

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

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

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**March 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>	<i>Remote</i>
Pat Pulido Sanchez	<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Remote</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 Gibbons to allow Commissioner Pulido Sanchez and Commissioner Powell to participate remotely and was seconded by Commissioner Sullivan.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Brian Sullivan	Yes		

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Spann-Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Powell to approve the minutes of the February 18, 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. Our exit interview has been

scheduled.

- **Salesforce**

- On February 23rd we successfully launched the new ILCC Portal, marketing a major milestone.
- This transition represents a significant step forward in how we serve licensee's streamline internal operations
- A few examples of the enhancement delivered:
 - Applicants can now apply for all license types online, expanding beyond just 1A retailers.
 - The application process is more intuitive, with built in safeguards that improve data accuracy and reduce errors.
 - We have implemented iLogin, allowing users to benefit from a single sign on across many State of Illinois services.
 - Licenses are issued and available immediately after they are approved, eliminating processing delays.
 - A real time license lookup is now available, improving transparency for business and the public.
- Licensees are encouraged to visit the ILCC website for important launch updates and FAQs on transitioning to the new system.
- Website Updates
 - ILCC website updated to reflect the move to the ILLCP.
 - Outage alerts are being posted to the website banner for scheduled maintenance.

- **Fiscal**

- \$13.4 Million YTD revenue.
- \$6.4 Million in the Dram Shop Fund
 - The ILCC operating budget
- Our February 2026 Revenue - \$2.4 million
 - Licensing division generated 96%
 - Fines/Penalties and Violations generated approximately 4%.

- **Licensing**

- February 2026 Figures
 - Active licenses – 31,564
 - 3,140 issued.
 - 278 new applications
 - Special event licenses
 - 192 in the month of January

- **Enforcement**

- Inspections Totals for February
 - Total of 462 Inspections.
 - 4 were pre-licensing inspections
 - 27 were First Inspections.
 - 117 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
- 8 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 38 complaints in February. The complaints came via 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, retail purchasing of alcohol, and happy hour violations.
 - Enforcement investigated and closed 12 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:
 - 10 posts from Craigslist
 - 2 posts from Facebook Marketplace
 - 5 posts from Offer-Up
- Delinquency List- February 2026
 - 944 were reported delinquent
 - 964 delinquencies cured
 - 8 BFDs
- **Legal**
 - 14 cases pending
 - 0 distributor cases.
 - 9 Distributors
 - 0 Retailers
 - 5 sales of alcohol to minor
 - 0 first offense.
 - 1 second offense.
 - 4 third offense
 - Closed 197 cases.
 - 12 pre-disciplinary conferences
 - Appeals

- 0 pending appeals
 - Last appeal status was held on February 5, 2026
 - Sam Settlement/Training Conferences
 - Held on February 3, 2026, in Springfield
 - FOIA
 - Received 17 FOIA requests.
 - Administrative review
 - 2 are under administrative review.
 - Ravens Place, LLC v. Illinois Liquor Control Commission, et al.
 - Attorney General Appellate Division has filed a brief in support of the dismissal of the cases.
 - Dirt Cheap, Inc v. Illinois Liquor Control Commission, et al.
 - Motion of withdrawal of appeal was filed by licensee in July 2025. Attorney General's office has filed a motion in support of dismissal of the case.
- **Industry Education**
 - A special edition newsletter on the ILCC portal was published on 2/23/26 and 2/27/2026. This newsletter included step by step instructions, FAQ's as well as detailed instructions on how to get stated, amongst other useful topics.
 - An updated BASSET bulletin was published on 2/10/2026.
 - Press releases
 - Superbowl 60: the smartest play on game day is moderation was published on 2/6/26
 - ILCC portal launching soon 2/13/26
 - ILCC Portal has launched 2/23/26
 - Any event speaking request should be sent to ILCC.industryeducation@illinois.gov

IV. Public Comment

N/A

V. Comments from the Board

N/A

VI. Adjournment

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

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 1:11 p.m. CST

ATTEST:

/S/ Jacqueline Villa, Acting Commission Secretary