

DuPage County Liquor Commissioner Meeting  
April 19, 2018

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; Tom Cuculich – County Board Office; Joan Olson – County Board Office; Chad Shaffer – County Board Office; Christopher Walton – County Board Office; Mary Becker – County Board Office; Frank Bibbiano – Sheriff’s Office and Kevin Dixon – DuPage County Health Department.

In attendance (public): Paul A. Schirmer – Uncle Paulie’s; Amy Anderson – Cantigny; Tom Hellmann – Wheaton VFW; Vivian Perez – Glen Ellyn Walmart; Louis Fabbri – Abbington Banquets; Deb Pauling – Sully’s Place LLC; Andy Bendy and Daniel Novak – Wheaton Park District; Richard Rogus – Fermilab; Matthew Galanes – Base Camp Pub and Eatery and John Patel – Royal Liquor.

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 in our local economy and I value this yearly opportunity for us to get together.

My goal here each year is to check and make sure the liquor ordinance is working to not only protect the public and conform to state law, but also to help you remain competitive as a small business owner.

Since I began holding these meetings several years ago, I have been able to better understand your needs and open a dialogue to answer questions and address important issues.

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. He stated that he was looking into having the County Board place a non-binding referendum on the November 2018 ballot asking the voters if they want video gaming in unincorporated DuPage County.

Before I open the meeting up for public comment, 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 or questions you may have.

The Liquor Commissioner opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.

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

Secretary Hinds stated that renewal applications were mailed April 16, 2018. He reminded the license holders to complete their applications as soon as possible so there isn't a delay in the renewal process. He also asked that they remember to include a current copy of their lease, BASSET training certifications on file need to be current and encouraged the license holders to have more than one Resident Manager on file.

Chairman Cronin introduced Kevin Dixon, Director of Environmental Health at the Health Department; Jim Stran, the Regulatory Services Manager for the Buildings Department within Economic Development & Planning and Frank Bibbiano from the Sheriff's office.

Chairman Cronin opened the floor to liquor license holders present:

Ms. Pauling questioned whether Health Department rules allow service animals into her establishment. Mr. Dixon replied that the DuPage County code allows service animals but it is limited to the type of animal. The establishment can set a policy not to allow service animals.

Ms. Pauling asked if a sign is required regarding the types of animal. Mr. Dixon replied that the policy should be posted.

Mr. Hellmann asked about referendum procedure regarding video gaming. Chairman Cronin replied that the County Board has the authority to place the question on the ballot.

Mr. Hellmann questioned whether a petition could be circulated to place the question on the ballot. Mr. Shaffer replied that State Statute does not allow the public to grant video gaming by referendum.

Mr. Fabbri questioned the Resident Manager requirement that they live in DuPage County. He stated that his two sons who manage the facility, live just outside DuPage County and his bar manager who lives in DuPage is retiring next year. Chairman Cronin answered that he would look into the requirement and possibly amend the DuPage County Code.

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 distributed on April 16th, need to be returned to the County Clerk's office by Monday, May 14, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Hinds  
Secretary