STATE OF MAINE OFFICE OF CANNABIS POLICY 162 STATE HOUSE STATION 19 UNION STREET FIRST FLOOR AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0162

ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

KIRSTEN LC FIGUEROA COMMISSIONER

OFFICE OF CANNABIS POLICY

JOHN HUDAK DIRECTOR

January 29, 2025

Mr. Eric Kollman-Furnish

Re: Notice of Administrative Action including Monetary Penalty and Order of Forfeiture and Destruction.

Eric Kollman-Furnish CGR25107 OCP Incident Number- 2024-MCP-1359

Dear Mr. Kollman-Furnish,

This Notice of Administrative Action is issued pursuant to the *Maine Administrative Procedures Act* (Maine APA), Title 5, Ch. 375, subch. 4, to **Eric Kollman-Furnish**, Medical Use Cannabis Program (MUCP) **CGR25107** for violations of the *Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act* (MMUCA), Title 22 M.R.S., Chapter 558-C, and the *Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program Rule*, 18-691, Ch. 2, as described below. In response to these violations, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, acting through its Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP), (collectively, "The Department") is taking the administrative actions detailed in this notice.

The licensee named herein is subject to the administrative actions pursuant to MMUCA as described in Part II, III and IV below that may be timely appealed in accordance with the Maine APA in accordance with Part V of this Notice. Failure to timely appeal will result in the imposition of the administrative actions described herein.

- I. Summary of MUCP Investigation of License
 - 1. On October 17, 2024, the Office of Cannabis Policy conducted a routine caregiver inspection at consister. Compliance Inspector Brochu met with you on site. While inspecting both indoor and outdoor cultivation areas at the site he learned that there were 300 sq/ft of mature plants indoors and an additional 850 sq/ft of mature plants outdoors. The combined area of mature plants was 1150 sq/ft which is 230% of the canopy limit of 500 sq/ft.
 - 2. The indoor area consisted of 4 trays measuring 5'x15' which totaled 300 sq/ft. The outdoor area consisted of 4 raised beds measuring 4'x40' which totaled 640 sq/ft. Those areas were measured by contiguous means. 13 additional 4'x'4 individual raised beds were spaced apart and measured as noncontiguous areas for a total of 210 sq/ft.

- 3. During the inspection, the cultivation area and the manufacturing area were found to not be securable from unauthorized access. Both areas can be accessed by other individuals inside the residence. During the routine inspection in 2023, CI Cote noted and advised you that it is the caregiver's responsibility to prevent unauthorized access and to deter theft. In October 2024 technical assistance was provided to add lockable devices to the doors leading into the cultivation areas.
- 4. During the inspection, you were asked about pesticide, fungicide, or growth hormone usage. You indicated no application of such products to your cannabis plants. While assessing the outdoor cultivation area, a container of Suffoil-X was observed leaning against the fence near the entrance door. During an inspection in 2023, CI Cote and a member from the Board of pesticides spoke with you about products requiring an applicator's license such as Suffoil-X.
- 5. During the inspection, your records were reviewed. It was brought to your attention that several OCP trip ticket forms were not completed correctly. Receiving caregiver names were not added, but business names were used instead. Receiving signatures were missing on some of the forms. Technical assistance was provided at that time to fill out the trip tickets correctly moving forward.
- II. Summary conclusions of fact and violations:

The Department finds, based upon its investigation and interviews:

1. You (Eric Kollman-Furnish) cultivated cannabis plants exceeding your authorized canopy limit of 500 sq/ft. You had 1150 sq/ft of flowering plants or 230% of your allotted canopy area. This is a violation of:

Title 22 M.R.S., Chapter 558-C § 2423-A (2)(B) **and** Title 22 M.R.S., Chapter 558-C § 2430-I (1-A) (B) "Major registration violation" means a serious violation that does not imminently jeopardize public safety. "Major registration violation" is limited to: (7) Cultivating cannabis plants in an amount that is equal to or greater than 150% of the total number of cannabis plants or plant canopy the registrant is authorized to cultivate under this chapter.

2. You failed to equip your cultivation area with locks or other security devices to prevent access by unauthorized persons. This is a violation of:

Title 22 M.R.S., Chapter 558-C § 2423-A((3)(B).

3. You failed to obtain or maintain a pesticide applicator's license as required with the Board of Pesticides. Presence of Suffoil-X in the vicinity of the outdoor cultivation area is evidence of its usage. This is a violation of:

Title 22 MRS 2423-A (2)(J)

4. You failed to properly complete OCP trip tickets from prior transactions. This is a violation of:

18-691 C.M.R. Chapter 2, Section 6 (A)(2)

III. Summary of administrative actions taken by the Department:

Considering the violations summarized above and in order to ensure compliance with Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Program, 22 M.R.S., Chapter 558-C the Department is taking the following administrative actions to ensure Eric Kollman-Furnish CGR25107 stays in compliance with program requirements:

- 1. In response to Eric Kollman-Furnish cultivating mature plants exceeding authorized canopy limit:
 - a. OCP imposes the following fine against Eric Kollman-Furnish CGR25107: \$600 for a major violation in accordance with § 2430-I (3) (A)(2) of the Maine Use of Cannabis Act, to be remitted to the Department no later than 120 days from the date of this notice.
- 2. In response to Eric Kollman-Furnish failure to prevent unauthorized access to cultivation location.
 - a. OCP has issued Technical Assistance
- 3. In response to Eric Kollman-Furnish failure to obtain or maintain a pesticide applicator's license or cease future usage until licensed.
 - a. OCP has issued Technical Assistance
- 4. In response to Eric Kollman-Furnish failure to properly utilize OCP trip tickets.
 - a. OCP has issued Technical Assistance

IV. Order of Destruction:

Pursuant to 22 M.R.S., Chapter 558-C § 2430-I(5) the Department hereby orders the forfeiture and destruction all cannabis plants, cannabis or cannabis products in the possession or under the control of Eric Kollman-Furnish which exceed the limits or your registration, are hereby forfeited and shall be destroyed at a time and place and in a manner to be required by the department in writing after this matter becomes final.

V. Summary of administrative appeal rights:

The Department issues this Notice of Administrative Action in accordance with its authority pursuant to 22 M.R.S., Chapter 558-C, §2430-I and the Maine APA, 5 MRS, Ch. 375. If you disagree with the Department's findings of fact or administrative actions, you may request a formal hearing within 30 days from the date of this Notice. Failure to timely request a formal hearing of the Department will result in this Notice of Administrative Action including Monetary Penalty and Order of Forfeiture and Destruction becoming the FINAL ORDER of the Department. You will not be able to petition for a review in Superior Court and it could impact your continued participation in the programs administered by the Office of Cannabis Policy.

A request for a formal hearing may be sent via e-mail to Deputy Director Vernon Malloch: <u>Vernon.Malloch@maine.gov</u> or via USPS mail to: Office of Cannabis Policy, 162 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333.

Sincerely,

Dem Holle Dean Goodale Director of Compliance

Cc: Director John Hudak, Office of Cannabis Policy Deputy Director Vernon Malloch, Office of Cannabis Policy Anya Trundy, Office of the Commissioner Deanna White, Esq., Office of the Attorney General