

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OPEN SESSION  
ILLINOIS LIQUOR CONTROL  
COMMISSION  
March 17, 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 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.

Not Present – Commissioner Powell *\*arrived after roll was called.*

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

- a. A motion was made by Commissioner O'Connell to approve the minutes of the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez. The motion passed unanimously.

## **III. Executive Director's Report**

- a. Executive Director Enyia announced his departure from the ILCC to pursue private sector opportunities.
- b. Since becoming an independent agency, we've improved our services and eliminated backlogs in legal and offer online renewals of licenses.
- c. We increased our enforcement staff by 130%

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

- a. Laveris Jefferies has been onboarded as our HR Director and is interviewing candidates for the General Counsel position.
- b. We are also moving forward with our Inspector titles. Candidates are going through grading.

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

- a. We continue to update our FAQ's on the website as new information comes down from IDPH and DCEO.

## **VI. Diversity and Inclusion**

- a. Over the next months, we will have industry members come in and talk in general about diversity and inclusion. What impacts have been made, what impediments the industry faces and how we can work together to expand diversity and inclusion in the industry.

## **VII. Division Reports**

- a. Licensing Division
  - License renewals have been extended until June 30, 2021 and our License Look-Up tool has been modified to reflect the new renewal date.
  - The ILCC received 195 new applications, with 190 being submitted electronically.
  - We are testing our brand registration enhancements. There are a few minor things to work out with IT on this program.
- b. Enforcement Division
  - Enforcement conducted 1,073 inspections and discovered 104 violations in February. There were 102 violations discovered during new license inspections.
  - We saw a 43% decrease in Covid-related complaints from the previous month.

c. Legal Division

- Legal has been writing up analysis on introduced legislation for review by the General Assembly, the Governor's Office, and this Commission.
- The ILCC is at a low level (12%) of Sale of Alcohol to Minor Cases.
- We have 23 appeals and three hearings coming up.
- Our major thing is technical assistance, we're constantly answering e-mails and calls from staff and industry members asking for interpretations of the law.
- Legal has also provided a list of FOIA's submitted to the agency and most are from law firms or insurance companies.

d. Industry Education

- Our BASSET town hall is April 22<sup>nd</sup> and that is in line with our 2021 Strategic Initiative and our partnership with the Impaired Driving Task Force to implement the best practices when it comes to BASSET.
- Our Q1 2021 Newsletter will go out at the end of the month.
- We will continue to celebrate Heritage Month. Last month we had a panel discussion for Black History Month, this month is Women's History Month.
- State of the Industry this month will be the Associated Beer Distributors of Illinois.

**VIII. Legislative Update**

- a. Our analysis were shared with caucus members and they are "conversation starters" regarding the ILCC's initial thoughts about proposed legislation.
- b. The ILCC staff would not get ahead of the Commission, in terms of developing a formal position on legislation and therefore all legislation is marked "Monitor" or "Neutral."

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

- a. Bob Myers (Associated Beer Distributors of Illinois)
  - For 82 years, ABDI has represented large and small distributors in Illinois.
  - On average, ABDI members serve over 3,500 different packages of beer.
  - Independents and a prohibition against vertical integration is the foundation of the three-tier system.

- Our workforce is 60% Caucasian and 40% of mixed race and color within Chicago, and downstate it is 87% Caucasian and 13% mixed race and color.
- Because of distributing in the three-tier system, we can identify and recall defective product within 24 hours of shipping, avoiding mass recall notifications.
- Opposes legislation for DTC shipments of alcohol by manufacturers on the grounds that it creates the potential for delivery into the hands of minors, tax avoidance, and enforcement issues, erodes the three-tier system which helps prevent large manufacturers from freezing out competitive brands.

b. Tanya Triche-Dawood (*Illinois Retail Merchants Association*)

- Spoke on SB2130 and negotiations with WSDI on cooperative buying.

c. Jeremy Kruidenier (*Wine and Spirits Distributors of Illinois*)

- Addressed SB2130 and the ongoing negotiations for cooperative purchasing legislation.

d. Danielle D'Allesandro (*Illinois Craft Brewers Guild*)

- Spoke in favor of SB543/HB3495 which allows craft brewers and manufacturer's distribution rights.
- Modernizes the LCA in such a way to allow small breweries to survive by incorporating self-distribution rights.
- Commented on SB54, DTC shipments by manufacturers as a comparison to SB543/HB3495.

e. Pat Doerr (*Hospitality Business Association of Chicago*)

- Addressed the commission on pending Cocktails-To-Go legislation.

## **X. Receive Comments from the Board**

Chair Berg thanks Director Enyia for his service to the ILCC.

## **XI. Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner O'Connell and seconded by Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez to strike Executive Session from the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## **XII. Appeals**

- a. A motion was made by Commissioner O'Connell and seconded by Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez to strike appeals from the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

- a. Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez 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