

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OPEN SESSION  
ILLINOIS LIQUOR CONTROL  
COMMISSION  
April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
1:00 PM  
Via Webex Events**

The regular meeting of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission was conducted as an audio/video conference held via the Webex Events digital platform due to the COVID-19-19 gubernatorial disaster proclamations issued on March 9, 2020, April 1, 2020, April 30, 2020, May 29, 2020, June 26, 2020, July 24, 2020, August 21, 2020, and September 18, 2020, October 16, 2020, and November 13, 2020, December 11, 2020, and January 8, 2021. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 (reissued under Executive Order 2021-01), the James R. Thompson Center is closed to the public. The meeting was conducted via audio conference consistent with Public Act 101-0640 and Executive Order 2020-07 (reissued by Executive Order 2021-01).

**Call the Roll:**

Cynthia Berg, Chairman  
Donald O'Connell, Commissioner  
Thomas Gibbons, Commissioner  
Melody Spann Cooper, Commissioner  
Julieta LaMalfa, Commissioner  
Patricia Pulido Sanchez, Commissioner  
Steven Powell, Commissioner

**Also Present:**

Chimaobi Enyia, Executive Director  
Thomas Schlenhardt, Associate Director  
Les Peterson, Chief Enforcement Officer  
Dusanka Marijan, Licensing Administrator  
Michelle Flagg, Industry Education  
Jason Youngberg, IT Director  
Avi Zisook, Legal  
Rick Haymaker, Legal  
Persis Dhankher, IT  
Dean Argiris, Acting Commission Secretary

**I. Roll Call**

Present – Chair Berg, Commissioner O'Connell, Commissioner Gibbons, Commissioner Spann-Cooper, Commissioner LaMalfa, Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

- a. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell to approve the minutes of the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Spann-Cooper. The motion passed unanimously.

## **III. ILCC Operations & Public Act 100-1050**

- a. ILCC's move to the Daley Center is coming along smoothly. We've been conducting our weekly team meetings and the build out has started.
- b. We are on course to be moving by June or July, but we still may be fully remote due to the ongoing pandemic-related Emergency Orders.
- c. We have our Executive 1 Position interview process, there are currently 22 candidates for the position and will be interviewed over the next two weeks.
- d. Our final four candidates for the General Counsel's position are still being vetted by the Governor's office.
- e. We have movement on our supervisor positions. All the candidates have been selected. We're just finalizing the offers.

## **IV. ILCC COVID-19 Directives**

- a. Nothing has really changed in terms of our directives. We anticipate some changes when we enter in the bridge phase of the reopening plan, but until then it's status quo.

## **V. Diversity and Inclusion**

- a. The ILCC had a Women's History Panel, the video for that is up on our YouTube channel.

## **VI. Division Reports**

- a. Licensing Division
  - We issued 3,007 liquor licenses last month and is an increase from the same month one year ago.
  - We have had three license renewal extensions since the emergency order was put in place and we are now seeing those who took advantage of the extensions renewing their licenses.
  - Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez asked a question about the Covid plan, as it relates to Special Events licenses.
    - The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity sets the guidelines for the various types of special events and we review each application to ensure they conform with those guidelines.

b. Enforcement Division

- Enforcement conducted 1,477 inspections. We found 158 violations and issued 83 warnings during our new licensee inspections.
- The most common violations were establishments not having their licenses and invoices readily available.
- We received 61 Covid-related complaints, which is a 3% decrease from the month before.
- Our division continues to concentrate our focus on illegal sale and delivery of alcohol via online portals.

c. Legal Division

- Legal has been updating our F.A.Q.'s regarding Covid as things continue to change.
- During the month of March, we closed our 43 cases and we continue to hold Pre-disciplinary Conferences over the phone, but we still have a large amount currently outstanding.
- We have 12 open cases related to the Sale of Alcohol to Minors (SAMs), at some point they'll have to come before the Commission but that is delayed due to Covid.
- There are 2 hearings scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>.

d. Industry Education

- Next week is Alcohol Awareness Month and tomorrow is our BASSET Town Hall at 10:00 a.m. There is a link for that available.

**VII. Legislative Update**

- a. Counsel Haymaker (Legal Division) provided a status update on the legislation effecting the Illinois Liquor Control Commisison

**VIII. State of the Industry / Public Comments**

- a. Pat Doerr (Hospitality Business Association of Chicago)

- Talked about HBAC's 12 year history being the voice for locally owned businesses.
- Chicago's hospitality industry is incredibly independent with fewer chain restaurants and operators than other major cities.

b. Jay Westbrook (Harold's 83 Honey Ale)

- Talked about his transition from working in the hospitality industry to developing Harold's 83 Honey Ale with Haymarket Brewery.

c. Lisa Ellis (*Illinois Grape Growers*)

- Complimented the ILCC for being one of the most forward-thinking commissions in the state, in helping the industry navigate the Covid pandemic.
- Advocated support for S.B. 1927.

**X. Receive Comments from the Board**

- a. Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez recommended capturing diversity information on liquor licenses to gauge how diverse the industry is, in-line with the ILCC's Diversity & Inclusion objectives.

**XI. Executive Session**

- a. A motion was made by Commissioner Gibbons and seconded by Commissioner Powell to move into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

**XII. Appeals**

- a. In the case of *Knoob v. Carbondale* (20 App. 11) a motion was made to Modify the Discipline issued by the City of Carbondale by Commissioner O'Connell and seconded by Commissioner Spann-Cooper. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. In the case of *Knoob v. Carbondale* (20 App. 16) a motion was made to affirm the decision of the Local Commissioner by Commissioner LaMalfa and seconded by Commissioner O'Connell. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. In the case of *Knoob v. Carbondale* (20 App. 18) a motion was made to affirm the decision of the Local Commissioner by Commissioner O'Connell and seconded by Commissioner Powell. The motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

- a. Commissioner Spann-Cooper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Connell. The motion was unanimously approved.

**ATTEST:**

/S/ Dean Argiris, Acting Commission Secretary