

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OPEN SESSION  
ILLINOIS LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION  
August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
1:00 PM**

The monthly meeting of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission was held in person at the Richard J. Daley Center: 55 W. Washington St.; Suite 209; Chicago, Illinois 60602.

**Meeting Commenced:** 1:01 p.m. CST

**I. Call the Roll:**

Melody Spann-Cooper		<i>Commissioner</i>
Thomas Gibbons		<i>Commissioner</i>
Julieta LaMalfa		<i>Commissioner</i>
Donald O’Connell		<i>Commissioner</i>
Steven Powell	Attended Remotely	<i>Commissioner</i>
Patricia Pulido-Sanchez	Attended Remotely	<i>Commissioner</i>
Cynthia Berg		<i>Chair</i>

**ILCC Staff 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>
Avi Zisook	<i>Legal</i>
Rick Haymaker	<i>Legal</i>
Dean Argiris	<i>Acting Commission Secretary</i>

**II. Approval of Minutes**

- a. A motion was made by Commissioner O’Connell to approve the minutes of the July 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Powell.

The motion passed unanimously (7-0-0)

<i>Commissioner Spann-Cooper</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Powell</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner Gibbons</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner LaMalfa</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Chair Berg</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner O’Connell</i>	<i>Yes</i>		

**III. Division Reports**

- a. Michelle Flagg gave the division report for Industry Education, emphasizing that the ILCC published its 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter newsletter, as well as planning for the agency’s upcoming prevention campaigns.
  - a. Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez asked about the Commission’s plans for “Hispanic Heritage Month” next month.

- b. Les Peterson provided the Commissioners with the monthly report from Enforcement. There were 1,025 inspections were completed and found 330 violations, 66 warnings were issued during New Licensing Inspections, and 60 Complaints were received in July.

The ILCC is currently receiving applications for Underage Compliance Assistants.

Furthermore, the ILCC has reported over 420 removals of illegal sales from social media and digital sales applications.

- c. Noel Quanbeck was introduced as the new General Counsel for the ILCC and provided the monthly division report for the legal division.

Legal has 30 open cases for S.A.Ms. (Sale of Alcohol to Minors, two of which are on their third offense and will be referred to the Commission for license disciplinary hearings.

Additionally, there are 6 cases under Administrative Review and are being handled by the Illinois Attorney Generals' Office.

Lebamoff v. O'Connell is set for hearing at the end of September and is expected to take four or five days. Commission staff will be providing testimony.

The ILCC also has 7 hearings set for the remainder of the year and going into January. 3 of those hearings are *de novo*.

In relation to HB2620, legal has been assisting licensing in reviewing the new applications and transfer forms that are promulgated with this legislation.

- a. Commissioner Spann-Cooper posed an inquiry about the current timeframe for hearing cases before the Commission.
- b. Commissioner Gibbons asked about developing guidelines and guidance for suspensions and fines in relation with the new rules related to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- d. Dusanka Marijan gave the licensing report for the month of July. We reopened our offices to the public on August 2<sup>nd</sup> giving licensees the option to renew their licenses in one of three ways: in-person, online, or by mail. 97% of our licensees have reapplied online.

Licenses are extended to December 31, 2021. 74% are renewing their licenses on their normal end-date, which means 26% are taking advantage of the renewal extension.

The ILCC has seen an increase in the number of special-event licenses that are being applied for and issued. For July, we had 1,171 licenses: up from 236 in April. However, we are not at the pre-pandemic numbers yet.

GenTax Version 12 upgrade is at the final stages of testing and the implementation date is expected to September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

- a. Commissioner Gibbons inquired about whether or not the Licensing Division had the available workforce needed to help assists in timely review and approvals for those 26% of licensees who have not renewed as of yet.
- e. Associate Director Tom Schlenhardt gave the operations report and touched on 2 new licensing assistants being hired, as well as 7 enforcement staff (3 inspectors and 4 investigators). The

ILCC is still working on getting the Delinquency List from WSDI so that the agency can assume that role, pursuant to HB2620.

**IV. State of the Industry**

- a. Danielle D’Alessandro of the Illinois Craft Brewers’ Guild gave the ILCC an overview of the industry and the mission of the ICBG.

**V. Public Comment**

No public comments were provided.

**VI. Comments from the Board**

- a. Commissioner Gibbons posed a question to the ILCC Manager Laverie Jefferson regarding the ability for the ILCC to hire employees of the Indo-Pak Community, which would reflect some of the demographics of our licensees.

**VII. Executive Session**

- a. A motion was made by Commissioner O’Connell and seconded by Commissioner Powell for the ILCC to go into Executive Session and deliberate *Timbuktu Saloon, Inc. d/b/a/ the Draft Sports Bar v. City of Decatur Liquor Commission* (20 APP 20) and *Variety Liquors, Inc. v. City of Decatur Liquor Commission* (20 APP 19).

The motion passed unanimously (7-0-0)

<i>Commissioner Spann-Cooper</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Powell</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner Gibbons</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner LaMalfa</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Chair Berg</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner O’Connell</i>	<i>Yes</i>		

**VIII: Recommencement of Regular Meeting (Call the Roll)**

Melody Spann-Cooper	<i>Commissioner</i>
Thomas Gibbons	<i>Commissioner</i>
Julieta LaMalfa	<i>Commissioner</i>
Donald O’Connell	<i>Commissioner</i>
Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>
Patricia Pulido-Sanchez	<i>Commissioner</i>
Cynthia Berg	<i>Chair</i>

**IX. Appeals**

- a. In the matter of *Timbuktu Saloon, Inc. d/b/a the Draft Sports Bar & Grill v. City of Decatur Liquor Commission* (20 APP 20) a motion was made by Commissioner O’Connell to affirm the decision of the Local Liquor Control Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa.

The motion passed unanimously (7-0-0)

<i>Commissioner Spann-Cooper</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Powell</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner Gibbons</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner LaMalfa</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Chair Berg</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner O’Connell</i>	<i>Yes</i>		

- b. In the case of *Variety Liquors, Inc. vs. City of Decatur Liquor Commission* (20 APP 21) a motion was made by Commissioner O’Connell and seconded by Commissioner Gibbons to affirm the decision of the Local Liquor Control Commission.

The motion passed unanimously (7-0-0)

<i>Commissioner Spann-Cooper</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Powell</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner Gibbons</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner LaMalfa</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Chair Berg</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner O’Connell</i>	<i>Yes</i>		

**VIII. Adjournment**

- a. Commissioner O’Connell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Powell and was passed unanimously (7-0-0)

<i>Commissioner Spann-Cooper</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Powell</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner Gibbons</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner LaMalfa</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Chair Berg</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner O’Connell</i>	<i>Yes</i>		

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:45 p.m. CST

**ATTEST:**

/S/ Dean Argiris, Acting Commission Secretary

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