

# Cook County Cannabis Commission Inaugural Meeting

## Agenda: Economic Development

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### **Overview of the Commission:**

It is imperative Cook County takes a proactive approach regarding this new industry and the potential primary, secondary, and tertiary effects the recreational cannabis industry will have on Cook County and its residents. In June 2019, the State of Illinois became the eleventh state to legalize recreational adult cannabis use. On January 16, 2020, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved and established the Cook County Cannabis Commission. The Cook County Cannabis Commission will assist Cook County's government in determining the economic, legal, and social impact of the recreational and medical cannabis industry on Cook County and its residents.

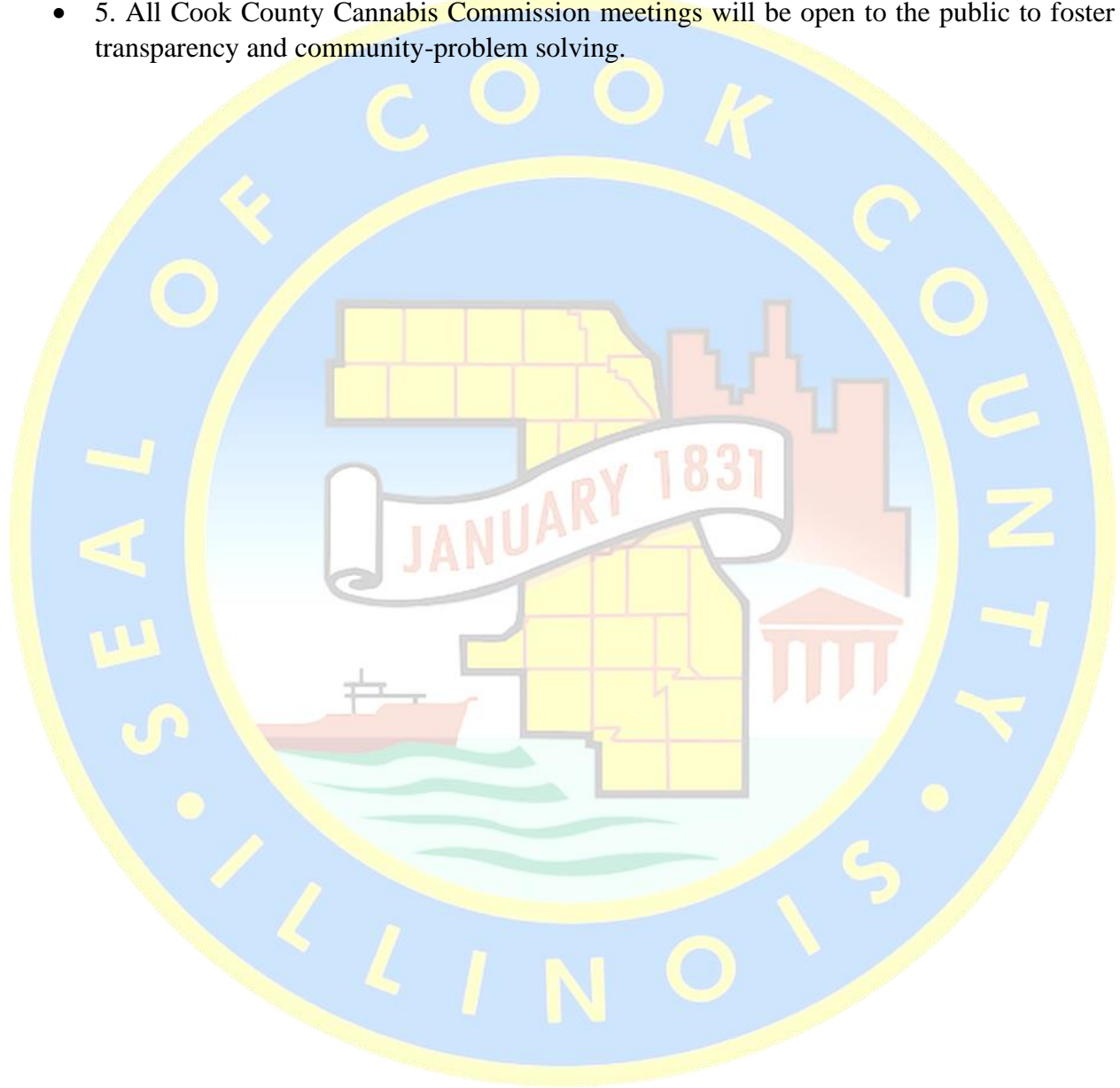
### **Commission Composition:**

The Commission will comprise of eleven members (7 commissioners and 4 representatives from the Bureaus of Public Health, Finance, Economic Development, and the Justice Advisory Council) who will rely on cannabis subject matter experts ranging from State and local officials, advocacy groups, and industry professionals/specialists to educate and collaborate with the County to address cannabis-related issues. The Commission will solicit input from various subject matter experts and focus strategically on; (a) analyzing and addressing the economic impact of the emergent cannabis industry in Cook County, specifically the Social Equity Applications and recreational cannabis licenses and businesses in Cook County; (b) addressing services provided and/or lacking in identified Disproportionately Impacted Areas throughout Cook County; (c) the social and economic impact of the automatic expungement initiative; and (d) other recreational and medicinal cannabis industry issues within Cook County.

### **Why a Cannabis Commission?**

- 1. The Commission will foster intergovernmental collaboration with State and local government to proactively address cannabis-related issues, both known and unknown, which will accompany the new recreational cannabis industry. Cannabis will impact all 135 municipalities in Cook County whether through direct recreational sales and/or the secondary and tertiary niche industries which will form as result.
- 2. Cook County has large areas classified as Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs) and Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Zones – areas ravaged by prior criminal drug policies of this State – where our constituents affected by these policies need advocacy regarding social justice and social equity.

- 3. At least 47 out of the 75 recreational cannabis dispensary licenses, will be in Cook County. This translates to nearly 63% of the recreational dispensary market in Cook County.
- 4. This Commission will analyze and offer recommendations regarding cannabis-related issues ranging from Social Equity, Economic Development and Inclusion, Criminal Justice Reform, Public Health, and Legislation/Policy.
- 5. All Cook County Cannabis Commission meetings will be open to the public to foster transparency and community-problem solving.



## MEETING PROCEDURE:

### Pre-Meeting:

- Chairman Lowry will call the meeting pursuant to the Cook County Cannabis Commission Ordinance;
- Chairman Lowry will set the agenda for each meeting;
- The agenda will reflect the issues from one of the four subject matter areas and evolve as the Commission builds its SME base and resources;
- This meeting will focus on Economic Development issues related to the Illinois cannabis industry; and
- Subject Matter Experts shall submit any data, report, and/or PowerPoint presentation he or she wishes to use and/or relied upon for his or her testimony, to Mr. La'Mont R. Williams at least 3 business days prior to the meeting.
  - Email materials to lamont.williams@cookcountyil.gov

### Post Meeting:

- Mr. La'Mont R. Williams will follow up with Subject Matter Experts ("SMEs") regarding any outstanding Commission questions from the meeting.
- Chairman Lowry will work with Commission members and the secretary of the board to aggregate any viewed data, reports, written testimonials, and or other relevant written data to place on the County's Cannabis Commission web page.
- Chairman Lowry will coordinate with Commission members to analyze aggregated any data, reports, written testimonials, and or other relevant written data into a Cannabis Commission report to the main Cook County Board of Commissioners and Cook County Board President.

The following agenda will focus on the economic development issues facing Illinois' nascent cannabis industry, particularly the issues facing social equity applicants, small business, and government, both prior to and during the COVID-19 crisis. The goal of this meeting is to begin identifying these issues and formulating solutions to address these issues at the County level while collaborating across all government jurisdictions.



## AGENDA

Chairman Lowry scheduled this meeting for June 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. via virtual conference.

Call to order and introduction with Commission overview  
by Chairman Lowry **10:00 a.m.**

Public Commentary **10:10 a.m.**

Testimony by Owner of The Coughie Pot Dispensary, Portia Mittons **10:15 a.m.**  
Re: Social equity application issues  
\*includes 5-10 minutes for questions from the Commission

Testimony by Director of Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative (JEO), **10:25 a.m.**  
Quinn Rallins re: R3 Program and grants  
\*includes 5-10 minutes for questions from the Commission

Testimony by Senior Advisor to the Governor for Cannabis Control, **10:45 a.m.**  
Toi Hutchinson re: Regulation Updates from the State  
\*includes 5-10 minutes for questions from the Commission

Testimony by BED representative re: County's planned actions with Cannabis **11:15 a.m.**  
related tax revenue  
\*includes 5-10 minutes for questions from the Commission

Closing remarks **11:30 a.m.**  
By Chairman Lowry

Meeting adjourned **11:35 a.m.**

This meeting will be remote using Microsoft Teams teleconference platform; therefore, Chairman Lowry proposes Commission members send written questions for any additional questions for the Subject Matter Experts, not covered during the meeting, to La'Mont R. Williams at [lamont.williams@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:lamont.williams@cookcountyil.gov). Mr. Williams will follow up with each presenter regarding the submitted Commission questions and compile a document with the presenter's responses.

Additionally, the County will live stream this meeting in a similar fashion as any Cook County Board of Commissioners meeting.