

Council Communication

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Update On Issues Involving the Vinyl Club and the Granite Tap House

FROM:

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SUMMARY

This is a Council-requested update regarding problems at Granite Tap House and the Vinyl Club. These establishments were flagged for follow-up when their liquor licenses were renewed six months ago. Granite Tap House has made improvements with regard to its emergency egress issue that caused it to be flagged. The number of complaints regarding excessive noise at the Vinyl Club has declined substantially and the number of disorderly conduct complaints dropped to zero.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Six months ago, all liquor licenses in Ashland were reviewed for renewal. Two of the licenses received added scrutiny due to complaints from neighbors and because of calls for service at the locations. The two locations were the Vinyl Club and the Granite Tap House. More specifically, the Granite Tap House was scrutinized due to accessibility issues during emergency situations, and the Vinyl Club was scrutinized due to on-going complaints of excessive noise, fighting and generally disorderly behavior by neighbors. The Council decided to endorse the renewal of the liquor licenses, but also advised the APD to work with the respective owners to mitigate future problems.

Update on the Granite Tap House:

The primary problem at the Granite Tap House had been that on two occasions, APD needed to access the business for emergency situations and could not due to a locked door. The owners have since worked with the Fire Marshall and have installed the hardware needed to allow this access. There have been limited instances of the door still being found locked, but there is progress in that the hardware has been installed and the owners appear to be eager to work with the APD to ensure compliance.

Update on the Vinyl Club:

The primary complaints involving the Vinyl Club have been of excessive noise and generally poor behavior by patrons on Will Dodge Way. In the six months prior to the renewal of its liquor license, there were 20 complaints of excessive noise. In the last six months this had dropped to ten. Also, in the six months prior to the renewal, there were two complaints of disorderly conduct (DOC) and one of harassment (minor assault) connected to the Vinyl Club. In the last six months there have no complaints of DOC and two complaints of assaultive type behavior. It should be noted that the reports from APD's midnight teams, that most often deal with Vinyl Club, have stated that business at the location seems to have fallen off considerably and that this decline in business is likely responsible for



the decrease in calls for service. Whether or not the business staff has gone out of its way to adjust its practices to mitigate these problems is questionable at best.

COUNCIL GOALS SUPPORTED:

NA

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

NA

STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND REQUESTED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the Council take no action at this time. Staff further recommends that APD be allowed to continue to monitor the situation and report any future problems when the liquor licenses come up for renewal again.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

NA

ATTACHMENTS:

None

