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DATE: February 7, 2007
PLACE: ROOM 112
TIME: 1:00 P.M.
CLERK:
POLICE:

DOCKET

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Show Cause Hearing: Continued from January 31, 2007; Class B/BX, Food Dispenser and Holiday Licenses; Sidebar, LLC d/b/a Sidebar, 127 Dorrance Street, Basement; resulting from the Emergency Show Cause Hearing of December 20, 2006 for the following alleged violations: (1) Violation of RIGL 3-2-6 Suspension or Revocation of License for Refusing Officials Access to Licensed Premises. (2) Violation of RIGL 3-8-10, Possession of a Beverage – Underage Person. (3) Violation of Fire Safety Code #23-28.6-5 Admissions Restricted and Supervised.

On September 5, 2006, police attempted to enter Sidebar and found the front door locked with patrons inside. After several minutes, an employee opens the door and once inside, police observed an 18-year-old in possession of Alcohol. Refer to Police Report #06-107311.

On October 5, 2006, police observing an employee, quickly run down the front stairs and enter Sidebar through the front door. Police then walked down the stairs and found the door had been locked from the inside. An employee, returning with a trash barrel attempted to open the door stating to police that he had just walked out to empty the trash and the door was not locked. After 3-4 minutes, the door was open and police entered the establishment which appeared to be overcrowded. Police could also observe that the top of the bar was relatively clear and appeared to be wiped clean. Refer to Police Report #06-120885.

On November 17, 2006, the License Enforcement Unit, while assisting the Providence Fire Prevention Inspectors in conducting fire safety compliance inspections arrived at Sidebar to find the front door locked preventing officers from entering although patrons were observed through the glass door and music could be heard playing. Not until several minutes later, an employee of the club came to unlock the door to allow inspectors inside. Fire Inspectors Lt. Silva, Lt. Fournier and Fire Alarm Inspector Mills determined that the club, which has a capacity of 72 people, was overcrowded. It should be noted that during the time police first arrived to find the front door locked, an employee/registered doorkeeper working at the front door was videotaping the arrival of police and for the entire time that police and fire inspectors were standing at the front door, which remained locked, and throughout the entire fire inspection process. Refer to Police Report #06-150493.

On December 14, 2006, State Police Lt. Rohan, along with Providence Police Sgt. Cassidy, conducted an operation where two 18-year-old females and an 18-year-old male assistant were sent into Sidebar. After paging Lt. Rohan with a predetermined signal, six police officers then responded to the entrance of Sidebar and found the door had been locked from the inside. Three bouncers standing outside stated they did not have a key. Sgt. Cassidy pushed the doorbell and knocked loudly on the door while lights were observed to flash inside. A disc jockey inside the establishment was heard saying police were outside and patrons should cooperate with them. Moments later, the door was opened and police were allowed to enter. Inside police located the two 18-year-old females and the 18-year-old male. Both females were in possession of 16oz bottles of Bud Light. The bartenders that served these subjects left the bar while police were locked out and could not be located. The three 18-year-old assistants responded to Providence Police Headquarters where they left tape-recorded statements. The police inspection of Sidebar was videotaped by a male employee of the establishment. Refer to Police Report #06-149200.

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