

## **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **CHAIR**

- Licenses Committee

### **VICE CHAIR**

- Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development



**MILELE A. COGGS**  
ALDERWOMAN, 6TH DISTRICT

### **MEMBER**

- Finance and Personnel Committee
- Library Board
- Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation Board
- Special Joint Committee on the Redevelopment of Abandoned and Foreclosed Homes
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Wisconsin Center District Board

February 25, 2022

To the Honorable, the Common Council

Dear Members:

Re: Common Council File Number 211636

Attached are written objections to file number 211636, Motion relating to the recommendations of the Licenses Committee relative to licenses, relating to a recommendation of:

Nonrenewal based on the police report, neighborhood and aldermanic testimony of the Class B Tavern, Food Dealer and Public Entertainment Premises licenses for Jeffrey L Jones for the premises located at 4610 W Fond Du Lac Av ("Mr. J's Lounge") in the 7th aldermanic district.

These matters will be heard by the full Council at its Tuesday, March 1, 2022 meeting. Pursuant to City Ordinances, a roll call vote will be taken to confirm that all members have read the attached statement and materials.

Respectfully,

Milele Coggs, Chair  
Licenses Committee

cc: All Council Members  
City Attorney's Office  
Common Council/City Clerk – License Division  
CCF 211636





# BOBOT LAW OFFICE

VINCENT J BOBOT

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February 23, 2022

Jim Owczarski  
Milwaukee Common Council  
City Hall, Room 205  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: Jones, Jeffrey L, Agent  
JL Jones LLC  
4610 W. Fond Du Lac Ave. #F  
Milwaukee, WI 53216

Dear City Clerk Owczarski,

I, along with Attorney Michael Maistelman, have been retained to represent JL Jones LLC regarding the Licenses Committee's recommendation to not renew the Class B Tavern, Food Dealer and Public Premises licenses for Mr. J's Lounge located at 4610 W. Fond Du Lac Avenue. Attorney Maistelman has already filed a written objection to you concerning that recommendation. This letter should then serve as an additional written objection to that recommendation.

In examining the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law dated February 7, 2022 by Alderperson Milele A. Coggs, Chairman of the Licenses Committee, it appears that many of the incidents cited in the Committee Meeting Notice, the Licensee and Mr. J's bear little, if any, culpability to the events that took place or occurred on or about the licensed premises.

There was a total of nine (9) instances contained in the Committee Meeting Notice that were summarized in the Findings of Fact from the police reports. Those instances were labeled as item(s) A thru I.

**Item A** is a noise complaint from April 23, 2021 at 10:57p.m. Police investigators revealed there was no violation at the premises.

**Item B** is a report of a shooting complaint that occurred on June 27, 2021 at 1:36 a.m. An unarmed security guard from Mr. J's was shot while patrolling the neighborhood on West Hoyt Place. There is absolutely no evidence that Mr. J's or the security guard did anything wrong. In fact, Mr. J's employed a security guard to ensure that patrons of the establishment did not disrupt the neighborhood.

**Item C.** Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Mr. J's on July 15, 2021 at 8:44 p.m. for a subject with a gun complaint. Investigation revealed that a subject entered the premises with a rifle. One round was discharged from the firearm striking a window. Mr. J's security tackled the subject and detained him until the police arrived. Mr. J's was cooperative with the police investigation. In this incident, Mr. J's did not do anything wrong. In fact, Mr. J's security acted responsibly in handling this matter.

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524 EAST LAYTON AVENUE  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53207

PHONE 414.430.1249  
FAX 414.282.9522  
E-MAIL vbobot@aol.com



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**Item D.** On July 16, 2021 at 5:15a.m., two subjects walked into the Seventh District Police Station and reported they were robbed at 4513 West Leon Terrace after they left Mr. J's. There is nothing reported in this incident that Mr. J's was involved in any wrongdoing.

**Item E.** On July 19, 2021 at 5:31p.m. a subject reported that his vehicle was broken into on July 18, 2021 while parked at 4401 W. Leon Terrace. The subject was a patron of Mr. J's. There is absolutely no evidence that Mr. J's was responsible for this auto break-in other than the victim was a patron of the business.

**Item F.** On July 21, 2021 at 7:45p.m. a subject entered the Seventh District Police Station to report that his friend's auto was broken into while parked in the lot at 4610 West Fond Du Lac Avenue. Again, there is absolutely no evidence that Mr. J's was responsible for that auto break-in.

**Item G.** On August 8, 2021 at 12:45a.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Mr. J's for a shooting complaint. Police investigators revealed that there was no shooting. In fact, it was merely a boyfriend/girlfriend trouble involving no accusations of criminal behavior.

**Item H.** On August 15, 2021 at 12:55a.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Mr. J's for a shooting complaint. Surveillance footage revealed that a "patron" left Mr. J's and walked up to a group of men standing on the sidewalk. The patron then punched one of the men in the face. The patron is then shot by one of the men resulting in his death. This incident was a tragedy. That being said, Mr. J's remains committed to providing a safe environment for its patrons and the neighborhood. Mr. J's will continue to police its establishment and numerous cameras have been installed both on the outside and inside of the premises to facilitate a safer environment for patrons and the neighborhood.

**Item I.** On November 19, 2021 at 10:58p.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Mr. J's for a noise complaint. The Licensee was on the scene, turned down the music, and the caller was satisfied.

As noted and with supporting testimony from a citizen witness namely, Phelon Thadison, a retired police officer and patron, that violence is an epidemic plaguing our community Mr. Thadison testified that Mr. J's caters to a 30+ crowd and management does everything to "deescalate situations". Mr. Thadison then voiced his opinion that closing Mr. J's would be wrong.

Since the Licenses Committee's recommendation for non-renewal of Mr. J's licenses became public, a local radio station was bombarded by people expressing their outrage. Additionally, Mr. J's circulated a "Sign Our Petition – Keep Mr. J's Open" request on the internet. By signing said petition, the signer certified that they were a patron of age to enter Mr. J's, which is 30 years of age and older. Attached are copies of petition containing 536 signatories from people wanting Mr. J's to remain open. Also, some of the people added comments to their willingness to sign the petition wanting Mr. J's to stay in business.

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During the hearing, Alderman Jose Perez wanted to hear more "historical context". Alderman Perez believed that there were no changes in the amended plan of operations submitted on behalf of Mr. J's by Attorney Michael Maistelman to the License Division. However, the Licensee testified that he has reduced the capacity of Mr. J's from 350 to 99. That represents a significant change in the operation of Mr. J's. By reducing the capacity, Mr. J's span of control over the business is enhanced by leaps and bounds.

Alderman Perez then testified that a homicide happened inside Mr. J's on the last cycle and another homicide happened this year outside the premises. Alderman Perez made the motion for non-renewal of Mr. J's licenses and also voted to recommend non-renewal to the full council. Alderman Perez should have recused himself from making a motion and then voting to recommend non-renewal of Mr. J's licenses because a relative of his was the victim in the homicide that occurred in the last licensing cycle.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent J. Bobot  
Attorney at Law  
State Bar No. 1020732