

In re the Tavern License of:

CLUB ESCAPE  
6263 North Teutonia Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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**SWORN CHARGES BY CHIEF OF POLICE FOR REVOCATION OF LICENSE**

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Pursuant to Section 90-12 Milwaukee Code of Ordinances, Acting Chief of Police Dale Schunk, by Lieutenant Alan Johnson, Acting Commander of Police District Four, being first duly sworn and upon his oath, respectfully charges the following based upon review of official Milwaukee Police Department investigative reports and communication with police and city officials.

1. That Thomas J. McNeal ("Licensee") is the holder of a Class "B" Tavern license for the premises known as Club Escape, located at 6263 North Teutonia, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Upon information and belief, this premises has a posted operating capacity of 500 persons.

2. That Club Escape is the scene of chronic dangerous and violent activity such as shootings, shots fired, felony recklessly endangering safety and battery by patrons, former patrons and staff. The chronic dangerous and violent activity at the premises has previously led, in part, to the suspension of Class "B" Tavern license of Club Escape by the Common Council for 35 days in 2007 and 15 days in 2006.

3. That according to Milwaukee Police Department Major Incident Report dated 11/26/2007, on November 26, 2007, prior to 1:51 a.m., two patrons of the licensed premises

were removed by security staff. These individuals went to their automobile parked in the adjacent lot, the passenger retrieved a handgun and fired once into the air. Both entered the vehicle and began to drive away. Armed security guards fired upon the car, apparently in response to an additional display or threat by the occupants of the car. Security gunfire killed the driver and wounded the passenger.

4. That according to Milwaukee Police Department Incident Report 073300016, on November 26, 2007, at approximately 12:00 a.m., several patrons engaged in a melee inside Club Escape. Security broke up the fight and ejected several participants. One participant received a large gash, requiring stitches, on her forehead. Another fight participant was later shot at by the other fight participants while driving his vehicle home after leaving the premises; the gunfire causing damage to the rear window and driver seat headrest.

5. That according to Milwaukee Police Department Licensed Premises Report dated 10-22-2007, multiple Milwaukee Police squads were dispatched to the premises to monitor the tavern traffic. At approximately 11:30 p.m., officers observed hundreds of vehicles parked on the surrounding streets. Six cars were towed and a firearm recovered in the premises' parking lot. Later that evening, at approximately 2:00 a.m., as patrons began to leave at bar closing, more than six distinct fights broke out, requiring in excess of seven squads to maintain control. Seven individuals were taken into custody. During the investigation regarding the situation, the licensee declined to speak with the investigating officer

6. That according to Milwaukee Police Department Licensed Premises Report dated 08-19-2007, Milwaukee Police officers assigned to the Neighborhood Safety Initiative (NSI) were dispatched to Club Escape to assist other officers. Upon arrival, these officers made contact with a security guard that was assaulted by a patron leaving the premises. The patron was cited for Assault and Battery after admitting that he struck the guard for "sticking his fingers in his face."

7. That according to Milwaukee Police Department Licensed Premises Report dated 06-25-2007, two individuals drove to the entrance of the premises and opened fire with a 7.62mm assault rifle. A security officer was wounded in the shoulder. Thirty-nine empty cartridges were later found near the suspect's vehicle, abandoned at the rear of the premises. Subsequent investigation revealed that earlier that night, security guards restrained a male patron after he broke a bottle of champagne over the head of a female patron and cut her friend's face with the jagged edge. After the suspect was restrained by security, he allegedly contacted associates and requested that they shoot the premises up.

8. That Milwaukee Police Department Licensed Premises and/or Incident Reports document the following multiple instances of dangerous and violent activity involving this premises: Shootings on 11/26/2007, 06/25/2007 and 11/14/2004; Fights on 06/18/2007, 01/01/2007, 09/30/2006, 04/10/2006, 02/19/2005, 02/19/2005, 11/28/2004, 11/06/2004, 11/04/2004, 10/31/2004 and 10/14/2004; Subjects with a gun on 02/09/2007 and 09/30/2006; Police seizure of a loaded abandoned gun on 10/22/2007; and, The use of force and chemical spray by security guards on 06/18/2007, 01/01/2007, 11/04/2006, 10/30/2006, 09/25/2006, 01/22/2005 and 11/06/2004.

9. That the above-described conduct on the licensed premises has a substantial adverse effect upon the health, safety, convenience and prosperity of the immediate neighborhood. Therefore, the Acting Chief of Police, by his designee, respectfully requests that the Class "B" Tavern License of Thomas J. McNeal for the premises known as Club Escape, located at 6263 North Teutonia, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, be immediately revoked.

Signed and dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin this 28 day of November, 2007.

Alan Johnson  
Lieutenant Alan Johnson  
Acting Commander  
Milwaukee Police District Four

The foregoing complaint seeking revocation of the Class "B" Tavern license was subscribed and sworn to before me this 28 day of November, 2007.

Dwayne S. Pratchett  
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin  
My Commission expires: 12-01-09

