



**JAMES A. BOHL JR.**  
Alderman, 5th District

June 27, 2008

To the Honorable, the Common Council

Dear Members:

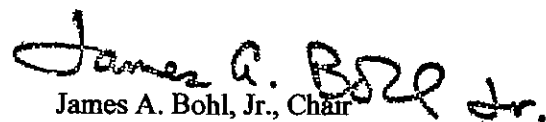
Re: Common Council Files 080005

Attached are written objections to:

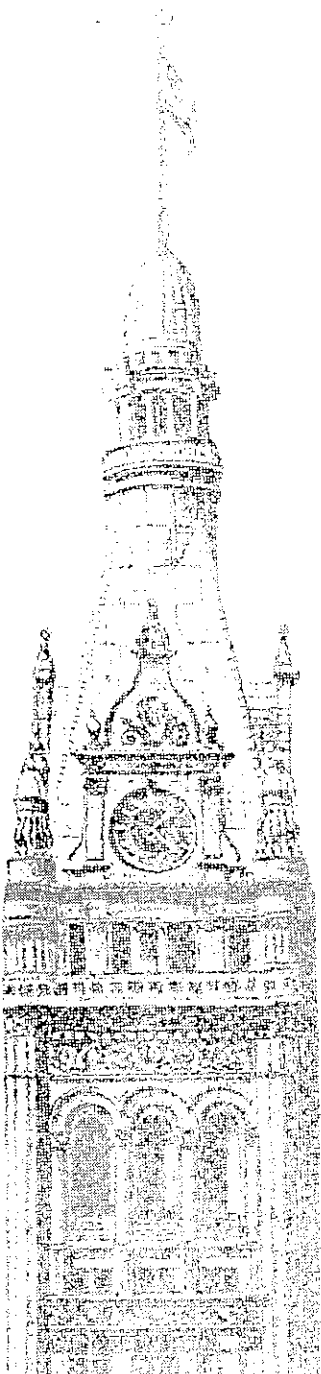
Renewal, with a 90-day suspension and the inclusion of a new plan of operation based on the police report and neighborhood objections, of the Class "B" Tavern license of Steve Conzoner, Agent for "Steve-O's of Milwaukee, Inc." for the premises at 9012 W. Silver Spring Dr. ("Steve-O's Bar & Grill") in the 2nd aldermanic district.

This matter will be heard by the full Council at its July 1, 2008 meeting. Pursuant to City Ordinances, a roll call vote will be taken to confirm that all members have read the attached objections.

Respectfully,

  
James A. Bohl, Jr., Chair  
Licenses Committee

cc: All Council Members  
City Attorney's Office  
Common Council/City Clerk – License Division  
CCF 080005



LAW OFFICES OF  
KOPP & ARENA, S.C.  
1110 North Old World Third Street  
riverfront plaza, suite 515  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53203

MICHAEL H. KOPP  
ANDREW P. ARENA

(414) 645-6100  
FAX (414) 645-3500

June 26, 2008

The Honorable Common Council  
of the City of Milwaukee  
City Hall  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Ronald D. Leonhardt, City Clerk  
Room 205  
City Hall  
200 East Wells St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: Renewal of Class "B" Tavern License  
"Steve-O's Bar and Grill"  
9012 West Silver Spring  
Milwaukee, WI 53207  
Steven C. Conzoner, Licensee

CITY OF MILWAUKEE  
08 JUN 26 PM 4:20  
RONALD D. LEONHARDT  
CITY CLERK

Honorable Members of the Common Council:

This office has been retained by Steven C. Conzoner to represent his interests regarding the license renewal for "Steve-O's Bar and Grill". Pursuant to Section 90-12-5-c-2 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances, Steven C. Conzoner does respectfully file these written objections to the June 17, 2008 Utilities and Licensing Committee findings of fact and Conclusions of Law mailed to the licensee and received on June 23, 2008 for your consideration at the Common Council Meeting of July 1, 2008 at which time the Committee's recommendation will be decided.

The Committee's report is based upon a): a police department report that was submitted to the committee for a meeting on May 28, 2008 and the hearing held on June 17, 2008 and b): Neighborhood objections to the renewal of the license based on loitering, and noise, and conduct which is detrimental to the health safety and welfare of the neighborhood. At the first committee meeting there were a few neighbors that testified. One neighbor that lived 6 houses away complained about noise and claimed that she could not use a sun porch on her house because of the noise. One block away there is another tavern called Magnolia's which was the location of a homicide and a place that had a high amount of traffic and a larger capacity than Steve-O's. In the summer of 2007 it was undisputed by the parties or the committee that two other places in the area closed which caused a deluge of business that consisted of patrons that were undesirable and capable of being dis-respectful of neighbors due to their behavior being the cause of the closing of "Side Pockets" and "Allstars."

The Licensee has been the owner and in business at the location for 25 years. In that time

the license has never been suspended. Since the year 1999 the Police report indicates that there were minimal incidents that occurred. The Common Counsel continually renewed the license. In the 2007 period the first instance on January 18, 2007 people were arguing outside and the Police were called at the request of one of the parties. The report states that they were called for a robbery but the report does not establish that anybody was struck, battered, injured or killed and the licensee submits that there were no arrests and no actual crimes were substantiated.

Over three months later on April 13, 2007 there was a fight in the parking lot. The Police were called to an event that occurred when the business was closed. The Licensee has submitted a written plan that is attached hereto as exhibit A, and incorporated by reference as though fully stated herein and enumerates several strategies to manage and end this behavior. The Licensee has spent over \$6,000.00 on state of the art video surveillance that digitally records all parking lots and buildings in the area. The Licensee intends to limit capacity to less than legally allowed, hire increased security and have them posted in the parking lot. The Licensee will also add signs that indicate the need to be quiet and that all parties are on video. Also helpful is a identification verification device that will record names and addresses of all patrons that enter, which will give a permanent record that will be available to investigate any one that may commit a crime. This equipment will be successful in deterring patrons of a questionable nature.

On June 22, 2007 there was a fight that required the police to be summoned. Men and women were involved. The Police did not observe any parties that were injured or any person that wanted to file a complaint. This incident did not involve a shooting or event that caused great bodily harm. This situation could be avoided with more security and other strategies as enumerated in exhibit A. On July 23, 2007 a person was robbed but it was not established that the person that committed the crime was a patron of Steve-O's. This was a robbery or mugging that could have occurred in any location in the City of Milwaukee and demonstrates that the location is not responsible for an outside party committing a crime outside. This incident should not be considered in deciding whether or not to issue discipline to this license.

On October 6, 2007 there was a complaint of a fight and shots fired this incident occurred outside but was several months after previous incidents. Allegedly, a .22 caliber weapon was fired but it was not verified that shell casings were thrown down or fell out of a car, which would indicate that the casings were fired at a different location. There were no witnesses found that actually witnessed the event. Once again the plans stated in the plan would deter this activity and give peace to the neighborhood. On March 1, 2008 there were people arguing but once again there were no witnesses that saw a gun as was alleged. No person was shot and all indications are that the dispute was verbal.

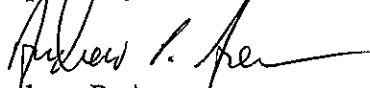
The Licensee, after the first hearing, expanded upon his plans to increase the security, video, and add additional signs, close early, and establish a smaller capacity. These plans were submitted to the neighbors who agreed to support the Licensee and allow him to stay in business, as they recognized that the Licensee was in the location for 25 years. The neighbors behind the parking lot were specifically presented the information in person at their homes. At the second hearing Alderman Davis presented hearsay statements and claims the people were against the location. This was not verified but in fact directly contradicted by eye witnesses that were at a neighborhood meeting on the topic of the License for Steve-O's. These witnesses testified under oath that the problems were

not accurate and that people at the meeting were in favor of the Licensee not being closed. One witness actually referred to the statements by Alderman Davis as lies. The Licensee did provide a written plan with specific items which are attached hereto. Many of these strategies have been employed and have been successful, and this was recognized by several neighbors who were satisfied with the plan. As for the testimony of the neighbors there was no specific dates, videos or any verification provided. They stated things happened regularly but they did not indicate that they called the Police. The Licensee submits that the 6 police calls from 2007 to March 1, 2008 are spread out and don't show any regular disruptive activity. The Licensee submits that only 6 are relevant because the robbery by an outside third party should not be used against him as it has nothing to do with the operation.

The Licensee submits that it is a denial of his due process rights and this honorable bodies duty to discipline licenses progressively. There are several examples of locations that have had homicides that were given 90 day suspensions. Magnolia's up the street is one such example. How can one location with a poor record and a homicide and the Licensee herein get the same length of suspension with any type of rational basis. The Licensee herein has been in business for 25 years and has never had a suspension before. He has responded by buying equipment and committing to a new plan. Certainly incidents have occurred and those incidents may warrant a suspension of 20 days or less. This would be a penalty that sends a strong message and allows the licensee to implement the plan. 90 days, however, is unduly harsh and will be a death blow to this business, which has to fragile of a financial life. Other than some fist fights there was one injury with a knife in 2006. No people were shot or murdered following that time. As for the noise and patron problems, this will stop by closing early and sticking to the written plan.

In conclusion the Licensee is requesting that the 90 days be reduced upon a properly brought motion.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrew P. Arena  
Attorney at Law

**PLAN OF OPERATION FOR STEVE'S  
9012 W. SILVER SPRING DR.**

The following plan of operation was started in December 2007 in response to issues that occurred in the Summer of 2007. The steps that are outlined herein are intended to create patron safety and neighborhood peace and harmony. Items were purchased by obtaining a loan, which was the cause of the December inception.

1. First issue to address is managing the type of customer and deterring disruptive behavior inside and outside in the parking areas.

Equipment purchased and currently in use is as follows:

Security cameras that provide high quality images of entire parking lot in the back and front as well as the interior the cost was \$6,000.00.

Halogen lights in the rear of the building to deter activity after closing and help enhance video taping.

A metal detector for security to wand all individuals entering.

A new Identification verification system that allows all i.d.'s to be swiped for verification of age and validity and to keep a permanent record of the people that entered.

Add additional security personnel on busy times and on Friday and Saturday nights from 11:00 p.m. until closing time.

Strictly enforce an entry age of 25 years old and up seven days per week.

Continue to lock out all forms of Hip Hop, Rap, and Heavy Metal Music on the Juke Box and any other song that has violent messages. Allowing Pop, and Top 40 music, blues, Jazz and Retro music.

**Close entry to new patrons 30 minutes prior to closing time which shall be reduced to an earlier than legal closing time on Friday's and Saturday's.**

**Limit capacity to 60 patrons (legal capacity is 150) which is the number of seats and instruct security to allow a line to form. Once 60 is reached entry will be closed and new patrons will be turned away.**

Post new signs that will warn patrons that they will be barred entry for life if they

Exhibit A

engage in any disruptive behavior in the establishment or in the parking lot.

Owner will be present during nearly all open hours and will be available to accept any complaints from neighbors or patrons.

2. Second issue it to ensure that customers leave quietly and act respectful to the neighbors when they leave the tavern.

Additional security will be added and one of those security will be posted at the rear entrance to prevent cars from entering the lot at closing time. Personnel will also walk through the lot and make sure people are quiet and leave. This personnel will also identify people that need to be barred for life through video and personnel viewing.

Add signs to entry and exits informing all patrons that everything they do outside is on digital video and any bad behavior will cause the patron to be barred and illegal behavior will be forwarded to the Police Department. As well as requesting the patrons to be quiet.

Be responsive to neighborhood complaints and the owner, Steve, will be present and in charge of all security operations.