

Two members of Nebraska Liquor Control Commission resign at request of Gov. Jim Pillen

Written by Jake Anderson

Two members of the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission resigned at the request of Gov. Jim Pillen.

Bruce Bailey, who was the chairman of the three-member committee, and Kim Lowe resigned, effective Monday.

"I appreciate the willingness of Bruce and Kim to serve, and I thank them for the time they have been on the commission," Pillen said in a statement.

Their resignations come less than a week after former executive director Hobert Rupe pleaded not guilty in a corruption case.

Rupe is accused of federal charges of conspiracy and fraud.

The investigation alleged that Rupe received a "stream of benefits" from Lincoln strip club owner Brent Zywiec for three years.

Rupe served as the executive director from 2004 to May 2025 and he resigned in June.

Bailey gave his take on it all.

"Weren't given a choice," Bailey said when talking about Lowe's and his resignation.

He suggested that after Rupe's federal indictment, Pillen wanted a clean slate.

In response to the commission cleaning house, Non-profit "Project Extra Mile" is asking the Governor to grow the board.

"We were calling on the governor to add two commissioners and require that one commissioner has a public health background, and one commissioner has a public safety background preferably law enforcement background" said Executive Director Chris Wagner.

Wagner hopes the commission can be more effective at protecting public health.

Former Commissioner Bob Batt however called the proposal ridiculous.

"I personally don't think they have to change a thing" said Bob Batt.

Pillen's office is taking applications until October 17th at 5:00 p.m. The applicants must reside in the first and third congressional districts.