

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BMCLA to host BAJCAN Connect for Service Providers with a focus on Securing the Medicinal Cannabis Industry

April 15, 2021, Bridgetown, Barbados – The Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA) will be hosting another BAJCAN Connect, this time the focus is on **Securing the Industry** by providing a forum for persons involved in the security sector.

BAJCAN Connect is the BMCLA's event arm that connects with stakeholders in the industry for education and collaborative efforts. There has been a number of BAJCAN Connect including events for the local health sector as well as the recent forum on processing.

BMCLA's Communications and Public Education Specialist, Tracy Moore said, "We hope that this BAJCAN Connect will serve as a powerful forum for convening security business leaders across the island to learn, to share information and to network. The event will take place virtually on April 23, 2021 and the hope is for each security professional or security business to be energized about how they can play an impactful role in securing this new industry. The Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry allows for eight (8) licenses, all of which will need access to some type, if not total, security solutions, so there are numerous opportunities available for entrepreneurship growth and job creation."

Moore explained the breakdown of the event: "The BAJCAN Connect for Service Providers will be an educational session focused on the industry guidelines under the regulatory framework. We have also invited two experts in the field of security and specifically cannabis security to attend on our panel to speak to everyone. And we've ensure that there will be ample time for discussion and questions."

Panelists

David Watson, is a Barbadian who is a former police officer and detective with the NYPD, who has received numerous awards and letters of commendation from other agencies including Nassau Police Department, multiple US police departments and the US Army to name a few. And as President and CEO of the Not for profit Caribbean Law Enforcement Foundation (CLEF), he has raise funds for resources and provided training to improve Caribbean public safety for local police, corrections, customs, immigration, military and more.



WWW.BMCLA.BB
246 421 4141

Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority
Warrens House, Warrens,
St Michael BB 22026

David Hyde is a trusted advisor to the global cannabis industry with seven years hands-on experience providing expert guidance to cannabis companies and government bodies on matters relating to cannabis facility design and operations among other expertises. As CEO of Hyde Advisory, his cannabis sector work spans almost 20 countries, providing a full range of cannabis security consulting services including site suitability review, physical security design, security licensing documents and operational security guidance.

Moore explained that, "These experts will cover the opportunities for a complete Cannabis Security Solution and balancing opportunities with the most pressing risks, trends and economics for the industry. This is an opportunity for persons involved in building fortifications, like window bars, lighting, fencing, safes, security guards (armed/unarmed), alarm systems, access systems, CCTV, and more."

BMCLA's CEO, Dr Shantal Munro-Knight said, "The new medicinal cannabis industry in Barbados is rightly regulated and ready to pick up speed. As the regulators this is an excellent opportunity to bring the experts in security to successfully tap into the country's security industry network to secure the facilities and services throughout the island."

"While we educate about the security guidelines within the regulatory framework, we're also excited to facilitate those with expertise within the security sector. Those attending will not only be able to network but we also hope that those who are the foremost experts on security, recognise that this opportunity extends well beyond jobs and entrepreneurship but see that this is part of a very important and needed value-chain to the industry," said Dr. Munro-Knight.

BAJCAN Connect: Service Providers Forum – Securing the Industry takes place virtually on **April 23, 2021**, at 10:00 a.m. Persons can go to www.bmcla.bb - > click on Invest -> click on BAJCAN Connect -> click the poster to register to attend.

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Note to Editors:

For more information, please contact:

Tracy Moore | Communications and Public Education Specialist
Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA)
office: (246) 421-4141 Ext . 228 | cell: (246) 832-0980
email: tmoore@bamc.net.bb

About the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority:

The BMCLA, which was established via the *Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2019*, regulates the handling of the medicinal cannabis industry. The BMCLA is responsible for developing policies, procedures, and guidelines to establish the medicinal cannabis industry and to ensure the medicinal cannabis is available to patients in a safe and efficient manner. The BMCLA is responsible for the issuance of licences for cultivation, processing, distribution, sale, transportation, import and export, laboratory as well as the research and development of cannabis for medical, scientific, and therapeutic purposes.