

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

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

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**February 18, 2026
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>
Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>
Pat Pulido Sanchez	<i>Commissioner</i>
Brian Sullivan	<i>Commissioner</i>
Cynthia Berg	<i>Chair</i>

ILCC Staff Present:

Lisa Gardner	<i>Executive Director</i>
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>

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Pulido Sanchez to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026, meeting; the motion passed.

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

III. Executive Director's Report

- **Audit**
 - The third compliance audit has been completed. The audit is now under review with the Illinois Audit General.
- **Fiscal**
 - \$10.9 Million in the Dram Shop Fund
 - The ILCC operating budget
- Our January 2026 Revenue - \$1.15 million
 - Licensing division generated 96%
 - Fines/Penalties and Violations generated approximately 4%.
- **Licensing**

- January 2026 Figures
 - Active licenses – 31,191
 - 3,253 issued.
 - 214 new applications
 - Special event licenses
 - 254 in the month of January
- **Salesforce**
 - The ILCC team has worked tirelessly to prepare for our new ILCC portal. The new portal will handle all Licensing, Enforcement, Legal and Basset processes.
 - We have reached the final stage of implementation and are preparing to launch the portal this week. We are completing the remaining data migration from the legacy system and expect to finalize these last few steps.
 - Licensees are encouraged to visit the ILCC website for important launch updates and FAQs on transiting to the new system.
 - Guidance and support pages have been created to ensure users are ready to transition to the new portal. If they have not previously done so, users can prepare to access their account in the new ILCC portal by establishing an iLogin account with the state of Illinois.
- **Enforcement**
 - Inspections Totals for January
 - Total of 602 Inspections.
 - 4 were pre-licensing inspections
 - 102 were First Inspections.
 - 230 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
 - 78 warnings were issued.
 - Most common
 - 90 days of invoices being unavailable.
 - ILCC license not be displayed.
 - Pregnancy Warning Sign not displayed.
 - Premixes not being destroyed weekly
 - Advertised brands not available
 - Complaints
 - The ILCC received 79 complaints in January. 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 0 complaints.
- Underage Compliance Details totals:

- 5 Underage Compliance missions
- 94 establishments were checked.
 - 20 failures
 - 74 were compliant.
 - 4 prior offenders were retested for compliance.
 - 0 repeat offender failing again.
- Online marketplace sales
 - Removed from marketplace:
 - 23 posts from Craigslist
 - 19 posts from Facebook Marketplace
 - 5 posts from Offer-Up
- **Legal**
 - 64 cases pending
 - 3 distributor cases.
 - 20 retailer cases.
 - 41 sales of alcohol to minor
 - 32 first offense.
 - 5 second offense.
 - 4 third offense
 - Closed 72 cases.
 - Pre-disciplinary conferences
 - Conducted 12 pre-disciplinary conferences.
 - 11 outstanding
 - Appeals
 - 0 pending appeals
 - Last appeal status was held on January 4, 2026
 - Sam Settlement/Training Conferences
 - Held on January 21, 2026 in Chicago
 - FOIA
 - Received 23 FOIA requests.
 - Administrative review
 - 2 are under administrative review.
- **Industry Education**
 - The ILCC continues to attend and speak at events that our time and resources permit.
 - Any event speaking request should be sent to ILCC.industryeducation@illinois.gov

IV. Executive Session

Commissioner Powell made a motion to move the ILCC into executive session at 1:07 pm.
Commissioner LaMalfa seconded the motion.

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

The Commission moved back into regular session at 1:40 p.m.

V. ALJ Recommendation

In case *ILCC v. Shree GI Krupa Corp* (Case ID: 1962261632), *ILCC v. The Raven LLC* (Case ID: 255451776), and *ILCC v. Pavansut Inc.* (Case ID: 1678171264) Commissioner Spann-Cooper made a motion to AFFIRM the ALJ decision; Commissioner Powell seconded the motion.

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

In case *ILCC v. CMT XII Inc* (Case ID:1957975168) Commissioner Powell made a motion to MODIFY the ALJ decision; Commissioner Pulido Sanchez seconded the motion.

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

In case *ILCC v. Hacienda Leon II, Inc.* (Case ID: 1543543936) Commissioner Pulido Sanchez made a motion to MODIFY the ALJ decision; Commissioner Powell seconded the motion.

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

In case *ILCC v. 706 S. 5th Inc.* (Case ID: 213287552) Commissioner Spann-Cooper made a motion to DENY THE PETITION FOR REHEARING; Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion.

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

VI. Release of Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Gibbons made a motion to release confidential meeting minutes for closed session for June 2025, August 2025, September 2025, and December 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 LaMalfa made a motion to not release confidential meeting minutes for closed session for April 2023, June 2023, and September 2023. Commissioner Spann-Cooper 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		

VII. Public Comment

N/A

VIII. Comments from the Board

Commissioner Powell expressed himself having difficulties with our remote system. Faheem responded with efforts to solve any technical difficulties.

IX. Adjournment

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. CST

ATTEST:

/S/ Jacqueline Villa, Acting Commission Secretary
