



March 24, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Under N.J.S.A. 24:6I-24(b)(4), at least one member of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission “shall be a State representative of a national organization or State branch of a national organization with a stated mission of studying, advocating, or adjudicating against minority historical oppression, past and present discrimination, unemployment, poverty and income inequality, and other forms of social injustice or inequality.”

Founded in 1991, the National Action Network is one of the leading civil rights organizations in the United States with dozens of chapters throughout the nation, including chapters in Newark, South Jersey, Paterson, Irvington, East Orange, and Asbury Park. As an organization dedicated to advancing a modern civil rights agenda, our work centers on the fundamental fight for justice and equal opportunities for all people, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, citizenship, criminal record, economic status, gender, gender expression, or sexuality. The National Action Network clearly meets the criteria laid out in N.J.S.A. 24:6I-24(b)(4).

Charles Barker, a projects specialist for U.S. Senator Cory Booker, is currently a member of the National Action Network and has garnered wide respect from leaders of our organization due to his work to ensure fairness in our marijuana laws. The National Action Network enthusiastically supports Governor Philip D. Murphy’s appointment of Mr. Barker to the Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Furthermore, the National Action Network is formally designating Mr. Barker as a State representative of the organization for purposes of N.J.S.A.24:6I-24(b)(4).

Sincerely,

Senior Pastor Steffie Bartley, Sr.
Northeast Regional Director and New Jersey Coordinator
National Action Network