



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J.
Morrissey*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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**Julia Scott Valdez
HR Director/Deputy City Administrator**

Phone: 815-987-5583

E-mail: Julia.valdez@rockfordil.gov

CITY OF ROCKFORD LIQUOR COMMISSION & SPORTSPAGE REACH PREHEARING AGREEMENT

Rockford, IL: In anticipation of today's hearing with the City of Rockford Liquor Advisory Board, City Attorney Patrick Hayes and Assistant City Attorney II Angela Hammer met today with representatives of the Joe's Sports Page, LTD (SportsPage), located at 3907 Broadway, to discuss a prehearing settlement.

As a result of the prehearing meetings, the owners of the SportsPage and the City of Rockford have agreed that the SportsPage will: continue their seven-day suspension, which will conclude on December 15, 2014; the establishment will increase security measures including increased security staffing, more extensive security practices, and video surveillance; pay a fine of \$1000.00 per statute; pay the City of Rockford Police Department a \$2500.00 fee for police services for the evening of December 6, 2014; and serve a six-month probationary period with a midnight closing time on Fridays and Saturdays. Additionally the bar owners have agreed that they will not have live entertainment during the probationary period.

The SportsPage, had its liquor license suspended on December 8, 2014 for one week, when a shooting occurred in their parking lot on December 6, 2014 at approximately 1:00 a.m. The shooting in the parking lot was a culmination of a physical altercation that had started inside the establishment when two groups of approximately six to seven individuals fought over a pool table. One individual was charged with Unlawful Use of a Weapon and two individual were charged with Mob Action after the shooting. The weapons charge was later dismissed.

The election to suspend a liquor license is taken by the City of Rockford Liquor Commission when they feel that continued operation of the liquor establishment could cause the citizens of the City of Rockford injury or harm. The SportsPage has had six (6) significant issues which resulted in calls to the police in the last year. The shooting on December 6th was the second time there was a report of shots fired on the property.

The Liquor Commission has suspended liquor licenses seven times in the past five years when the conduct related to the liquor establishment was seen as causing chaos to the surrounding neighborhood. The Aragona Club, the Adriatic, San Jose, Bourbon Street, and The Body Shop received conduct related suspensions of their liquor license and eventually lost their liquor license.

The Barn on North Main received a thirty-day suspension of their license which must be served within a six month time period or the owners would forfeit their license. San Jose, The Barn and The Body Shop agreed to tender their liquor licenses in lieu of paying required fines. Whiskey's Road House received a one-day suspension this past summer when they were cited for 'knowingly allowing patrons to carry unsealed or open alcohol from Whiskey's Roadhouse to the parking lot.'

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