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## Kevin D. Kim

Commissioner

1 Liberty Plaza  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10006

March 31, 2023

Ethan Carrier  
Conflicts of Interest Board  
2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Carrier,

This letter serves to notify the Conflicts of Interest Board ("COIB") that consistent with COIB Rule 1-13(e), I hereby designate Dasheeda Dawson, in her official capacity as the New York City ("NYC") Department of Small Business Services ("SBS") Founding Director of Cannabis NYC, to continue serving as the Founding Chair for the Cannabis Regulators of Color Coalition ("CRCC" or "Coalition").

CRCC is a 501(c)(6) organization consisting of "current and former government officials appointed and or selected to lead, manage, and oversee the regulatory and policy implementation for legal medical and adult-use cannabis markets across the United States and abroad." (<https://www.crc-coalition.org/>). The Coalition's main mission is to be a source of education for legislators and government agencies on equity-centered regulation, industry best practices, and cannabis competency and standardization. CRCC was founded in 2020 and membership is limited to state, county, and municipal cannabis regulators. CRCC does not have any business dealings with the City of New York.

As the Founding Chair of the CRCC, Dasheeda Dawson was responsible for the general management of the organization (such as tax filings). Additionally, she performed or participated in the following activities:

- Presiding over weekly member and monthly executive board meetings;
- Leading and/or participating in CRCC strategic planning and budget development;
- Representing the organization at international, federal, state, and local levels, as-needed;
- Leading and/or participating in research and writing for published papers, opinions, and panels. For examples of written materials, please refer the following link: [SAFE Banking | Cannabis Regulators \(crc-coalition.org\)](#); and
- Leading and/or participating in CRCC member or board recruitment and educational programs, including CRCC's annual membership symposium.

Dasheeda Dawson is currently employed at SBS as the Founding Director of Cannabis NYC initiative. As Director, Dasheeda Dawson serves as the primary liaison between SBS and other NYC agencies, the New York State Office of Cannabis Management, and community stakeholders such as elected officials, community boards, and industry associations. Dasheeda Dawson is a global cannabis advocate as well as an experienced and accomplished industry leader.

Based on the information provided, I have determined that there is a demonstrated nexus between Dasheeda Dawson's City position as the Founding Director of Cannabis NYC, the mission of SBS and Cannabis NYC, and the work or activity of Dasheeda Dawson at the CRCC, and that such work or activity furthers the mission of the City and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interest of CRCC. Cannabis NYC is on a mission to become a global leader demonstrating cannabis industry excellence. CRCC, which consists of leading architects of cannabis equity and policy reform, is a source of information and education for legislators and government agencies that aim to build sustainable cannabis regulatory frameworks. By continuing as the Founding Chair for CRCC, Dasheeda Dawson will be responsible for working with the CRCC and the City to support the development of a thriving and equitable cannabis industry in the City of New York. Ms. Dawson will not receive any compensation for her work or activities for the CRCC.

Lastly, I have been advised that Dasheeda Dawson does not anticipate or foresee any conflicts between her day-to-day responsibilities at SBS and involvement with the CRCC. I am supportive of Dasheeda Dawson serving in this role, subject to any required stipulations and/or recusals on her part. I am also requesting that Dasheeda Dawson be allowed the reasonable and incidental use of City time, equipment, supplies, and resources for her participation with CRCC as part of her City duties.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Deputy General Counsel Eujan Park at [epark@sbs.nyc.gov](mailto:epark@sbs.nyc.gov).



Kevin D. Kim  
Commissioner