

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OPEN SESSION  
ILLINOIS LIQUOR ONTROL COMMISSION  
55 W. Washington St. Chicago, Illinois  
June 15, 2022  
1:00 PM**

**Call the Roll:**

Chair Berg called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**Present**

Thomas Gibbons	<i>Commissioner</i>
Julieta LaMalfa	<i>Commissioner</i>
Steven Powell	<i>Commissioner</i>
Pat Pulido-Sanchez	<i>Commissioner</i>
Melody Spann-Cooper	<i>Commissioner</i>
Brian Sullivan	<i>Commissioner</i>
Cynthia Berg	<i>Chair</i>

**ILCC Staff Present:**

Lisa Gardner	<i>Executive Director</i>	<i>Remote</i>
Les Peterson	<i>Chief Enforcement Officer</i>	
Dusanka Marijan	<i>Licensing Administrator</i>	
Persis Dhankher	<i>I.T.</i>	<i>Remote</i>
Noel Quanbeck	<i>General Counsel</i>	
Nicole Sanders	<i>Industry Education</i>	
Avi Zisook	<i>Legal</i>	
Rick Haymaker	<i>Legal</i>	
Dean Argiris	<i>Acting Commission Secretary</i>	

**I. Proclamations**

Chair Berg presented former Commissioner O'Connell with the plaque honoring his 12 years of service as a Commissioner with the Illinois Liquor Control Commission.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell to approve the minutes, as amended, of the May 18th, 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa.

The motion passed.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes.
Steven Powell	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Pat Pulido-Sanchez	Yes		
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Brian Sullivan	Yes

**III. Executive Director's Report**

Beginning July 1, 2022, all retail license renewal fees will be waived and will end June 30, 2023. This waiver is only for retail renewals.

Beginning July 5, 2022, the ILCC hours will change be reduced by 30 minutes at closing to allow our licensing staff time to get finish processing last minute application drop-offs at the office.

All licensees are encouraged to renew online to experience cost savings and reduce turnaround time.

In May of 2022, we saw a 23% increase in new licenses as compared to May of 2021.

We brought in \$1.9 million in revenue for the month of May, which is a 14% decrease for May of 2021, but a 4% increase from April of 2019.

Enforcement conducted 881 inspections, found 298 violations, and issued 78 warnings during new license inspections.

#### **IV. Division Reports**

##### **Enforcement**

Chief Enforcement Officer Les Peterson mentioned there were underage compliance checks were conducted in May with 100% passage.

Notable investigations were mentioned, one of them was related to a sale of alcohol to a minor which was discovered by State Police during a traffic stop and they traced the purchase back to a retailer. The licensee had their license revoked by both the state and locals due to repeated infractions of sale of alcohol to minors.

##### **Industry Education**

Nicole Sanders presented the Industry Education report and informed the Commission of the upcoming public events calendar.

Social Media activity is up across the board in impressions and followers. Facebook is up 200%

Industry Education will be adding a podcast, as well as media buys on traditional media platforms that are specifically catered to children 15 through 20.

We will also be educating the public on commercially available alcohol freeze pops that look similar to children's freeze pops and encouraging parents to keep the children's freeze pops separate from the alcoholic freeze pops.

Commissioner LaMalfa asked a question regarding the types of inquiries the ILCC received on Facebook.

##### **Legal**

As of the end of May, Legal only had 28 cases pending and closed out 104 cases in April. The breakdown of the cases is: 4 distributor cases, 18 retailer cases, and 5 sale of alcohol to minor cases.

21 cases had requests for pre-disciplinary conferences, and we conducted 13 of those in May. Appeals are 29 pending and we received 2 new cases in May.

Additionally, legal reported that one appellant withdrew their case.

Legal also reported that nine (9) cases are in the circuit court for administrative review and there are no new updates on *Full Pull Wines v. Berg*.

## Licensing

Dusanka Marijan provided the monthly Licensing report.

She elaborated further on the fee waivers and indicated that the ILCC sent out a notice in June to licenses that expired on July 31, with information on the fee waiver.

One of the frequently asked questions was “my license expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>, do I have to pay?” The fee waivers begin July 1<sup>st</sup> and so any license the expires before then would need to pay.

The online renewal application also has a reminder that their fee is waived.

No I.T. issues have been reported after routine testing to ensure any issues were ironed out before going live.

As for Special Events licenses, we issued 1,176 licenses for this year. Right now, things are ‘opening up a bit’ but with volunteer shortages and scaled-back events, special event applications are down.

## **V. Partner Presentations**

William Penn and Laurel Dudley from the Grand Boulevard Coalition, a organization addressing youth alcohol and illegal substance abuse, presented their agency to the Liquor Commissions, discussing their initiatives and programs.

Commissioner Gibbons expressed a desire to have Grand Boulevard Coalition assist in identifying youth who can assist in Underage Compliance checks.

## **VI. Public Comment**

No public comment was given.

## **VII. Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gibbons to move into Executive Session. Commissioner Powell seconded the motion.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Pat Pulido-Sanchez	Yes		
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Brian Sullivan	Yes

## **VIII. Appeals**

Commissioner Powell made a motion to affirm the decision of the Local Liquor Commission in the matters of 21 APP 03 and 20 APP 12 (*Boogie Nights, LLC vs. City of Harvey*).

Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Pat Pulido-Sanchez	Yes		
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Brian Sullivan	Yes.

**IX. Comments from the Board**

Commissioner Powell welcomed back Commissioner Puldio-Sanchez, who was reappointed by the Governor for an additional term.

**X. Closing Remarks and Adjournment to Hearing**

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Spann-Cooper.

Thomas Gibbons	Yes	Melody Spann-Cooper	Yes
Steven Powell	Yes	Julieta LaMalfa	Yes
Pat Pulido Sanchez	Yes		
Cynthia Berg	Yes	Brian Sullivan	Yes.

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m. CST.

**ATTEST:**

/S/ Dean Argiris, Acting Commission Secretary