



JOCASTA ZAMARRIPA
ALDERWOMAN, 8TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

- Licenses Committee

VICE-CHAIR

- Community and Economic Development Committee

MEMBER

- Steering and Rules Committee
- Zoning, Neighborhoods, and Development Committee

May 17, 2024

To the Honorable, the Common Council

Honorable Members:

Re: Common Council File Number 231930

Attached are written objections to file number 231930 of the Licenses Committee relative to licenses:

Renewal with a 15 day suspension of the Extended Hours Establishment license for Mukesh S. Dharod, based upon the preponderance of the evidence on the police report, aldermanic and applicant testimony that demonstrates the operation results in a threat to health, safety or welfare of the public for the disturbing after hours incidents involving weapons, fights, lack of a reliable security company and poor management and to give time to the new security to present results; for the premises located at 3801 S 27th St (“Denny's #8092”) in the 13th aldermanic district.

This matter will be heard by the full Council at its Tuesday, May 21, 2024 meeting. Pursuant to City Ordinances, a roll call vote will be taken to confirm that all members have read the attached statement and materials.

Sincerely,

JoCasta Zamarripa
Alderwoman, 8th District

cc: All Council Members
City Attorney's Office
Common Council/City Clerk – License Division
CCF 231930



Gimbel • Reilly • Guerin • Brown

LLP

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May 15, 2024

Common Council Members
City of Milwaukee
Milwaukee City Hall
200 East Wells Street, Room 205
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Re: Denny's Restaurant / 3801 South 27th Street, Milwaukee

Dear Council Members:

We represent Mr. Mukesh Dharod, agent for The Road, Inc., which operates the Denny's restaurant located at 3801 South 27th Street. This letter serves as our objection to the Licenses Committee's recommendation of a 15-day suspension of the establishment's extended hours license.

The Licenses Committee report indicates 18 police contacts during the license period. Of those 18 police contacts, nine concern instances where the establishment itself was the victim of a crime, six of those contacts concern calls regarding individuals in need of assistance, and one proved to be unfounded. One additional incident concerns the failure of a former manager to properly follow protocols for closing. A final incident concerns a fight between two groups of patrons, and the establishment was immediately cooperative with law enforcement and provided footage of the incident. It is unclear whether the establishment could have prevented most of these incidents, regardless of their efforts, given the nature of what is found in the police report. The establishment should be encouraged to report criminal activity or summon help when a patron appears to be in distress, not disincentivized by the possibility that it could adversely affect their ability to remain operational.

While the establishment is limited in its ability to predict and prevent some incidents, it has the power to address issues with employees and issues with patron violence, and this establishment has exercised that power in both regards. The manager who failed to follow protocol subsequently quit after becoming aware of an internal review of her performance. In response, the establishment hired new management in July of 2023. This change was intended to address, and has shown itself to successfully address, the types of employee issues listed in the Findings of Fact and the structural deficiencies that fostered them. Simply put, the workforce lacked accountable, committed leadership and that void has now been filled.

The establishment has further contracted with Wisconsin Public Safety Agency, LLC, a large, licensed and bonded armed security company. Security is now present overnight from Thursday into Friday, Friday into Saturday, and Saturday into Sunday. The new security company currently engaged also provides back-up and adequate staffing, eliminating a previous issue where security personnel

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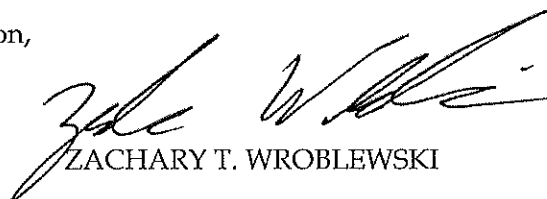
neglected to report for duty on their assigned days. Since the new company was hired in April, there have been no additional incidents concerning firearms or violence at the establishment. This is understandable given the strong, proactive steps the establishment has taken to discourage additional disruptions and ensure the safety of their patrons. Additionally, the establishment is undergoing a security system upgrade to complement and improve on the 14 security cameras already in use.

When all of this is considered, it illustrates the efforts of the establishment to be an asset rather than a burden to the community. The establishment recognizes that lapses occurred and a need existed to take concrete action to remedy shortfalls. The establishment has now done so, with promising results.

While the suspension concerns only the extended hours aspect of the establishment's licenses, it is key to note the importance of this license. Denny's strives to provide patrons, at whatever time of day, with a clean and secure place to enjoy a meal. Denny's is one of very few such establishments open in the early morning hours that does not serve alcohol. While they certainly serve a post-night out crowd, they also fill a gap for night shift workers, travelers, and service industry workers by providing a place to eat, rest, and recharge after a long day. Even for 15 days, it would present unnecessary disruption and inconvenience to individuals with very few late night options of this variety.

We ask that the Council consider either renewal with a warning letter or, if a suspension is considered necessary, that a 10 suspension be considered. The establishment and Mr. Dharod have demonstrated their willingness and commitment to improvements and positive change and it is our hope that the Council will recognize those efforts when making its decision.

Thank you for your consideration,



ZACHARY T. WROBLEWSKI