

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

**Richard J. Daley Center
50 W. Washington St.
Chicago, Illinois 60602**

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**February 21st, 2024
1:00 PM**

Call the Roll:

Commissioner Gibbons called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

I. 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>	<i>Remote</i>

ILCC Staff Present:

Lisa Gardner	<i>Executive Director</i>
Dana O’Leary	<i>Associate Director</i>
Dusanka Marijan	<i>Licensing Administrator</i>
Noel Sanchez	<i>Enforcement</i>
Faheem Murad	<i>I.T.</i>
Madeline Small	<i>Human Resources</i>
Noel Quanbeck	<i>General Counsel</i>
Nicole Sanders	<i>Industry Education</i>
Rick Haymaker	<i>Legal</i>
Abraham Zisook	<i>Legal</i>
Curtis Franklin	<i>Legislative Liaison</i>
Patrick Schoeben	<i>Acting Commission Secretary</i>

Motion for Remote Participation of Chair Berg

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell to allow Chair Berg to participate remotely and 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

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Pulido Sanchez and seconded by Commissioner Spann-Cooper to approve the amended minutes of the December 20th, 2023, 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

Fiscal

In January 2024, the ILCC generated \$1,312,707 in revenue. \$1,239,455, or 94%, was generated from the Licensing Division. \$671,450 went to the General Revenue Fund and \$568,005 went to the Dram Shop Fund. \$72,700 was generated by Enforcement/Legal Division from fines, penalties, and violations. The ILCC has generated approximately \$10.1 mil in revenue in the current fiscal year to date. This was achieved by utilizing 44% of the FY24 budget. The Fiscal Division is preparing for the Budget Appropriations Hearing.

Human Resources

The ILCC's current headcount is at 45 employees. Lee Roupas, BASSET Manager, separated from the ILCC in December.

Licensing

There currently are 31,574 active licenses throughout the state 2,704 licenses were issued in the month of January.

We had 159 in person transactions via appointments. 44 in Springfield and 115 in Chicago.

466 Special Event licenses were issued in the month of January. 79% were submitted electronically. In 2023, 3,927 special event licenses were issued. Pre-pandemic, the annual average was 4,000 special event licenses.

1,342 retailers were reported delinquent, and 1,192 delinquencies were cured in January. There were zero (0) bona fide disputes.

Enforcement

Our agency received 39 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 Valid License, and
- 3.) Over Service
- 4.) Illegal Transfer of Alcohol
- 5.) Personnel not BASSET certified.
- 6.) Happy Hour Violation

The ILCC's enforcement division conducted 1,106 inspections, of which 141 were first time inspections. From these inspections, enforcement issued 4,362 violations cited and 69 warnings. The most common violations discovered were:

- 1.) Contaminated Liquor
- 2.) Of-Value Violations
- 3.) Personnel not BASSET certified
- 4.) ILCC License not displayed
- 5.) IL Sales Tax Certificate Unavailable, and

Three (3) underage compliance checks were conducted across the McHenry, Cook, and McClean counties with a total of 52 establishments checked. We had an 83% compliance rate, and 3 prior offenders were rechecked. Of those rechecks, 0 were repeat failures.

In December of 2023, a new process was established to hire underage compliance assistants. This enabled easier partnerships among 18 and 19-year-olds throughout the State.

Enforcement continues to focus on illegal sales of alcohol via the internet. This past month, enforcement found 15 posts on Craigslist, 11 on Facebook Marketplace, and 4 posts from Offer-Up. In those instances, our agents worked to affect their removal from the platforms.

Legal

Legal has closed 75 cases last month.

There are 208 cases pending before the Commission: 18 distributor cases, 39 Sale of Alcohol to Minor cases (35 are first offense, 1 is second offense, and 3 are third offense), and 150 retail cases.

There were 2 pre-disciplinary conferences conducted with 32 outstanding. We have 10 appeals cases before the Commission, which do not include other open cases.

The ILCC received 18 FOIA requests and 8 cases are pending Administrative Review, the Attorney General's Office is representing the ILCC in those matters.

Industry Education

The ILCC conducted a licensing survey, ended February 2nd, with 2,869 responses submitted. The data is being analyzed to improve our services.

Our website updates are continuing to allow for easier navigation.

The next webinar, scheduled for February 28th, will be available on YouTube and will be on 'How To File a Legal Appeal.'

The ILCC issued 2 press releases in January. Dry January and the celebration of the Liquor Control Act turning 90 years old.

BASSET is hosting in-person trainings in both Chicago (March 6th) and Springfield (March 12th). Classes are limited to 25 participants. Registration opens on February 23rd.

Legislation

5 legislative bills are moving this session:

1. Alcohol Infused Co-Branded Products.
2. 3rd Party Deliveries.
3. Birth Defect Signs.
4. Rectify administrative changes from a personnel standpoint.
5. Local Liquor Appeal Process

IV. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

V. Executive Session

Commissioner Powell made a motion to move the ILCC into Executive Session at 1:28 p.m. Commissioner LaMalfa 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 1:56 p.m.

Present

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

VI. Appeals

For 23 APP 24 (*Ibiza Bar & Grill v. Waukegan LLCC*), Commissioner Powell made a MOTION TO AFFIRM THE LOCAL DECISION. The motion was seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa.

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

VII. Child Support

For 24-CS-01 (*The Dopest LLC*), Commissioner LaMalfa made a MOTION TO STRIKE FROM THE AGENGA. The motion 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		

VII. Comments from the Board

No comments.

IX. Adjournment

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

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/ Patrick Schoeben, Acting Commission Secretary