

22-21

Empire Lounge, LLC

d/b/a Empire Lounge

3033 N. Sterling

Requesting: Class B-1 (Restaurant, 25% food)

Subclass 1A (2:00 am closing hours Thur, Fri & Sat)

Subclass 2 (live entertainment)

Mr. John Sims, Manager, Empire Lounge, LLC, presented a request for a Class B-1 (Restaurant, 25% food) Liquor License with a Subclass 1A (2:00 am closing hours Thur, Fri & Sat) and a Subclass 2 (live entertainment) at 3033 N. Sterling.

In discussion with Chairwoman Coates, Mr. Sims gave a brief overview of the proposed establishment. He reported Empire Lounge would provide adult entertainment for individuals who were the age of 40 and up. He said they did not want to be labeled as a club. He remarked they would have a much more laid-back atmosphere. He reported their venue would host many different functions such as art shows, spoken words, wives' night out, etc.

As a point of clarification, Fire Engineer Perrin reported the Fire Department would need architectural plans to be submitted before a Certificate of Occupancy could be issued. In response, Mr. Sims confirmed he was already working with a business to get architectural plans.

In discussion with Chairwoman Coates, Mr. Sims stated they would like to be open for business close to the New Year. He also clarified the layout of the establishment in detail. He remarked the kitchen would be closed off to the rear of the building, but he said the dining area would be open faced in order to allow everyone to see the entertainment area.

Liquor Investigator Slavens reported the Police Department had some concerns with the applicant's request for the Subclass 1A (2:00 closing hours). He remarked this would allow an extra hour of closing time on the weekends. He said it was common for any extra patrol officers to be reallocated to assist with large downtown crowds. He said due to staffing, they would like to recommend the applicant re-submit his application for the Subclass 1A (2:00 am closing hours) after being in business for at least one year. He stated the Police Department had no other objections to the request for the Class B-1 (restaurant, 25% food) Liquor License and the Subclass 2 (live entertainment).

In discussion with Commissioner Spears, Mr. Sims remarked for the reasons stated by Liquor Investigator Slavens, he confirmed they would be comfortable with the standard 1:00 am closing hours for the first year.

After brief comments, Commissioner Spears moved to recommend approval of the request for a Class B-1 (restaurant, 25% food) Liquor License and a Subclass 2 (live entertainment), with a stipulation that the request for a Subclass 1A (2:00 am closing hours on Thur, Fri & Sat) be resubmitted in the next 12 months at 3033 N. Sterling; seconded by Commissioner Winkler.

Approved by roll call vote:

Yeas: Coates, Spears, Winkler - 3;

Nays: None;

Abstention: None.