

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

**300 W. Jefferson St. Suite 300
Springfield, Illinois 62702**

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**August 17th, 2024
1:00 PM**

Call the Roll:

Chair Berg called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m.

I. Present

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

ILCC Staff Present:

Dusanka Marijan	<i>Licensing Administrator</i>
Patrick Schoeben	<i>HR Director</i>
Tracie Anderson	<i>HR Specialist</i>
Faheem Murad	<i>I.T.</i>
Noel Quanbeck	<i>General Counsel</i>
Nicole Sanders	<i>Industry Education</i>
Curtis Franklin	<i>Legislative Liaison</i>
Jackie Villa	<i>Acting Commission Secretary</i>
Michael Gentry	<i>Chief Fiscal Officer</i>
Rebecca Hawkinson	

Motion for Remote Participation of Commissioners LaMalfa and Powell

A motion was made by Commissioner Pulido Sanchez to allow Commissioners LaMalfa and Powell to participate remotely and was seconded by Commissioner Sullivan.

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

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Gibbons and seconded by Commissioner Span-Cooper to approve the amended minutes of the July 17th, 2024, meeting; the motion passed.

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

III. Executive Director's Report

We welcome Rebecca Hawkinson, she is our new Admin Service Manager and will be handling,

amongst other things procurement and fleet management so we welcome her to the ILCC team. I am happy to report that we also posted for our three enforcement supervisors. Those posting came down as of August the 8th and we are preparing for interviews soon. Our fiscal year 2025 budget was approved for 13.5 million, this increased budget includes an increase in our headcount from 64 to 71. This allows us to hire additional enforcement staff including investigators, supervisors as well as inspectors as well as the expansion of our industry education division. We also receive additional funds to procure additional vehicles and under the new vehicle program. Our July 2024 revenue was \$2,106,355, this is another record-breaking month, it is the highest revenue generated in July in ILCC history. 94% of that came from licensing division in the amount of \$ 2,583,124. 6% came from enforcement and legal which includes fines, penalties, and violations in the amount of \$142,537. Currently we have 31,090 active licenses, in July we issued 3,187 licenses of which 358 were new licenses. 90% of the new licenses were submitted electronically, with the renewal rate being 97% and we have 204 in person transactions. 508 Special event licenses were issued of which 80% were submitted electronically. We still want to continue to have more of our special event licenses to apply for those licenses via their MyTax Illinois account as it does help expedite that process, we have 2,494 special event licenses which were issued year to date. In July 1,320 retailers were reported delinquent and 1,290 delinquencies were cured, and we had 8 bona fide disputes. In anticipation of Chicago summer events, which include NASCAR, the Air and Water show the Democratic National Convention and Lollapalooza, the ILCC conducted inspections of the following venues, Chicago Midway Airport, Chicago O'Hare Airport, Soldier Field, Goose Island, Guaranteed Rate Stadium, United Center, Wintrust Arena, Arie Crown Theater, McCormick Place and the surrounding hotels. In July we conducted 918 inspections, of which 118 were first inspections. We issued 292 violations, the most common being contaminated liquor file, personnel not being Bassett certified, the ILCC license not being displayed, premix not destroyed weekly, and pregnancy warning signs not displayed. We issued 76 warnings, the most common being the pregnancy warning sign and ILCC license not being displayed, 90 days of invoices being unavailable, all personal not being basset certified and the Illinois sales tax certificate being unavailable. We received 70 complaints via our online submission for email, phone calls, as well as in-person information obtained during inspections and instigations. 18 complaints were investigated and closed, the most common being the sale of alcohol to minors, operating without a valid license and drug activity. We are continuing our commitment to reducing youth access to alcoholic beverages by using the underage compliance check, and we are happy to report that our new Underage Compliance Assistant Program is growing, and we currently have 34 underage participants. We conducted 11 underage compliance details, checking 200 establishments, we found that of the 200, 143 were compliant. However, of the 57 that failed 9 prior offenders were rechecked, but there was only one repeat offender. We are continuing to concentrate on cases involving the sale and delivery of alcohol via the online marketplace. These are problematic for many reasons, including but not limited to, these illegal sales do not have the proper safeguards to prevent selling to minors, we removed 12 listing from craigslist, 6 from Facebook marketplace and one from offer up. Legal closed 140 cases in July, we currently have 141 cases pending, of which 9 are distributor cases, 28 retailer cases, and 93 selling alcohol to minor cases, of which 90 are first offense, two are second offense and one third offender. We conducted 15 pre disciplinary conferences and we have 6 outstanding. We currently have ten pending appeals which do not include cases under administrative review. We received 28 FOIA requests and we do have 6 matters pending under administrative review. On August 15 we have scheduled sale of alcohol to minors settlement conference. Governor Pritzker has signed our two bills, Senate Bill 2625, which is the alcohol infused co-branded products and senate bill 2745 which is the birth defect warning sign. Both bills go into effect January 1st, 2025, and we will continue to monitor the industry so we can continue to introduce legislation that keeps our licensees informed and the residents of Illinois safe. The ILCC remains busy attending community events, conferences, and panel discussions, it is important for us to remain accessible to the public and industry members so we can continue to have that open dialog and provide that invaluable information and education. We returned to the state fair this year. Our table was in the Lieutenant Governor's tent, and we hosted our youth alcohol awareness summit yesterday at the fair. More details about that summit will be provided in the next month to report. We issued 5 press releases in July, regarding our enforcement supervisor job openings, we wanted to cast a wide net to ensure we got lots of applicants, another regarding our Youth Alcohol Awareness

Summit, another regarding the state fair and our presence, one on not boozing while on a boat. These are instrumental in getting our messages out to a wider audience and they often get picked up by media outlets which gives us additional coverage. Our social media impressions remain steady, and we do continue to reach our audience organically on our platforms such as, YouTube, LinkedIn, X, Facebook, and Instagram. Our next Basset training class will be held in Springfield on September 17th and on September 23rd in Chicago and to receive emails for our in-person classes, as well as stay up to date on other ILCC news please subscribe to our mailing list and check our calendar on our new and improved website. This was our last week for our interns, so we want to thank Ethan, Jayden, Rebecca, and Paul for all the hard work.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

V. Executive Session

Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to move the ILCC into Executive Session at 1:28 p.m. Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez seconded the motion.

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

The Commission moved back into regular session at 1:57 p.m.

Present

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

VI. Appeals

For 24 APP 03 (*El Corral Nightclub, Inc v. Berwyn LCC*), Commissioner Span-Cooper made a MOTION TO AFFIRM THE LOCAL DECISION. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sullivan.

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

VII. Comments from the Board

Noel Quanbeck gave an update that Joe's Italian restaurant has settled their matter.

VIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Gibbons.

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

Cynthia Berg

Yes

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. CST.

ATTEST:

/S/ Jackie Villa, Acting Commission Secretary
