERS
 Ronald B. Hogan, Chair
 Nelson Miller
 Glenn Cronin
 Diana Jeong
 Deano Summers



CANNABIS LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
City Hall, 215 Pleasant Street, Conference Room 105
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 5 PM

Committee Members in Attendance		
√	Nelson Miller	Bldg. Commissioner
√	Ron Hogan, Chair	Finance
absent	Glenn Cronin	Chief of Police
√	Diana Jeong	Mayor's Appt.
√	Deano Summers	Council Appt.
√	Kathleen Manning Hall	Clerk <i>non-voting mem.</i>

MINUTES

- Roll Call of Committee members:** Meeting was called to order at 5 PM and there was a quorum sufficient to conduct business. Ron must leave early for another meeting.
- Approval of December 15, 2025 Minutes:** *Motion by Deano Summers to approve December 15 minutes; seconded by Diana Jeong.* All in favor, Motion passes.
- Update on Open Meeting Law Complaint filed on December 8, 2025 by Brian DeLacey in association with Malden News Network against the Cannabis Licensing & Enforcement Commission (CLEC) related to CLEC's November 19 meeting alleging that "The CLEC failed to list discussed topics with sufficient specificity on its meeting notice for the 11/19/25 meeting."**
 The CLEC responded to the OML complaint by communicating with the State and Brian DeLacey by agreeing to (1) change its monthly agendas to confirm and list guests that may attend where known to the CLEC; and (2) provide names of establishments for whom specific updates will be provided. The State replied to all parties and will only further review the issue if Brian DeLacey requests it by February 17, 2026. Otherwise, the matter is deemed closed.
- Industry Updates (Diana Jeong and Deano Summers)** Diana and Deano reported that the Federal Government may reclassify marijuana to a drug that is less dangerous and one that has benefits. If this happens, businesses may get tax breaks. Currently, marijuana is federally illegal. There is a 2026 ballot initiative to repeal the cannabis law, however fraud has been alleged with obtaining signatures. As Massachusetts has \$1.65 Billion in sales, it will be difficult to repeal the law and close businesses already established.
- Updates on Existing Operations (Misty Mountain Shop & Eastern Cannabis) and Open Licenses (DMS Trinity & Benevolent Botanicals) (Nelson Miller)** Nothing to report on Malden's two operating businesses. Nelson has not heard from DMS – the last communication was that they are well into the state approval process. They will come back to the CLEC once they get approval from the state. DMS's licensing process has taken much longer than previous candidates. The

Benevolent lawsuit is ongoing. The court date for Dris, which is connected to the Benevolent case has been moved up to March. It is unknown when a decision will come down.

6. **Discussion on ordinance and license limit language** (*Ron Hogan*) The initial license period in the ordinance specifically called out that CLEC would approve five licenses. That was based on 20% of Malden's liquor licenses at that time. The CLEC approved five candidates (more than five were approved but not all made it through the process.) Subsequently, licenses were limited to 20% of off premise liquor licenses. Currently the city has only 19 liquor licenses off premise making the current limit only four. The ordinance needs to be clearer in this regard to provide certainty. In October, Ron reached out to Councillor Karen Colon Hayes and requested that the Council address this vague language. It was suggested then that she and the Council pursue clarifying the ordinance. Ron Hogan subsequently reached out to Council President Linehan and Councillor Steve Winslow (Chair of Ordinance) to follow up. Steve suggested working on the ordinance along with the social consumption issue, which Ron doesn't recommend as the social consumption issue is completely different and a lot more complicated. Ron has not heard back from the City Council on this.
7. **Regulatory Updates** (*Ron Hogan*) Ron discussed three issues:
 - a. The biggest issue is adopting regulations on social consumption (currently prohibited in our ordinance.) Adoption will present a lot of challenges as it is in many ways a different industry.
 - b. Extending the time for the exclusivity period for delivery licenses for social equity licenses to get more people involved in the business.
 - c. Sales – gross sales are at a record high, as the industry matures and works to remove regulatory hurdles to help licensees stabilize. There is recognition that the market is saturated. The industry may regulate at some point.
8. **Police Chief Report** (*Glenn Cronin*) No report.
9. **New Business** No new business.
10. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Motion to adjourn by Deano Summers, seconded by Diana Jeong Deano Summers - meeting adjourned.