

DuPage County Liquor Commissioner Meeting
March 15, 2017

In attendance: Dan Cronin, DuPage County Liquor Commissioner; Paul Hinds, Secretary for the DuPage County Liquor Commissioner; Kathy King – DuPage County Clerk's office; Patrick Collins – State's Attorney's Office; Jim Stran – Building and Zoning Department; Sheryl Markay – County Board Office; Joan Olson, – County Board Office; Chad Shaffer – Policy/Programs Administrator and Kevin Dixon – DuPage County Health Department.

In attendance (public): Matt Schirmer – Uncle Paulie's; Amy Anderson – Cantigny; Cindy Scardina – Green Valley Golf Range; Michael Huber – Bensenville Park District; Tim Meyers and Mary Beth Leone – College of DuPage; Jeremy Truex – JT's Porch Saloon; Beth Nevins and Jen Mangner – Scapegoat Lounge and Tom Hellmann – Wheaton VFW.

The meeting was called to order by Liquor Commissioner Cronin who made the following remarks:

Welcome to the DuPage County Liquor Commissioner meeting. Thank you for taking time to participate in this forum. You are a valuable partner for our local economy and I feel important to have an open dialog today regarding the county's liquor ordinance.

As Liquor Commissioner, it is my responsibility to approve liquor licenses to the 57 establishments located in unincorporated DuPage County and ensure that the liquor ordinance is upheld. Periodically, I like to take the opportunity and check in with the public to make sure that the rules not only protects the public and conforms to state law, but that it also helps you as a small business owner to remain competitive.

That is why I began holding these meetings with license holders even though it is not required that I do this. I believe meeting with you all, here in this room, helps me better understand your needs and helps you better understand the process and responsibilities of the Liquor Commissioner. We began meeting together four years ago, and I hope you find these meetings as productive as I do.

Before I open the meeting up for public comment on any issues or thoughts you may have, I want to thank the businesses, owners and organization representatives who are in attendance today. I value your opinion and want to know of the concerns you may have.

As I have done in the past, I have invited representatives from the county agencies responsible for portions of the renewal process including the County Clerk's Office, the Sheriff's Office, the Health Department and Regulatory Services.

A representative of each agency is here today if any of you have questions for them.

Chairman Cronin introduced Paul Hinds as the County Clerk and Secretary to the Liquor Commissioner.

Secretary Hinds stated that renewal applications will be mailed April 13, 2017. He reminded the license holders to complete their applications as soon as possible so there isn't a delay in the renewal process.

Chairman Cronin introduced Kevin Dixon, Director of Environmental Health at the Health Department and Jim Stran, the Regulatory Services Manager for the Buildings Department within Economic Development & Planning.

The Liquor Commissioner opened the floor for public comment. The following liquor license holders spoke in favor of allowing video gaming in unincorporated DuPage County:

Beth Nevins and Jen Mangner – Scapegoat Lounge
Jeremy Truex – JT's Porch Saloon
Cindy Scardina – Green Valley Golf Range
Tom Hellmann – Wheaton VFW

Liquor Commissioner Cronin stated that if you all recall, the topic of video gaming was discussed in depth at last year's meeting. Many of you expressed an interest in having video gaming in your establishments. It is an issue of remaining competitive with other establishments located in municipalities who allow it.

Last year I explained the process of changing the County Code, which is what would need to happen in this case. In order to make any changes to the County Code, the County Board would need to be involved. A majority vote of County Board members would be required to change it. Therefore, it is important to make sure the 18 members of the County Board hear and know of your interest in allowing video gaming in unincorporated DuPage.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us today. If you have any further opinions on the issues pertaining to the Liquor Ordinance and Liquor Commissioner, please send them to Sally Karner, who is my Executive Assistant. I promise to carefully consider all of the information gathered here today.

This concludes the Liquor Commissioner meeting. Thanks again to everyone who participated today. Please remember that renewal applications will be distributed on April 13 and will need to be returned by May 15.

Again, thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Hinds
Secretary