

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

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

**--
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 30th, 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 30th.
 - 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 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 26th 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 4th

- **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

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-Cooper 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
