



MEMORANDUM

TO: Alcohol Beverage Control Board

DATE: August 5, 2020

FROM: Glen Klinkhart, Interim Director

RE: Director's Report – August 2020 ABC Board Meeting

OPERATIONS:

As the increased numbers and urgency of the COVID-19 virus issue became more dire and widespread, the plans we had are once again revised into our ongoing AMCO contingency plans. These plans are more geared towards what the “new normal” will look like for AMCO and for the licensees we work with. Unfortunately, until the number of confirmed cases begins to decrease to an acceptable level we will continue to make do with the majority of the AMCO staff teleworking from home or separated within the office environment. Initially myself and the staff seemed to be highly effective and efficient while strictly teleworking from home. The initial push during the lockdown showed promise, however it appears in the long term, a work-only-from-home model is not the perfect solution for everyone and every situation. Hopefully as we work through this crisis, we can continue to craft a plan which gives the AMCO office options as things continue to change.

LICENSING:

On your board agenda today are approximately 23 license transfers regarding the sale and transfer of all the Brown Jug liquor stores statewide. This is a great example of AMCO staff working to assist helping the industry navigate the often-difficult regulatory process. I wish to note and to ask the board to please recognize AMCO Alcohol Examiner Randi Baker, who, from home, managed to work with both the Canadian sellers and the Alaskan buyer with 23 different license transfers. Ms. Baker worked tirelessly on this huge and complex series of regulatory applications and was able to do so quickly enough to finish the entire process in time so all the applications could be presented to you today. Additionally, I wish to thank our other Alcohol Examiner, Ms. Olivia Frank, who took on all the other daily alcohol licensing responsibilities by herself so Ms. Baker could have the time to complete this enormous project. Thank you to the both of you.

The AMCO licensing staff has continued to process quickly and effectively the board's new emergency AB-15 License Premises COVID applications. We have approved over 40

requests for expansion of bars and restaurants across the state to assist the licensees to provide socially distant services to their patrons. The feedback from many licensees has been positive and we at AMCO will continue to process applications as quickly as they are received.

ENFORCEMENT UNIT:

At AMCO we have been working on a clear, concise, and consistent enforcement process and policy for our Enforcement Unit. The goal is to have a clear method of how enforcement warnings, Notices of Violations, fines, and potential actions against a license (accusations) are made, how the board acts upon them, and what options are available to a licensee. Additionally, it is hoped a written process will help AMCO and both boards be consistent with what comes before them and that you, the board, can make good decisions based upon good information. I hope to have a proposal for discussion at the next regular meeting. Additionally, enforcement and I have been working on finalizing and updating written policies and procedures for the entire enforcement unit. This much needed written update will help to ensure the enforcement unit continues to have clear operating processes and to continue to provide quality public safety and enforcement services. As normal board meetings don't often lend themselves to bigger picture or long detailed conversations of the board, I will be asking the board members to consider setting up a special meeting specifically to discuss enforcement, including, but not limited to, enforcement priorities, operational processes, and goals. Additionally, as some of these items also concern and effect the Marijuana Control board enforcement needs we may want to consider a joint discussion.

NEXT MEETING:

The next ABC Board meeting is scheduled for October 27th, 2020 in Anchorage, Alaska or, depending on the ongoing COVID-19 situation, telephonically or online via ZOOM meetings.

Glen Klinkhart
Interim Director
Alcohol & Marijuana Control Board
550 W 7th Ave #1600, Anchorage, AK 99501
Office (907) 269-0350