

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OPEN SESSION
ILLINOIS LIQUOR CONTROL
COMMISSION
June 16, 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 and 2021-09, the James R. Thompson Center is closed to the Public. Pursuant to Executive Orders 2020-07, 2021-09 and Public Act 101-0640.

I. Call the Roll:

Present

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

Absent

Julieta LaMalfa, *Commissioner*

Staff Present:

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

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. A motion was made by Commissioner O'Connell and seconded by Commissioner Powell to correct the May minutes and defer approval to the June meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. Executive Director Report

- a. The ILCC build out for our new offices are going smoothly and we're still on target for mid-July.
- b. We plan to open to the public by August 1st 2021.
- c. The new General Counsel has accepted the position and has a start date of July 1st, 2021. Noel comes to us from the City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection.
- d. We have posted the job opening for Licensing Assistant. We are accepting applications to the end of the month and will bring our total number of licensing assistants to 4.
- e. We have not posted the Liquor Control Commission Supervisor – Cook County position as of yet. The ILCC is currently working with CMS over the job description and we hope to have it posted in a week or two.
- f. HB2620 transfers the Delinquency List over to the ILCC, our IT is working on options to procure the necessary software to enable us to take over the list on 1 January 2022.
 - i. This will include a Gentax replacement because the two systems will tie in to one another.
- g. The audit goes on. This is our first audit as an independent state agency.

IV. Covid-19 Directives

- a. We are in Phase 5. The state does not require face coverings for fully vaccinated individuals. Local municipalities can continue to impose mask requirements as they deem fit.
- b. No capacity limits.

V. Division Reports

- a. Licensing Division
 - i. License renewals have been extended to 31 December 2021. This supersedes the June 2021 deadline as an effort to alleviate the burden on local licensees due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - ii. Online brand registration enhancements to our software have been implemented and we received great feedback.
 - iii. Gentax V12 is on schedule with testing of the new SQRs.
 - iv. Special events applications have continued to be received into our office. We are allocating resources to ensure we can review and process these applications in a timely manner.

b. Enforcement Division

- i. Enforcement is inviting education and resources to businesses that remained open during the COvid-19 Disaster Proclamation.
- ii. We continue to work with locals on enforcement of the Phase 4 guidelines.
- iii. 277 Violations were found in May and 91 warnings issued during new license inspections and Covid complaints.
- iv. 51% decrease from the previous month in terms of complaints.
- v. We continue to monitor and enforce the online sales of alcohol. We removed 458 posts from Craigslist, 12 from Facebook Marketplace, 41 from Offer-Up,

c. Industry Education

- i. The ILCC has updated their Covid directives and FAQ's on the website.
- ii. We are also notifying the public that we are in Phase 5.
- iii. In October we will have human trafficking training for licensees and a College Townhall Summit.

d. Legal

- i. We have 89 legal cases, 21 which are manufacturer/distributor cases. 55 are retail related cases. 8 are sale of alcohol to minor.
- ii. In regard to appeals, there are 20 open appeal cases.
- iii. The ILCC also has a couple of status calls for July and August.
- iv. We received a complaint and summons for *Crusen v. West Peoria*.

VI. Legislative Update

- a. HB2620, the Omnibus Bill, passed at the end of session.

VII. State of the Industry / Public Comments

a. Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association

- i. Talked about the history of IGGVA being founded in 1992 and dedicated to growing Illinois' winemaking market.
- ii. 47.6% of our members are winery and vineyard operations.
- iii. In 2018, 35 million gallons of wine was consumed in Illinois.
- iv. Plans to do a more current study to see where Illinois stands today.

X. Receive Comments from the Board

- a. None.

XI. Executive Session

- a. A motion was made by Commissioner O’Connell and seconded by Commissioner Powell to move into Executive Session.

The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Appeals

- a. In the case of *Knoob v. City of Carbondale (20 App 11, 20 App 16, 20 App 23)*, a motion was made to deny the petition for rehearing was made by Commissioner O’Connell and seconded by Commissioner Powell.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. In the case of *The Hub Sports Bar v. The City of Champaign (20 App 14)*, a motion was made by Commissioner O’Connell and seconded by Commissioner Gibbons to affirm the City’s decision but to admonish the City for the issuance and renewal of the incorrect license.

The motion passed unanimously.

- c. In the case of *John Simms v. Peoria, IL (19 App 18)*, a motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Spann-Cooper to affirm the City’s decision.

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