

ASCEND MASS, LLC
MRN282077

BACKGROUND & APPLICATION OF INTENT REVIEW

1. Name and address of the proposed Marijuana Establishment:

Ascend Mass, LLC
268-274 Friend Street, Boston, MA 02114

2. Type of license sought (if cultivation, its tier level and outside/inside operation) and information regarding the application submission:

Retail

The application was reopened three (3) times for additional information.

3. The applicant is a licensee or applicant for other Marijuana Establishment and/or Medical Marijuana Treatment Center license(s):

Type	Status	Location
Retail	Application Submitted	Newton
MTC	Application Submitted	Not Disclosed
MTC	Application Submitted	Not Disclosed
MTC	Application Submitted	Not Disclosed

4. List of all required individuals and their business roles in the Marijuana Establishment:

Individual	Role
Andrea Cabral	Executive
Francis Perullo	Executive
Jason Stirling	Executive
Steven Rohlfing	Executive
Emily Paxhia	Manager
Scott Swid	Manager
Christopher Leavy	Manager

5. List of all required entities and their roles in the Marijuana Establishment:



Entity	Role
Ascend Mass, Inc.	Owner of Ascend Mass, LLC
Ascend Wellness Holdings, LLC	Owner of Ascend Mass, Inc.

6. Applicant’s priority status:

General Applicant

7. The applicant and municipality executed a Host Community Agreement on November 21, 2018.

8. The applicant conducted a community outreach meeting on September 20, 2018 and provided documentation demonstrating compliance with Commission regulations.

9. The Commission received a municipal response from the municipality on November 13, 2019 stating the applicant was in compliance with all local ordinances and bylaws.

10. The applicant proposed the following goals for its Positive Impact Plan:

#	Goal
1	Partner with Suffolk County Sheriff Department to recruit six (6) individuals who have past drug convictions, completed job-training and re-entry programs for its hiring initiatives.
2	Contribute .5% of its net revenue to the WeGrow Foundation.

SUITABILITY REVIEW

11. There were no concerns arising from background checks on the individuals or entities associated with the application.

12. There were disclosures of past civil or criminal actions, occupational license issues, or marijuana-related business interests in other jurisdictions. These disclosures did not raise suitability issues.

MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS REVIEW

13. The applicant states that it can be operational within seven (7) months of receiving its provisional license.

14. The applicant’s proposed hours of operation are the following:

Monday - Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.



15. The applicant submitted all applicable and required summaries of plans, policies, and procedures for the operation of the proposed establishment. The summaries were determined to be substantially compliant with the Commission’s regulations.

16. The applicant proposed the following goals for its Diversity Plan:

#	Goal
1.	Host two (2) career fairs annually in the City of Boston.
2.	Advertise employment opportunities in diverse publications quarterly.
3.	Utilize at least 40% of suppliers who are also committed to diversity and inclusion.

17. Summary of cultivation plan (if applicable):

Not applicable.

18. Summary of products to be produced and/or sold (if applicable):

Not applicable.

19. Plan for obtaining marijuana or marijuana products (if applicable):

The applicant plans to obtain marijuana from its affiliated licenses. If the need arises, the applicant will obtain marijuana or marijuana products by contracting with other licensed establishments.

RECOMMENDATION

Commission staff recommend provisional licensure with the following conditions:

1. Final license is subject to inspection to ascertain compliance with Commission regulations;
2. Final license is subject to inspection to ascertain compliance with applicable state laws and local codes, ordinances, and bylaws;
3. The applicant shall cooperate with and provide information to Commission staff;
4. Provisional licensure is subject to the payment of the appropriate license fee;
5. Prior to final licensure, and upon inspection, the applicant shall submit to the Commission staff an updated Diversity Plan with measurable and quantifiable goals;
6. Prior to final licensure, and upon inspection, the applicant shall submit to the Commission staff an updated Positive Impact Plan (PIP) that fully complies with the Commission’s Guidance on Required Positive Impact Plans and will ensure that all monetary and volunteer time donations to organizations have documentation from the organizations stating they will receive such donations and those donations will directly impact the Disproportionately Impacted Area; and
7. Prior to final licensure, and upon inspection, the applicant shall have a standard operating plan that complies with cash handling and transportation requirements pursuant to 935 CMR 500.110(7).



The applicant has demonstrated compliance with the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth and suitability for licensure. Therefore, the applicant is recommended for provisional licensure.

