

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 7TH DAY OF MARCH, 2024

The Caddo Parish Alcohol Beverage Committee met in legal session on the above date at 1:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Epperson, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Epperson, Lazarus, Thomas and J. Young (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Kracman (1).

Mr. Thomas gave the invocation, and Mr. Epperson led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk of Commission noted that the times were printed incorrectly on the letters sent to the defendants.

NEW BUSINESS

At this time, the Clerk of the Commission swore the deputies and representatives of the businesses in.

- The Derrick, 6780 Colquitt Road, Keithville, LA 71047
1st Offense (District 11)

Sgt. Mike King said that the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office conducted an underage alcohol sales operation on December 7, 2023. They were able to utilize a Caddo Parish Sheriff's Deputy who is under the age of 21. The deputy was able to purchase alcohol from the clerk, who was later identified as Patricia Finkley. The manager/owner, Sheila Ruffin-Pierce, agreed to this testimony and sent the following statement:

I am sending this email to let you know that we are not contesting the alcohol sale that was conducted on December 8th. We do have in place a policy to ask customers for an ID and scan the ID for the sale, which the cashier did not do. As of now, we have changed the policy for this. If the ID is not scanned, the point of sale system will not allow the sale to go through on the register. Thank you, Sheila Pierce.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if this letter would suffice to act on the violation during today's meeting. Attorney Bernstein said that it is, but the letter would need to be made part of the record.

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *to recommend to the full body a 1st offense fine of \$250 for the unlawful sale of alcohol to a person under the age of 21 years old. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Epperson, Lazarus, and J. Young (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Kracman and Thomas (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, the Committee recessed until 1:45 p.m. due to the incorrect time that was noticed to all of the defendants.

The Committee then came back to order at 1:45 p.m. and continued their agenda.

- The Relay Station, 10281 Highway 1, Shreveport, LA 71115
1st Offense (District 9)

Sgt. Mike King said that the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office conducted an underage alcohol sales operation on December 7, 2023. They were able to utilize a Caddo Parish Sheriff's Deputy who is under the age of 21. The deputy was able to purchase alcohol from the clerk, who was later identified as Treasure Robinson. The CI was not carded.

Mrs. Cheryl VanDyke, General Manager, agreed to Sgt. King's testimony and said that the employee was terminated.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to recommend to the full body a 1st offense fine of \$250 for the unlawful sale of alcohol to a person under the age of 21 years old. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Epperson, Lazarus, and J. Young (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Kracman and Thomas (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Mr. Epperson said that strict policies are necessary, especially since it is about to be Prom season.

- Speedy's Drive Throux, 11731 Mansfield Road, Keithville, LA 71047
1st Offense (District 11)

Sgt. Mike King said that the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office conducted an underage alcohol sales operation on December 7, 2023. They were able to utilize a Caddo Parish Sheriff's Deputy who is under the age of 21. The deputy was able to purchase alcohol from the clerk, who was later identified as

Anna Duffey. The CI was not carded.

Mr. Toby Marvant, Assistant to the Owner, pointed out that the name of the store has been changed to Pop's Liquor & Spirits, LLC. He agreed to Sgt. King's testimony and said that the clerk made an error. Mr. Marvant believes the clerk learned her lesson, so she was not terminated.

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *to recommend to the full body a 1st offense fine of \$250 for the unlawful sale of alcohol to a person under the age of 21 years old. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Epperson, Lazarus, and J. Young (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Kracman and Thomas (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

The Clerk of the Commission explained that after this committee, these actions will be placed on the next Work Session and Regular Session agendas to come before the full body for final vote.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk