



News Release

Oregon Liquor Control Commission
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OLCC Commissioners appoint Steven Marks as Executive Director

PORTLAND, Ore. – At the monthly Commission meeting, October 24, 2013; the Commissioners of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) appointed Steven Marks Executive Director of the agency responsible for the regulation of Oregon liquor laws, issuance of liquor licenses, distribution of distilled spirits, and taxation of beer and wine. Chairman Rob Patridge and OLCC Commissioners Bob Rice and Pamela Weatherspoon unanimously supported appointment to the post after an extensive recruitment. Marks will assume the duties effective Friday, October 25, 2013.

Marks is a long-time veteran policy advisor in state government with a recent focus on state budget policy and long-term planning, development of state infrastructure, public safety, as well as advancing state policies supporting regional cooperation and problem solving.

"We are excited that the Commission secured Steve's brand of collaborative leadership for the OLCC," said Chairman Patridge. "The Commission is now well positioned to engage with our urgent task of retail innovation."

Under the Commission's direction, Marks will lead the agency that sets the rules for an industry accounting for nearly a billion dollars of commerce throughout Oregon. The OLCC generates \$397 million in net revenue per biennium that is distributed to local communities and the state; it contributes to the funding of education, economic development, health care, substance abuse treatment, and public safety services. Revenue collected by the OLCC through the sale of spirits and taxation of beer and wine is the 3rd largest source of revenue collected by the state.

Marks told the Commission of his commitment to support retail innovation, revenue growth, enhancing stronger partnerships with local government, ensuring workforce diversity, and improving public information about the role OLCC has in funding state and local services.

"The prime directive of OLCC will always be met with an understanding that our first obligation is to protect the public and communities with fidelity, fairness, and integrity," said Marks. "At the same time, this is an exciting opportunity to shape the future of the OLCC with a Commission that has a passion to facilitate commerce supporting our economy and vital public services."

The Commission thanked Acting Executive Director Merle Lindsey for his steady leadership. They credited Lindsey with positioning the agency to meet immediate and future challenges. Lindsey will return to his responsibilities as Deputy Director of the OLCC.

About Steve Marks:

The 52-year-old Marks is a veteran of public service. Over the past 28 years, Marks has served the State of Oregon as a policy advisor in the Office of the Senate President, a Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor, and as Chief of Staff to the Governor during his service to the state. From 2004 to 2010 Marks was president of his own public policy and public affairs consulting business, *The Marks Network*. In 2013, he

returned to state government service as a policy advisor within the Chief Operations Officer's Office, Oregon Department of Administrative Services. Marks is a graduate of Sutherlin High School and earned his undergraduate degree and Masters Degree in Public Policy, Planning and Management from the University of Oregon.

The five citizen commissioners are the policy-making body of the OLCC. They meet monthly for one or two days to make decisions on liquor licenses, rules, contested case hearings and appointments of liquor store agents. Commission meetings are held every other month at OLCC's main office, 9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Room 103A in Portland. Subsequent months, the meetings are held via phone. Agenda items can be obtained on-line at http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/public_meetings.shtml

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*Did you know that in the last two years, the OLCC distributed more than **\$397 million** to Oregon's General Fund, Cities, Counties, and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs? [See the distribution of dollars on OLCC's Website.](#)*