

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OPEN SESSION
ILLINOIS LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION**

**Richard J. Daley Center
55 W. Washington St.
Chicago, Illinois 60601**

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**July 19th 2023
1:00 PM**

Call the Roll:

Chair Berg called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present

Melody Spann-Cooper	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Thomas Gibbons	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Pat Pulido Sanchez	<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Remote</i>
Brian Sullivan	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Cynthia Berg	<i>Chair</i>	
Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Julieta LaMalfa	<i>Commissioner</i>	

ILCC Staff Present:

Lisa Gardner	<i>Executive Director</i>
Dana O'Leary	<i>Associate Director</i>
Dusanka Marijan	<i>Licensing Administrator</i>
Faheem Murad	<i>I.T.</i>
Hiram White	<i>Human Resources</i>
Noel Quanbeck	<i>General Counsel</i>
Nicole Sanders	<i>Industry Education</i>
Rick Haymaker	<i>Legal</i>
Dean Argiris	<i>Acting Commission Secretary</i>

II. Motion for Remote Participation of Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell to allow Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez to participate remotely and was seconded by Commissioner Spann-Cooper.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes.
Brian Sullivan	Yes	Steven Powell	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Spann-Cooper to approve the amended minutes of the June 21st, 2023, meeting; the motion passed.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Brian Sullivan	Yes		

IV. Executive Director's Report

Fiscal

In the month of June, the Commission saw \$379,451 in revenue with 88% coming from licensing and 12% coming from enforcement, which include fines, penalties, and violations. This number marks an 8% increase from the previous month and an 82% decrease from this time last year.

The ILCC has generated \$5.9 million in revenue when we were projected to generate \$4.5 million, with the majority of that (84%) coming from licensing.

The Dram Shop Fund in FY2023 is at a 200% Operating Expense Ratio, which was expected with the waiver of the 1A license fees, we anticipate FY2024 to be closer to 65%-70%, which is consistent with previous years.

Currently, we are undergoing our two-year Compliance Audit, which is anticipated to go until December of 2023. The ILCC has no issues to report.

Human Resources

Currently the ILCC is operating at 75% of our budgeted headcount.

We are processing promotional paperwork and evaluations for promotions of current six Liquor Inspector Trainees effective July 18th, 2023. H.R. is working hard to fill open enforcement positions.

The background check for our Chicago-based Licensing Assistant candidate is underway and we are awaiting the results of that before we extend an offer.

Our is interviewing candidates for the Legislative Liaison position.

Union negotiations are ongoing and Human Resources continues to meet with representatives.

Licensing

There currently are 31,485 active licenses throughout the state 3,661 licenses were issued in June 2023, that signifies a 3.3% increase compared to June 2022.

96% of our licensees renewed online.

468 Special events licenses were issued for June of 2023.

There were 1,018 retailers reported delinquent and 1,016 were cured. These figures include rollovers from previous months. Our agency saw 9 bona fide disputes.

We also made updates to our ILCC licenses to deter counterfeiting and altering of the issued licenses. Our licenses now have a watermark and a QR Code, which allows for better verification.

Enforcement

Our agency received 56 complaints through our various reporting mediums (email, phone, in-person information, and online submission forms). The most common complaints were:

- 1.) Sale of Alcohol to Minors,
- 2.) Operating without a License and
- 3.) Happy Hour Violation

The ILCC's enforcement division conducted 1,031 inspections, of which 130 were first time inspections. From these inspections, enforcement issued 371 citations and 77 warnings.

Enforcement continues to monitor the internet for illegal sales of alcohol. We removed 19 listings from Craig's List, 10 from Facebook Marketplace, and 3 from Offer-Up.

Three (3) underage compliance checks were conducted in Peoria, Madison, and Cook Counties. 80% of licensees investigated were found to comply. Nine (9) prior offenders were included in this check with two (2) being repeat failures.

Legal

Legal has 132 cases pending before the Commission: 12 distributor cases, 21 Sale of Alcohol to Minor cases, and 99 retail cases.

24 cases were closed last month and there are currently 38 Pre-Disciplinary Conferences outstanding, with 9 being conducted in June.

We have 16 appeals cases before the Commission, which do not include other open cases.

The ILCC received 17 FOIA requests and 5 cases are pending Administrative Review, the Attorney General's Office is representing the ILCC in those matters.

Legislation

The Associate Director and Rick Haymaker attended the JCAR Meeting related to our emergency rule regarding Co-Branded Alcohol.

The ILCC attended the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators and Director Gardner was elected as the Central Regional Chair for NCSLA.

Industry Education

Our social media impressions are steady as we continue our organic reach of our social media platforms.

We continue to record our podcasts and "Stats & Facts."

Our next scheduled webinar is August 14th.

The ILCC Q2 newsletter will be going out soon, we anticipate it being available by the end of the week.

Nicole Sanders unveiled our new ILCC Mascot, Bentley the BASSET Hound.

Commissioner Spann-Cooper asked how the Commission came up with the name Bentley; Nicole responded that it was done via internal polling of our agency staff.

IV. Partner Presentations

Erin Payton from Mothers Against Drunk Driving provided the partner presentation.

V. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

VI. Executive Session

Commissioner Powell made a motion to move the ILCC into Executive Session at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes.
Brian Sullivan	Yes	Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Brian Sullivan	Yes		

VII. Regular Session

The Commission moved back into regular session at 2:35 p.m.

Present

Melody Spann-Cooper	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Thomas Gibbons	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Pat Pulido Sanchez	<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Remote</i>
Brian Sullivan	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Cynthia Berg	<i>Chair</i>	
Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Julieta LaMalfa	<i>Commissioner</i>	

VIII. American Drug Stores, LLC and Jewel Food Stores, Inc. 1-396-846-336

Counsel for both parties agreed to a two (2) month continuance for the case, to resume at the September 20th 2023 Commission meeting.

IX. Appeals

In the matter on 23 APP 06 (*Playmaker’s v. Rock Island Liquor Control Commission*), Commissioner Spann-Cooper made a motion to MIDIFY the decision of the locals to a 30 DAY SUSPENSION WITH TIME SERVED. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes.
Brian Sullivan	Yes	Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Brian Sullivan	Yes		

For 23 APP 07 (*The Gathering v. Rock Island Liquor Control Commission*), Commissioner Powell made a MOTION TO REVERSE the decision of the Local Liquor Control Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes.
Brian Sullivan	Yes	Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Brian Sullivan	Yes		

X. Release of Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Gibbons made a MOTION TO RELEASE the Executive Sessions minutes for April 2021, June 2021, November 2022, December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes.
Brian Sullivan	Yes	Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Brian Sullivan	Yes		

XI. Maintain Confidentiality of Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Spann-Cooper made a MOTION TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY of the Executive Sessions Minutes from February 2021, May 2021, November 2021, January 2022, March 2022, April 2023, May 2023, and June 2023. Commissioner LaMalfa seconded the motion.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes.
Brian Sullivan	Yes	Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Brian Sullivan	Yes		

XII. Comments from the Board

Commissioner LaMalfa congratulated Executive Director Gardner on her election to the NCLSA Central Region chair.

XIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes.
Brian Sullivan	Yes	Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Brian Sullivan	Yes		

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m. CST.

ATTEST:

/S/ Dean Argiris, Acting Commission Secretary