



# News Release

Oregon Liquor & Cannabis Commission  
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November 22, 2021

## Oregon wine industry trending up from pandemic low

### Forest Grove gets a new Liquor store agent Commissioner Harper departs after a decade of service

**PORTLAND, OR.** – The Oregon Wine Industry reported to the Oregon Liquor & Cannabis Commission (OLCC) that Oregon’s wine industry is slowly mending after the pandemic induced retraction. At its regularly scheduled meeting on **November 18, 2021**, the Commission also recognized the service of one of its own, Commissioner Michael Harper Sr., who is stepping down after ten years of service. In other Commission business, Commissioners appointed a new agent to operate a liquor store in Forest Grove and ratified four stipulated settlement agreements.

COVID-19, labor shortages, wildfires and subsequent impacts from smoke tainted grapes have led to a tumultuous couple of years for Oregon’s wine industry. Representatives from the Oregon Wine Board, Oregon Wine Council and Oregon Wine Association shared how the industry has worked to overcome these challenges. Since the pandemic took hold, Oregon’s wine industry experienced a \$1.5 billion slump, but similar to other sectors of the hospitality industry, experienced a shift from (winery) on-site sales to off-premises sales, including “wine club” purchases that amounted to a nine percent gain over 2020.

Commissioners and staff also took a moment to recognize a decade of service by outgoing Commissioner Harper. In June of 2011, Governor John Kitzhaber appointed Harper to the Oregon Liquor **Control** Commission. (The Commission changed its name in August 2021). Harper, a former Portland Trailblazer, played a pivotal role in helping the agency navigate its retail liquor store expansion statewide and implement a recreational marijuana program for the State of Oregon.

Commissioners appointed Sterling Turpen to operate the Forest Grove liquor store. Turpen started working in the stockroom of the Forest Grove store right out of high school and worked his way up to managing the store. The outgoing operators praised Turpen’s commitment and assistance to their operations as reason for his appointment, and the Commissioners agreed.

The Commissioners also ratified the following stipulated settlement agreement (detailed information on specific cases can be found [on the OLCC website](#)):

-More-

November 22, 2021  
OLCC Commission Meeting - Alcohol

**TANGENT INN (F-COM)** in Tangent failed to intervene or call police when patrons began threatening an OLCC Inspector. The Licensee has accepted responsibility and will either pay a \$1,485.00 civil penalty OR serve a nine-day license suspension.

Licensees are: D & B Hospitality Enterprises, LLC; Deborah Greiner, Managing Member.

**BETHANY'S TABLE (F-COM & O)** in Portland permitted unlawful activity at the licensed premises when it was discovered that the licensee was producing marijuana in an attic space on the licensed premises. The Licensee has accepted responsibility and will either pay a \$1,485.00 civil penalty OR serve a nine-day license suspension.

Licensees are: Bethany's Table, LLC; David Bowles, Member; Janet O'Connor, Member.

**HAPPY DRAGON RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE (F-COM)** in Stayton permitted employees, agents, or representatives to mix, sell, or serve alcoholic beverages, or supervise those who do, without a valid service permit. The Licensee has accepted responsibility and will either pay a \$2,475.00 civil penalty OR serve a 15-day license suspension.

Licensees are: Janson Chen, President, Director, Stockholder; Zhu Lan Li, Vice President, Director, Stockholder.

**EL PALACIO (F-COM)** in Klamath Falls due to a prior history of serious and persistent problems, this license was granted with a restriction stating that they would not allow the prior licensee, to be on the premises. During routine inspections, Inspectors found the prior licensee to be on the premises in violation of the license agreement. The licensee initially denied knowing the identity of the prior licensee to Inspectors, but after questioning admitted to knowing he was on the premises in violation of the agreement. Licensee has accepted responsibility and will either pay a \$4,950 civil penalty AND serve a 25-day suspension OR serve a 55-day license suspension.

Licensees are: El Palacio Mexican Restaurant & Cantina, LLC; Carlos Faiers, Managing Member.

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A copy of the Stipulated Settlement Agreements can be found on the OLCC website, on the Laws & Rules page under the [Final Orders](#) section.