

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

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

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**November 20, 2024
1:00 PM**

Call the Roll:

Chair Berg called the meeting to order at 1:01 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 Remote</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>

Motion for Remote Participation of Commissioner Powell

A motion was made by Commissioner Gibbons to allow Commissioner Sullivan to participate remotely and was seconded by Commissioner Powell.

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

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez to approve the minutes of the October 16th, 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	Yes		

III. Executive Director's Report

The ILCC welcomed a new team member in our Springfield licensing division. We also conducted interviews for our three new enforcement supervisor positions. Those interviews have been completed and we anticipate making offers soon. In October of 2024, the ILCC generated approximately \$1.3 million in revenue. Of which 93% came from our licensing division and 7% came from our enforcement legal division, which includes penalties and violations. In October of 2024 we currently have 31,061 active licenses, we issued 2,892 licenses, of which 255 were renewed license applications. In October 359 special event licenses of which 85% submitted their applications electronically. We do encourage to apply for licenses via a MyTax Illinois account as this does help expedite the review and processing of these applications. We have issued 3,978 special event licenses year to date. It has been one year since we implemented our new online application option for our new 1A retailers. Since that time, approximately 60% of our new 1A retailers have taken advantage of this option to apply for their licenses online via their MyTax Illinois account, and the ILCC continues to work on regression testing for the upcoming service pack upgrade being implemented in December of 2024. This new upgrade impacts three agencies that currently utilizes this Gentax, which is the MyTax Illinois system, that's the Department of revenue, the ILCC, and the Department of Employment Security. We have had to allocate time and resources for regression testing and the division that continues to be the most impacted is our licensing division. This upgrade impacts the management, payment systems as well as voucher processing. In October 1,682 retailers were reported delinquent, 1,516 delinquencies were cured, and 17 bonafide disputes were issued. Enforcement conducted 969 inspections in October, of which 116 were first inspections, 306 violations were cited. The most common being the Illinois sales tax certificate being unavailable, personnel not being Basset certified, ILCC license not being displayed, contaminated liquor found and pre-mixes are not destroyed weekly. We issued 68 warnings, the most common being the Illinois sales tax certificate being unavailable, the ILCC license not being displayed, pregnancy warning sign not being displayed, premises not being destroyed weekly, and the taps not being cleaned as required. We also conducted 73 licensing inspections. We received 54 complaints via our online submission form, as well as via email, phone calls, and in-person information obtained during inspections and investigations. 13 complaints were investigated and closed, the most common being operating without a valid license, sale of alcohol to a minor, happy hour violations, as well as local ordinance violations. We are continuing our commitment to reducing youth access to alcohol by use of underage compliance check. The new underage compliance check assistance program is growing, and we currently have 6 active underage participants. We conducted 11 underage compliance details and checked 151 establishments of those checks 110 were found to be compliant and 41 failed. Of the 41 failures, 14 were prior offenders being rechecked and of those 14 prior offenders, 13 were once again a repeater offender. Enforcement also continues to concentrate on cases involving the sale and delivery of alcohol via the online marketplace. These continue to be problematic for many reasons, including but not limited to, the fact these illegal sales don't have the proper safeguards to prevent selling to minors. We removed 18 listing from Craigslist, 5 from Facebook Marketplace, and 2 from Offer Up. We are also working on procuring a body camera solution for enforcement division to comply with the statutory mandate which goes into effect 2025. There are currently 162 cases pending, in our legal division of which 10 are distributor cases, 77 are retailer cases, and 74 are sale of alcohol to minor cases. Of the 74 sale to minor cases, 65 are the first offense cases, 7 are second offense cases, and 2 are third offense cases. Legal closed 169 cases in October and they conducted 15 pre disciplinary conferences. All 15 were scheduled via our new online scheduling application. Legal currently has 13 pre disciplinary conferences outstanding. There are 6 legal appeals pending, but these do not include other open cases, such as cases that are under administrative review. The last legal status call was held on October 4th. We received 14 FOIA requests and there are 6 matters pending under administrative review. 2 sale of alcohol to minors settlement training conferences were conducted in October. One in Springfield on October 8th and one in

Chicago October 15th. As I mentioned last month, we started the new IT project to build a new licensing and enforcement system. Once completed, the system will replace the existing GenTax system. The ILCC remains busy attending community and industry events. We are committed to being a valuable resource, to those in the industry as well as to the public. The Industry Education Division conducted a Basset training class on October 21st which was held in our Chicago office. We hosted our liquor industry talk webinar on October 30th, this webinar included a panel of the ILCC staff as well as one of our retail licenses and a local liquor commissioner. This webinar was well received and induced over 200 attendees and covered three topics including how to obtain a liquor license, how to stay compliant, and how to file an appeal. You'll be able to find this, webinars, and other trainings on our YouTube channel. We plan to schedule at least one more basic training class before the end of the year, so please subscribe to our mailing list and check out our website calendar to stay up to date on this and other ILCC events.

IV. 2025 Commission Meeting Calendar

Commissioner Powell made a motion to approve the 2025 commission meeting calendar dates. Commissioner Spann-Cooper 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	Yes		

V. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

VI. Executive Session

Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez made a motion to strike out executive session. 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	Yes		

VII. Appeal Cases

For *20 APP 10 Spinning Slots v. Rockford LLC*, Commissioner LaMalfa made a MOTION TO REVERSE THE LOCALS. 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	Yes		

VIII. Comments from the Board

IX. 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 1:22 p.m. CST.

ATTEST:

/S/ Jacqueline Villa, Acting Commission Secretary