

d/b/a River City Grill**3504 B N. Prospect Road****Requesting: Class B (Restaurant, 50% Food)**

Christell Frausto, Co-Owner, Knoxville Wine & Spirits, d/b/a River City Grill, and Geoff Smith, Architect, presented a request for a Class B (Restaurant, 50% food) Liquor License at 3504 B N. Prospect Road.

In discussion with Chairwoman Coates, Ms. Frausto gave an update on the progress of the renovations for the space. She also shared photos for the Commission and Staff to review. She noted some flooring in the front area, bathroom renovations and other work had been already completed. She reported their kitchen equipment was stored in the restaurant's storage pod on site. She then briefly described upcoming HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and work on the glass doors for the new entryway on the side of the building.

Commissioner Jordan said Ms. Frausto had gone above and beyond and he thanked her for updating the Commission on their progress.

In response to a question from Commissioner Spears regarding the compliance with building separation requirements, Ms. Frausto explained there was a self-locking door for employees only to utilize for access to the bathroom. She said the door wasn't an entrance for vendors or customers to the liquor store. She explained they were considered to be two separate entities, and she went on to report there was a brand-new double glass door currently being installed for the patrons of River City Café.

Liquor Investigator Linthicum reported after a recent inspection, he noticed much more work had been completed after his initial inspection. He mentioned the discussion on separation requirements for the attached liquor store, and he commented on the importance of consistency because of the request for gaming. He pointed out there had been calls from other establishments wanting to do the same thing. He said his recommendation would be to defer the request for another 30 days, to ensure all requirements had been met and everything was put into place.

In response to a question by Fire Engineer Perrin regarding the employee door, Architect Geoff Smith briefly explained the locking mechanism for the door coming out the liquor store to the common area. He noted it was for "exit only". During discussion, Liquor Investigator Linthicum commented the door in question should not be propped open for any reasons, at any time. He said if so, that would be a violation.

Assistant City Attorney Toren added with video gaming being the ultimate goal, he said the applicant should be mindful of the percentage of food and beverage sale requirements versus gaming revenue. He mentioned issues with establishments not meeting the requirements and he noted there could be audits down the road to verify that information. In more discussion, Ms. Frausto mentioned the possibility of catering food as well.

During more discussion, Commissioner Jordan commented he understood where the Police Dept. was coming from, but he said the Commission had already deferred the case previously for 30 days. He noted the applicant had already done what the Commission had asked her to do. He went on to say if all requirements had not been met, he said any violations could always be addressed by ordinance.

Ms. Bonds clarified the liquor license would not be issued until the Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) had been signed off on by Staff showing all requirements had been met.

There being no further questions or comments, Chairwoman Coates called for a motion.

After brief comments Commissioner Jordan moved to approve the request for a Class B (Restaurant, 50% food) Liquor License at 3504 B N. Prospect Road; seconded by Commissioner Winkler.

Motion Approved by roll call vote:

Yeas: Coates, Hounwanou, Jordan, Spears, Winkler - 5;

Nays: None;

Abstention: None.

Chairwoman Coates stated this recommendation would be heard at the City Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.