CRC has approved more than 500 conditional licenses

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — The state Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) has approved 505 applications for businesses, including 152 conditional licenses in the first week of September that gave applicants more time to get property or municipal approval but does not allow the business to operate.

CRC Executive Director Jeff Brown said the CRC has received 1,350 cannabis business applications since Sept. 7. He said only 80 had to be more formally a completeness review. The CRC sent 552 “cure letters” explaining how to correct their application for approval.

He said the commission launched a new online registry last week replacing a 15-year-old system. New patients no longer will have to wait to see an insurance card to purchase marijuana. Instead, they will be able to provide their authorization from a physician online and then go to a dispensary to make an initial purchase.

Brown said compliance and investigations are a core function of the CRC. He said inspections are conducted prior to issuance of a license.

The CRC conducts periodic site visits that include collecting samples of cannabis for testing, spot checks for security, review of inventory management and investigations of any complaints.

“When we do have a complaint, we have the right to conduct a site visit,” Brown said.

“Because of the hard work of our teams, we tell people that we’ve had zero positive test results, zero major violations, issuing more than $100,000 in fines for three violations to three ATC’s (Alternative Treatment Centers) in the past nine months,” he said.

An employer may designate a drug test as a fitness-for-duty or precautionary test only in cases in which an employer is required by federal or state law or regulation to conduct tests to determine if an employee is under the influence of a controlled substance or is a public safety worker.

“The core function of the CRC is to ensure that the law of the land is that employers cannot, unless they meet a certain criteria, take adverse action against an employee simply based on the presence of cannabis metabolites in their blood,” he said.

More information on regulations at nj.gov/health/ccc.

Wesley White, CRC, said the CRC sent cure letters in a time-printed manner.

“The CRC released a new patient portal that applicants can adjust their timeline for real-time information,” White said.

Workplace guidance

The CRC has released workplace guidance.

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City to refurbish Beach Avenue restrooms

Cape May — It’s already time to change one’s diaper, so why not change the way one uses public toilet facilities?

City Manager Mike Veil said the city received a prize of $330,000 to replace restrooms along a new bike path to be constructed on Beach Avenue near Trenton and Winton avenues.

The money comes from the Department of Public Works Bureau of Highway Aid to refurbish the restrooms at a cost of $450,000 to $500,000 each, including one at the corner of Beach Avenue.

“We’re going to save a lot of money by using our own people to refurbish all these restrooms, and still get a quality product,” Veil said.

The Department of Public Works will also refurbish the Sunset Pavilion at the Cape May Point. The city received an $820,000 prize to refurbish the area.

Councilwoman Lorraine Voll said an architect and engineer were retained to design the project. The goal is to have it ready for construction by the end of the summer.

A portable restroom trailer will be removed from the corner of Beach Avenue. Baldwin said.

“The project is under way to expand crosswalks and sidewalks on most of the city’s roads and sidewalks have been installed on the roof of City Hall but all are under renovation,” Voll said and will replace walkways.

The city received a new project through a federal program, a Ford hybrid, he said. The city can expect to be delivered by the end of the month and an electric pickup truck delivered to the corner of Garvy Street.

He said some older people have converted for use by neighbors by the Cape May City Code.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022