

CITY OF CHICAGO – License Appeal Commission

2025 Budget Hearing – November 9, 2024

STATEMENT OF LAURA PARRY, CHAIR

Good morning/afternoon. I am Laura Parry, Chair of the License Appeal Commission, and I have with me today our Staff Assistant, Michelle Guzman-Flores.

The License Appeal Commission (or LAC) hears appeals of decisions regarding the issuance and discipline of liquor licenses made by the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP)/Local Liquor Control Commission (LLCC). State law requires a municipality with a population of 500,000 or more, like Chicago, to provide an independent License Appeal Commission to hear those appeals.

There are three commissioners. By State law, one commissioner is appointed by the City, and the other two commissioners are members of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission who are appointed and paid for by the State.

Appeals are brought to challenge revocations, suspensions, or fines of existing liquor licenses imposed by the Local Liquor Control Commission. In these matters, the disciplinary proceedings are reviewed and appellate arguments from the parties are heard.

LAC also hears appeals stemming from applications for new or renewal of existing liquor licenses. Unlike revocation, suspension and fine appeals, where there is only oral argument and review of the materials or record from the disciplinary hearing, these appeals are conducted via “trial de novo” (or new trial). They generally consist of opening statements, documentary evidence, testimony, and occasionally video evidence, followed by closing arguments.

In all cases, a detailed written decision is made by the Commission. Parties may file appeals in State court for review of decisions made by the LAC.

Through the Department of Finance, LAC has collected \$500.00 in filing fees in total, to date. The Commission is budgeted for one full-time position. There are no vacancies.

As always, our office will work with the Office of Budget and Management and members of City Council to continue to monitor operational costs with an eye toward equity within our systems and vendor contracts.