

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

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

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**May 15<sup>th</sup>, 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>	<i>Remote</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>	

**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>
Curtis Franklin	<i>Legislative Liaison</i>
Patrick Schoeben	<i>Acting Commission Secretary</i>

**Motion for Remote Participation of Commissioner Spann-Cooper**

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell to allow Commissioner Spann-Cooper to participate remotely and was seconded by Commissioner Pulido Sanchez.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes
Brian Sullivan	Yes	Cynthia Berg	Yes

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Gibbons to approve the amended minutes of the April 17<sup>th</sup>, 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

The ILCC generated \$2,561,358, a record one month high. Of these funds, \$2,096,565 (82%) were from licensing. \$463,400 (18%) were collected through enforcement fines and violations. 65% of the fiscal year 2024 budget has been utilized with two months remaining.

The ILCC's House and Senate Budget Appropriation Hearings have been completed.

The current headcount is 41. There are several key positions open, including HR Director. The HR team is working hard to fill position vacancies in licensing, enforcement, administrative services, industry education and two senior staff positions. The Director thanked Associate Director, Dana O'Leary, for assisting with the HR duties.

There are currently 31,597 active licenses. 3,595 were issued in April. 569 were first-time licensees. 90% were submitted electronically. 97% of renewals were submitted electronically. 190 in-person transactions were conducted. 387 Special Event licenses were issued. 77% of these were online. The Director encouraged applicants continue to utilize the online features.

1,149 retailers were reported delinquent and 1,279 were cured. There were 28 bona fide disputes.

874 establishments were inspected. Of these locations, 96 were first inspections. 306 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. 53 warnings were issued, most commonly: pregnancy warning sign not being displayed, the ILCC liquor license not being displayed, the IL Sales Tax Certificate being unavailable, personnel not being BASSET certified, and the local liquor license being unavailable. We received 36 complaints via our online submission forms. The most common complaints were, sale of alcohol to minors, personnel not being BASSET certified, operating without a valid license, retail purchases of alcohol, overserving of alcohol, and local ordinance violation. We are continuing our commitment to reducing youth access to alcoholic beverages through our Underage Compliance program. There are currently 24 Underage Compliance Agents with room to grow. 15 UCA missions were conducted, a high not seen since 2015. 225 locations were checked with a 75% compliance rate. 167 were compliant and 57 failed. 16 prior offenders were rechecked and 75% were compliant, with 4 repeat offenders. Enforcement removed 12 listings from Craigslist, 2 from Facebook Marketplace, and one from Offer-Up.

Legal closed 129 cases and 218 are pending. 7 distributor cases, 46 retailer cases, and 140 sale of alcohol to minor cases. Of the 140, 129 were first offense, 7 were second offense, 3 were third offense, and one was a fourth offense. There were 33 pre-disciplinary conferences conducted and 22 outstanding. There are 11 appeals currently pending, not including other open cases. We received 25 FOIA requests and there are 6 matters are pending under Administrative Review. We implemented a new online scheduling feature for legal appointments and a new online fine payment feature that went live at the end of March. We received 140 online payments, and 21 pre-disciplinary conferences were scheduled online.

In April, Enforcement spoke at the Municipal Clerk of Illinois Summit to discuss compliance, licensing and BASSET.

The Industry Education division attended the Chicago Public School Mental Health Fair and engaged with students and faculty about alcohol and its effects.

The Licensing and Industry Education division spoke at the DuPage Municipal Clerks Event where they discussed special events.

A press release on Alcohol Awareness addressing overconsumption was released. The BASSET program has begun hosting trainings in Chicago and Springfield for 70 students. Classes hold 25 students and fill fast.

The final month of legislative session is concluding. The ILCC has seen positive movement on proposed legislation. Senate bill 2745 has passed out of the House and Senate with a week and a half to go.

**IV. Public Comment**

No public comment was given.

**V. Child Support**

Two Broke Girls, LLC – 24CS02

This matter has been heard and has been tabled for the next meeting as a payment plan is being discussed.

Commissioner Gibbons made a motion to table 24CS02 until the next meeting Commissioner Powell 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		

**VI. Executive Session**

Commissioner Pulido Sanchez made a motion to move the ILCC into Executive Session at 1:16 p.m. Commissioner Powell 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 1:44 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>

Commissioner Gibbons made a motion to move the ILCC back into Executive Session at 1:51 p.m. Commissioner Powell 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	Commissioner
Thomas Gibbons	Commissioner
Julieta LaMalfa	Commissioner
Steven Powell	Commissioner
Pat Pulido Sanchez	Commissioner
Brian Sullivan	Commissioner
Cynthia Berg	Chair

**VII. Appeals**

For 23 APP 24 (*17 North, LLC d/b/a Ibiza v. Waukegan LLC[PFR]*), Commissioner Powell made a MOTION TO DENY 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		

**Recommendation from ALJ Laura Parry**

ILCC v. American Drug Stores LLC / Jewell Food Stores Inc  
*Case ID: 1-396-846-336* Settled.

ILCC v. PG Tavern Inc  
*Case ID: 816166144* Dismissed.

ILCC v. JJMH Inc  
*Case ID: 302175488* Motion to Affirm.

For Case ID: 302175488 (*ILCC v JJMH Inc*), Commissioner Powell made a MOTION TO AFFIRM THE ALJ RULING. 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		

**IX. Comments from the Board**

No comments.

**X. 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 1:59 p.m. CST.

**ATTEST:**

/S/ Patrick Schoeben, Acting Commission Secretary