

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 22nd DAY OF JULY, 2021

The Caddo Parish Commission met in an Alcohol Beverage Committee Meeting, on the above date, at 2:00 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. Atkins gave the invocation, and Mr. Lazarus led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- Elsie's Truck Stop—4701 Northport Blvd., Shreveport, LA 71107 (District 2)

Deputy Scoggins came before the Committee and advised that one of their responsibilities is conducting underage alcohol operations throughout the year. On March 4, 2021, Det. Saunders, Corporal Dickey, and a confidential informant were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation at about 7:16 p.m. Det. Saunders watched the clerk sell the 19 year old a six pack of Jack Daniels Cherry Lime Country Cocktails for \$9.87. After the sale, Corporal Dickey identified the clerk as Kareem Merchant and issued him a summons for selling to persons under 21.

Mr. Willie Simpson came before the Committee representing Mr. Merchant. He said that Elsie's Truck Stop was purchase in 2016, but the original business has open in 2001. Mr. Simpson explained that the officer is correct and that is exactly what happened. He also said that the system that they normally use to scan ID's was not working at the time, but they are currently looking to buy a new one.

Mr. Atkins said that they understand that things like this happen, but it is still the responsibility of the business owner to not sell to underage people.

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).

Mr. Hopkins explained that this recommendation will be sent to the full body for a final vote during the August 5, 2021.

- Daiquiri Express—5750 North Market Street, Shreveport, LA 71107 (District 2)

On June 10, 2021, Det. Saunders, Corporal Dickey, and a confidential informant were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation at about 5:30 p.m. Det. Saunders watched the clerk sell the 18 year old a Hawaiian Ice frozen daiquiri for \$6.75. After the sale, Corporal Dickey identified the clerk as Alicia Marie Owens and issued her a summons for selling to persons under 21.

Michael Johnson, owner, came before the Committee and said that he actually has two citations, one in December and the other in June. Only one was listed on the agenda. Mr. Johnson said that he called his Commissioner and told him he was out of town for the June 17 meeting and asked for it to be deferred to this meeting. The Clerk of the Commission said that he did not receive record of that. Mr. Hopkins explained that they will do this one as the first citation and the other will be taken up at the next meeting.

Mr. Johnson said that the clerk did not check the ID. He also said that she was let go and no longer works for Daiquiri Express. Since then, they've put scanners in place to check IDs. He also said that it is difficult to keep employees right now.

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).

- General Store—6230 Colquitt Road, Keithville, LA 71047 (District 11)

On June 10, 2021, Det. Ardoin, Det. Harris, and a confidential informant were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation at about 7:40 p.m. Det. Ardoin and the CI went into the store and attempted to purchase an alcoholic beverage, but the clerk did not sell to the CI. The Sheriff's Office received several complaints of the General Store selling to underage persons, but only if they know them. Prior to leaving the parking lot, Det. Ardoin noticed a black GMC Sierra pull up to the detective's vehicle. A white male who appeared to be in his teens went into the store and grabbed two boxes which appeared to be alcohol. The clerk sold these items to the white male without checking for identification. Det. Ardoin followed the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop near Keith Road and Colquitt Road. Det. Ardoin confirmed the person was 15 years old and had purchased a 12 pack of Twisted Tea and a 12 pack of Smirnoff Ice. After the traffic stop, Det. Harris made contact with the clerk and issued a summons for unlawful sales to persons under 21.

The son of the owner came before the Committee and said that the person who sold to the 15-year-old no longer works for them. They've also ordered a scanner.

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).

Mr. Atkins suggested that the owners wait until the vote of the full body prior to paying the fine.

- Triple J Travel Plaza—8311 Springridge Texas Line Road, Keithville, LA 71047 (District 11)

On December 21, 2020, Det. Pierce, Det. Saunders, and a confidential informant were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation at about 7:03 p.m. Det. Pierce watched the clerk sell the 18 year old a four pack of Seagram's Gin Peach Bellini Cocktails for \$5.38. After the sale, Det. Saunders identified the clerk as Carey Martin and issued her a summons for selling to persons under 21 and violating the Parish ordinance for not having an ABO card.

The owners of the store said that they normally hire cashiers who have two years' experience, but it's been tough getting employees. He also said that Ms. Martin was let go after the incident. They've also ordered a system that asks for an ID for any alcohol or tobacco sales.

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 (2nd citation) (District 11)

On June 10, 2021, Det. Ardoin, Det. Harris, and a confidential informant were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation at about 6:18 p.m. Det. Ardoin watched the clerk sell the 19-year-old a 24 oz can of Steele Reserved Spiked Strawberry Burst for \$2.39. Another employee told the clerk to check the CI's ID. The CI showed the clerk his ID, but the clerk continued to complete the purchase without examining the ID. After the sale, Det. Harris identified the clerk as Caitlyn Connelly and issued her a summons for selling to persons under 21 and violating the Parish ordinance for not having an ABO card.

The Clerk of the Commission mentioned that he did receive a call today from the owners saying that they could not come, but it was after the agenda was published.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *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).

- Speedy's Drive Throux—11731 Mansfield Road, Keithville, LA 71047 (2nd citation) (District 11)

On June 10, 2021, Det. Ardoin, Det. Harris, and a confidential informant were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation. At about 6:55 p.m. Det. Ardoin and the CI arrived at Speedy's Drive Throux. Det. Ardoin was in the passenger seat during the transaction and watched the clerk sell the CI ordered 1 pint of Taaka Vodka for \$6.55. After the sale, Det. Harris identified the clerk as Noah Chico and issued him a summons for selling to persons under 21.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if they were driving a detective car. Lt. Scoggins said that they were driving Detective Ardoin's detective car with the radio, lights, siren box, etc. He said that the car is unmarked, but it is obvious that it is a law enforcement vehicle.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *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).

- Stonewall Beverage Company—12800 Mansfield Road, Keithville, LA 71047 (District 11)

On December 15, 2020, Det. Pierce, Det. Saunders, and a confidential informant were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation. At about 5:50 p.m. Det. Pierce watched the clerk sell the 18-year-old a 750 mL of Barefoot Wine for \$7.54. The clerk did not check his ID. After the sale, Det. Saunders identified the clerk as Andrew and issued him a summons for selling to persons under 21.

The representative for Stonewall Beverage Company said that they've been having issues obtaining and keeping employees. They do have training every month to not sell alcohol to minors. After this incident, they did let Andrew go.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if they were using a POS scanner to check IDs. The representative for Stonewall Beverage Company stated that they do not because they can present errors.

Mr. Hopkins said that it is not their intent to put anyone out of business, but they do need to keep alcohol out of the hands of juveniles.

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).

- Stonewall Beverage Company—12800 Mansfield Road, Keithville, LA 71047 (District 11)

On March 4, 2021, Det. Ardoin, Det. Harris, and a confidential informant were conducting an underage alcohol sale operation. At about 7:05 p.m. Det. Ardoin watched the clerk sell the 19-year-old a pint of Smirnoff Vodka for \$9.15. The clerk did not check his ID. After the sale, Det. Harris identified the clerk as Michael Crispin and issued him a summons for selling to persons under 21.

The representative for Stonewall Beverage Company reiterated the same comments as he made during the discussion on the first citation.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *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).

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 2:41 p.m.


Assistant Commission Clerk