

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 17th DAY OF JUNE, 2021

The Caddo Parish Commission met in an Alcohol Beverage Committee Meeting, on the above date, at 1:00 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Hopkins, Chairperson, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Lazarus (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Johnson (2).

Mr. Hopkins gave the invocation and led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS

At this time, the Clerk of the Commission swore the deputies and representatives of the companies in.

- Cash Magic—14347 LA Highway 1, Vivian, LA 71082 (District 1)

Deputy Scoggins came before the Committee and advised that one of their responsibilities is conducting underage alcohol operations throughout the year. On December 15, 2020, Det. Ardoin, Corporal Dickey, and Confidential Informant #2019141 were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation at about 7:40 p.m. Det. Ardoin watched the clerk sell the 18 year old two cans of LimaRita. The clerk check the CI's driver's license, but proceeded with the purchase for a total of \$6.07. After the sale, Corporal Dickey identified the clerk as Allie Johnson and issued her a summons for selling to persons under 21.

Heath Stevens, North Regional Manager for Cash Magic, said that he is not here to contest anything, but he would like to note that they do go above and beyond to not let this happen. Their employees have to sign a piece of paper each day saying they have to check IDs when selling alcohol or tobacco. He also said that if their ID will not scan through the machine saying that the customer is 21, they will not sell it to them. Mr. Stevens said that they are doing everything in their power to ensure that these violations do not occur.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body a first offense fine of \$250. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Lazarus (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- Cash Magic—14347 LA Highway 1, Vivian, LA 71082 (2nd Citation) (District 1)

Deputy Scoggins said that on December 21, 2020, Det. Ardoin and Confidential Informant #2019140 were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation at about 8:10 p.m., Det. Ardoin watched the clerk sell the 19 year old a four-pack of 16 oz. Michelob Ultra beer for \$6.62. The clerk did not check the CI's driver's license. After the sale, Corporal Harris identified the clerk as Keyvia Jones and issued her a summons for selling to persons under 21.

Mr. Atkins said that he feels for Mr. Stevens, but he also pointed out that the Commission has to uphold the laws. Mr. Stevens stated that he understands.

Mr. Stevens would like the record to reflect that the mailing address for Cash Magic is 111 Energy Parkway, Lafayette, LA 70508.

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body a second offense fine of \$500. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Lazarus (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- Tobacco Country—11590 U.S. Highway 80, Greenwood Road, LA 71033 (District 12)

On December 15, 2020, Det. Pierce and Confidential Informant #2009140 were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation at about 8:40 p.m. Det. Pierce and the CI went through the drivethru. The clerk sold the 18 year old CI a 750 ML bottle of Maker's Mark Whiskey for \$35. The clerk did not check the CI's driver's license. After the sale, Det. Saunders identified the clerk as Judy Gentry and issued her a summons for selling to persons under 21.

The representative of Tobacco Country said that the clerk did go and completed the Pretrial Diversion Program and the case was dismissed. The record will show no conviction for the charges in question, and there will be no prosecution against her.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to recommend to the full body a first offense fine of \$250. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Lazarus (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- Speedy's Drive Throux—11731 Mansfield Road, Keithville, LA 71047 (District 11)

On March 4, 2021, Det. Ardoin and Confidential Informant #2009143 were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation. At about 7:35 p.m., Det. Ardoin and the CI went through the drivethru. The clerk sold the 19 year old CI a pint of Taaka Vodka for \$9.59. The clerk did not check the CI's driver's license. After the sale, Det. Harris identified the clerk as Elizabeth Azernack and issued her a summons for selling to persons under 21.

Peyton Childs, friend of Casey Ho who is the owner of Speedy's Drive Throux. He said that Mr. Ho knows nothing about the liquor business. He built a strip mall, and a gentleman wanted to put a liquor store in it. Somehow the deal fell through, so Mr. Ho was left with the liquor store to run. Since then, he has been trying to sell the business.

Mr. Ho said that he is doing everything to ensure that his employees check IDs when selling alcohol.

Mr. Atkins understands Mr. Ho's struggles, but said that everyone is responsible for their businesses and employees. He also understands that Mr. Ho did not intend to be in the business, but encouraged him to get up to speed as quickly as possible until the business is sold.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to recommend to the full body a first offense fine of \$250. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Lazarus (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- S&A Truckstop—12300 Mansfield Road, Keithville, LA 71047 (District 11)

On March 4, 2021, Det. Ardoin and Confidential Informant #2009143 were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation. At about 6:40 p.m., Det. Ardoin watched the clerk sell the 19 year old CI two 24 oz cans of Bud Light beer for a total of \$5.95. After the sale, Det. Harris identified the clerk as Cynthia Johnson and issued her a summons for selling to persons under 21.

Mr. Kumar, owner of S&A Truckstop, said that they have all the equipment to scan IDs to ensure that the cashiers do not sell alcohol to underage persons. He also said that they have weekly meetings with his employees to remind them not to sell alcohol to underage persons.

Mr. Kumar wanted to know if she could be hired back. Attorney Bernstein said that it would be based on her conviction. Det. Scoggins said that her suspension is up, so she can come back.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *to recommend to the full body a first offense fine of \$250. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Lazarus (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Johnson (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- Walmart Supercenter—4701 Northport, Shreveport, LA 71107 (District 2)

On December 21, 2021, Det. Ardoin and Confidential Informant #2019142 were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation. At about 5:35 p.m., Det. Ardoin watched the clerk sell the 19 year old CI a six-pack of 16 oz Busch Light beer for a total of \$6.23. After the sale, Det. Harris identified the clerk as Jamiah Kelly and issued her a summons for selling to persons under 21. In this instance, the store wanted to watch the security footage and the loss prevention worker confirmed the unlawful transaction.

The representative from Walmart said that every six months, the employees have to watch videos on how to sell alcohol and tobacco. She also said that Ms. Kelly no longer works for Walmart. The representative also mentioned that they have the technology to enter the customer's birthdate when selling alcohol and tobacco.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body a first offense fine of \$250. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Lazarus (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Johnson (2).

ABSTAIN: None (0).

- Relay Station—10281 LA Highway 1, Shreveport, LA 71115
(District 8)

On March 4, 2021, Det. Ardoin and Confidential Informant #2009143 were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation. At about 5:28 p.m., Det. Ardoin watched the clerk sell the 19 year old CI two 24 oz cans of Bud Light beer. Det. Harris identified the clerk as Melissa Murphy and issued her a summons for selling to persons under 21.

Anthony Crawford, General Manager, said that he watched the video of the transaction. The ID was on a mobile device, and Ms. Murphy was unfamiliar on how to scan it with the system that they do have in place. He did say that she was terminated because they have a zero tolerance policy with things of this nature. Training is provided to all of the employees, but unfortunately mistakes are made, he said.

Mr. Hopkins said that he understands what these business owners are going through because he owned his own restaurant that sold alcohol. He said that they are truly at the mercy of their employees.

Mr. Crawford would like the record to reflect the mailing address for the Relay Station as 7228 West Bert Kouns, Shreveport, LA 71129.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body a first offense fine of \$250. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Lazarus (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Johnson (2).

Mr. Hopkins stated that the Clerk's Office has not received a green card from Stonewall Beverage Company—12800 Mansfield Road, Keithville, LA 71047 (District 11), Licksillet Liquor—10106 US Highway 79, Bethany, LA 71007 (District 12), Triple J Travel Plaza—8311 Springridge Texas Line Road, Keithville, LA 71047 (District 11), and Elsie's Truck Stop—7101 LA Highway 1, Shreveport, LA 71107 (District 2).

Det. Scoggins said that if the Clerk's Office is having a difficult time reaching the businesses, he will be happy to serve them the letters. He also mentioned that these cases are not being prosecuted in the courts.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned.


Assistant Commission Clerk