

## **ILLEGAL TOBACCO TASK FORCE**

### **Public Meeting #58 Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, February 1, 2024

**Meeting Time:** 1:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** Via Zoom conferencing, dial (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID# 894 6407 2606, Passcode 601042

**Board Attendance:** John Hayes (DOR), Lieutenant Colonel Brian Connors (MSP), Jackie Doane (DPH), John Melander (EOPSS), Nicole Nixon (AGO), Nicholas Ogden (AGO), and Dan O'Neil (TRE).

**Public Attendance:** 21 attendees

#### **Call to Order:**

- Mr. Hayes called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. Mr. Hayes informed all participants that this meeting will not be recorded by Zoom and that Cole Doherty-Crestin will take notes to complete the minutes, which will be posted to the website.

#### **Opening Remarks:**

- Mr. Hayes thanked everyone for attending and Task Force members introduced themselves. Mr. Hayes indicated the purpose of today's meeting is to review the draft annual report, discuss any questions or concerns, and recommend any revisions.

#### **Approval of Minutes from Meeting #57 on January 11, 2024:**

- Cole Doherty-Crestin emailed a copy of the minutes for Meeting #57 to Task Force members prior to this meeting. Mr. Hayes asked members if there were any recommended edits to be made and hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. Dan O'Neil and Nicole Nixon approved the motion. Mr. Hayes stated that with no objection, the minutes were approved and will be posted to Task Force website.

#### **Review & Discussions RE Draft Annual Report - Due March 1, 2024**

- Mr. Hayes emailed a copy of the draft annual report to Task Force members for review prior to this meeting. A copy of the draft report was visible during the meeting to those connected to via Zoom. Mr. Hayes reviewed the below sections of the draft report:

- I. Task Force Creation & Legislative Background (No changes from prior year)
- II. Results & Trends
  - Most Recent Legal Changes Concerning Tobacco Control (no changes)
  - Trends for Tobacco Excise Tax Collection Data (revenue numbers & trends updated)
  - Trends for Tobacco Seizure Data (seizure numbers & trends updated)
- III. Summary of Task Force Activities
  - Identified the dates of the meetings during past FY with a brief summary of some of the content related to presentations and trainings.

- Civil Investigations/Inspections/Litigation (inspection numbers updated and new summaries for DOR and LBOH)
    - Addition of compliance rates for DOR and LBOH inspections
    - Addition of efforts by DOR Litigation Bureau
  - Criminal Investigations (new summaries from State Police & CIB)
- IV. Legislative Proposals (No changes from prior year's recommendations)
- V. Anticipated Barriers
- Storage capacity for seized untaxed tobacco & ENDS products
- VI. Conclusion & Next Steps
- Legislative changes
  - Storage capacity
  - ENDS disposal
- Mr. Hayes will make the changes agreed upon by the board members today and send out a copy of the revised draft report. Mr. Hayes advised the board members, that upon receipt, please provide a copy of the revised draft report to their agency heads for review and approval. Board members can email Mr. Hayes with any minor, non-substantive changes requested by their agency and changes will be incorporated in the final report. If there are substantive changes requested by your agencies, the Task Force will need to schedule another meeting prior to the next meeting, which is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hayes reminded the board members to make sure their agency knows the deadline for the submission to the legislature is March 1<sup>st</sup> and all board members should be prepared to vote on the final report during the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Hayes also advised any members of the public that wanted to submit comments about the draft report that they could email their comments to the Task Force email which is listed on the DOR Task Force website.

#### **Member Agency Updates & Other Business**

- Mr. Hayes provided a brief update on DOR's ENDS disposal process.
- No other updates were reported by members.

#### **Closing Remarks**

- Mr. Hayes reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled in for February 27, 2024 and that the purpose of that meeting is to vote on the final version of the annual report for submission to the legislature. Mr. Hayes kindly thanked participants for their attendance and asked whether there was a motion to end the meeting. Lt. Col. Connors and Dan O'Neil approved the motion. Mr. Hayes concluded the meeting at 1:58 PM.