

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

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

**October 18<sup>th</sup>, 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>	
Brian Sullivan	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Cynthia Berg	<i>Chair</i>	
Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Remote</i>
Julieta LaMalfa	<i>Commissioner</i>	

**ILCC Staff Present:**

Dana O’Leary	<i>Associate Director</i>
Dusanka Marijan	<i>Licensing Administrator</i>
Faheem Murad	<i>I.T.</i>
Curtis Franklin	<i>Legislative Liaison</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. Vote to Permit Commissioner Powell to Participate Remotely**

The motion was put forth by Commissioner Sullivan and seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa.

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

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gibbons and seconded by Commissioner Pulido Sanchez to approve the minutes for September 20<sup>th</sup>, 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**

Executive Director Gardner was at a professional conference representing the Liquor Control Commission. Division reports were given by the head of each division.

##### **Fiscal**

In September the Agency generated \$1.45 million in revenue with 94% coming from licensing and 6% from Fine, Penalties, and Violations. This is a 4% increase from September of 2019 and a 10% increase from the preceding month.

For Q1 of FY24, the ILCC generated \$4.25 million. As a point of reference, the average revenue for Q1 is \$4.07 million.

In terms of the Dram Shop Fund, the ILCC totaled \$800,754.50 in the month of September; a 2% increase from the previous month and a 20% increase from September of 2019. Historically, the Commission's average monthly income into the DSF is \$680,379.00.

Enforcement and Legal generated \$58,000 in revenue for fine, penalties, and violations.

##### **Human Resources**

There was no H.R. report due to the onboarding of a new Human Resource Director.

##### **Licensing**

There currently are 31,566 active licenses throughout the state 3,149 licenses were issued in the month of August.

In September 2023, we had a total of 154 in-person transactions compared to 194 for August of 2023, marking a 21% decrease.

In regard to new licenses, we issued 2,944 total licenses for the previous month, which is a 1.6% increase from the same time as last year.

97% of our licenses are renewed online, and we are completing the process for accepting new retail liquor license applications online. Additionally, we have developed a reservation system that will allow customers to schedule an appointment online, so that they can receive undivided attention in the processing of their applications.

594 Special Event licenses were issued for November and 78% of those were submitted online.

##### **Enforcement**

Our agency received 32 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,
- 3.) Retail to Retail purchasing, and
- 4.) Happy Hour Violations

The ILCC's enforcement division conducted 980 inspections, of which 107 were first time inspections. From these inspections, enforcement issued 432 citations and 87 warnings.

Enforcement continues to monitor the internet for illegal sales of alcohol. We removed 30 listings from Craig's List, 6 from Facebook Marketplace, and 1 from Offer-Up.

9 underage compliance checks were conducted on 159 establishments. 80% of the establishments checked did NOT sell alcohol to minors. A total of 23 prior offenders were retested for compliance and 5 failed the second time.

### **Legal**

Legal has 138 cases pending before the Commission: 16 distributor cases, 46 Sale of Alcohol to Minor cases, and 75 retail cases. We closed 171 cases in August..

There are currently 18 Pre-Disciplinary Conferences In the pipeline for settlement, and we conducted 25 PDC's in the month of November.

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

The ILCC received 21 FOIA requests and 7 cases are pending Administrative Review, the Attorney General's Office is representing the ILCC in those matters.

### **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 November 8<sup>th</sup> and focuses on BASSET trainers.

We have begun on "Bentley's Travels" social media campaign, where Bentley is featured in a different city each week and provides some history and quick facts about each Illinois city that is visited.

#### **IV. Partner Presentations**

The ILCC's Matt Workman provided the industry partner presentation for the month of October.

#### **V. Public Comment**

No public comment was given.

#### **VI. Executive Session**

Commissioner Powell made a motion to move the ILCC into Executive Session at 1:35 p.m. 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		

**VII. Regular Session**

The Commission moved back into regular session at 1:53p.m.

**Present**

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

**IX. Appeals**

In the matter on 23 APP 06 (*Playmaker’s v. Rock Island Liquor Control Commission*), Commissioner LaMalfa made a motion to DENY the PETITION FOR REHEARING Commissioner Spann-Cooper 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 14 (*Ron’s Lounge v. City of Lebanon*), Commissioner Sullivan made a MOTION TO AFFIRM 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		

**XII. Comments from the Board**

**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 1:55 p.m. CST.

**ATTEST:**

/S/ Dean Argiris, Acting Commission Secretary