



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Alcoholic Beverage Control Board  
Marijuana Control Board

**DATE:** November 19, 2024

**FROM:** Lizzie Kubitz, Acting AMCO Director

**RE:** Director's Report

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

This report summarizes activities of the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) from the last board meetings held September 10 – 12, 2024 to the present. I have elected to provide one report for both boards.

During my short time working with AMCO, I have observed the AMCO office continuing to work hard to promote commerce in the licensed alcohol and marijuana industries and enforce alcohol and marijuana laws to protect public health and safety. Below I've highlighted major accomplishments in 2024.

In addition to processing 1,361 renewals for both alcohol and marijuana, AMCO's Licensing Unit received approximately 119 marijuana applications and 368 alcohol applications. AMCO's Enforcement Unit inspected 147 marijuana establishments and 710 alcoholic beverage businesses, approved over 900 special event or alcohol permits, and responded to 97 complaints or questions. AMCO has refocused enforcement efforts to redress large problems caused by the diversion of alcohol and the unlawful inversion of illegal marijuana products throughout Alaska.

AMCO does continue to face challenges. While the Title 4 rewrite went into effect in January 2024, the work associated with the rewrite was substantial and stretched AMCO's resources, placing additional strain on staff and resulting in some employee turnover. The AMCO office is actively working to recruit for vacant positions and is developing retention strategies to provide for positive career path development for both existing and new employees.

## **II. DISCUSSION TOPICS**

### **A. LICENSING**

Ms. Jane Sawyer and her staff will update you on the significant work they have performed since the September 2024 board meetings and provide a status update on the queues. We are happy to report that two additional examiners have joined the AMCO Licensing Unit team: Alysha Paccaro (Licensing Examiner 2, Alcohol) and Hunter Carrell (Licensing Examiner 2, Marijuana).

The AMCO Licensing Unit team currently has no vacancies.

### **B. ENFORCEMENT**

Investigator Joe Bankowski will update you on the activities of the AMCO Enforcement Unit since the September 2024 board meetings. The AMCO Enforcement Unit currently has two vacancies: Special Investigator 1 and Criminal Justice Tech 2. We hope to have both positions filled soon.

### **C. ADMINISTRATIVE**

We are happy to report that two staff members have joined the AMCO Administrative Staff Unit: Brittany Suaava (Administrative Officer 1) and Anjum Masoud (Administrative Assistant 1).

The AMCO Administrative Staff Unit currently has one vacancy: Administrative Assistant 1.

### **D. DIRECTOR POSITION VACANCY**

The AMCO Director position was posted for recruitment and applicants have been interviewed. I am optimistic that a new AMCO Director will be selected in the coming weeks and will be onboarded prior to the February board meetings.

### **E. ABC BOARD PUBLIC SAFETY SEAT**

The Governor's Office is still looking to fill the vacant public safety seat on the Alcohol Control Board. We encourage board members and the public to reach out to qualified applicants and let them know of this opportunity.

## **III. CONCLUSION**

The next Alcohol Beverage Control Board and Marijuana Control Board meetings will be held on February 4 – 5, 2024 in Juneau, Alaska.