

## Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

ALCOHOL & MARIJUANA CONTROL OFFICE

550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1600 Anchorage, AK 99501 Main: 907.269.0350

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Alcohol Beverage Control DATE: Friday, August 07, 2020

FROM: Yames Hoelscher, Enforcement Supervisor RE:Enforcement Report, Alcohol

As we have started to adapt to the changing world, certain, inevitable challenges have surfaced. The unprecedented change in alcohol and marijuana laws has left enforcement with challenges. We started with a dizzying scramble to educate licensees, the public and law enforcement with the new laws after we felt we had an understanding ourselves. This lead to quite a bit of questions and spurred good communication and rapport between enforcement and licensees.

I have had to weigh the safety of AMCO Investigators in relation to exposure to COVID-19, especially with the findings that restaurants and bars have been identified as hotspots for COVID-19. With very little PPE to mitigate the exposure, we have taken precautions to limit exposure, like limiting people at inspections and asking to do the inspection during hours of closure. Investigators have continued to travel for inspections and investigations, conduct Title 4 and Title 17.38 training for law enforcement, conduct security checks/walk throughs of marijuana and liquor licensed premises, we also monitor third party delivery services for alcohol sales and monitor Facebook and radio ads for possible violations of statutes and/or regulations.

Most inspections have been virtual, which can take up much more time to complete than a traditional inspection. We have also had some opportunity to review our policies, finalizing a portion and are in the final stages of reviewing what the Director, investigators Johnson, Chiesa and I have compiled and written. Of course, we are still actively investigating complex alcohol and marijuana violations.

We have had to rely on citizen and local law enforcement reports to gain a picture of what is occurring in the state in relation to alcohol and marijuana sales. We have had few complaints of our licensees violating rules surrounding sales to minors and over service. I am sure that the drop-in reports are due to a few factors including changes in law and less people being able to observe illegal behavior and most importantly, I am optimistic that a lot is due to licensees wanting to be compliant with the laws.

Initially, we had recognized that many licensees were operating and extending premises without the proper approvals. We viewed this as a communication issue and have been issuing advisories, with resulting in licensees filing the proper applications and approvals from enforcement.

As requested and tasked, enforcement is also reviewing applications for curbside and home delivery, for alcohol and MJ-15's for marijuana.

Our numbers are low in relation to previous years, but for a more than justifiable reason. We know that enforcement in this manner is not the preferred way and look forward to a time when things return to a more recognized state, however, we are doing our best to adapt and find ways to effectively enforce alcohol and marijuana laws in the state.

<b>Enforcement Activity</b>	2019 Total	1/3/20 to 7/24/20	6/1/20 to 7/24/20
Investigations	305	128	34
Alcohol Walk-throughs	360	242	83
Alcohol Inspections	554	50	11
Alcohol NOVs	100	16	6
Alcohol Advisory Notices	32	16	4
Alcohol Permits reviewed	1032	169	30
Marijuana Walk-throughs	141	88	54
Marijuana Inspections	156	58	27
Marijuana NOVs	219	45	22
Marijuana Advisory Notices	17	24	5
Marijuana Background Conducted (MJ-18)	10	2	0
Marijuana Handler Cards Issued	797	764	398
Compliance Checks/Shoulder Taps	0	0	0
Criminal Charges	16	0	0
Training Provided	1	18	2
Public Appearance	1	1	1
Enforcement Calls/Requests/General	13,868	7,164	1,894
Enforcement Email			
Covid-19 Related Stats		Total	
AB-15 Applications Reviewed		31	
Curbside Delivery Applications		258	
Home Delivery Applications		88	
MJ-15 Applications Reviewed		20	

<sup>\*</sup>Stat not tracked or available for this item

