



News Release

Oregon Liquor Control Commission
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Commissioners commit to working towards solutions for hospitality industry businesses complying with health and safety measures, facing economic pressures during pandemic

Commission renews Liquor Store contracts based on performance

PORTLAND, OR. – At its regular monthly meeting on **February 18, 2021**, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission agreed to consolidate the feedback from their constituents, the vast majority of whom have been complying with health and safety requirements during the pandemic, and to engage directly with officials shaping public health guidance for restaurants and bars to help ensure guidelines balance public health and economic survival. Commissioners also approved contract extensions for some of the state’s liquor stores, and approved two stipulated settlement agreements with licensees that violated OLCC rules.

Several Commissioners shared stories of business and personal hardships faced by bars and restaurant operators in the communities they represent. According to Commissioners, many of the businesses that have abided by the rules during the year-long pandemic are paying a steep cost. Conversely, other businesses that defy closure restrictions are doing so in order to generate income. Businesses adhering to the rules have expressed frustration with Commissioners about the financial impacts they are facing while others do not comply with state requirements.

The Commissioners also approved contract renewals for about eight percent of the liquor stores operating across Oregon; the OLCC currently contracts with 282 liquor stores and further retail store expansion is underway. The agency reviewed the operations of 24 liquor stores and evaluated them prior to considering them for renewal. Of the 24 proposed renewals, 13 agents received “outstanding” reviews which qualified them to receive 10-year contract extensions. The remaining 11 stores received satisfactory evaluations on their overall operations making them eligible for five year contract extensions.

The Commission ratified the following violation fines and suspensions based on stipulated settlements (*detailed information on specific cases can be found [here](#) on the [OLCC website](#)*):

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McGrew's (F-COM) in **O'Brien**, licensee permitted patrons and an employee to consume marijuana on the licensed premises. Licensee was also cited because the employee was under the influence of intoxicants while on duty. The licensee has accepted responsibility and has agreed to pay a \$1,485 civil penalty **AND** serve a 21-day license **OR** serve a 30-day license suspension.

Licensee is Suzanne Culver and Stephen Culver.

Underground Sports Bar (F-COM) in **Aloha**, had a history of serious and persistent problems between January 2018 and December 2019. Licensee has changed its business model from dance club to sports bar, and accepts several license restrictions. Licensee will either pay a \$4,950.00 civil penalty **OR** serve a 30-day suspension. The Commission will consider the number of days the licensee was prohibited from selling and serving alcohol due to the COVID outbreak as part of the suspension period.

Licensee is Underground Sports Bar, LLC; Jimmy Truong, Managing Member.

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