

EXHIBIT A

BYLAWS OF THE COMMERCIAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY APPLICATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

- A. The purposes of the Commercial Cannabis Dispensary Application Evaluation Committee (herein referenced as “Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee”) shall be:
 - 1. To establish a competitive merit-based approach to selecting the most qualified applicants to apply for a discretionary Use Permit to the Nevada County Planning Department, for up to two (2) Retail Storefront Commercial Cannabis Dispensaries, to be located within either the M1 – Light Industrial, BP – Business Park, C1 – Neighborhood Commercial or C2- Community Commercial Zoning Districts.
 - 2. To ensure that a maximum of only one (1) Retail Storefront Commercial Dispensary is located within the North San Juan Rural Center and/or the Soda Springs Rural Center as identified by the Nevada County General Plan and in accordance with Nevada County Code Section 12.03.300 – Cannabis Cultivation.
- B. This Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee has been authorized to operate in accordance with Nevada County Code, Section 12.03.300 – Cannabis Cultivation and Resolution No. 24.594, as adopted by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors.
- C. County Staff available to the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee, as applicable, shall be as follows:
 - 1. Nevada County Code & Cannabis Compliance Department.

II. DEFINITIONS

The following words shall have the following definitions for the purpose of these Bylaws.

- A. “Board of Supervisors” is the Nevada County Board of Supervisors.
- B. “Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee or Committee” is the Commercial Dispensary Evaluation Application Committee.
- C. “Staff” refers to staff members of the Nevada County Code & Cannabis Compliance Department.
- D. “Officers” is the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.
- E. “Term” refers to a single 12-month calendar-year.

III. POWERS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

In accordance with the responsibilities assigned by Nevada County Board of Supervisors, the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall have the following responsibilities and duties:

- A. The Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall respond to all Board of Supervisors communications and board orders and minute orders, as well as comply with all Federal, State and local regulations, including but not limited the Brown Act, California Fair Political Practices Commission regulations and all applicable noticing requirements related to the review and recommendations regarding land use issues.
- B. Establish the application process by which applicants shall submit their competitive application for a Retail Storefront Commercial Cannabis Dispensary, including the specific application and scoring criteria. The specific criteria and weighting (points per criteria) will be ratified by the Board of Supervisors prior to the commencement of the initial screening application period and posted publicly.
- C. Establish the specific scoring criteria that will be used to rank applications, for consideration by Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee, including as outlined in Resolution No. 24.594, as adopted by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, but not limited to the following:
 - 1. Previous cannabis business retail, medical-use dispensing, or cannabis cultivation operation experience that was subject to state cannabis regulation, or experience in a similarly state- regulated activity (by way of example and not limitation, alcohol sales).
 - 2. Ability to demonstrate the quality of cannabis strains and derivative product offerings.
 - 3. Employee training, standard operating procedures, online ordering systems and procedures for providing medical cannabis to disadvantaged or disabled persons.
 - 4. Security program.
 - 5. Pre-existing Nevada County Cannabis Business that has no outstanding code violations with the County and is in compliance with local and state laws.
 - 6. Ability to meet County of Nevada Western or Eastern Design Standards.
 - 7. Additional information demonstrates the ability to operate in a safe and responsible manner in the County, including without limitation a review of the quality and thoroughness of application materials, connection to Nevada County, ability to serve Nevada County, familiarity with the County, and innovative business models consistent with the Nevada County business community.

- D. The Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee may establish additional bonus scoring criteria for those Commercial Cannabis Dispensaries applications which include business that are a women or minority owned, veterans owned or a local Nevada County owned business.
- E. The Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall ensure that all competitive applications for consideration for a Retail Storefront Commercial Cannabis Dispensary are located within the North San Juan Rural Center and/or the Soda Springs Rural Center as identified by the Nevada County General Plan and in accordance with Nevada County Code Section 12.03.300 – Cannabis Cultivation.
- F. The Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall notify the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of any resignations and maintain a current membership roster.
- G. Such other functions, powers and duties as the Board of Supervisors shall be designated by Resolution and allowed by state law.

IV. Organization

- A. The Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Board of Supervisors with one (1) member being appointed by each Supervisor for Supervisorial Districts I, II, III and with two (2) members being appointed by each Supervisor within Supervisorial District IV and Supervisorial District V.
- B. Officers of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall be chosen from and by current members of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee and shall consist of the following:
 - 1. A Chairperson who shall be elected at the first meeting by majority vote of the members of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee and preside at Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee meetings, represent the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee and its position before County bodies, including the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors and perform other tasks as necessary for the conduct of Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee business.
 - 2. A Vice Chairperson who shall be elected at the first meeting by a majority vote of the members of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee and who shall assume the duties of the Chairperson in their absence.
 - 3. The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson shall serve at the will of the Committee for a one calendar year term, or until replaced by a majority vote of the Committee. No Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee member shall be eligible for selection as Chairperson if they have served as the elected Chairperson for the two preceding fiscal years.

V. MEMBERSHIP

A. COMPOSITION OF CANNABIS DISPENSARY EVALUATION COMMITTEE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS

1. The Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Board of Supervisors with one (1) member being appointed by each Supervisor for Supervisorial Districts I, II, III and with two (2) members being appointed by each Supervisor within Supervisorial District IV and Supervisorial District V.
2. Each Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee member shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing Supervisor and acknowledged by the Board of Supervisors.
3. All members shall reside in the Supervisorial District of their appointing Supervisor.
4. Members of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall be of diverse / unique perspectives with a wide breadth of experience in but not limited to the following industries: cannabis, hospitality, local government licensing, social justice, drug policy reform, along with familiarity with Nevada County.
5. All members must be able to dedicate the time to attend meetings, actively participate in Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee matters and otherwise perform duties enumerated in these Bylaws and assigned by the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee and/or the Board of Supervisors.
6. All Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee members shall notify the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson within a reasonable period of time if they will not be in attendance of regular or special meetings to allow for the Chairperson to determine and approve the absence as an Excused Absence. Should a Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee Member fail to notify the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of their absence before a regular or special meeting within a reasonable period of time or the Chairperson determines and declines to approve the absence, then the absence shall be considered an Unexcused Absence and shall be notated within the meeting's records.
7. The Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall always maintain a current membership roster available for inspection at its regular meetings.
8. All Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee members shall be required, as required by State law, to complete and submit Proof of Participation Certificate of training that satisfies AB 1234 Ethics Education training every two years.

B. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS

1. For the following reasons, the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee may, by a Two-Thirds (2/3) majority vote at a properly noticed meeting, make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that a member be removed from the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee:
 - a. Unexcused absences of two (2) consecutive meetings or more than half the meetings in any 12-month period; or
 - b. For no cause by a Two Thirds (2/3) majority vote by the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee.
2. The Board of Supervisors may remove any Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee member at their sole discretion at any time.
3. Upon resignation, Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee members shall provide written notification to the Board of Supervisors, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Office and the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee of their resignation and its effective date.

VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

A. QUORUM

1. Four (4) members of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee present in person shall constitute a quorum and the actions of this quorum shall stand as the actions of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee.
2. If there is not a quorum at any meeting of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee, the Chairperson may adjourn the meeting or continue the meeting and refrain from discussion or action on items that require a vote. Items requiring a vote will automatically be placed on the agenda at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

B. MEETINGS

1. On not less than a yearly basis, beginning no sooner than 2025 and then continuing on a yearly basis, as needed, until two (2) competitive applications for Commercial Cannabis Dispensaries have been selected, the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall convene regular meetings.
2. Regular meetings of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee may be established by Committee, and all meetings of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall be at 6:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, on an as needed basis. All meetings will be held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the Eric

Rood Administrative Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, California, unless otherwise noted or stated in written notice of meeting.

3. A Special Meeting may be called by the Chairperson or by a majority of the members of the Committee. Written notice of the Special Meeting shall be made either by personal delivery or mail and shall be received at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the special meeting, by each member of the Committee and each local newspaper of general circulation, radio and television station requesting such notice in writing. Such written notice shall be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the special meeting on the public notice board at the Eric Rood Administrative Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, California.
 - a. The notice shall specify the time and place of the Special Meeting as well as the business to be transacted or discussed.
4. Members of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall vote by roll call vote on any vote that requires action by the Committee, including, but not limited to voting on the establishment of the application process for a Commercial Cannabis Dispensary, specific scoring criteria and weighting (points per criteria) of the application and applicant to be selected to apply for a Use Permit for a Retail Commercial Cannabis Dispensary to the Nevada County Planning Department.
5. The Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall abide by and comply with the Nevada County Board of Supervisors' Order and Decorum Policy when conducting themselves during meetings including but not limited to be prompt at meeting times, speaking when called upon by the Chair, not using e-communication devices during meetings (i.e. smartphones), not talking over on another, adhering to the Chair's requests, and being respectful on the public, Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee members and County staff.
6. All Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee regular and special meetings shall be open to the public and shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Committee on any item of interest of the public which appear on the agenda and are under the purview of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee.

C. OPEN MEETING LAW AND AGENDA

1. This Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee is subject to the provisions of Government Code Sections 54950 – 54963 (Ralph M. Brown Act) and the Political Reform Act, Government Code Sections 81000, et. seq.
2. Notices and Agendas shall be published and distributed at least 72 hours before all regularly scheduled or special meetings.

3. All meetings shall allow for a public comment period to address the Committee on any items not on the Agenda. Individuals shall be allotted a three (3) minute time period and individuals representing an organization, entity or group of people shall be allotted five (5) minutes. For any item on the Agenda, a public comment period shall be allotted at the time the item is heard by the Committee. For any item that is not on the Agenda, public comment period shall be allotted as decided by the Chair and outlined in the Agenda for any given meeting.
4. The Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall hold a public hearing if it is reviewing and selecting a proposed competitive application for a Retail Storefront Commercial Cannabis Dispensary, pursuant to Nevada County Code. The notice of the time and place, thereafter, including a general description of the locations of the proposed Retail Storefront Commercial Cannabis Dispensary, shall be given at least 10 days before the hearing. Such notice shall be given by publication once in the newspaper of general circulation published and circulated within the County. In addition to the notice by publication, the Committee may give notice of the hearing in such other manner as it may deem necessary or desirable. Any interested person may appear at such hearing and shall be heard.

D. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. In accordance with the Political Reform Act and other County policies, Commercial Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee members shall disclose and recuse themselves from discussion and vote on any matter that they have a vested personal or financial interest in the recommendation outcome.
2. All Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee members shall be required upon taking office, leaving office, and annually every in-year office, to submit a completed and signed Statement of Economic Interests – Form 700 either in hardcopy or electronically to the Nevada County Clerk of the Board, as required by State law.

E. COMPENSATION

1. All officers and members of this Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall serve without compensation.

F. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS / COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION

Communication from the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee shall be accomplished as expeditiously, clearly and completely as reasonable. Available means for communication are as follows and shall be used as time and circumstances require, but typically in the following order:

1. Minutes prepared by staff, provided to the Nevada County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors upon approval by the Committee.

2. Periodic verbal and/or written reports to the Nevada County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.
3. Ad-Hoc information exchange meetings between a Committee representative(s) and a Board of Supervisors representative(s).

G. AD-HOC COMMITTEES

1. There are not standing Ad-Hoc Committees of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee. If constituted, Ad-Hoc Committees shall be advisory to the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee and operate under the same provision of these Bylaws unless otherwise noted. The Chairperson of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee may appoint no more than two (2) members to serve on an Ad-Hoc Committee. Committee members shall be selected and serve on subcommittees on a voluntary basis.

VII. AMENDMENTS

A. Amendments to these Bylaws may be made as follows:

1. The proponent shall send the text of any proposed amendment to the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee Chairperson at least 10 days prior to any regularly scheduled meeting. The Chairperson may agendaize the Bylaw amendment to the upcoming meeting or a future Committee meeting. The proponent shall have a scheduled time to present arguments followed by discussion and shall distribute copies of the Bylaw amendment to Committee members. The Committee may, by majority vote, refer the amendment to a subcommittee of the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee. Upon adoption, the Bylaws shall be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
2. Once the Bylaws amendment has been approved and ratified by the Board of Supervisors, a copy of the executed Bylaws shall be provided to the Cannabis Dispensary Evaluation Committee members.
3. Notwithstanding the above process and procedure, the Bylaws may be amended by the recommendation of the Board of Supervisors and/or County Counsel and approval and ratification by the Board of Supervisors.

VIII. APPROVAL OF BYLAWS

- A.** These Bylaws may be approved or amended by the recommendation of the Board of Supervisors of the Committee and shall be approved and ratified by the Board of Supervisors.

- B. Upon ratification of these Bylaws by the Board of Supervisors, an original and signed copy shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Nevada County.

IX. APPROVAL AND RATIFICATION

Matthew Kelley
Director
County of Nevada Code & Cannabis
Compliance Department

Dated: _____

Katharine Elliott
County of Nevada County Counsel

Dated: _____

Heidi Hall, Chair
County of Nevada Board of Supervisors

Dated: _____