CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS
LICENSES AND CONSUMER SERVICES
350 SOUTH 5TH STREET, ROOM 1-C, CITY HALL
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55415

**FINDINGS OF FACT
CONCLUSIONS, AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

In the Matter of License No. L185 50000 SAFFRON RESTAURANT & LOUNGE
for LIQ ON-SALE E SERIES 1000

Held by:
S SQUARED LLC
ATTN: SAMEH WADI
123 3RD ST N #101
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55401

10-0806154

This matter came before a License Settlement Conference hearing on Monday, November 1, 2010. Appearing for the licensee were Sameh Wadi, owner of Saffron Restaurant & Lounge and Saed Wadi, Manager of Saffron Restaurant & Lounge. Appearing for the City of Minneapolis were Grant Wilson, Manager of Licenses & Consumer Services, Craig Eliason, Inspector for Licenses & Consumer Services and Sergeant Rolf Markstrom, Minneapolis Police License Investigative Division. Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, the following findings of fact are asserted:

Findings of Fact

1. The Minneapolis Police Department License Investigative Division conducts youth alcohol compliance checks in an effort to assure retail-alcohol license holders are not serving alcohol to persons under the age of 21.

2. On November 14, 2008 the Minneapolis Police Department License Investigative Division conducted a youth alcohol compliance check at Saffron Restaurant & Lounge. Two 20 year old females were sent into the business in an attempt to purchase alcohol. The shoppers sat at the bar. The bar tender approached the

shoppers and asked them for their orders. Each of the shoppers ordered a bottled beer. The bar tender served the shoppers the beers without checking their IDs. Two plain clothes Minneapolis Police Officers were situated near the shoppers and observed the above transaction. The shoppers paid for the beers, picked them up, and handed them off to the officers. The transaction was completed, and the business was considered to have failed the compliance check. As a result of the compliance check failure, an administrative citation was issued to Saffron Restaurant and Lounge in the amount of $500.00 as detailed in a City Council Resolution. Saffron Restaurant & Lounge has paid the $500.00 administrative fine.

3. On December 22, 2008 the Minneapolis Police Department License Investigative Division conducted a youth alcohol compliance re-check at Saffron Restaurant & Lounge pursuant to the above compliance check failure. 2 underage shoppers were sent into Saffron Restaurant & Lounge in an attempt to purchase alcohol. The underage shoppers were carded and refused service. The business passed the compliance re-check.

4. On July 29, 2010 the Minneapolis Police Department License Investigative Division conducted a youth alcohol compliance check at Saffron Restaurant & Lounge for the calendar year of 2010. A 20 year old female and a 19 year old male were sent into the business in an attempt to purchase alcohol. The shoppers sat at the bar. The bar tender walked up to the shoppers and asked them for their orders. Each of the shoppers ordered a bottled beer. The bar tender did not ask the shoppers for ID, nor did the bar tender ask the shoppers for their ages. The bar tender served each shopper an opened bottle of beer. Two plain clothes Minneapolis Police Officers were situated approximately 10 feet away from the shoppers and observed the transaction. The shoppers picked up their beers and handed them off to the officers. The transaction was completed, and the business was considered to have failed the compliance check. This constituted Saffron's second youth alcohol compliance check failure within a 24 month period. As a result of the second compliance check failure, an administrative citation was issued to Saffron Restaurant & Lounge in the amount of $1000.00 as detailed in a City Council Resolution. Saffron Restaurant & Lounge has not yet paid the $1000.00 administrative fine.

5. From the first sale on November 14, 2008, the bar tender was charged with Furnishing Alcohol to a Person Under 21, and the bar tender has been convicted of said charge. Regarding the second sale on July 29, 2010, the bar tender has been charged with Furnishing Alcohol to a Person Under 21 and is awaiting a court date.

Conclusions

1. On two separate occasions, employees Saffron Restaurant & Lounge sold alcohol to persons under the age of 21, in violation of Minneapolis City Ordinance 370.10, Minnesota Statute 340A.503 subd. 2(1), and the established compliance check policy and procedures of the City of Minneapolis. These compliance failures all occurred in a period of less than 24 months.

2. The licensee has paid the $500.00 administrative fine related to the first above stated compliance check failure. The licensee has not yet paid the $1000.00 administrative fine related to the second above stated compliance check failure.

Recommendations

Based on evidence presented at the hearing, the Division makes the following recommendations:

1. Saffron Restaurant & Lounge agrees to implement a policy to card anyone appearing under the age of 45 and to prominently post signs in the restaurant outlining their policy.

2. Saffron Restaurant & Lounge agrees to conduct their own youth alcohol compliance checks on a quarterly basis for a period of two years and keep a record of the results.

3. Saffron Restaurant & Lounge agrees to address alcohol service at regularly scheduled staff meetings.

4. Saffron Restaurant & Lounge agrees to require all staff serving liquor to attend professional alcohol server training within 60 days of signing this agreement.

5. Saffron Restaurant & Lounge agrees that a trained manager will be present at all times of alcohol sales.

6. Saffron Restaurant & Lounge agrees to pay a $3,000 sanction in lieu of suspension for failing a second youth alcohol compliance check. $2,500 of the sanction is stayed pending no further youth alcohol compliance check failures for a period of one year from the signing of this agreement.

7. Saffron Restaurant & Lounge agrees to pay the $1,000 administrative citation fine and $500 sanction within 60 days of signing this agreement.

I have read the above report and recommendations. I agree with the report and recommendations. I understand that failure on my part or o part of the business to adhere to this agreement may lead to further action against the license. I understand that this report must be accepted by the Minneapolis City Council and signed by the Mayor. I understand that future violations may put the license in jeopardy.

Business

Saffron

By: _____
(signature)

Its: Chief Manager
(title)

Dated: NOV. 17th, 2010

For the City of Minneapolis:

_____
Grant J. Wilson
Manager of Licenses

Dated: 11-23, 2010