

Item 25-0110: Class "B" Beer and Reserve "Class B" Liquor License application for SK Pizzeria Pub LLC d/b/a Pizzeria Pub and Bar, Satbir Singh, Agent

Item 25-0109: Class "B" Beer and Reserve "Class B" Liquor License application for El Sabor LLC d/b/a Bunnies on the Ave, Luis Santiago Ledezma, Agent

Common Council

Wed, Mar 05, 2025 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 37:56

Moving along to the items from Safety and Licensing Committee, we'll take up first 25-0110. This is the Class B beer and reserve Class B liquor license application for SK pizzeria pub and doing business as Pizzeria Pub and Bar. This is at 1200 North Sharon Street. Have a motion and a second to approve. All right, any discussion? Alder Doran.

Mayor Jake Woodford 38:30

Any further discussion? Alder Fenton.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 38:30

Thank you. I separated this out just to point out for my colleagues, I voted against this at the safety and licensing committee meeting and intend to do so again tonight as well. Related to this item is the item that was not separated out, 25-0111, an application for amusement devices which essentially were illegal gambling machines for the same venue. In addition, as I pointed out at—as was also noted at the committee hearing, the applicant for this license has a couple of violations for serving alcohol to a minor, as well as a violation for not having an operation—licensed operator on the premise. I do understand that mistakes happen, and I understand we have we have mechanisms to deal with demerit point violations, but I think it's incumbent upon the committee and this council as grantees of these licenses to be very judicious in how we—or careful in how we grant these licenses to operators who we are confident are going to follow the laws and regulations that we have in place. It is much easier for us to not issue a license than it is for us to take one back, and these violations, these three things together, give me enough pause to not want to grant this license.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 38:56

Thank you, Your Honor. Um, in the safety and licensing committee meeting where I voted to grant the license, I pointed out that the couple of things made me incline to believe that the applicant really wants to follow the law, and on the unrelated item, filed, the—filed the license request in good faith. But we have a process for assigning demerit points and for having a hearing where we can withdraw—or we can pull a license if the custom—if the applicant has too many different demerit points. So, while I agree that it is more difficult to take a license away than it is to not grant one, we have a really well-defined process, and I think that we need to consider this as a separate business regardless of whether it's the—a different applicant. So, I'm going to vote in favor this, and I hope that the rest of my colleagues do as well.

Mayor Jake Woodford 41:23

Alder Wolff.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 41:25

Thank you, Chair. Excuse me. Earlier this year, we looked at multiple locations that were and had accidentally, or maybe not, sold alcohol to a minor for them having a fake ID or something like that, and mistakes happen, and we didn't vote to shut them down. I don't see why we aren't giving this business the same benefit of the doubt

as we gave Walmart on Calumet Street for making the same mistake. So, I will be voting to allow them to do this, and then if they are to be caught doing something illegal, we can handle it from there. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 42:14
Alder Schultz.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 42:16

Thank you, Mayor. I think members of safety and license committee or have struggled, not only with this one, but some other recent requests to approve businesses and new licenses as it relates to gambling devices. And I think we have some work to do on that. I just bring that up as something we I think we have to take a little bit closer look at. Very recently, we denied a new license to a business that came forward with a business plan that did not include gambling devices, but the difference between that applicant and the applicant that is here that is here today is today we're reviewing an applicant who came forward in good faith, submitted a request for amusement devices not realizing they couldn't have them, revised that and was—

Mayor Jake Woodford 43:03

Is...this isn't germane to the item that's before you, so I'd ask you to bring your comments back into line with what's before the council now.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 43:16

Sure. I would suggest that we approve the license based on the applicant's application and doing what that what was required to request this license.

Mayor Jake Woodford 43:30

Further discussion? Hearing none, we have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. The motion passes 11 to two. The item has been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 43:52

All right, moving along to the second item from safety and licensing committee. This is 25-0109, class B beer and reserve Class B liquor license for El Sabor doing business as Bunnies on the Ave at 425 West College. We have a motion and a second to approve. Open the floor for discussion. Alder Doran.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 44:18

Thank you. Won't sort of say again, but just sort of my concerns remain the same about our role and responsibilities in this and pointing out that the applicant for this license had a violation in 2024 for a different establishment, for not having a licensed operator as well. And my sort of concerns about issuing the license in this instance remain the same as is in the previous one, so I will not be supporting.

Mayor Jake Woodford 44:45

Further discussion? We have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. The motion passes 11 to two. That item has been approved.