

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

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

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**January 21, 2026
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>	<i>Absent</i>
Julieta LaMalfa	<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Remote</i>
Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Remote</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>

Motion for Remote Participation of Commissioners

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

Pat Pulio Sanchez	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes		
Brian Sullivan	Yes		

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Pulido Sanchez and seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025, meeting; the motion passed.

Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes	Brian Sullivan	Yes
Steven Powell		Cynthia Berg	Yes
Pat Pulido Sanchez	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**
 - \$9.7 Million in the Dram Shop Fund
 - The ILCC operating budget
- Our December 2025 Revenue - \$2,240,876.50
 - Licensing division generated 94%.
 - Fines/Penalties and Violations generated approximately 6%.
- **Licensing**
 - December 2025 Figures
 - Active licenses – 30,972
 - 2,749 issued.
 - 185 new applications
 - Special event licenses
 - 77 were this month
 - 4,291 through the month of December.
- **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 on track with the project schedule, and all functionalities build phases are complete.
 - Conducting the final set of UAT testing and on track to go live mid-February.
 - Public outreach has begun, and notices have been sent out both snail and electronic mail.
 - Licensee’s are being encouraged to review out coming soon page, as well as pre-register with I-login.
 - There will be a one-week blackout period beginning February 11th which means that no licensee activity will be conducted during that time frame. February 11th marks the last day to access MyTax Illinois.
 - ILCC’S Licensees and applicants will no longer be able to submit nor update applications, renewals, payments or compliance documentations through MyTax.
 - We encourage licensees with February and March renewals to renew prior to February 11th.
 - Any licenses that are incomplete or rejected during this transition period will need to be resubmitted in the new portal when we go live.
 - Please visit our website for FAQ’s and updates.
- **Enforcement**
 - **Delinquency list**
 - 1,589 Delinquencies Reported
 - 1,462 Cures.
 - There were 7 Bona-Fide disputes filed for the month.
 - Inspections Totals for December
 - Total of 662 Inspections.
 - 12 were pre-licensing inspections
 - 81 were First Inspections.
 - 272 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
 - 58 warnings were issued.
 - Most common
 - 90 days of invoices being unavailable.
 - Illinois sales tax certificate unavailable.
 - Local Liquor license not be displayed.
 - Pregnancy Warning Sign not displayed.
 - Corporate status not in good standing.
 - Complaints
 - The ILCC received 96 complaints in December. 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, underage sellers and servers, and the retail purchasing of alcohol.
 - Enforcement investigated and closed 8 complaints.
- Underage Compliance Details totals:
 - 9 Underage Compliance missions
 - 130 establishments were checked.
 - 25 failures
 - 105 were compliant.
 - 16 prior offenders were retested for compliance.
 - 3 repeat offender failing again.
- Online marketplace sales
 - Removed from marketplace:
 - 23 posts from Craigslist
 - 45 posts from Facebook Marketplace
 - 3 posts from Offer-Up
- **Legal**
 - 102 cases pending
 - 1 distributor cases.
 - 25 retailer cases.
 - 76 sales of alcohol to minor
 - 63 first offense.
 - 9 second offense.
 - 3 third offense
 - Closed 165 cases.
 - Pre-disciplinary conferences
 - Conducted 14 pre-disciplinary conferences.
 - 11 outstanding

- Appeals
 - 2 pending appeals
 - Last appeal status was held on December 4, 2025.
- FOIA
 - Received 14 FOIA requests.
- Administrative review
 - 3 are under administrative review.
- **Industry Education**
 - The ILCC released two press releases in the month of December
 - First one was on National Impaired Driving Prevention Month
 - Second one was Rest Rebalance Refresh, Dry January
 - 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
- Commissioner Spann-Cooper asked what is a 5A license. The director answered by saying it is the license for BASSET trainers.

IV. Public Comment

William O'Donaghue made a public comment regarding the status of his client's license.

V. Executive Session

Commissioner Spann-Cooper made a motion to move the ILCC into executive session at 1:18 pm. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion.

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

The Commission moved back into regular session at 1:30 p.m.

VI. ALJ Recommendation

In case ID: 213287552 (706 S. 5th v. *Illinois Liquor Control Commissioner*) Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to MODIFY the ALJ; Commissioner Powell seconded the motion.

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

VII. Comments from the Board

N/A

VIII. Adjournment

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

Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes	Brian Sullivan	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Cynthia Berg	Yes

Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes
Julieta LaMalfa	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m. CST

ATTEST:

/S/ Jacqueline Villa, Acting Commission Secretary
