

Good Neighbors Report

To: Public Safety and Licensing Committee

From: Attorney Nhu H. Arn

RE: Adream Social Lounge, LLC., April Wright, Agent
1520 (1518) Washington Avenue

Meeting date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Departments: Health, Building, City Development, Police and Attorney

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

Business plan and premises description. Ms. Wright intends to operate Adream Social Lounge, a bar and restaurant, on the lower level (first floor) of the building. The premises description will not include the basement nor the street level floor; as the control of these levels will remain with the landlord. Ms. Wright does not intend to undertake any major renovations and hopes to start operating as early as April.

Owner/agent experience. Ms. Wright currently owns and operates an adult group home in Milwaukee by the name of Five Star Adult Care Services. Much of her experience in the past decade has been in the health care industry. However, Ms. Wright helped to run her sister’s bar (Sky Box Sports Bar in Milwaukee) for approximately 3-4 years before it closed last year and has experience of waitressing at her grandparents’ bar when she was younger. She is familiar with the bar industry but has never been licensed as a bartender. If approved, she would continue to operate her group home, as well as manage this bar.

Disqualification due to false statement. Ms. Wright stated in her license application that she has never been convicted of any offenses and reiterated this during the good neighbors’ meeting. However, the results of her background check reveal that she was convicted of Carrying a Concealed a Concealed Weapon in 2021, a criminal misdemeanor. Because of the false statement alone, she is presumably disqualified for a license under the Policy Guidelines for Arrests and Conviction Records. To approve this license with Ms. Wright as the agent, the committee would have to find good cause for the false statement and deem her to be of acceptable record and character. See Wis. Stat. § 125.04(6)(a)(1). Ms. Wright has submitted a written statement to the committee with her explanation of the false statement.

Smoking in parking lot/back entrance.

Smoking: Ms. Wright is applying for a cigarette and tobacco license and will be selling packs of cigarettes at the bar. Since indoor smoking is prohibited by state law and no smoking equipment of any sort may be provided by the establishment, patrons may only smoke by the back door/parking lot area or front door on Washington Avenue. It was brought to Ms. Wright’s attention that this could contribute to the loitering issue in the parking lot.

Hookah: Ms. Wright also stated during the health department inspection that she will be allowing selling and allowing hookah usage indoors. During the good neighbors meeting, she was informed that the indoor use of hookah that includes tobacco (which is most common) is prohibited per state law.

Health and building departments. Ms. Wright is in the final stages of obtaining both an occupancy permit and health department license. There are several items that need to be brought up to code, but no major concerns.

Police Department issues. There have been numerous issues at this location as it relates to the previously licensed premises (the Fifteen-Eighteen) including but not limited: loitering; blockage of the parking ramp; illegal parking in the lot; underage person on premises; closing hours violations; allowing other businesses to operate on premises, etc. Ms. Wright discussed these issues with Sgt. Nabors and Attorney Arn to prevent these issues before they begin.

Overall Summary

This location at 1520 Washington Avenue has been problematic in the past, specifically the loitering and nuisance issues associated with the back parking lot area. Ms. Wright hopes to address these concerns by lighting up the back parking lot, increasing security and adding metal detectors at the door. Other concerns include the false statement on the license application, as detailed above.