



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **CITY OF ROCKFORD LIQUOR COMMISSIONER SUSPENDS AVIATOR LOUNGE LIQUOR LICENSE**

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS. November 8, 2013 – As a result of the evidence presented at the Liquor and Advisory Board hearing on November 7, 2013, Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey has issued an additional seven (7) day suspension of Liquor License held by The Aviator Lounge located at 3921 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

Today's decision was preceded by an emergency suspension of the liquor license issued to the Aviator Lounge on November 1, 2013 when the City of Rockford Police and Fire personnel discovered the business operating over capacity, without effective and approved security and with a dance floor greater than 150 square feet. These conditions were in direct violation of the Aviator Lounge's liquor license. Specific provisions of their liquor license prohibit the existence of a dance floor greater than 150 square feet, compliance with Fire Codes and operating in compliance with their security plan.

A hearing took place on the further suspension of the liquor license on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall, 425 East State Street. Evidence presented at the hearing included an admission by the owners of The Aviator that they operated the business in violation of their security plan and with a dance floor area of 1200 square feet. Additionally, testimony from Fire personnel revealed the property operated at a capacity of 230 persons, far exceeding the allowable capacity of 150 persons. Police testified regarding unruly, large, violent crowds whose behavior spilled out into the surrounding neighborhood, placing at risk the life and safety of the community. Video evidence provided by Respondent supported testimony from City of Rockford Police and Fire.

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