

Good Neighbors Report

To: Public Safety and Licensing Committee
From: Attorney Nhu H. Arn
RE: La Hacienda Bar and Grill, LLC., Elsa Carreno, Agent and Owner
Meeting date: Tuesday, August 20, 2024
Departments: Attorney, City Development
License(s) requested: Class “B” (beer) and “Class B” (liquor) licenses

Issues Identified/Discussed:

Hours and premises amendment. As noted in the amendment, Ms. Carreno is changing her hours of operation to 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Sunday through Saturday. She intends to close earlier on slower nights but would like the flexibility to stay open late. The premises description shall include the entire first floor of the building, rather than just “office” as currently stated in the application.

Agent/manager experience. Ms. Carreno currently manages Santa Fe Grocery Store and Liquor as the agent and owner for the past nine years. This is her first venture into the bar industry. Attorney Arn provided her with a brief overview of local and state regulations as it relates to Class “B” premises.

Police Department issues: Sgt. Thillemann was unable to attend the meeting but did note his concerns regarding the lack of parking for a bar at this location. Ms. Carreno explained that the parking lot can hold up to seven vehicles, but street parking is also available. She intends to hire security if needed.

Status of building/health permit and license. Ms. Carreno is in the process of applying for both an occupancy permit and health department license. She is currently in the process of renovating the premises, which includes moving the location of the bathrooms along with some electrical and plumbing work. She intends to start operating within one or two months, assuming the common council approves her application. She understands it would be a conditional grant and that she would have six months to start operating.

Overall summary

Ms. Carreno intends to open a bar and serve only drinks at this time. In the long run, she intends to also serve food and operate a restaurant at this location, although there are no immediate plans to do so. Sgt. Thillemann indicated some concerns regarding the lack of parking in this area. If the committee does recommend approval of the license application, it should be for a “conditional grant of a license,” since the building is currently under renovation.