

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

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

**--
October 15, 2025
1:00 PM**

Call the Roll:

Chair Berg called the meeting to order at 1:02 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</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 Sullivan to allow Commissioner 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	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Gibbons and seconded by Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez to approve the minutes of the September 17, 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 295 audit requests.
- 48 of which are electronic data processing.
- **Fiscal**
 - \$9.1 Million in the Dram Shop Fund
 - The ILCC operating budget
 - Our September 2025 Revenue - \$1.4 Million
 - Licensing division generated 92%.
 - Fines/Penalties and Violations generated approximately 8%.
- **Licensing**
 - September 2025 Figures
 - Active licenses - 31,335
 - 3,052 issued.
 - 295 new applications
 - Special event licenses
 - 547
 - 90% was submitted online.
- **Salesforce**
 - We are 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 are planning to release early 2026.
- **Enforcement**
 - **Delinquency list**
 - 1,580 Delinquencies Reported
 - 1,860 Cures.
 - There were 10 Bona-Fide disputes filed for the month.
 - Inspections Totals for February
 - Total of 720 Inspections.
 - 9 were pre-licensing inspections
 - 98 were First Inspections.
 - 248 violations were cited.
 - Most common violations
 - Contaminated Liquor
 - ILCC license not displayed.
 - Pre-mix not destroyed weekly.
 - Personnel not BASSET certified.
 - IL Sales Tax certificate unavailable
 - 55 warnings were issued.
 - Most common
 - Pregnancy Warning Sign not displayed.
 - 90 days of invoices not being available.
 - ILCC license not being displayed.
 - Personnel not BASSET certified
 - IL Sales Tax certificate unavailable

- Complaints
 - The ILCC received 106 complaints in September. 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 15 complaints.
- Operation Safe was conducted at universities in Illinois:
 - 206 establishments were checked.
 - 29 failures
 - 117 were compliant.
 - 38 prior offenders were retested for compliance.
 - 5 repeat offenders failing again.
- Online marketplace sales
 - Removed from marketplace:
 - 9 posts from Craigslist
 - 7 posts from Facebook Marketplace
 - 3 posts from Offer-Up
- Legal
 - 2 distributor cases.
 - 131 retailer cases.
 - 78 sales of alcohol to minor
 - 70 first offense.
 - 6 second offense.
 - 2 third offense
 - Closed 42 cases.
 - Pre-disciplinary conferences
 - Conducted 7 pre-disciplinary conferences.
 - Appeals
 - 7 pending appeals
 - Last appeal status was held September 7.
 - FOIA
 - Received 23 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, Judge Jeremy Daniel of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (Eastern Division) issued a decision in favor of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission in support of the Illinois three-tier alcoholic beverage regulatory system. Judge Daniel agreed with the Commission's argument that the Illinois Liquor Control Act may legally prohibit a retailer in another state from shipping alcoholic beverages directly to an Illinois consumer. Based on affidavit testimony of ILCC staff Kenneth Williams and Dusanka Marijan, Judge Daniel ruled that retailers selling alcoholic beverages in Illinois must be physically located and licensed in Illinois and must

purchase alcoholic beverages from Illinois distributors before selling to Illinois consumers. Such a process preserves Illinois' three-tier regulatory structure and promotes the health and safety of Illinois residents.

- **Industry Education**
 - Published one press release in the month of September.
 - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder awareness month.
 - No amount of alcohol is safe for pregnant women.
 - The ILCC was at the State Fair.
 - Any events speaking requests should be sent to:
ILCC.industryeducation@illinois.gov
- New Staff:
 - New program specialist Hafeezah Ali has joined the ILCC in October under our Industry Education division.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

V. Comments from the Board

N/A

VI. 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 1:19 p.m. CST

ATTEST:

/S/ Jacqueline Villa, Acting Commission Secretary
