



MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Klein, Chair, and Members of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board DATE: April 3, 2018

FROM: Erika McConnell, Director RE: 5447 Bethel Spirits

Requested Action: License renewal; hearing on objection; license transfer

Statutory Authority: AS 04.06.090(b): “The board shall review all applications for licenses made under this title and may order the director to issue, renew, revoke, transfer, or suspend licenses and permits authorized under this title.”

AS 04.11.470: “A person may object to an application for issuance, renewal, transfer of location, or transfer to another person of a license, or for issuance of a permit, by serving upon the applicant and the board the reasons for the objection. The board shall consider the objections and testimony received at a hearing conducted under AS 04.11.510(b)(2) when it considers the application..”

AS 04.11.510(b)(2): “the board may, on its own initiative or in response to an objection or protest, hold a hearing to ascertain the reaction of the public or a local governing body to an application if a hearing is not required under this subsection; the board shall send notice of a hearing conducted under this paragraph 20 days in advance of the hearing to each community council established within the municipality and to each nonprofit community organization entitled to notification under AS 04.11.310(b);”

AS 04.11.040(a): “A license issued under this title may not be transferred to another person except with the written consent of the board.”

Staff Rec.: Ascertain the reaction of the public to the license renewal and transfer at the public hearing

Background: This package store license in Bethel was first issued in June of 2016. An objection to the renewal of this license has been received from the Association of Village Council Presidents. The City of Bethel was notified of a complete application on December 1, 2017. AMCO did not receive

any communication from the City of Bethel regarding whether or not they were protesting the license renewal by the deadline of January 30, 2018 (AS 04.11.480(a)).

The licensee was found to have met minimum operating requirements in both 2016 and 2017.

An objection to the transfer of this license has been received from William Updegrove. The City of Bethel was notified of a complete transfer application on March 12, 2018.

Attachment: Objections

Raymond Watson, Chairperson
Vivian Korthuis, CEO
Phone: (907) 543-7300
Fax: (907) 543-3369
Web: www.avcp.org

AVCP

Association of Village Council Presidents
Administration
Pouch 219, Bethel, AK 99559

The Voice of the Region



January 17, 2018

Alcohol Beverage Control Board
550 W. 7th Ave, Ste 1600
Anchorage, AK 99501
alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov

Bethel Spirits
c/o Bethel Native Corporation
PO Box 719
Bethel, Alaska 99559

Re: Objection to License #5447

Dear members of the Alcohol Beverage Control Board:

The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the regional Native non-profit corporation for the fifty-six federally recognized Tribes of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. It is on behalf of our Tribes that we will object to all current and future alcohol license renewals in Bethel, Alaska.

The YK-Delta is in the midst of a public health and safety crisis. Chronic alcohol abuse and alcohol misuse disorders plague our region. Alcohol abuse is a major contributing factor to incidences of violent crime, domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse and neglect. Dry villages struggle to maintain law and order with a steady stream of bootlegging and illegal importation – made much simpler by the prevalence of Bethel alcohol sales. In our villages, tribal councils and courts struggle to find solutions to enforce their ordinances and provide for the safety of their members on shoestring or non-existent budgets. Village Public Safety Officers, Village Police Officers, and Tribal Police Officers continually receive calls for assistance – often responding without backup – where involved individuals are intoxicated. Residents in villages without a public safety presence are forced to deal with alcohol-related issues as best they can, banding together for support.

For these reasons, we object to the renewal of License #5447 (Bethel Spirits). Please contact us if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

Raymond Watson
Chairperson

Vivian Korthuis
CEO



Akiachak
Akiak
Alakanuk
Andreafsky
Aniak
Atmautluak
Bethel
Bill Moore's Sl.
Chefornak
Chevak
Chuathbaluk
Chuloonawick
Crooked Creek
Eek
Emmonak
Georgetown
Goodnews Bay
Hamilton
Hooper Bay
Lower Kalskag
Upper Kalskag
Kasigluk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kotlik
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Lime Village
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mtn. Village
Napaimiut
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunakayak
Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk
Ohogamiut
Oscarville
Paimiut
Pilot Station
Pitka's Point
Platinum
Quinhagak
Red Devil
Russian Mission
Scammon Bay
Sleetmute
St. Mary's
Stony River
Tuluksak
Tuntutuliak
Tununak
Umkumiut

William Updegrove
PO Box 1872
Bethel, Alaska 99559
February 14, 2018

Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office
Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
550 W 7th AVE, STE 1600
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Bethel Spirits LLC license transfer request

I write in opposition to the transfer of Bethel Spirits LLC liquor license to Caribou Traders Liquor.

The Bethel Native Corporation created the main impetus for the issuing of liquor licenses in the city of Bethel. They gained their license and they should maintain their license in their own name. The business model of beer and wine sales for one month a year in compliance with state liquor statutes may not be a success for Bethel Spirits, but it is a distinct advantage for the Bethel community.

The location of the Caribou Traders Liquor store right on the bank of the Kuskokwim River with its anticipated increase in hours and inventory poses a direct threat to the health and welfare of villages up and down the Kuskokwim River. These villages have voted for local options banning the sale, importation and possession of alcohol. The ABC board should not contribute to this threat to the health and welfare of the Bethel region.

Bethel Spirits LLC is the current license holder and they should be required to maintain their license or surrender it – not transfer it.

Sincerely,



William Updegrove

