

**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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**June 12th, 2024
1:00 PM**

Call the Roll:

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

I. Present

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

Absent

Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>
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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>
Noel Quanbeck	<i>General Counsel</i>
Nicole Sanders	<i>Industry Education</i>
Michael Gentry	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>
Abraham Zisook	<i>Legal</i>
Richard Haymaker	<i>Legal</i>
Curtis Franklin	<i>Legislative Liaison</i>
Patrick Schoeben	<i>Acting Commission Secretary</i>

Motion for Remote Participation of Commissioners LaMalfa and Sullivan

A motion was made by Commissioner Gibbons to allow Commissioners LaMalfa and Sullivan to participate remotely and was seconded by Commissioner Spann Cooper.

Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	Yes
Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes	Cynthia Berg	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 May 15th, 2024, meeting; the motion passed.

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

III. Executive Director's Report

The ILCC generated \$2,786,314, another record high month. Of these funds, \$2,583,124 (93%) were from licensing. \$201,726 (7%) were collected through enforcement fines and violations. \$1,327,155 went to the General Revenue Fund and \$1,459,159 to the dram shop fund. 71% of the fiscal year 2024 budget has been utilized with one month remaining in the fiscal year. Projections show FY24 will be a record breaking year for revenue at \$18.3 million, indicating growth in the alcohol industry.

There are currently 31,742 active licenses. 3,824 were issued in May. 590 new licenses were issued versus renewals. 90% were submitted electronically. 97% of renewals were submitted electronically. 364 in-person transactions were conducted. Of which, 85 were in the Springfield office and 161 were in the Chicago office. 510 Special Event licenses were issued, a 32% increase from April. 83% of these were online, an 8% increase from April. 1,556 Special Event licenses have been issued, year to date. The Director encouraged applicants continue to utilize the online features.

1,998 retailers were reported delinquent and 1,658 were cured. There were 7 bona fide disputes.

1,028 establishments were inspected. Of these locations, 131 were first inspections. 362 violations were cited this month, most commonly: contaminated liquor, personnel not being BASSET certified, premises not being destroyed weekly, the IL Sales Tax Certificate being unavailable, and the ILCC liquor license not being displayed. 87 warnings were issued, most commonly: premises not being destroyed weekly, the ILCC liquor license not being displayed, the IL Sales Tax Certificate being unavailable, personnel not being BASSET certified, and 90 days of invoices being unavailable. We received 66 complaints via our online submission forms. 16 complaints were investigated and closed, the most common complaints were, personnel not being BASSET certified, operating without a valid license, and local ordinance violation. We are continuing our commitment to reducing youth access to alcoholic beverages through our Underage Compliance program. There are currently 27 Underage Compliance Agents. 8 UCA missions were conducted. 201 locations were checked with a 71% compliance rate. 142 establishments were compliant and 59 failed. 10 prior offenders were rechecked and 60% were compliant, with 4 repeat offenders. Enforcement removed 21 listings from Craigslist and 4 from Facebook Marketplace.

Legal closed 245 cases and 146 are pending. 7 distributor cases, 20 retailer cases, and 119 sale of alcohol to minor cases. Of the 119 cases, 109 were first offense, 8 were second offense, and 2 were third offenses. There were 29 pre-disciplinary conferences conducted and 18 outstanding. There are 12 appeals currently pending, not including other open cases. We received 19 FOIA requests and there are 6 matters pending under Administrative Review.

The ILCC's decision in *Samuel Sledge v. ILCC et al.* was upheld by the appellate court in May.

2 Sale of Alcohol to Minors Settlement courses were held in May. One in Chicago and one in Springfield.

The 2024 spring legislative session is now complete. 2 bills were passed and are currently awaiting the Governor's signature. Senate Bill 2625 addresses alcoholic infused and co-branded products. Senate Bill 2745 addresses the birth defect warning signs. The Director thanked the sponsors and co-sponsors for all their hard work and support.

In May the ILCC participated in a law enforcement community event that encouraged open dialogue within the community, a meet-the-experts event, hosted by the Illinois Restaurants Association, as well as a career day where we educated students on underage drinking and how to make informed decisions dealing with peer pressure.

The ILCC published a press release for prom and graduation season, focusing on underage drinking awareness.

Our BASSET Program continues to grow, with over 7,000 professionals trained in May alone. This YTD total is 45,265. A BASSET training was conducted in the Chicago office in May.

We are preparing to participate in the Illinois State and Du Quoin State Fairs with exciting things in store for fair goers.

The Director welcomed ILCC summer interns, Jayden Tarr, Rebecca Chan, Ethan Cooper, and Paul Murray.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

V. Executive Session

Commissioner Spann-Cooper made a motion to move the ILCC into Executive Session at 1:15 p.m. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion.

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

The Commission moved back into regular session at 1:27 p.m.

Present

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

Absent

Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>
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VI. Appeals

Received updates from Richard Haymaker on the results of concluded cases.

VII. Recommendation from ALJ Laura Parry

ILCC v. Joe's Liquor on Bradley, Inc
Case ID: 1-884-193-526

Motion to Affirm.

For Case ID: 1-884-193-526 (*ILCC v. Joe's Liquor on Bradley, Inc*), Commissioner Gibbons made a MOTION TO AFFIRM THE ALJ RULING. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Spann-Cooper.

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

VIII. Comments from the Board

Chair Berg welcomed the interns and expressed her thanks to Associate Director, Dana O’Leary, and Acting Commission Secretary Schoeben for assistance.

IX. Adjournment

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m. CST.

ATTEST:

/S/ Patrick Schoeben, Acting Commission Secretary