

Good Neighbors Report

To: PS&L Committee

From: Attorney Nhu H. Arn

RE: **The Fifteen-Eighteen, LLC., dba Fifteen-Eighteen, c/o Shikeyla Buckley**

Meeting date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Departments attended: Police, Health, and Attorney

Overall Summary

Ms. Buckley appeared with her father, Tyrone, and her bar manager, Antonio. The parties had a productive discussion concerning the issues highlighted below. Although not all of the allegations were substantiated, it is clear that there were other individuals operating separate businesses operating out of the Fifteen-Eighteen, which is prohibited by state law. Regardless of whether Ms. Buckley knowingly allowed this to occur on the premises, she is still the responsible agent for all alcohol violations on the premises. Ms. Buckley states she has since removed these individuals from operating on the premises, and most if not all of the other issues seem to be moot at this point.

Recommendation:

This is considered the first formal expression of concern against the Fifteen-Eighteen and as such, it is highly recommended that the committee **receive and file** this item.

Topics Discussed

- **Allowing other businesses/others to operate on premises or under license:** Ms. Buckley hired an individual to cook in her kitchen and a separate person to operate the hookah area of the bar. However, she states she was not aware that both individuals were operating under their own companies (Zekie's Whip Up and Pretty Smoked Hookah Lounge, respectively) and had registered their principal place of business as 1518 Washington Avenue with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions. Attorney Arn explained that anyone working at the premises should be employed by and working directly for the Fifteen-Eighteen, rather than as "independent contractors" who rent out space to run their own business, which is prohibited by state law. Ms. Buckley now understands that she is legally responsible for the acts of her employees and for all alcohol violations occurring on the premises. Ms. Buckley states she has taken steps to remove these individuals from operating on the premises.

- **Selling alcohol online and closing hours violation:** Although Ms. Buckley uses the website *Toast* to conduct her point-of-sale transactions, she insists that she does not take any online orders for food or alcohol. As of the date of this meeting, the *Toast* website

was still up, although the Health Department could not confirm whether anyone has ever successfully ordered alcohol from Fifteen-Eighteen using *Toast*. Ms. Buckley did subsequently contact *Toast* again and the website no longer allows orders to be taken online.

- **Renting out premises for private parties:** Ms. Buckley was advised that any private parties must operate under her supervision, and that she is still responsible for any and all alcohol violations on the premises regardless of any “private parties”.
- **Failing to purchase from licensed wholesaler:** At the time of this report, there was no update from the Department of revenue regarding this allegation. However, Ms. Buckley was reminded that state law does require all alcohol purchases to be made from a licensed wholesaler.
- **Use of municipal parking lot at rear entrance and crowd control:** Attorney Arn confirmed with Ms. Buckley that the municipal parking lot may not be barricaded without city approval (specifically, the Department of Public Works) and that she cannot charge for parking therein. Sgt. Legath advised Ms. Buckley to light up the bar’s rear entrance as much as possible in order to avoid crowds who tend to loiter in the parking lot. Ms. Buckley was asked to cooperate with police, take a proactive approach to dealing with crowds, and to call for assistance whenever necessary.
- **Complaints of advertisements that suggests adult entertainment:** Ms. Buckley was advised that raunchy advertisements give the impression of adult entertainment on the premises, which is prohibited without an adult entertainment license. No violations have been substantiated, but the advertisements were brought to Ms. Buckley’s attention.