

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

**Richard J. Daley Center
50 West Washington**

Suite 209

December 15, 2021

1:00 PM

Call the Roll:

Melody Spann-Cooper	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Thomas Gibbons	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Julieta LaMalfa	<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Remote*</i>
Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Cynthia Berg	<i>Chair</i>	

A quorum was present.

**Remote attendance does not count towards a quorum.*

Also Present:

Tom Schlenhardt	<i>Associate Director</i>
Les Peterson	<i>Chief Enforcement Officer</i>
Dusanka Marijan	<i>Licensing Administrator</i>
Michelle Flagg	<i>Industry Education</i>
Jason Youngberg	<i>I.T. Manager</i>
Noel Quanbeck	<i>General Counsel</i>
Rick Haymaker	<i>Legal</i>
Dean Argiris	<i>Acting Commission Secretary</i>

I. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Spann-Cooper

The motion passed unanimously.

Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes		
Cynthia Berg	Yes		

II. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director will continue to meet with stakeholders, industry members, and other industry representatives.

Our audit is still on going.

We are preparing for the upcoming budget hearings, scheduled for January.

Our I.T. Manager, Jason Youngberg, will be leaving. Today is his last day. Human Resources and I.T. will be short staffed until we can rehire.

Administrative Services job opening will be posted soon.
We continue to need candidates for our Underage Compliance Assistances.

Licensing is fully staffed for the first time in several years.

Licensees are encouraged to renew as soon as possible, but we ask prior to December 27th to avoid any administrative delays.

We are averaging 100 walk-ins per month.

As for legislation, we continue to work with the Governor's Office on our Spring legislative initiatives.

Related to our couponing rule, we have finalized the language, shared it with our stakeholders, and submitted to JCAR for publishing.

Commissioner Gibbons expressed the need for ILCC – Underage Compliance Assistants because when Underage Compliance operations are conducted, retailers have an over 50% failure rate.

Executive Director Gardner agreed and mentioned one of ILCC's spring legislative initiatives was to pass a bill that would grant the ILCC funds to obtain evidence, and part of that funding would go to ILCC being able to directly hire UAC's.

III. Division Reports

Enforcement

Chief Enforcement Officer Les Peterson agreed that increased UAC's would enhance our compliance operations.

782 inspections were conducted. 240 violations were found and 57 warnings were issued.

The ILCC received 58 complaints, with the most common being sale of alcohol to a minor, no valid license, and happy hour violations.

We have seen increased compliance where we have increased presence.

Industry Education

Q4 Newsletter will go out at the end of this month, or 1st week of January at the latest.

We continue to e-mail licensees who have not yet renewed their licenses.

Industry speakers for 2022 will change from "State of the Industry" to "Health and Safety" organizations, such as substance abuse and underage prevention organizations.

Legal

General Counsel Noel Quanbeck talked about filing the Couponing Rule with JCAR and Secretary of State acknowledged receipt on December 10th.

We worked with the Department of Revenue and Department of Insurance on their legislation which would link revocation of a liquor license for establishments that have not paid Workman's Compensation Insurance or whose Certificate of Tax has been revoked, 91 pending cases, up slightly from October 19 are Distributor cases, 20 are Sale of Alcohol to Minor Cases, and 47 are retailer cases.

We have 55 cases for requests for Pre-disciplinary conferences.

31 Appeals are pending and are waiting for some transcripts on cases that have been heard.

Our office had 15 FOIA requests, many of those had to deal with auto insurance.

Licensing

Licensing Administrator Dusanka Marijan reminded licensees that those who have not renewed yet, should by December 31st, 2021.

37% of the licensees that have not renewed, have not done so for two (2) years. They will need to renew for those two years.

We had 23,667 licenses pre-pandemic, currently there are 20,714 license now. Our biggest drop was in Special Events, we saw 50% fewer special events.

Our office processed 70% renewals this past month, up from 66% the month before.

VII. State of the Industry

Jeremy Kruidenier spoke on behalf of the Wine and Spirits Distributors of Illinois (WSDI) and their membership and the services and products their members provide. WSDI also talked about the legislation that transferred ownership of the Delinquency List to the ILCC.

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII Comments from the Board

None

IX. Closing Remarks and Adjournment to Hearing

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn and we seconded by Commissioner Gibbons. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

/S/ Dean Argiris, Acting Commission Secretary
