

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

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

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**December 17, 2025
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>	<i>Remote</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>
Jacqueline Villa	<i>Acting Commission Secretary</i>

Motion for Remote Participation of Commissioners

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

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Steve Powell	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Brian Sullivan	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Gibbons and seconded by Commissioner Powell to approve the minutes of the November 19, 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

- We have received 360 audit requests.
- 58 of which are electronic data processing IT related request.
- **Fiscal**
 - \$9.1 Million in the Dram Shop Fund
 - The ILCC operating budget
- Our November 2025 Revenue - \$829,422.50
 - Licensing division generated 93%.
 - Fines/Penalties and Violations generated approximately 7%.
 - These figures show a marked decrease from previous months and years due to the timing of the thanksgiving holiday. We should see a marked increase for the month of December.
- **Licensing**
 - November 2025 Figures
 - Active licenses – 31,128
 - 2,305 issued.
 - 205 new applications
 - Special event licenses
 - 182 were this month
 - 90% was submitted online.
 - 4,521 through the month of November.
- **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.
 - December and January will be dedicated to user acceptance testing training and public outreach.
 - We are on track with the project schedule and all functionalities build phases are complete.
- **Enforcement**
 - **Delinquency list**
 - 803 Delinquencies Reported
 - 984 Cures.
 - There were 3 Bona-Fide disputes filed for the month.
 - Inspections Totals for February
 - Total of 585 Inspections.
 - 2 were pre-licensing inspections
 - 83 were First Inspections.
 - 202 violations were cited.
 - Most common violations
 - Contaminated Liquor
 - Personnel not BASSET certified.
 - Corporate status not in good standing.
 - ILCC license not displayed.
 - IL Sales Tax certificate unavailable
 - 55 warnings were issued.
 - Most common
 - Pregnancy Warning Sign not displayed.

- ILCC license not being displayed.
 - Taps not being cleaned as required
 - Not having Tap Cleaning records.
 - Pre-mixes not being destroyed weekly.
- Complaints
 - The ILCC received 90 complaints in November. 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 happy hour violations.
 - Enforcement investigated and closed 8 complaints.
- Underage Compliance Details totals:
 - 15 Underage Compliance missions
 - 201 establishments were checked.
 - 32 failures
 - 169 were compliant.
 - 39 prior offenders were retested for compliance.
 - 3 repeat offender failing again.
- Online marketplace sales
 - Removed from marketplace:
 - 14 posts from Craigslist
 - 12 posts from Facebook Marketplace
 - 5 post from Offer-Up
- **Legal**
 - 103 cases pending
 - 21 distributor cases.
 - 46 retailer cases.
 - 56 sales of alcohol to minor
 - 46 first offense.
 - 6 second offense.
 - 4 third offense
 - Closed 163 cases.
 - Pre-disciplinary conferences
 - Conducted 11 pre-disciplinary conferences.
 - 9 outstanding
 - Appeals
 - 3 pending appeals
 - Last appeal status was held November 6 ,2025.
 - Sale of Alcohol to Minors (SAM)
 - SAM settlement training conferences
 - December 17, 2025, at the Chicago office
 - November 25th, 2025, at the Springfield office.
 - FOIA
 - Received 26 FOIA requests.
 - Administrative review
 - 3 are under administrative review.
 - Other legal pending matters:

- 22 CV 4956-Freehan v. Berg, et al. (Full Pull Wines)
 - On September 25, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois issued a decision in favor of the ILCC. The court agreed with the commission’s argument that the Illinois Liquor Control Act may legally prohibit a retailer in another state from shipping alcoholic beverage directly to an Illinois consumer.
 - However, on November 20th, the plaintiff’s appealed the decision to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.
- **Industry Education**
 - Industry Education continues to have success with our BASSET trainings thanks to our BASSET providers across the country.
 - We hosted two BASSET meetings in November with our BASSET providers. These meetings gave us an opportunity to update the trainers as well as receive feedback on issues so we can continue to improve the program.
 - Topics covered include:
 - Curriculum updates
 - Program audits starting in January
 - State laws
 - Students feedback
 - The ILCC spoke at a press conference on November 18th held by the SOS, Alexi Giannoulis, regarding the launch of Mobile IDs in IL, which allows IL DL and IL State ID holders to save digital versions of their respective identification cards on their participating mobile devices which marks the date that the Illinois SOS began offering Mobile identification cards, ie, Mobile IDs,
 - "As technology evolves, public safety remains a shared responsibility. At the ILCC, reducing youth access to alcohol is central to our mission, and Mobile IDs represents a major step forward."
 - We also published a Press Release regarding Mobile IDs on November 19th which marks the date that the Illinois SOS began offering Mobile identification cards, ie, Mobile IDs.

IV. Public Comment

N/A

V. Executive Session

Commissioner Powell made a motion to move the ILCC into executive session at 1:19 pm. 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		

The Commission moved back into regular session at 1:35 p.m.

VI. Appeals

In the matter on 25 APP 10 (*Teddy O’Brians, Inc v. Highwood Liquor Control Commissioner*) Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to MODIFY the Local Liquor Commission,

Commissioner Powell 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. Comments from the Board

N/A

VIII. Adjournment

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

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 1:36 p.m. CST

ATTEST:

/S/ Jacqueline Villa, Acting Commission Secretary
