



Office of the City Clerk

**Ronald D. Leonhardt**  
City Clerk

**Carolyn Hill Robertson**  
Deputy City Clerk

[www.milwaukee.gov](http://www.milwaukee.gov)

October 23, 2003

To the Honorable, the Common Council

Dear Members:

Re: Common Council File 030591

Recommendation of renewal with a 20-day suspension of the Class "B" tavern license of Saprina Johnson for the premises at 2979 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St. ("Champ's Clubhouse") in the 6<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District based upon the police report.

With regard to the item listed above, the Utilities and Licenses Committee held an evidentiary hearing on October 21, 2003.

Pursuant to section 90-11 Milwaukee Code of Ordinances, and section 125.12(12), Wis. Stats., the Committee is transmitting a copy of its Report and Recommendations, regarding the above matters to your Honorable Body.

Pursuant to City Ordinances, prior to the time the Common Council acts on the Committee's Report, a roll call vote will be taken to confirm that all members present and voting have read the Committee's Report and any objections that have been filed by the Licensee.

These matters have been scheduled for a hearing before the full Common Council at its meeting on Wednesday, November 5th, 2003 at 9:00 A.M. in the Common Council Chambers.

Respectfully,

James A. Bohl, Jr., Chair  
Utilities & Licenses Committee

cc: City Attorney's Office  
Common Council/City Clerk - License Division  
Milwaukee Police Department- License Investigation Unit  
All Council Members  
File No. 030591



**JAMES A. BOHL JR.**  
Alderman, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Date: October 22, 2003

To: All Members of the Milwaukee Common Council

From: The Utilities and Licenses Committee

Re: Report of the Renewal Application of Saprina Johnson for a Class "B" Tavern license for the premises located at 2979 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street in the City and County of Milwaukee, Wisconsin ("Champ's Clubhouse").

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Saprina Johnson (hereinafter the "Licensee") holds a Class "B" tavern license for the premises at 2979 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street in the City and County of Milwaukee, Wisconsin ("Champ's Clubhouse"). Said license expires at midnight, November 25, 2003.
2. An application to renew said license was filed with the Office of the City Clerk on August 27, 2003.
3. Pursuant to Chapter 90 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances and Chapter 125 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the matter was referred to the Milwaukee Police Department for investigation. There was a Milwaukee Police Department report dated August 26, 2003, which could form the basis for non-renewal or suspension of the license. There were also neighborhood objections to loud music and noisy patrons and conduct detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood.
4. On October 7, 2003, the City Clerk's Office provided timely notice to the Licensee, pursuant to Chapter 90 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances and Chapter 125 of the Wisconsin Statutes of a police report that could form the basis for suspension or non-renewal of the license of the licensee and the neighborhood objections. The matter was scheduled for a hearing on the police report and neighborhood objections on October 21, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 301B of the third floor of City Hall. At said date, time and place, the licensee appeared and was not represented by counsel.
5. The committee first recommended renewal of this license on a vote of three to

one. Later, the committee reconsidered its action and recommended renewal of this license with a 20-day suspension.

6. Based upon the sworn testimony heard and the evidence received at the hearing, the Committee finds the following:

A. On March 23, 2003, at 5:50 p.m., detectives assigned to the Vice Control Division of the Milwaukee Police Department investigated a complaint of illegal gambling occurring inside the licensed premises at 2979 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street in the City and County of Milwaukee, Wisconsin ("Champ's Clubhouse"). Upon entering the premises, officers observed six males gathered around a pool table engaged in gambling by playing "craps." Each of the individuals gathered around the table had money on the table and one subject was rolling two dice. There were four additional spectators to the game. The Milwaukee police officers also observed two video gambling machines that were set up for use and in operation in a public area of the licensed premises. The officers announced their presence and asked to speak to the tavern owner. All subjects who were gambling immediately scrambled to collect their money off the pool table. One of the spectators stated he was the owner and identified himself as Willie J. Johnson, born July 28, 1944. Mr. Johnson was asked for the tavern license. It was not conspicuously posted. Mr. Johnson conducted a search of the premises and his vehicle parked outside the licensed premises. After conducting that search, he indicated to officers he was unable to find the license. Mr. Johnson stated that his daughter, Saprina Johnson, born September 26, 1977, is the licensee of the premises and speculated that she had the license. Mr. Johnson also informed Milwaukee police officers that he is leasing to own the building and property from an entity known as Wisconsin Novelty Company. Wisconsin Novelty Company owns, services and collects the money from the video gambling machines in the tavern.

Mr. Johnson accompanied the officers who conducted the search of the licensed premises. In the basement the officers found numerous building deficiencies including a broken water pipe, water cascading onto the floor, inoperable central heating system, questionable plumbing, electrical systems and problems with structural integrity of the building. On the first floor there was a large floor heater standing behind the bar. There was no chimney or vent attachment to it although it was designed to use one. The exhaust was being discharged directly into the building. Mr. Johnson told officers that the water line broke on March 21, 2003 and that he was going to have it fixed on March 24, 2003.

The officers also found two larger aluminum serving pans full of BBQ chicken and beef ribs, behind the bar. Numerous small paper cards

offering ribs and chicken for a \$6.00 donation were found nearby. Mr. Johnson stated that neither he nor his daughter had a license to serve food on the licensed premises.

The officers examined the gambling machines and found that each was a game of chance requiring consideration (each machine was equipped with an acceptor for U.S. currency in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10, and \$20). A reward for playing with redeemable credits all of which were characteristic of a gambling machine was attached. All four machines had variable credit "Pay out" or "odds" schedules and the "payout" percentage on the machines was set at 55%. Each machine had a memory circuit that recorded the number of credits, and circuitry for expunging accumulated credits. Each machine had a concealed switch to activate that function. Each machine board also had circuitry and connections for the addition of a "hopper" that dispensed coins or tokens directly from the machine, as well as other functions exclusive to a gambling machine. A total of \$27.25 was recovered from inside the machines. The machines were seized and placed on Milwaukee Police Department inventory. Saprina Johnson was issued one citation for permitting gambling, two citations for display of license, and three citations for food license required. She was found guilty on the permitting of gambling and the food license required. The display of license citation was dismissed. Ms. Johnson was fined \$200.00 on the citation for permitting gambling and received a suspended sentence on the citations for food license required.

- B. On August 3, 2003, at 1:30 a.m. the Milwaukee Police Department was dispatched to meet a supervisor regarding a tavern violation at the licensed premises at 2979 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street in the City and County of Milwaukee, Wisconsin ("Champ's Clubhouse"). Upon arrival, the licensee, Saprina Johnson, was on the scene and given a warning for the violation for door open after hours. A citation was issued and was pending at the time of this matter.
- C. No neighbors appeared in opposition to the renewal of this license.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Committee has jurisdiction to hold hearings and provided Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and a Recommendation to the full Common Council pursuant to Chapter 125 of the Wisconsin Statutes and Chapter 90 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances.
2. Based upon the above facts found, the Committee concludes that the licensee,

Saprina Johnson, for the licensed premises at 2979 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street ("Champ's Clubhouse") has not met the criteria of Chapter 90 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances to allow renewal of her Class "B" Tavern license without undergoing a twenty (20) day suspension. The Committee finds the police report to be true.

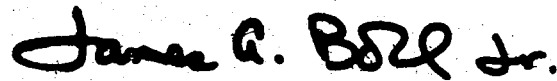
3. In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Milwaukee, it is the recommendation of the Utilities and Licenses Committee that the full Common Council of the City of Milwaukee should exercise its judgment to renew the Class "B" Tavern license of Saprina Johnson for this premises with a twenty (20) day suspension.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law stated above, the Committee, by a vote of four (4) ayes and zero (0) noes recommends that the Class "B" Tavern license held by Saprina Johnson be renewed with a twenty (20) day suspension.

Said suspension is to be in effect from midnight, November 25, 2003 through midnight, December 15, 2003.

Dated and signed at Milwaukee, Wisconsin this 22nd day of October, 2003.



JAMES A. BOHL, Jr.  
Chair, Utilities and Licenses Committee

73901



Office of the City Clerk

**Ronald D. Leonhardt**  
City Clerk

[www.milwaukee.gov](http://www.milwaukee.gov)

October 23, 2003

**Carolyn Hill Robertson**  
Deputy City Clerk

Saprina Johnson  
4919 West Medford Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53216

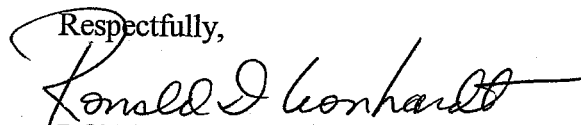
Dear Ms. Johnson:

You are hereby notified that the Milwaukee Common Council will hold a hearing on November 5, 2003 commencing at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this matter may be heard, in the Common Council Chambers on the third floor of City Hall, 200 East Wells Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202 to consider your renewal application for your Class "B" Tavern license for the premise located at 2979 North 8<sup>th</sup> St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin ("Champ's Clubhouse").

Attached you will find a copy of the Report of the Utilities and Licenses Committee which includes their Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommendation, recommending renewal of your license with a twenty (20) day suspension of the Class "B" Tavern license. The recommendation is the result of a public hearing before the Committee held on October 21, 2003.

You may file a written objection to the Report of the Utilities and Licenses Committee and shall have the opportunity to present arguments in writing supporting that objection to the Common Council. Any written objections to the Committee's Report must be filed with the City Clerk at least two (2) days prior to the above-mentioned date set for hearing by the Common Council. You or a legal representative may also appear at the Common Council meeting and request an opportunity to address the Common Council for approximately five (5) minutes to present an oral argument on your own behalf.

Respectfully,

  
RONALD D. LEONHARDT  
City Clerk

Enclosure  
73903