

Council Business Meeting

October 2, 2018

Agenda Item	Liquor License Renewals for Vinyl Club and Stop and Shop	
From	Tighe O'Meara	Police Chief
Contact	tighe.omeara@ashland.or.us	541-552-2142

SUMMARY

Staff is bringing forward two liquor licenses for endorsement, either positive or negative, for Council's review and decision.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

On September 4, 2018 Council voted to withhold an endorsement of the Vinyl Club's liquor license pending further deliberation and possible negative endorsement to the OLCC. Also at the September 4 meeting, staff requested that Council hold off on an endorsement of the Stop and Shop's liquor license for a possible negative endorsement.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Each year all liquor licenses in the City of Ashland are reviewed for renewal. The police department's role in this process is to assess whether or not each establishment's liquor sales have had an unreasonably negative impact on the community. The Vinyl Club has consistently come up as a focal point of negative behavior both in the club and on Will Dodge Way. The attached memo details some of the police calls for service in and around the Vinyl Club. On September 4, Council indicated that it would consider a request to deny the renewal of the liquor license based on the issues at the Vinyl Club over the years, but also specifically because of a felony assault that occurred on November, 2017 and club management's perceived involvement in this assault. This is because the assault suspect was a bouncer, hired by club management. It was also noted that one of the reasons the owner of the Vinyl Club, Mike Leslie, received sanctions from the OLCC is because he allowed non-DPSST (Department of Public Safety Standards and Training) certified bouncers, including the bouncer in question, to work at the club.

The Stop and Shop, located at 110 Lithia Way, has also developed as a point of concern since it opened several years ago. Specifically, it has been seen as a focal point of negative behavior in front of the store, as well as across the street both on the corner and in the parking lot. Some months ago, the Police Department started to track all open intoxicant tickets issued in the city, noting where each ticket was issued and when possible, what type of beverage was involved (i.e. beer, high alcohol content beer, wine, liquor etc.). The initial mapping of these indicated a clear pattern of these incidents being in close proximity to the Stop and Shop. It had been staff's intention to ask the Council to request a restriction on the sale of single serve alcohol at the store. However, after that initial recommendation was made, I learned that police management had not yet attempted to work with store ownership and gain voluntary compliance on mitigating some of the issues surrounding the store. On September 5, I made contact with the store's owner, Jason Penner, and he immediately met with police staff to discuss the issues. Mr. Penner has agreed to consider modifying his inventory, removing sign clutter from the front of the store and installing additional security cameras. In addition, Mr. Penner is interested in learning who the chronic open-intoxicant offenders are so he can refuse to sell to them. Given Mr. Penner's apparent eagerness to partner with the

police department, and the fact that we failed to attempt this route in past, I recommend that Council endorse the renewal of this license without restrictions and that the police department continue to monitor the situation. Additionally, the OLCC is going to continue to monitor the situation.

FISCAL IMPACTS

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Stop and Shop’s liquor license be endorsed for renewal without restrictions. Staff requests direction from Council on the renewal of the license for the Vinyl Club.

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

N/A

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Memo to City Council

Attachment 2: Map of Liquor Law Violations

Memo

TO: City Council

FROM: Tighe O'Meara, Police Chief

SUBJECT: Liquor License Renewals

DATE: October 2, 2018

Pursuant to your request for information concerning liquor license renewals I have prepared the following information reference the Vinyl Club.

The Vinyl Club (VC) continues to be a point of concern for neighbors on Will Dodge Way. On November 25, 2017 there was a significant assault at the Vinyl Club which resulted in the arrest of a bouncer, and subsequent conviction on a felony charge. There were three other assaults reported in or immediately outside of the Vinyl Club, one of them resulting in the arrest (via citation) of two SOU student athletes who assaulted two bouncers at the Vinyl Club.

While the owner Mike Leslie continues to maintain a good partnership with the APD, it needs to be noted that there are several issues surrounding the operation of the VC with regards to the OLCC. The VC faced a significant fine over the last 12 months after having been found responsible for violations and being assessed a \$4,620 fine, paid in lieu of having the liquor license suspended.

In the past year there have been 14 complaints of unreasonable noise coming from the Vinyl Club. In the previous year there were six and in the year before that 15.

There were 17 cases pulled from the Vinyl Club in the last year, the same amount as the year before, and compared to 12 the previous year.



Number of Liquor Law Violations by Location January 1st – August 9th



- 10 Winburn Way-5
 - 100 BLK Will Dodge Way-7
 - 100 Winburn Way-1
 - 101 E Main St-1
 - 110 Lithia Way-1
 - 116 Lithia Way-2
 - 130 N Pioneer-2
 - 1420 E Main St-1
 - 150 Winburn Way-2
 - 170 Winburn Way-1
 - 183 E Main St-1
 - 20 E Main St-3
 - 201 S Mountain Ave-2
 - 220 Water St-1
 - 230 Water St-3
 - 2345 Ashland St-1
 - 2525 Ashland St-1
 - 27 E Hersey St-1
 - 28 N Main St-5
 - 31 Water St #B-1
 - 41 N Main St-1
 - 44 1/2 N 2nd St-2
 - 45 Winburn Way-8
 - 450 Wightman #A-3
 - 46 E Main St-1
 - 481 Stadium St #332A-1
 - 675 Eagle Mill Rd-1
 - 73 Winburn-1
 - 94 Winburn-4
 - Granite St/High St-1
 - Lithia Way/Lithia Way-1
 - Lithia Way/N Pioneer St-1
 - N Pioneer St/B St-1
 - N Pioneer St/E Main St-1
 - S Pioneer St/N Pioneer St-1
 - Siskiyou/Sherman-1
 - Siskiyou Blvd/Morton St-1
 - Siskiyou Blvd/Park St-1
 - Water St/B St-2
 - Will Dodge Way/N 1st St-1
 - Will Dodge Way/N Pioneer St-5
 - Winburn Way/Nutley St-1
- Total: 83

