



MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Klein, Chair
and Members of the ABC Board

DATE: April 15th, 2016

FROM: Cynthia Franklin, Director

RE: Director's Report

Licensing Section

The Licensing Section continues to address liquor license applications and questions in a timely fashion even though it has begun accepting marijuana applications. Although all four examiners are learning the marijuana licensing rules, the Records and Licensing supervisor and I have determined that for the first wave of marijuana applications, specialization of the unit is the most efficient way to manage the onslaught on new applications. Therefore, we have assigned Jane Sawyer and Tina Thibodeaux the processing of marijuana applications and Max Andrews and Shilo Senquiz the processing of liquor license and permit applications. Ms. Oates continues to work with both teams and process both types of applications personally as her time permits.

The Licensing section has developed an appointment schedule to work with applicants on both types of licenses. We are continuing to work on ways to maximize the efficiency of the unit given that four examiners are not enough to process both types of licenses as marijuana applications swell. Ms. Oates and I will continue to press for additional staff as new licensing fees are collected and we are able to demonstrate the need.

Preparation for the board meeting was as challenging as ever. I would like to acknowledge and specially thank Jane Sawyer, along with Tina Thibodeaux and Naomi Johnston, for their assistance and dedication in getting the board's agenda and packet ready for the meeting.

Enforcement Section

All open enforcement positions have been filled. James Hoelscher, our Enforcement Supervisor, welcomes a new Anchorage investigator, Kendrick Whiteman, and a new Fairbanks investigator, Amanda Bean. Investigator Whiteman is a recent transplant from Wyoming who has significant experience as a police officer as well as a regulator. Ms. Bean was a North Pole patrol officer, has significant experience as a police dispatcher, and was most recently employed at Fort Knox. Both investigators will be a significant asset to the AMCO.

Administration Section

The administration section has been busy. Administrative Officer John Calder has been the project manager on the purchase and implementation of the marijuana inventory tracking



system in addition to all of his regular supervisory, budgetary and administrative duties. Administrative Assistant Joe Samaniego has become an expert in assisting members of the public in the objection process, on top of his full time job sorting travel, procurement and the

day-to-day administrative activities of the office. Office Assistant Naomi Johnston has excelled at creating multiple spreadsheets and maps for marijuana applications, as well as creating a detailed instruction manual for the written order database and receiving APSIN training that will greatly assist in implementing the enforcement team. Overall the administrative section has excelled in handling a multiplicity of new duties with grace and humor.

Legislative Session

I traveled to Juneau several times during this legislative session to address various legislative committees on bills related to both alcohol and marijuana. Senate Bill 165 passed the legislature, affecting the composition of the ABC Board, penalties relating to minors possessing or consuming alcohol and minors presence on licensed premises, and containing a section related to marijuana criminal history checks.

Additionally, our request for a new employee in the next fiscal year, a Local Government Specialist, has been maintained in the budget. At this writing, the budget has not been passed, but should the position be maintained in the budget, it will be a big help. The LGS will assist in education related to both liquor licensing and marijuana licensing, and will be responsive to the questions and concerns of local governments relating to both local option and local control. The addition of this position will help us fulfill some of the education related tasks that are desired by the Title 4 stakeholders group.