

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OPEN SESSION  
ILLINOIS LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION  
55 W. Washington St. Chicago, Illinois  
May 18, 2022  
1:00 PM**

**Call the Roll:**

Chair Berg called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Present**

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

**ILCC Staff Present:**

|                 |                                    |               |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 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 Smith    | <i>Industry Education</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 April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded by Gibbons.

The motion passed.

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

**II. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Lisa Gardner delivered the Executive Director's report and indicated that the office still remains short-staffed but is working to fill many of the open positions.

There are 18 positions going through the posting process, with about half of those being enforcement positions.

Once the open positions have been filled, the ILCC will work on creating new positions.

We are resuming in-person trainings and presentations.

### **III. Division Reports**

#### **Industry Education**

Nicole Sanders, the ILCC's new Industry Education manager, indicated that the Commission's focus is on Underage Drinking initiatives.

Current social media analytics tend to skew 35 to 65 years of age. We want to drive content towards underage children to educate them on the dangers of underage drinking.

The ILCC is talking to radio stations to try to get on-air marketing.

Lee Roupas has been instrumental in helping us get BASSET extended. We added two new trainings.

Ms. Sanders indicated that the ILCC needs to begin modernizing Industry Education and developing more 21<sup>st</sup> Century digital content.

#### **Legal**

General Counsel, Noel Quanbeck, provided an update on their cases. 62 were pending by the end of the month with 12 cases (distributor-tier), 29 were retail-tier cases, 20 (Sale of Alcohol to Minor) cases, and 1 was a Not-Sufficient Cases.

The ILCC also has 26 Pre-Disciplinary Cases open, and 10 of them were held in April.

Of the 20 SAMS cases, 14 are first-time offenses and 6 are second-time offenses.

#### **Enforcement**

Chief Enforcement Officer, Les Peterson, reported that 893 inspections were conducted, with 124 violations being issued and 65 warnings being issued.

61 complaints were received and investigated.

The ILCC conducted 10 underage compliance investigations and found that 50% failed.

Commissioner Gibbons expressed concern over the consistent 50% compliance rate and urged the ILCC to keep the pressure on licensed retailers.

#### **Licensing**

Dusanka Marijan provided the monthly Licensing reports

In April the ILCC issued 3,357 licenses, indicating a 11% increase from this point last year, were issued.

1,058 licenses have still not renewed, and we are working with local law enforcement and Revenue to help determine if these are inactive businesses so that the ILCC can inactivate the accounts.

94% of our licensees continue to do online renewals and resources.

**IV. Partner Presentations**

Lina Xie from Midwest Asian Health Association addressed the Commission regarding their efforts in the community to combat alcohol-related substance abuse.

**V. Public Comment**

No public comment was given.

**VI. Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner LaMalfa to move into Executive Session. Commissioner Spann-Cooper seconded the motion.

|                |     |                     |     |
|----------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Thomas Gibbons | Yes | Melody Spann-Cooper | Yes |
| Steven Powell  | Yes | Julieta LaMalfa     | Yes |
| Cynthia Berg   | Yes | Brian Sullivan      | Yes |

**VI. Appeals & License Revocation/Tax Cases**

Commissioner Powell made a motion to reverse the decision of the Local Liquor Control Commission, in the matter of 21 APP 10 (*New Corner Bar & Grill v. Village of Lynnwood*).

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sullivan.

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

In the matter of 21 APP 14 (*Route 34 Pub & Grill, LLC v. City of Sandwich*), a motion was made by Commissioner Gibbons to affirm the local’s decision not to renew the license.

Commissioner Powell seconded the motion.

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

**IX. Comments from the Board**

Commissioner Powell welcomed back Chair Berg.

**VIII. 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  |
| Cynthia Berg   | Yes | Brian Sullivan      | Yes. |

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. CST.

**ATTEST:**

/S/ Dean Argiris, Acting Commission Secretary

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