

Liquor License Review Board

June 6, 2014
City Hall – City Council Chambers
401 Independence Street
2:30 p.m.

Present: Lori Meyer, Human Resources Manager, Chief Review Officer
Steve Cook, Assistant Public Works Director
Charles “Speedy” Wagoner

City Staff Present: Lt. Barry Hovis, Police Department

Others Present: Scott Blank, Bi-State Oil Co., d/b/a Southern Convenience Store

Call to Order

Ms. Lori Meyer called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Introduction and Opening Comments

Ms. Meyer introduced the Board and explained the rules of order for addressing the Board.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Mr. Wagoner, seconded by Mr. Cook, to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2013, meeting.

Motion approved. 3-0. Aye, Cook, Meyer, Wagoner. Nays, none.

COMMENTS, DISCUSSION & VOTING

Review of appeal of recommended suspension of Bi-State Oil Company, d/b/a Southern Convenience Stores, 612 S. Sprigg Street

- a. Ms. Meyer called for Public Comment from the floor. Seeing none;
- b. Ms. Meyer called for Applicant Comment.

Mr. Scott Blank, owner of Bi-State Oil Company and operator of Southern Convenience Store, addressed the Board. He reviewed at length the actions taken by his business and the employee education that has taken place since the previous violation to insure compliance with liquor laws. Changes included implementing BARS Program for self-regulation and self-compliance checks for selling alcohol to minors, starting We Card program to card anyone who purchases tobacco or alcohol, providing quarterly training seminars of employees by the Cape Police Department, and starting an internal disciplinary program for employees who sell to minors. To verify the actions he has taken, he presented results of the Bars Program and the Bi-State Training Schedule for managers

and employees. Mr. Blank said he has met with Police Chief Blair and Officers Hickey and Couch to discuss what else he could do in his business to prevent underage sales. In addition, he is working with the Police Department to establish a Coffee with Cops program so citizens can talk to police officers about issues at their locations. September is National We Card Month, and he is creating an awareness month for all city retailers.

c. Ms. Meyer called for City Staff comments

Lt. Barry Hovis of the Cape Girardeau Police Department appeared and stated that all statements made by Mr. Blank were accurate. The reason for the 14 day suspension was for three violations that occurred in a short time period. Lt. Hovis stated that Mr. Blank has been a leader in staff training, that he has more things in place than most stores in the city, and Mr. Blank is doing everything he can to prevent this issue from reoccurring. Based upon this, he and Police Chief Wes Blair would be comfortable with whatever actions the board decides to take.

d. The Board reviewed and discussed information provided.

Mr. Wagoner questioned how citations are issued when there are violations for selling to minors. Lt. Hovis explained that a clerk who sells to a minor is issued a citation to appear in court. If the clerk is found guilty, he can get a fine or jail time. In addition, the licensee of that business is responsible for the activities of that business, and under State Statute the owner can be fined, suspended or revoked for actions at his store. In addition, the State of Missouri is no longer doing liquor control checks.

The Board commended Mr. Blank on his steps to ensure compliance but also felt the number of violations warranted action. A motion as made by Mr. Wagoner, seconded by Mr. Cook, to reduce the Liquor License Suspension of Bi-State Oil Company, d/b/a Southern Convenience Stores, 612 S. Sprigg, issued by the City Manager on April 1, 2014, from 14 days to 12 days, and that the suspension not extend over two weekends. Motion approved. 3-0. Aye, Cook, Meyer, Wagoner. Nays, none.

Adjourn

A Motion was made by Mr. Wagoner, seconded by Mr. Cook to adjourn. Motion approved. 3-0. Aye, Cook, Meyer, Wagoner. Nays, none. Meeting ended at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes taken by:
Gayle L. Conrad
Director of Citizen Services/City Clerk