

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

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**50 W. Washington St. Suite 209  
Chicago, Illinois 60602**

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**December 18, 2024  
1:00 PM**

**Call the Roll:**

Chair Berg called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**I. Present**

Melody Spann-Cooper	<i>Commissioner</i>
Thomas Gibbons	<i>Commissioner</i>
Julieta LaMalfa	<i>Commissioner Arrived ay 1:25 pm</i>
Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>
Pat Pulido Sanchez	<i>Commissioner</i>
Brian Sullivan	<i>Commissioner</i>
Cynthia Berg	<i>Chair</i>

**ILCC Staff Present:**

Lisa Gardner	<i>Executive Director</i>
Dana O'Leary	<i>Assistant Director</i>
Dusanka Marijan	<i>Licensing Administrator</i>
Patrick Schoeben	<i>HR Director</i>
Noel Quanbeck	<i>General Counsel</i>
Richard Haymaker	<i>Legal Attorney</i>
Faheem Murad	<i>I.T.</i>
Nicole Sanders	<i>Industry Education</i>
Curtis Franklin	<i>Legislative Liaison</i>
Michael Gentry	<i>Chief Fiscal Officer</i>

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez to approve the minutes of the November 20th, 2024, meeting; the motion passed.

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

**III. Executive Director's Report**

Fiscal

- FY 25 YTD revenue - \$8.5 Mil (15% increase from FY 24/10% increase from FY19)
- 20.5 Mil in Dram Shop (Operating Budget)
- November 2024 Revenue
  - Approx. \$1.8 Mil
    - Licensing
      - 94% - \$1.65 Mil
      - General Revenue Fund
      - \$850K
      - Dram shop

- \$923K
- Enforcement/Legal (Fines, Penalties, Violations)
  - GRF -6% - \$116K

### Licensing

- Active licenses -31,093
  - 2,473 Issued
  - 202 new licenses
- Special events
  - In November, 155 Special Event licenses were issued. 93% submitted their applications electronically.
  - 4,133 special event licenses issued YTD.
  - We are happy that so many of our licensees are utilizing their MyTax Illinois account to apply for their special event licenses, as this helps expedite the review and processing of their requests.
- ILCC continues to work on regression testing for the upcoming Service Pack Upgrade being implemented this month. This new upgrade impacts the 3 agencies that currently utilizes Gentax/MyTaxIllinois: JOOR, ILCC, IDES. We have had to allocate time and resources for regression testing and the upgrade impacts the management payments systems and voucher processing.

### Enforcement

- Delinquency List – November
  - 973 retailers were reported delinquent.
    - 1,166 delinquencies cured
    - 24 BFDs
- In November - 667 Inspections
  - 68 First Inspections
  - 186 Violations Cited –
    - Most common
      - Contaminated Liquor found.
      - IL Sales Tax certificate unavailable.
      - Personnel not BASSET certified.
      - ILCC license not displayed.
      - Pre-mix not destroyed weekly.
  - 38 warnings issued.
    - Most Common
      - Pregnancy warning sign not displayed.
      - ILCC license not displayed.
      - Pre-mix not destroyed weekly.
      - Inconsistent DBA name.
      - 90 days of invoices not available.
  - 7 Pre - licensing inspections
- Complaints
  - 9 received via:
    - The online submission forms.
    - Email
    - Phone calls.
    - In person information obtained inspections & investigations.
  - Most Common
    - Sale of Alcohol to Minor.
    - Operating without a valid license.
    - Personnel not BASSET certified.
  - 6 complaints were investigated and closed
- We are continuing our commitment to reducing youth access to alcoholic beverages
  - By use of Underage Compliance Checks.
  - Happy to report that the new UAC Asst program is growing, we currently have 50 active underage participants.
    - 14 UAC details

- 211 establishments
    - 158 compliant
    - 53 failed
      - 30 prior offenders re-checked.
        - 5 repeat offenders failed again,
- Enforcement also continues to concentrate on cases involving the sale & delivery of alcohol via the online marketplace. These are problematic for many reasons including but not limited to these illegal sales not having proper safeguards to prevent selling to minors.
  - Listings removed:
    - Craigslist – 19
    - FB Marketplace – 6
    - Offer Up – 6
- We are also actively working on procuring a body camera solution for enforcement to comply with the statutory mandate which goes into effect in 2025.

#### Legal

- Cases pending-171
  - 8 Distributor
  - 60 Retailer
  - 102 SAM
    - 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 88
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 12
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 2
- Cases closed – 211
- 15 Pre-Disciplinary Conferences conducted (all scheduled online via our new online scheduling application)
  - 9 PDC outstanding
- Appeals
  - 7 pending
    - Not including other open cases, e.g. appealed cases under Administrative Review.
    - Last status call was held on November 1, 2024.
- 15 FOIA requests received.
- Administrative Review
  - 6 matters are pending.
- One SAM Settlement/training conferences was conducted in November.
  - Chicago - November 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Industry Education

- ILCC remains busy attending community and industry events.
  - We are committed to being a valuable resource to those in the industry as well as the public.
  - Press releases.
- NO Press Releases
  - These press releases are instrumental in getting our messages out to a wider audience.
    - Often picked up by media outlets for additional coverage.
- Industry Education conducted a BASSET training class on October 21<sup>st</sup>, which was held in our Chicago office.
- We hosted a Liquor Industry Talk webinar on October 30th This webinar included a panel of ILCC staff as well as one of our retail licensees and a local liquor commissioner and Mayor. The webinar was well received and included over 200 attendees and covered three topics.
  - How to Obtain a Liquor License
  - How to Stay Compliant
  - How to File an Appeal
- You will be able find this and other webinars and trainings on our YouTube channel.

- We plan to schedule at least one more BASSET class before the end of the year so please subscribe to our mailing list and check our website calendar to stay u to date on this and other ILCC news and events.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

No public comment was given.

#### **V. Child Support**

For 24 CS 03 (*The Dopest LLC*), Commissioner Powell made a MOTION TO SUSPEND THE LICENSE UNTIL THE DELIQUENCY IS RESOLVED. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gibbons.

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

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

Commissioner Span-Cooper made a motion to move the ILCC into executive session at 1:13 pm. Commissioner Powell seconded the motion.

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

The Commission moved back into regular session at 1:21 p.m.

#### **VII. Bona Fide Disputes**

For 24 BFD 109 and 24 BFD 110, Commissioner Gibbons made a MOTION TO AFFIRM THE DECISION OF THE ALJ. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Powell.

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

#### **VIII. Appeals**

For 20 APP 10 *Spinning Slots v. Rockford LLC*, Commissioner Powell made a MOTION TO DENY THE PEITION FOR REHEARING. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez.

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

#### **IX. Comments from the Board**

Schedule for Commissioners to attend hearings.

**X. Adjournment**

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m. CST.

**ATTEST:**

/S/ Jacqueline Villa, Acting Commission Secretary

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