

Item 24-1495: Operator License for Crystal Williams

Safety and Licensing Committee

Wed, Dec 11, 2024 5:30PM

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 06:54

Okay, moving on to 24-1495 the operator license for Crystal Williams. Welcome back. We'll start with comments from the attorney's office, and then if the police department would like to summarize their position on this, and then we can have the applicant speak, and then bring it back to committee for action. Turn it over to Attorney Buruin.

Zak Buruin (Assistant City Attorney) 07:21

Thank you, Chair. This one, I think, is a little bit more clear cut in terms of the legal requirements here. The background information on the applicant reveals a prior conviction for what is a battery offense, contrary to chapter 9—er 940.19 of the Wisconsin statutes. As the committee may recall, the entirety of chapter 940 offenses are considered exempt offenses. Based on that, there is an inability for the committee and the council to auth—to issue a license. Based on that, there's no provision for the demonstration of rehabilitation based on it being an exempt defense. The information in somewhat more detail is set forth in the memorandum that I submitted. So based on that, it's my legal opinion that there is no eligibility, and the committee and council are not permitted to author—or to issue a license in this particular case.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 08:23

Okay, thank you. So just to be clear, this is one of those situations where we can't approve it statutorily or...? Okay.

Zak Buruin (Assistant City Attorney) 08:32

That is correct.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 08:33

Okay, all right. Questions from anyone? I'll give you, the applicant, a chance to speak. Anything from police department? You did have a memo requesting denial. Lieutenant Goodin's not here, right? Okay, district two. Okay.

Police Chief Polly Olson 08:49

That's correct. I mean, I can rely on the information in the memo as I've reviewed it and appears to be accurate, and I don't have anything additional to add this time.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 08:57

Okay, thank you, chief. All right. Anyone else wish to speak? Anyone want to make a motion?

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:07

I'll move to deny.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 09:08

Okay, we have a motion to deny. Is there a second?

Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 09:12
Second.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 09:13
Motion and a second to deny, and I assume the denial is based on the guidance from the attorney's office?

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:18
Yes.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 09:19
Okay. Questions? Comments? Would you like to address the committee? Okay, name and address for the record, please.

Crystal Williams (Corner Pub) 09:30
[...] drive, Grand Chute.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 09:34
Okay, go ahead.

Crystal Williams (Corner Pub) 09:35
I have a letter here. I have a—I haven't drank in three years since this incident has happened. I went through AODA assessment. Said that I don't need anything. I went through some anger management classes and stuff. I am currently on probation. I am almost completed with probation. I do have a letter from my probation officer that she asked if I could give it to you guys. So.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 09:58
Sure you can. You can leave it with us. I'm just—I hope, I hope you understand the guidance and the comments that we got from the city attorney's office in regards to what we need to consider and not be able to consider.

Crystal Williams (Corner Pub) 10:11
Right. Does this just, like, ban me for good? Or do I—can I reapply after certain time limit, or...?

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 10:20
I'm gonna let Attorney Buruin address that.

Zak Buruin (Assistant City Attorney) 10:22
So, the statutes don't provide any time period, so there is no time after which this ceases to become a consideration. I think it's worth pointing out it doesn't stop somebody from working as a bartender. There just needs to be a licensed bartender, and that could not be you.

Crystal Williams (Corner Pub) 10:42
Oh, okay.

Zak Buruin (Assistant City Attorney) 10:42
So, it doesn't stop you from working. It just stops you from having that license.

Crystal Williams (Corner Pub) 10:46
Okay.

Zak Buruin (Assistant City Attorney) 10:46

If that makes sense.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 10:47

And being there alone.

Crystal Williams (Corner Pub) 10:48

So as long as there's a licensed person on the premises, I can still do my job.

Zak Buruin (Assistant City Attorney) 10:53

As long as there's a licensed bartender supervising, you can still—you can still work that way.

Crystal Williams (Corner Pub) 10:57

Okay.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 10:58

Okay. And, yes, you can leave that with us. We'll make it part of the record. You can give it to the clerk. Yeah. So, thank you for sharing that. Thank you for coming. Any other comments, questions? All right, we have a motion and a second to deny the li—operator license for Crystal Williams. All those in favor of the denial signify by saying aye. All opposed? All right, five zero. Okay, thank you.