

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

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

**--
August 20, 2025
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>Joined at 1:09 p.m.</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:

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>
Jacqueline Villa	<i>Acting Commission Secretary</i>

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Gibbons to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2025, 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

- **Audit**
 - This is the third audit as a stand-alone agency
 - As of July 29th, we have received 164 audit requests.
- **Job Positions**
 - Interviews are ongoing for our open industry education Executive II program specialist and licensing positions.
- **Fiscal**
 - \$10.7 Million in the Dram Shop Fund
 - The ILCC operating budget

- Our July 2025 Revenue - \$1.4 Million
 - Licensing division generated 96%.
 - Fines/Penalties and Violations generated approximately 4%.
- **Licensing**
 - July 2025 Figures
 - Active licenses - 31,334
 - 3,140 issued.
 - 272 new applications
 - Special event licenses
 - 507
- **Salesforce**
 - We are in the continuing to work with DoIt to transition from Gentax to Salesforce to handle the majority of ILCC's Licensing Enforcement, Legal, and Basset process.
 - We have completed 12 out of the 16 plans to develop this software, to go live January 2026.
- **Enforcement**
 - **Delinquency list**
 - 1,634 Delinquencies Reported
 - 1,313 Cures.
 - There were 10 Bona-Fide disputes filed for the month.
 - Inspections Totals for February
 - Total of 733 Inspections.
 - 9 were pre-licensing inspections
 - 124 were First Inspections.
 - 313 violations were cited.
 - Most common violations
 - ILCC license not displayed.
 - Contaminated Liquor
 - Personnel not BASSET certified.
 - IL Sales Tax certificate unavailable
 - Pre-mix not destroyed weekly.
 - 42 warnings were issued.
 - Most common
 - Pregnancy Warning Sign not displayed.
 - Tap cleaning records not being kept.
 - Licensees not being in good standing with the Secretary of State.
 - Pre-mixes not being destroyed weekly.
 - Improperly cleaned pre-mix drink receptacles.
 - ILCC license not being displayed.
 - Complaints
 - The ILCC received 114 complaints in July. The complaints came via the online submission form, email, phone calls, and in-person information.
 - The most common complaints were operating without a valid license, the sale of alcohol to a minor, and the retail purchase of alcohol.

- Enforcement investigated and closed 14 complaints.
- Underage Compliance Details totals:
 - 9 Underage Compliance missions
 - 119 establishments were checked.
 - 22 failures
 - 97 were compliant.
 - 16 prior offenders were retested for compliance.
 - 1 repeat offender failing again.
- Online marketplace sales
 - Removed from marketplace:
 - 8 posts from Craigslist
 - 4 posts from Facebook Marketplace
 - 2 post from Offer-Up
- **Legal**
 - 3 distributor cases.
 - 71 retailer cases.
 - 118 sales of alcohol to minor
 - 117 first offense.
 - 1 second offense.
 - Closed 93 cases.
 - Pre-disciplinary conferences
 - Conducted 12 pre-disciplinary conferences.
 - 9 outstanding conferences
 - Appeals
 - 6 pending appeals
 - Last appeal status was held July 11.
 - FOIA
 - Received 27 FOIA requests.
 - Administrative review
 - 3 are under administrative review.
- **Industry Education**
 - Published two press release in the month of July.
 - Stay Safe During Summer Festivities.
 - Risk of Consumer Fireworks that Increases when Alcohol is Involved.
 - The ILCC was at the State Fair.
 - Any events speaking requests should be sent to:

ILCC.industryeducation@illinois.gov

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 1:15pm. Commissioner Sullivan 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

The Commission moved back into regular session at 1:22 p.m.

VI. Appeals

In the matter on 25 APP 05 (*Knotty Luxe, Inc v. Markham Liquor Control Commissioner*) Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to AFFIRM the Local Liquor Commission, Commissioner Spann-Cooper seconded the motion.

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

VII. Child Support

For 25 CS 03 (*Knuckleheads Bar & Grill*), Commissioner Powell made a MOTION TO SUSPEND THE LICENSE UNTIL THE DELIQUENCY IS RESOLVED. The motion was seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa.

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

VII. Release of Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Powell made a motion to release confidential meeting minutes for closed session for February 2024, May 2024, January 2025, February 2025, March 2025, April 2025, May 2025, and July 2025. Commissioner LaMalfa seconded the motion.

Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	No
Julieta LaMalfa	Yes	Steven Powell	Yes
Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes	Brian Sullivan	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes		

Commissioner Powell made a motion to not release confidential meeting minutes for closed session for April 2023, June 2023, September 2023, and June 2025. Commissioner Gibbons second the motion.

Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	No
Julieta LaMalfa	Yes	Steven Powell	Yes
Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes	Brian Sullivan	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes		

VIII. Comments from the Board

Commissioner Powell let any commissioner know that if they cannot make their assigned hearing, he can take their place.

IX. Adjournment

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

Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Brian Sullivan	Yes

Pat Pulido Sanchez
Julieta LaMalfa

Yes
Yes

Cynthia Berg

Yes

The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m. CST

ATTEST:

/S/ Jacqueline Villa, Acting Commission Secretary
