



LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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To: Safety and Licensing Committee
Members of the Common Council

From: ACA Zak Buruin

Date: March 28, 2024

Re: Operator License Application of Isaiah Nettles

Members of the Committee and Council:

During the March 27, 2024, meeting of the Safety and Licensing Committee, Mr. Nettles advised the Committee that he was told by his probation agent that he was able to obtain an operator's (bartender) license. This assessment conflicts with the City's understanding of the relevant statutes. In response to the confusion and frustration brought on by the apparently conflicting information with which Mr. Nettles was provided, I was asked by members of the Committee to speak with Mr. Nettles' probation agent.

I have reached out to Agent Ryan Hartfield of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Division of Community Corrections. Agent Hartfield confirmed that he is the supervising agent for Mr. Nettles. I advised him of the situation and summarized Mr. Nettles' presentation to the Committee. I asked him about the communication he had with Mr. Nettles regarding obtaining a bartender's license. Agent Hartfield indicated that he was unaware of the statutory requirements for obtaining such a license and that he would not have been able to provide Mr. Nettles guidance on that. He did indicate that in his role as a Mr. Nettles' supervising agent, he had no issues or concerns with Mr. Nettles seeking the license or being granted it if he was eligible. He had no reason to prevent Mr. Nettles from seeking the license and he advised Mr. Nettles of this. He generally seemed supportive of Mr. Nettles' efforts to advance in the workplace.

Based upon this conversation, it appears the information Mr. Nettles was provided by his probation agent was regarding probation expectations, rules, and requirements. It was not based upon a differing interpretation of the relevant statutes, nor upon awareness of any other overriding provisions.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

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