

Good Neighbors Report

To: Public Safety and Licensing Committee

From: Attorney Nhu H. Arn

RE: Day 10 Bar & Grill, LLC., Gheonna Lacy, Agent
1102 Mound Avenue

Meeting date: Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Departments: Attorney, Health, and City Development

License(s) requested: Class “B” (beer) and “Class B” (intoxicating liquor) licenses

Issues Identified/Discussed:

Issues involving potential strawman application.

Based on the reasons stated below, it appears likely that the true owner of the establishment in this case has not been disclosed. State law requires that the actual owner of an establishment selling intoxicating liquor possess the license in the owner’s own name. See Wis. Stat. sec. 125.04(1).

In late August of this year, Mr. Raymond Turner came into the City Clerk’s Office with a person named Amarya Neal requesting to apply for an alcohol beverage license. Mr. Turner identified himself as the landlord of the building. Ms. Neal applied for a license under Day Ten Lounge, LLC., with herself listed as the sole owner and agent. Ms. Neal later withdrew the application, backing out of the process entirely.

In September of this year, Mr. Turner came in with a different person named Gheonna Lacy, requesting again to apply for an alcohol beverage license at this same location. Ms. Lacy applied for a license under Day 10 Bar & Grill, LLC., with herself listed as the sole owner and agent. Ms. Lacy states she does not know Ms. Neal and that the two are not working together, but they submitted almost identical applications down to the same words, under slightly different names.

While scheduling the good neighbors meeting, Ms. Lacy initially informed Attorney Arn over the phone that Mr. Turner is the owner of the establishment. However, she was unsure if Mr. Turner was listed as a member on the LLC. When she appeared at the good neighbors meeting the following week, she denied that Mr. Turner is the owner. Mr. Turner is not listed anywhere on either application as an owner, agent or member, but it appears likely that he may be the true owner of the establishment. If this is the case, he must apply for an alcohol beverage license in his own name, regardless of any arrest or conviction record that may be present.

Agent/manager experience. Ms. Lacy is currently working full-time as a certified nursing assistant and will continue to hold this job even after the bar opens. She states she will be at the premises seven days a week to manage the establishment. Her work history includes two and a half years bartending and serving at Doobie’s, but this would be her first time as an agent.

Health and building departments. Ms. Lacy does not intend to serve food now but may add in food service if they can hire a chef/cook. She is in the process of applying for a license with the health department but has already obtained an occupancy permit. If granted a license, Ms. Lacy states they can start operating the establishment as early as November 1st.

Vaping/hookah usage. Ms. Lacy initially stated that they would allow the use of tobacco hookah inside the building. Attorney Arn provided her with a brief overview of relevant state law, which would prohibit this practice.

Police Department issues. In the past several years, this specific location has garnered the attention of RPD for being a nuisance property, operating previously as Duo's and Blue's R&B. Due to the lack of off-street parking at this location, there have been many traffic and loitering issues on Mound Avenue. Sgt. Thillemann was unable to attend the good neighbors meeting but may provide more information to the committee during its meeting.

Overall summary

Given the nuisance history associated with this location, it is especially important for any persons wishing to operate a bar at this location to do so with transparency. If the committee determines this to be a strawman application, it must deny the license on those grounds.