

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OPEN SESSION  
ILLINOIS LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION**

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**Richard J. Daley Center  
55 W. Washington St.  
Chicago, Illinois 60601**

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**September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022  
1:00 PM**

**Call the Roll:**

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

**Present**                    *(Remote Attendance does not count toward Quorum)*

Thomas Gibbons	<i>Commissioner</i>
Julieta LaMalfa	<i>Commissioner</i>
Pat Pulido-Sanchez	<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:**

Lisa Gardner	<i>Executive 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>
Nicole Sanders	<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 Spann-Cooper to approve the amended minutes, reflecting Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez's arrival at 1:04 p.m., and not Commissioner LaMalfa, to the August 24<sup>th</sup> 2022 meeting.

The motion passed.

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

**III. Executive Director's Report**

The ILCC totaled \$555,260 in revenue for the month of August, a 64% decrease from August in 2021 and 49% decrease from July 2022 due to the 1A (retail license) fee waiver.

Revenues received will consist primarily of special event license fees, new licenses, and enforcement activities.

Five (5) liquor control trainee positions are still under review with the CMS and the para-legal posting is still live.

The interviews for the open accounting positions have been completed and the new employee has accepted the offer of employment.

Currently we have three (3) underage compliance assistance and a 4<sup>th</sup> pending a background check. We continue to recruit under the new streamlined hiring process.

A new I.T. manager has been identified and is awaiting the results of their background check prior to beginning employment.

We currently have 31,304 active licenses and Licensing has issued 3,031 new licenses have been issued in August of 2022.

The ILCC has seen a 30% increase in special event permits issued from July of 2022.

IT is continuing to work on the online payment option for fines.

### **Industry Education**

The ILCC Industry Education Division, along with Enforcement, and the Executive Director attended the ILBA Convention, gave a presentation and answered questions from people in attendance.

BASSET also had a booth at the convention. We have trained 6,046 in the month of August.

The Executive Director attended the Center for Alcohol Conference for information regarding current and upcoming trends and issues impacting the alcohol industry.

Our social media reach is steadily increasing.

Our College Town Summit will take place on November 9<sup>th</sup> and will be virtual.

The ILCC Podcast is ready and available for listening on Spotify.

Q3 Newsletter will be published next month.

### **Legal**

Legal attended the National Conference for State Liquor Administrators – West and Central Conference, where they sat on a panel.

The ILCC has 35 cases pending. 6 distributor cases, 33 retail cases, 4 sale of alcohol to minor cases, and legal closed 61 cases that were assigned to them.

22 Pre-Disciplinary Conferences and 13 were conducted in August. In addition, 4 sales of alcohol to minor cases were conducted: two (2) were first time offenses and two (2) were second-time offenses.

There are currently 16 Appeals open with the ILCC, not including those that are in Administrative Review, which are being worked on with the Attorney General's Office.

27 FOIA requests were received by the legal division.

## **Enforcement**

Enforcement conducted 671 inspections and discovered 300 violations in August and issued 61 Pre-Licensing Inspections.

Common violations were: Personnel not being BASSET certified, pregnancy warning signs not being displayed, State license not being displayed, and Illinois Sales Tax certificate not being available.

We are not including an Inspection Check list for all new licensees to help individuals pass pre-licensing inspections.

The ILCC received 94 complaints via the online complaint form and through other means of communications. The most common complaints were: Sale of Alcohol to a Minor, Operating without a Valid License, and retail-to-retail purchase of alcohol.

Enforcement conducted an Underage Compliance Check with the Guardian Park Police Department. 14 establishments were checked and 4 failed the inspection.

### **V. Partner Presentations**

Sandra Oviedo and Ama Diaz de Leon from the Pilsen Wellness Center presented information regarding their organization, its services, and the efforts they are making in relation to deterring and counseling individuals who deal with alcohol substance abuse.

### **VI. Public Comment**

No public comment was given.

### **VII. Child Support Cases**

The Commission heard testimony in relation to *The Dopest LLC (Brandon Shrome) 22-CS-01* related to 30 day delinquency on child support payments.

Counsel Zisook indicated that the Department of Healthcare and Family Services confirmed they are comfortable with a continuance of 30-days to allow the respondent to settle-up the outstanding payments.

Commissioner Powell made the motion to allow for a continuance until the next Commission meeting, the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Sullivan.

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

**VII. Executive Session**

Commissioner Powell made a motion to enter into Executive Session and was seconded by Commissioner Spann-Cooper.

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

**VIII. Appeals**

Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to declare the owner, Asa Powell, as being rehabilitated. Commissioner Spann-Cooper seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Powell reflected, for the record, that there is no relation to Asa Powell.

In the case of 20 APP 03 (*Triple Location v. City of Harvey*) a motion was made to reverse the decision of the Local Liquor Control Commission. Commissioner Powell made the motion and Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez seconded.

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

In the matter of 20 APP 22 (*Triple Location v. City of Harvey*) Commissioner made a motion to affirm the decision of the Local Liquor Control Commission. Commissioner Gibbons made the motion and Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez seconded the motion.

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

**IX. Child Support Case**

A motion was made to strike the vote from the meeting agenda due to the 30-day continuance. Commissioner Spann-Cooper made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa.

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

**X. License Revocations (Tax Delinquency Cases)**

In the matter of 23 CR 0005, Commissioner Powell motioned to affirm the Illinois Department of Revenue's findings for revocation, in addition to a stay of the case for 30 days, and was seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa.

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

In the case of 23 CR 0010, Commissioner Powell made the motion to revoke the license and Commissioner LaMalfa seconded.

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

Related to 23 CR 0015, a motion for revocation was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa.

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

**XI. Executive Session Minutes**

Chair Berg presented a motion to make public the Executive Session minutes from March, April, May, and June of 2022. Commissioner Powell made the motion and Commissioner Pulido-Sanchez seconded.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell to not release the January 2022 Executive Session minutes. Commissioner LaMalfa seconded the motion.

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

**XII. Comments from the Board**

No comments from the board were made.

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

Commissioner Gibbons made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner LaMalfa.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m. CST.

**ATTEST:**

/S/ Dean Argiris, Acting Commission Secretary

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