

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OPEN SESSION
ILLINOIS LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION
DECEMBER 9, 2015
JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER – ROOM 9-031
11:00 AM
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The regular meeting of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission was held at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601 room 9-031 pursuant to notice.

Call the Roll:

Constance Beard, Chair
Cynthia Cronin Cahill, Commissioner
Bill Morris, Commissioner
Donald O'Connell, Commissioner
Maria Saldana, Commissioner
Amy Kurson, Commissioner (joining after initial call at 11:08)
James Pandolfi, Commissioner

Also Present:

U-Jung Choe, Executive Director
Ivan Fernandez, Associate Director
Richard Haymaker, Chief Legal Counsel
Tina Tsatsoulis, Legal Counsel
Dusanka Marijan, Licensing Administrator
Ted Penesis, Industry Education/Parental Responsibility
Gary Doyle, Agent Supervisor
Mary McNulty, Commission Secretary

I. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner O'Connell to approve and release the minutes of the September 17, 2015 Business Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saldana and unanimously approved by the Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pandolfi to approve and release the minutes of the October 28, 2015 Business Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Connell and unanimously approved by the Commission.

II. Docket Review

A. Citation Docket

Tina Tsatsoulis stated that an attorney will be present for the first two cases on the citation docket.

B. Revenue Docket

Tina Tsatsoulis stated that CRGE, Inc. d/b/a Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill is on both the citation and revenue docket.

III. Staff Update

A. Industry Education/Tobacco Compliance/Parental Responsibility

Ted Penesis informed the Commission that he is currently working on the Tobacco Enforcement Program (TEP). Grants have been given to local municipalities to complete tobacco compliance checks. If there are not enough municipalities participate in the TEP program, there is a chance that the agency will lose funding. The main goal is to get the violation rate lower.

Regarding parental responsibility, Mr. Penesis explained that Lee Roupas has been speaking at various schools in Illinois to educate parents and students. Commissioner Morris added that he would like staff to coordinate with local police departments to educate parents about underage alcohol consumption (especially before prom season begins).

B. Investigations

Agent Supervisor Gary Doyle explained that the agency will have twelve agents on staff after December 31st. He added that a recent compliance check in Berwyn yielded a 75% compliance rate. Regarding field inspections, the primary goal is to inspect businesses that have never been checked before. Commissioner Cahill suggested that we target college towns with respect to underage compliance checks. Mr. Doyle informed that while it is difficult to have agents complete these operations due to understaffing, Unofficial (University of Illinois) and Polar Bear (Southern Illinois University) will be specifically targeted.

C. Licensing

Dusanka Marijan explained that staff has been working to increase the online renewal rate. Currently, if a licensee renews online, the licensee must wait until the next day for the renewal to be processed. Ideally, staff would like to receive the application in real time. Going forward, downloads will take place at 7am, 9am, 12pm, 3pm, and after 5pm each business day which will allow staff to receive up-to-date information on applications.

Ms. Marijan added that the ILCC now accepts Visa credit cards. Credit card transactions have doubled since this change occurred. Commissioner O'Connell

inquired about the handling fee for credit card usage. Ms. Marijan stated that the fee was 2.1% but is now 2.35%.

Ms. Marijan informed the Commission that there were 226 new licenses issued in the month of November. The following applications are pending: five distributor, five brew pub, three distiller, eight manufacturer (brewers) and four craft brewer.

D. Legal

Richard Haymaker stated that the Joliet appeal (Wayfree, Inc.) has been appealed and is now in administrative review. Regarding revenue tax cases, there was a 70% compliance rate in June, 88% in August, and 50% in October.

IV. Old Business

A. Rules Update

Mr. Haymaker explained that six rules were posted on the ILCC website for comment. The period for submitting comments ended on December 4th. Chair Beard added that the rules will likely be on the agenda for the January meeting.

B. Shipping Update

Mr. Haymaker stated that a second cease and desist letter was sent to several shippers and, as a result, there are fewer illegal shipments being made. Most of the shipments being made are being made pursuant to a winery shipper's license.

C. Heineken Pub Update

Mr. Haymaker explained that staff has been in contact with the retailer. An application has been approved for Pub 97 (*not* Heineken Pub 97), and negotiations are still being made regarding sponsorship money.

V. New Business

A. Pilot Program

Chair Beard announced that the ILCC will be launching a pilot program to partner with local municipalities. Director Choe explained that the pilot program will allow local representatives to conduct site inspections following training from liquor field agents. The first city to participate in the pilot program is Naperville. Appropriate representatives include individuals from the police department, fire department, or health inspection department. With local representatives taking responsibility for site inspections, ILCC agents will be able to focus on other areas such as sale of alcohol to minor, trade relations, and industry education.

Chair Beard added that staff is going to begin the process of filling vacant agent positions. Naperville Mayor Steve Chirico stated that he is happy to see that participation in the pilot program will allow for more time for sale of alcohol to minor compliance checks.

A motion was made by Commissioner Morris to continue with the pilot program as discussed. Motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Connell. Motion unanimously approved.

B. Internal Realignment

Ivan Fernandez informed the Commission about a plan to divide the investigations unit into four areas: licensee education, special investigations, sale of alcohol to minor (SAM), and criminal investigations. Each unit was explained in detail per the handout supplied to the Commission. Commissioner O'Connell stated that more information was needed regarding the breakdown of staff assignment and skill level in order to vote on such a change in the investigations unit. Staff agreed to discuss in further detail at the next Commission meeting in January.

VI. Closing Remarks and Adjournment to Hearing

Commissioner Morris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pandolfi. Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:36pm.

ATTEST:



Mary McNulty, Commission Secretary