

**North Carolina Advisory Council on Cannabis
Public Safety Subcommittee**

Co-Chairs:

Colonel Freddy Johnson, State Highway Patrol

Sheriff Keith Stone, Sheriffs' Association

Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2026, 2:00-3:00pm

Virtual via Teams

Attendees

Council Members Present – Scottie Shoaf; Mark Ezzell; Carrie Brown, Keith Stone (Co-Chair); Melvin McLawhorn (Proxy for Kandie Smith); Scott Proescholdbell (Proxy for Kimberly McDonald)

Council Members Absent - Colonel Freddy Johnson (Proxy Chuck Gould); Brian Harris; David Hess; Matt Scott, Deonte Thomas

Staff Present – Marybryan Wolak; Brandy McKoy; Kindl Detar; Meghan Chua; Anne Doyle; Charles Mitchell

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Meeting Purpose
- II. Introductions
- III. Discussion of Policy Priorities
- IV. Committee Expectations
- V. Planning the Remaining Meetings
- A. Guest Speakers
- VI. Other Business and Next Steps

Meeting Purpose

Purpose Statement: The Public Safety Subcommittee will review public safety considerations related to cannabis regulation and develop recommendations to support implementation, strengthen enforcement efforts, and promote coordination among local, state, and federal partners.

Introductions

Policy Priorities

- Enforcement of laws against impaired driving and public consumption
- Field sobriety testing; oral fluid testing
 - Kenny Benfield
- Tools for law enforcement
 - Enforcement responsibility (Mark Ezzell): Where enforcement responsibility to going to fall and what the enforcement responsibility will be as it relates to existing agencies

(ALE?)

- Mike Hanson
- Disrupting the illicit market
- Training (police officers, ALE, prosecutors, judges, ARIDE, DRE)
- Forensic testing
- Public education and strategies to reduce driving while impaired
 - Education stressed, enforcement plan, and permitting (Scottie Shoaf)—amount of staffing, labs, advocating to youth, permitting regulation, etc.
- Regulating the levels of THC and making it clear the side effects and how it impairs the body—overlap with other subcommittees

Subcommittee Expectations

- Submit clear recommendations for the Final Report
 - Time constraints—intentional with our time

Planning the Remaining Meetings

- Review the Guidance Document and Recommendation Form
 - Ensure all subcommittee members have access
- Develop a tentative roadmap
 - Address policy priorities in order as they would come (Marybryan)
 - First look at permitting regulation; and then so one (Scottie)
- Reschedule November 11 meeting (Veterans Day)

Learning Resources

- Comparable state map provided by Marybryan
- Having background materials for future meetings (supported by Scottie Shoaf, Marybryan Wolak, Kaycee Deen, and Anne Doyle)

Action Items / Next Steps

- **Future Speakers**
 - Mike Hanson (Minnesota)
 - Law Enforcement members (NY & CT) about licensing and cleaning up the NY market [will not present in an open meeting]
 - Scottie Shoaf to reach out to other law enforcement
 - Sheriff Stone suggested Tennessee regulators, and ER doctors who are seeing hospitalizations
 - Kenny Benfield—branch head for forensic tests (oral fluid testing, highway roadside testing)
 - August 27—MMF Labs in Winston Salem that conduct product testing for THC (Marybryan)
 - Civil resolutions (Marybryan & Scottie)
 - Someone in another state that has laws around combining cannabis with other intoxicating substances and are there more severe penalties (Dr. Greenblatt) [perhaps a subcommittee member who is in the General Assembly]

- **Next Meeting**

- Examine the illicit market component and get some background materials—speak to another state & connect with the Market and Regulatory Subcommittee, and then brainstorm together

Adjournment

Meeting concluded at 2:55pm.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, August 26