

## MINUTES OF THE ALCOHOIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

June 12, 2019

On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019, the ABC Board did convene at Little Rock, Arkansas for its regular monthly meeting and in attendance were Freddie Black, Chairperson, Steve Smith, Alex Blass, and Jamie Anderson.

The Board considered the Director's Decision, Private Clubs, Violations Resume, Warning Letters and Inactive Status Letters, a supplement Director's Decision was also added. Jamie Anderson made a motion to approve all mentioned matters to include the supplement. Steve Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Director Chandler briefed the board that at the next meeting on July 10, 2019, the Board will be setting the rules for ABC and Medical Marijuana at the next meeting.

Christopher Baldwin has applied for a Restaurant Mixed Drink Maximum Permit for The Office Bar & Grill. Objections to the application on the basis of the applicant's association with the former revoked permit and the former permittee at this location, Mr. Randy Whitehead, and the past crime problems of the former club and location, were received from the Hot Springs Chief of Police, Jason Stachey, in writing, and from Hot Springs Detective Jeff Stracener, who testified in person. Mr. Baldwin's entertainment description listed adult type entertainment as a possibility and the other entertainment listed and the layout of the premises and business operations would be very similar to the previous club at the same location rather than a true restaurant operation. In the past, this location has experienced significant issues with law enforcement and violence including shootings and for these reasons local law enforcement continues to object to this application. The Office Bar & Grill is not in the public's interest, convenience and advantage as explained in Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Control Rules and Regulations, Section 1.21 and that the Director's Decision of April 12, 2019 should be upheld. Steven Smith made a motion to uphold the Director's decision and not grant the permit, Jamie Anderson seconded the motion and passed by a vote of 4-0.

Doralee Chandler brought in a supplement for the Director's Decision, Steven Smith made a motion to approve the supplement and Alex Blass seconded that motion. The vote passed 4-0.

Rajabali Pirani applied for a retail beer off-premises permit and a small farm wine retail permit for the Des Arc Food Mart in Des Arc, Arkansas. The application received written objections from Des Arc Mayor Jim Garth, Council Person Gail King and Pastor Eddie Addison. The Board also received petitions with 130 signatures in favor of the permit. The Des Arc Food Mart is located near the White River. Mr. Rajabali's store, the Des Arc Food Mart, offers bait, tackle, fishing supplies, ice, gas, propane, fuel for boat motors, food items, soft drinks and other traditional convenience store products. Pastor Eddie Addison and Council Person Gail King objected based on the small size of the population and the large number of already present permits for a town the size of Des Arc. There was no evidence presented by local police that crime will spike or has spiked since the last approved retail beer permit granted to the Dollar General Store. No objections were received from local police. Ms. Tawny Gardner testified this permit will allow

customers and tourists to purchase their fishing supplies, food and drinks all in one place without having to go to another store to purchase beer and the permit would be in the public convenience and advantage to the City of Des Arc. Based upon all the testimony and evidence on file, Jamie Anderson made a motion to overturn the Director's Decision and grant the permit, Alex Blass seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board is scheduled for July 10th, 2019.

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**Freddie Black, Chairman**

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**Doralee Chandler, Director**