

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

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

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**July 16, 2025  
1:00 PM**

**Call the Roll:**

Chair Berg called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**I. Present**

Melody Spann-Cooper	<i>Commissioner</i>
Thomas Gibbons	<i>Commissioner</i>
Julieta LaMalfa	<i>Commissioner</i>
Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner Remote</i>
Pat Pulido Sanchez	<i>Commissioner Remote</i>
Brian Sullivan	<i>Commissioner Joined at 1:09 pm</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>

**Motion for Remote Participation of Commissioners**

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

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

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Spann-Cooper and seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa to approve the minutes of the June 18, 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 June 30<sup>th</sup>, we have received 82 audit requests.
- **Job Positions**
  - All four of the Michael Curry interns started in June.
  - Preparing for interviews for our open industry education Executive II program specialist position.
  - Carlos Palma is the new licensing supervisor in our Springfield office.
- **Fiscal**
  - Fiscal Year 2025 closed on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Total Revenue - \$20.3 Million
    - We used 79% of our fiscal budget.
  - \$11.2 Million in the Dram Shop Fund
    - The ILCC operating budget
- Our June 2025 Revenue - \$1.5 Million
  - Licensing division generated 96%.
  - Fines/Penalties and Violations generated approximately 4%.
- The general assembly authorized the creation of a new emergency contingency fund, the BRIDGE fund, under the authority created by that fund the general assembly transferred 7.5 million from our dram shop fund to that bridge fund.
- **Licensing**
  - June 2025 Figures
    - Active licenses - 31,238
      - 3,516 issued.
        - 10.7% increase from June 2024
      - 244 new applications
    - Special event licenses
      - 300
- **Salesforce**
  - We are in the process of transitioning from Gentax to Salesforce to handle the majority of ILCC's Licensing Enforcement, Legal, and Basset process.
  - This is scheduled to launch January 2026
- **Enforcement**
  - **Delinquency list**
    - 1,029 Delinquencies Reported
    - 1,140 Cures.
    - There were 15 Bona-Fide disputes filed for the month.
  - Inspections Totals for February
    - Total of 627 Inspections.
      - 8 were pre-licensing inspections
      - 86 were First Inspections.
      - 199 violations were cited.
      - Most common violations
        - Personnel not BASSET certified.
        - ILCC license not displayed.
        - Contaminated Liquor
        - Pre-mix not destroyed weekly.
        - Pregnancy warning sign not being displayed
        - IL Sales Tax certificate unavailable

- 64 warnings were issued.
    - Most common
      - Pregnancy Warning Sign not displayed.
      - Pre-mixes not being destroyed weekly.
      - Improperly cleaned pre-mix drink receptacles.
      - ILCC license not being displayed.
      - Failure to not maintain the pre-mix drink receptacles records.
    - Complaints
      - The ILCC received 85 complaints in June. 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 resale purchase of alcohol.
      - Enforcement investigated and closed 16 complaints.
- Underage Compliance Details totals:
  - 10 Underage Compliance missions
  - 244 establishments were checked.
    - 50 failures
    - 194 were compliant.
    - 18 prior offenders were retested for compliance.
- Online marketplace sales
  - Removed from marketplace:
    - 10 posts from Craigslist
    - 6 posts from Facebook Marketplace
    - 1 post from Offer-Up
- Legal
  - 3 distributor cases.
  - 47 retailer cases.
  - 102 sales of alcohol to minor
    - 96 first offense.
    - 4 second offense.
    - 2 third offense
  - Closed 161 cases.
  - Pre-disciplinary conferences
    - Conducted 11 pre-disciplinary conferences.
    - 3 outstanding conferences
  - SAM Conferences
    - June 25 in the Chicago office and June 26<sup>th</sup> in the Springfield office.
  - Appeals
    - 4 pending appeals
    - Last appeal status was held June 6th.
  - FOIA
    - Received 24 FOIA requests.
  - Administrative review
    - 3 are under administrative review.
  - 23 MR 0022 – *Great Food and Spirits LLC v. ILCC*
    - A hearing was conducted on June 4<sup>th</sup>

- **Industry Education**

- Published a press release in the month of June
  - Don't let a drink sink your day
    - Reminder to Illinois boaters to be responsible and the dangers of boating under the influence.
- The ILCC attended two safety expos which allow agency to interact with the public about safety.
- The summer newsletter is now out.
- Any events speaking requests should be sent to:  
[ILCC.industryeducation@illinois.gov](mailto: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 1:21pm. 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 2:02 p.m.

**VI. ALJ Parry Cases**

In the matter on *ILCC v. CASEY'S RETAIL COMPANY dba CASEY'S* #2267—Case ID: 1796927616 Commissioner LaMalfa made a motion to MODIFY the ALJ decision to a 14 DAY SUSPENSION AND A \$500 FINE, 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		

In the matter on *ILCC v. CASEY'S RETAIL COMPANY dba CASEY'S* #3383—Case ID: 2002057344 Commissioner Gibbons made a motion to MODIFY the ALJ decision to a 14 DAY SUSPENSION AND A \$500 FINE, Commissioner LaMalfa 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		

In the matter on *ILCC v. LICKISS FAMILY VENTURES, LLC dba VIC'S PLACE*—Case ID: 37275776 Commissioner Spann-Copper made a motion to MODIFY the ALJ decision to a \$1,000 FINE, Commissioner LaMalfa 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		

In the matter on *ILCC v. CENTRAL ART MART CORPORATION dba ART MART*—Case ID:

498284672 Commissioner Pulido Sanchez made a motion to MODIFY the ALJ decision to a 4 DAY SUSPENSION AND A \$500 FINE, 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		

In the matter on *ILCC v. 706 S 5TH INC dba JOE'S BREWERY*—Case ID: 1522200704  
Commissioner Gibbons made a motion to MODIFY the ALJ decision to a 3 DAY SUSPENSION AND A \$500 FINE, Commissioner LaMalfa 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. Comments from the Board**

Commissioner Gibbons wanted to know if we can add previous disciplines to our newsletter.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Commissioner LaMalfa made a motion to adjourn and 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		

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m. CST

**ATTEST:**

/S/ Jacqueline Villa, Acting Commission Secretary

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