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**Town of East Haven  
Planning and Zoning Commission**

**Minutes for Special Meeting  
Held Wednesday, March 29, 2023  
Via Zoom Videoconference and Conference Call**

**I. Roll Call**

Commission Chair, Marlene Asid, started the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Present for the meeting were Marlene Asid (Chair), John Tarducci (Vice-Chair), Robert Cubellotti, and Allan Shaul.

Also in attendance were Planning and Zoning Administrator and Zoning Enforcement Officer, Joseph Budrow, and Assistant Town Attorney, Jennifer Coppola.

**II. Public Hearing**

**Application No. 23-08 on behalf of The East Haven Planning and Zoning Commission.**

Attorney Coppola opened the hearing by reminding the Commission that the proposed regulation to add retail uses for recreational cannabis sales did not pass. The existing Moratorium expiring on March 31st needs to be addressed and she recommends extending it. This will allow the Commission to decide if they want to put a prohibition in place for any particular uses. Ms. Asid asked what the next step would be. Attorney Coppola said it is a logical next step. She said those who are advocating a particular use may ask for a reconsideration.

Ms. Asid asked if any members of the Commission wanted to speak.

Ms. Asid asked if there was anyone in the public who wanted to speak.

Ms. Emily Sabo introduced herself as a representative of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, UFCW Local 919, and that it is a union for cannabis workers. She said that employees of the industry may join a union and that this is a great

career allowing young professionals to join the middle class. She said the Town may want to create an Ordinance which they passed in New Jersey. It allows for controlling uses.

Ms. Asid asked if all employees in the industry were able to be in a union. Ms. Sabo answered affirmatively.

Attorney Coppola reminded all those on Zoom that communications can be sent to the Planning and Zoning Department and Joe Budrow. She shared his email.

Erin Gorman spoke and said she was a veterans' affairs and social equity advocate. She said they provide excellent jobs. Cannabis helps keep veterans off opioids. They do not advocate for the use of cannabis but will recommend hemp or CBD. She has worked with veterans' associations for many years. She sees a bright future for this helping veterans in the future.

Nevil Patel introduced himself as the CEO of Shangri La Cannabis and stated that he had a location in East Haven picked out. He said cannabis is very beneficial. He said that saying 'no' to cannabis is blocking access to it. He said the industry provides decent paying jobs and there are medical benefits for those in need. He said no one over 21 is allowed into the facility. He asked for the Commission to reconsider and he wants to understand why the proposed Regulation was not approved.

Ms. Asid said that it seems to be the direction of the Town at this time. At this time, Mr. Shaul entered the meeting.

Attorney Coppola reminded the Chair that tonight's meeting was focused on the Moratorium.

Mr. Patel said many businesses have been looking for locations. A three-month Moratorium may not have much value since many licensees will have found locations.

Josiah Schlee introduced himself as an advocate. There are few social equity licenses out there and no one is operating. He said the State has made empty promises. This is medical and recreational. He offered assistance and thanked the Commission.

Mr. Sean Perez introduced himself as a retired police officer and representative of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership. He had 12 1/2 years in law enforcement, retiring in 2009. He said there are benefits to be had. He shared an anecdote related to a cannabis call he responded to.

Ms. Asid said it was unfortunate that tonight's speakers were not at prior meetings.

**MOTION:** Mr. Cubellotti made a motion to close the public hearing for Application No. 23-08. Mr. Tarducci seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried, 4-0.**

### **III. Deliberation Session**

Attorney Coppola had to leave the meeting.

Mr. Tarducci said it was unfortunate that those who gave opinions tonight are here at this late stage. The vote has been taken and the gate is closed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Tarducci made a motion to extend the existing Moratorium and approve **Application No. 23-08**, extending the Moratorium an additional three (3) months to June 30, 2023. Mr. Shaul seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried, 4-0.**

Ms. Asid thanked those who spoke tonight.

**MOTION:** Mr. Tarducci made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM. Mr. Cubellotti seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried, 4-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Budrow  
Planning and Zoning Administrator/ZEO