

**From:** [Craig, Carrie D \(CED\)](#)  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to ABC Board re NOV AM20-1190 The Back Door Lounge  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021 8:49:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to ABC Board.pdf](#)

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For the Board mailbox.

Carrie Craig  
Records and Licensing Supervisor  
Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office  
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1600  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-269-0350

-----Original Message-----

From: Sara Erickson [<mailto:sbellep@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:46 PM  
To: Klinkhart, Glen Edward (CED) <[glen.klinkhart@alaska.gov](mailto:glen.klinkhart@alaska.gov)>  
Cc: Dana Walukiewicz <[dana\\_walukiewicz@hotmail.com](mailto:dana_walukiewicz@hotmail.com)>; Charlie Cross <[Cmcross132@gmail.com](mailto:Cmcross132@gmail.com)>; [jcforalaska@gmail.com](mailto:jcforalaska@gmail.com); Craig, Carrie D (CED) <[carrie.craig@alaska.gov](mailto:carrie.craig@alaska.gov)>; Walter, Melissa D (CED) <[melissa.walter@alaska.gov](mailto:melissa.walter@alaska.gov)>  
Subject: Letter to ABC Board re NOV AM20-1190 The Back Door Lounge

Hello -

Please see my attached letter. Im not sure when you will be discussing this NOV, but wanted to make sure you had my letter in the correspondence regarding the Back Door NOV. I don't have all the new boards email addresses but trusting you guys to pass it along. Frankly, Im surprised this penalty is being suggested especially with SB 9 just around the corner.

Anyway - hope you guys are all doing great!

Thank you -

Sara Erickson

Sara Erickson  
PO Box 1714  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
(907) 987-0435

**TO: ABC Board Members**  
Alcohol Marijuana Control Office  
550 W 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1600  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**RE: NOV AM20-1190**

Greetings from Soldotna Alaska, and Welcome to all the new ABC Board Members! It was a pleasure serving on the board these past 3 years although this last year of 2020 was quite remarkable with 13 meetings and 3 additional meetings already held in 2021! Hoping this year brings you far less stress and happier times for the State of Alaska.

Although it was trying at times, I am thankful for the opportunity to have learned so much about the alcohol industry and the positive economic impact it brings to Alaska. The responsibility which the ABC Board has is enormous. Really our mandate is to engage and work with the public, while balancing the public safety and helping the alcohol industry thrive in Alaska. I am honored to have been appointed by Governor Walker, and have done my best to fight for the public interests while serving on the board these past 3 years.

Which brings me to the reason for my letter. In February, and while still a member of the ABC Board, The Back Door in Kenai, AK, was issued a NOV for an event in December, 2020. Two underaged persons were in the bar while attending their closed employee party. One of the underaged employees had brought in his own alcohol to the party and was later ticketed by the local police for underaged drinking. Being located in a small community with small town gossip, the event was made known to me. I had expected the issue to come before the board while I was a member, but it never made its way through investigation before our last meeting.

The AMCO Director has recommended the Board impose a fine, plus a 2 week suspension of operations, as punishment for this fine. However, I would like to offer some clarification and history on the past practices and positions the Board has taken. Being the Public Member on the ABC Board, it is of course my desire to fight for the public's interests and, I think in this case, it is prudent for me to shed some light.

**First**, the Back Door Lounge was closed to the public on December 21<sup>st</sup> for an employee Christmas Party. The employees from Louie's Restaurant as well as the Back Door, both which are owned by the same owner, were invited to attend. The event was open to all their employees, even those that are under 21. There is no other banquet room or separate place for the employees to have this party at the Back Door, so the door was marked CLOSED FOR EMPLOYEE PARTY, and notice of the bar closure was also put out on social media. The bar was not open for regular service, although employees 21 and over were given 2 drink tickets if they wanted to get a drink. The unfortunate part was that one of the underage employees brought in his own alcohol without the managements knowledge, and then this fiasco ensued.



**Secondly**, this is the restaurant's first violation in over 15 years, and the last NOV was well before the current manager or staff. They operate a fantastic dining and bar service and are well loved by those on the Kenai. There is no history of misbehavior, no warnings issued, nothing to demonstrate this business has been operating in a questionable manner.

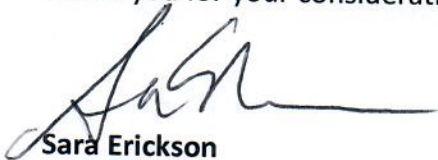
**Third**, during my time on the board, we have NEVER issued a penalty like the one being suggested by the Director. The ABC Board has always encouraged the Director to work with the public and possibly issue warnings - and even violations, but never was this type of harsh penalty imposed even by establishments that seemed infuriating by their lack of response and respect of the ABC Board. This suggested penalty is too harsh and unnecessary as this business is not a repeat offender, nor has a history of thumbing its nose at the law. It has an excellent reputation in the community, and also has an excellent relationship with the Kenai Police Department. This was certainly an unfortunate event and was dealt with by the local police.

**Finally**, the restaurant/bar industry has come off the worst year in hell due to COVID and has had mandatory shut downs for months. Yes, some were able to recoup some money through PPP loans, but many were forced to shut down completely. The Back Door is a business that has fought hard to stay open and desperately needs the support of all to stay operating. A two week operating suspension would cause them to lose a large amount in sales that is desperately needed. Even if they were shut down during the winter months it would cost them dearly, yet the cost and impact would double if the two week suspension were during the summer. As you know, the Kenai Peninsula is in practical hibernation and survival mode until the tourists start showing up in the summer. It is almost impossible for businesses to survive in Kenai as it is, due to the current economy in Alaska. With forced closures, it makes it nearly impossible.

To close, I just wanted to express my surprise and confusion as to the intent behind the penalty being suggested. It seems too high for what actually occurred. Yes, perhaps, the penalty follows the actual guidelines of what the current law says. **HOWEVER, SB 9, which is sponsored by Senator Peter Micciche, is now before the legislature which will reduce the penalties currently outlined.** So is this really the time to start throwing down the hammer before this bill passes and impose harsh penalties when we've come off such a crippling year?? I think not.

The fact is, the Back Door used the wrong room to host their employee party in and am certain this will never occur again. IF, in fact, something like this happens again, the Board could seriously consider a harsher penalty. But in this first time situation, such a penalty seems overboard.

Thank you for your consideration,



**Sara Erickson**

ABC Board Member

March 1 2019 – March 1, 2021

**From:** [Barbara George](#)  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Questions and concerns  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 11:07:28 AM

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Good morning,

I sent this email earlier today to AMCO and CHARR, to which CHARR referred this email to me for help on the matter stated in my previous email, and AMCO replied they will also begin an investigation. I thank you for your time in any help or advice you can provide.

Respectfully,

Ms. Barbara George

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Barbara George** <[bgeorge77007@gmail.com](mailto:bgeorge77007@gmail.com)>

Date: Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 9:28 AM

Subject: Questions and concerns

To: [amco.enforcement@alaska.gov](mailto:amco.enforcement@alaska.gov) <[amco.enforcement@alaska.gov](mailto:amco.enforcement@alaska.gov)>, [info@alaskacharr.com](mailto:info@alaskacharr.com) <[info@alaskacharr.com](mailto:info@alaskacharr.com)>

Good morning,

My name is Barbara George and I'm currently living in Tanana, Alaska. I'm writing to you today in hopes you can help me answer some questions to my concerns of an employee operating our Sand Bar Liquor Store here in Tanana.

To begin, our store is operated by our municipality, City of Tanana, and has adopted and passed a liquor store policy which mentions that an individual can end up on their store's "No-sell" list, and the process the individual must follow to be removed after a period of 30 days has passed. Family members who have a great concern for a family member who is abusing and over-consuming alcohol can request for the individual to be placed on the list.

My concern is that an employee, who also happens to be the Mayor, Ms. Dorothy Jordan chooses to break this policy and ignore it, even after being told she cannot do so, for multiple people, of whom who are placed on the list by family request and those that were threatening and verbally abusive towards the main store clerk (that she took the keys away from because this clerk refused to open after the license expired. Dorothy opened the store even after being told she couldn't).

My family requested to place a family member on the list because they have been drinking heavily to the point of passing out in the street in the middle of winter. They have almost died in the past even ending up in a coma for two months. So, our family takes this very hard to find that Dorothy chose on her own without any consideration to the families request and the City's policy to allow him to continue to buy. This was within the last two weeks she has taken the store over from the usual clerk who opens and refuses to allow the regular clerk to operate the store, I also am certified to work there though she has never asked me to help. We have brought this forward to the City Council and City Manager, but they choose not to do anything to stop Ms. Jordan from breaking this policy. I have a whole bunch of emails on record of my letters sent to the council to prove so. My family feels she is negligent in her actions and the fact she is selling to people daily who are in such rough condition already scares me that she holds such a position. I'm reaching out for help before someone gets seriously hurt or possibly dies because of her actions, or the City's non-action to remove her from operating the store. If you can provide any help or advice in this matter it will be greatly appreciated and I look forward to hearing from you soon. My number is (907) 366-1066,

should you need to reach me for anything. I can also forward the emails and letters for your review as well to further show what the situation is here. Thank you,

Respectfully,  
Barbara George

**From:** [AMCO Admin \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**To:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sales  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 4:14:35 PM

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**From:** J Bubna <jdbubna@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 2:40 PM  
**To:** AMCO Admin (CED sponsored) <amco.admin@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** Sales

I just went into Fred Meyers in Eagle River to purchase beer. I'm 62 years old. My ex Son in Law was also with me. He's a bald headed 43 year old. He didn't have id and I was refused to purchase beer. This is an idiot stupid regulation that is nothing more than some Bureaucrat thinking they are God. This is a stupid regulation that you are imposing on businesses.

Jeff Bubna, Chugiak, Alaska

**From:** [Elks Bookkeeper](#)  
**To:** [Alcohol Licensing, CED ABC \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Alcohol, CED AMCO \(CED sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Advisory for 2020 Waiver Applications  
**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 10:37:47 PM

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Thank you so much! I know last year we were notified in July so this is still a little early but would be good to know.

Dawn

On May 13, 2021, at 1:55 PM, Alcohol Licensing, CED ABC (CED sponsored) <[alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov)> wrote:

Good afternoon,

To my knowledge, the ABC Board has not discussed waiving the AB-29 fees for 2021 and I cannot speculate what they may decide, however this is definitely a topic I can bring up for discussion at the next meeting on June 22.

Thank you for bringing that to my attention!

*Carrie Craig*

Records and Licensing Supervisor  
Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1600  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-269-0350

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**From:** Elks Bookkeeper <[books1551@gci.net](mailto:books1551@gci.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 2:37 PM  
**To:** Alcohol Licensing, CED ABC (CED sponsored) <[alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Advisory for 2020 Waiver Applications

Hi Carrie,

I was wondering if the board is considering waiving the AB-29 fees again this year. We have not been comfortable reopening our banquet hall yet, due to the ongoing pandemic. However, if you don't think a waiver is likely again for this year we will make arrangements for opening.

Thank you,

Dawn Lighthall  
Antler Room  
Fairbanks Elks Lodge  
907-388-7669

On Jul 21, 2020, at 1:48 PM, Alcohol Licensing, CED  
ABC (CED sponsored) <[alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov)>  
wrote:

<image001.jpg>

Good afternoon,

Attached you will find an advisory regarding the ABC Board's  
approval of waiving the AB-29 fees for the year 2020.

Please email [alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov](mailto:alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov) with any questions or  
concerns.

Cheers!

*Carrie Craig*

Records and Licensing Supervisor  
Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1600  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-269-0350

<Advisory Waiver 7-21-2020.pdf>