

# Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) confirms investigation of Russian-financed marijuana business Curaleaf

September 11, 2023

From: Cliff Kincaid, Kincaid@comcast.net

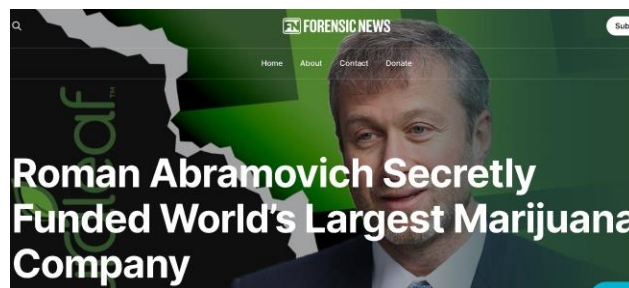
In the “final response letter” to my request of August 3, the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) **confirms an investigation of Curaleaf** that is “currently open under the MCA Office of Compliance and Regulation” and says “the investigation and associated proceedings are still ongoing...” EXCERPT:

investigatory files, the disclosure of which would prejudice ongoing investigations. The PIA statute specifically prohibits the release of investigatory files on the basis that the disclosure could prejudice an ongoing investigation. Prejudice of an ongoing investigation in Maryland law includes files prepared in conjunction with government adjudicative procedures, which includes the investigation of Curaleaf currently open under the MCA Office of Compliance and Regulation.<sup>1</sup>

The PIA and associated Maryland law support denial of release of the entire record in cases where release would be against the public interest.<sup>2</sup> In this instance, release would be against public interest as the investigation and associated proceedings are still ongoing--disclosure to a journalist in particular could prejudice the response of Curaleaf to the investigation and the response of other licensees in future MCA proceedings. Denial of the entire record is also

Note: CRB Monitor reports: Cannabis regulators in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont have reported that they are looking into whether Curaleaf violated state law when the company and its two largest shareholders accepted hundreds of millions of dollars in loans from companies owned by embattled Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich.”

Curaleaf operates marijuana dispensaries in Montgomery Village, Frederick, Columbia and Reisterstown.



For background on this request, I refer to the December 22, 2022, investigative article, "[Roman Abramovich Secretly Funded World's Largest Marijuana Company](#)," published by Forensic News.

My request included “access to any documents in the possession of the Maryland Cannabis Administration involving the relationship of Curaleaf, previously known as PalliaTech Inc., which operates four dispensaries in the state of Maryland in Gaithersburg, Reisterstown, Frederick and Columbia, and a foreign Russian businessman by the name of Roman Abramovich. This request involves any documents or information regarding loans or other payments made by Roman Abramovich to Curaleaf or PalliaTech and/or the two biggest shareholders of Curaleaf, Boris Jordan and Andrey Blokh, and/or their companies.