

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OPEN SESSION
ILLINOIS LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION
Conducted Remotely Via WebEx
February 16, 2022
1:00 PM

Call the Roll:

Commissioner Gibbons called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Present

Julieta LaMalfa	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Thomas Gibbons	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Donald O'Connell	<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Remote.</i>
Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Patricia Pulido-Sanchez	<i>Commissioner</i>	
Cynthia Berg	<i>Chair</i>	<i>Remote</i>

Not Present

Melody Spann-Cooper	<i>Commissioner</i>
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A motion was made by Commissioner Gibbons to allow Chair Berg and Commissioner O'Connell to join in remotely. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Powell.

Julieta LaMalfa	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Patricia Pulido-Sanchez	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes		

Not Present: Melody Spann-Cooper

Commissioner Gibbons yielded the floor to Chair Berg for the purposes of running the remainder of the meeting.

ILCC Staff Present:

Tom Schlenhardt	<i>Associate Director</i>	
Les Peterson	<i>Chief Enforcement Officer</i>	
Dusanka Marijan	<i>Licensing Administrator</i>	
Persis Dhankher	<i>I.T.</i>	
Noel Quanbeck	<i>General Counsel</i>	
Michelle Flagg	<i>Industry Education</i>	<i>Remote</i>
Avi Zisook	<i>Legal</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, as amended, of the February 16, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa.

The motion passed.

Julieta LaMalfa	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Patricia Pulido-Sanchez	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes		

Not Present: Melody Spann-Cooper

II. Executive Director's Report

Associate Director Tom Schlenhardt gave the Executive Director's report on behalf of the Executive Director.

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission has two pieces of legislation introduced for Spring Session of the 102nd General Assembly, one is the omnibus enforcement package and the other is the repeal of the bonding requirement.

III. Division Reports

Les Peterson presented the Enforcement Report.

50% of licensees fail the sale of alcohol to minor sales.

The ILCC continues to monitor and enforce unlawful online sales of alcohol.

Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez asked about why the most common warnings issued to licensees was for failing to display the pregnancy warnings.

Chief Peterson said that the agents, when they conduct an inspection, go through a checklist and that was one of the most common items checked off.

Commissioner Gibbons commented on the forged license incidents.

Chief Peterson said we've seen an uptick in them, but the investigations are ongoing and working with the Licensing Division to look closely at all licenses to see if they are being altered.

Michelle Flagg presented the Industry Education report.

The mask mandate is set to expire on February 28, 2022.

We are half-way through the process of including BASSET servers on our ILCC newsletter.

Some e-mail addresses are employers or group-based e-mail and therefore we one e-mail for multiple people and those individuals will not receive the ILCC newsletter directly.

Choosing the Right College webinar is scheduled for February 17, 2022.

General Counsel Noel Quanbeck delivered the monthly report for Legal.

We closed 104 cases in January with 76 pending legal cases.

12 Distributor Cases, 37 retailer cases, 20 new Sale of Alcohol to Minor cases (15 are first time offenses, 3 second time offenses, and 2 third time offenses), and 7 not-sufficient-funds cases.

We have 33 appeals pending, and 1 new appeal in January.

The Commission deliberated on six cases and they are in the process of being drafted.

Our office received 18 FOIA requests in January.

1 new cases have been added to Administrative Review. Filed on February 2nd, 2022.

4 Advisory Opinion Requests responses were drafted in January.

Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez asked about what cases fall under Disciplinary.

General Counsel Quanbeck advised that all cases fall under Disciplinary.

Dusanka Marijan provided the monthly Licensing reports

Increase in Covid-19 cases in January, we closed the Chicago and Springfield offices for the month of July. Thus, our walk-in numbers decreased.

License renewal extensions are being prioritized with the December 31, 2021 deadlines first.

We 1,094 licensees who have not renewed as of February 16, 2022.

Effective of January 1, 2022, the ILCC is now responsible for maintaining the Delinquent List. We have received lists of delinquency retailers, daily.

Our list is real-time data and is based on the information we receive daily.

1,442 licensees are reported delinquency with 86% reporting cured.

IV. Partner Presentations

Michelle Flagg, ILCC Industry Education Manager, gave the presentation on behalf of Haymarket Center.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Executive Session

A motion was made by Chair Berg to strike Executive Session from the agenda. Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez seconded the motion.

Julieta LaMalfa	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Patricia Pulido-Sanchez	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes		

Not Present: Melody Spann-Cooper

VI. Appeals & License Revocation/Tax Cases

In the matter of 21 APP 07 (*Sledge v. Melrose Park*), a motion to deny the petition for rehearing was put forward by Commissioner O’Connell and seconded by Commissioner Powell.

Julieta LaMalfa	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Patricia Pulido-Sanchez	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes		

Not Present: Melody Spann-Cooper

IX. Comments from the Board

Commissioner O’Connell offered pleasantries to see everyone again after a hiatus.

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment to Hearing

Commissioner LaMalfa complimented the ILCC staff on the Commission Packets and how data-packed they are.

Chair Berg made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Powell.

Julieta LaMalfa	Yes	Thomas Gibbons	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Patricia Pulido-Sanchez	Yes
Cynthia Berg	Yes		

Not Present: Melody Spann-Cooper

ATTEST:

/S/ Dean Argiris, Acting Commission Secretary
