



#17

20 August 2013

To: Mayor Paul Soglin, Alderperson Mike Verveer, Captain Carl Gloede, ALRC Board Members, Elected city officials, City Clerks Office

RE: The Shamrock Bar and Grill" License application

VIA FAX: 266-4666 City Clerks Office-PLEASE DISTRIBUTE ACCORDINGLY. ALRC City Channel; 267-0124, Channel 3000 news; 271-0800, Mayors Office: 267-8671

I understand this issue will be raised at tomorrow's ALRC Review committee meeting. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons I can not be in attendance and ask, however that this letter be read prior to the meeting and in my absence at the meeting as well.

As a downtown business owner I am vehemently opposed to the questionable "restructuring" and subsequent application for a liquor license for the newly named "Shamrock Bar and Grill." I have watched over the past 8 plus years as they have operated under the most questionable business practices and have continually managed to skirt the laws, regulations and procedures other businesses and citizens abide by each day. This recent "restructuring" as they boast about on their social media pages is yet another attempt by an unethical individual and his associates to break the rules and try to commence unlawful operations yet again. They lost their resellers permit this past May yet continued to operate without proper permits until they were ultimately closed down again (this is at least the third time in the last 6 years) on June 30th without as much as a mention of it to their employees, whom I might add are largely paid under the table for their services, once again evading the law and taxes including unemployment, SSI and workers compensation. Additionally, deputies seized liquor from the premises in May sighting inventory purchased at retail establishments instead of through state licensed distributors as required by law. Both Jahns and his business partner Mahr (as announced officially the last time the bar was closed down for non-payment of taxes and "reopened" with a NEW look) are common sights at local wholesale liquor stores, shopping for their inventory. On more than one occasion, their licensed alcohol servers have been sighted for being intoxicated while working, numerous drug related incidents and arrests have originated within their establishment and their community services and donations look good on paper and in the press, however, in reality are often empty pledges and sponsorships which either are never paid for or are satisfied with checks that ultimately are returned from the bank for NSF. A quick read of Jahns records on CCAP clearly paints a picture of a fiscally irresponsible individual, with close to a half-a-million dollars worth of judgements against him, including one for the initial purchase of the bar



which he has yet to satisfy-ultimately confirming that he effectively stole the business from the previous owners family. Included in these judgements are thousands of dollars of unpaid bills to major advertising organizations in Madison, a loan which was defaulted on that was used to pay the taxes the last time they were closed down for similar business practices as well as a list of other unfortunate businesses who chose to work with Jahns, Mahr and the Shamrock, the Shamrock bar, Rainbow Clover or any of the other aliases these individuals have operated under for the last ten plus years. The recent financial difficulties, while portrayed as old debt and bad business decisions are actually rooted in non-payment of sales taxes among other things. These taxes are collected from the patrons who blindly support this establishment and are then "stolen" by Jahns and his then manager Mahr instead of being paid to the state as required by law. To grant a new license or reassign the previous one to the then manager and now "new owner" while the "previous" owner takes on a managerial role in their new business formation is absolutely absurd. It is clear that the individuals responsible for the previous wrongdoings and legal infractions are still the managing and operating forces behind this "new entity" and should NOT be allowed to reopen this or any other business governed by the State tax, licensing, alcohol or employment laws as set forth in Wisconsin. After researching the businesses payment record with beer and liquor distributors it is clear they haven't been current or responsible with timely payments as required by state law and could never have been operational based on the actual invoices they held for legally purchased product without subsidizing their inventory with continual illegal purchases from retail outlets. The recent initial article on the Isthmus's daily page (<http://www.thedailypage.com/daily/article.php?article=40489>) outlines all of the infractions however wisely neglected to list that they too held a judgement against Jahns for unpaid advertising-perhaps a conflict of interest, however last weeks glowing feature of Mahr as the new owner, proudly posing in front of the newly exposed cream city brick walls of The Shamrock Bar and Grill slated to open in September (<http://www.thedailypage.com/daily/article.php?article=40646>) should be seen for what it truly is-a scam! Wake up Madison elected officials, alder people and community members- this is NOT a business that should be allowed to reopen, operate or claim any of this communities PRIDE!

Sincerely In Confidence,

A fellow business person and compliant employer and tax payer

Rodriguez, Rachel

From: mike Landin [mllandin@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2013 12:32 PM
To: Tretow-Schmitz, Jean
Subject: Shamrock Bar concerns

Hello,

I am writing to the ALRC to voice some concerns about the pending approval of another liquor license for the now closed Shamrock bar on 117 W. Main St.

This is a business that has a lengthy history of not paying their owed taxes as well as vendors(I believe their sellers permit was revoked/not renewed for this) and other debtors.

My understanding from word of mouth and from the recent article in the Isthmus, is that there will be no real change in the people who are actually running the bar, just simply a name change and shuffling of job titles. If they couldn't run it then, they won't be able to now is my thought.

I find it appalling that these horrible business operators keep getting more chances to continue irresponsible business operation. I think it's high time someone else be given the opportunity to operate a business in a responsible fashion instead of enabling this ridiculous behavior of not paying their fair share.

Sincerely

Mike Landin