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TO: Safety and Licensing Committee
Common Council

FROM: Lt. Ben Goodin

DATE: 6/21/2024

RE: Police Department's Recommendation for Denial of Julia Gomez's Original Alcohol Beverage License Application

Committee Members:

The police department is requesting that the Safety and Licensing Committee recommend to the Common Council to deny Julia Gomez's original alcohol beverage license application for 409 W. College Ave., a bar commonly known as "Mr. Frog's".

The Appleton Police Department has significant concerns about Ms. Gomez's moral character and her ability and willingness to follow the law. Julia and her family were involved in a significant federal cocaine dealing prosecution in and around 2020-2021. While Julia was not charged criminally, she was likely involved or at least aware of the ongoing drug dealing operation that took place at her place of employment and at a property which she owned.

The below information was obtained from documents City of Appleton Assistant City Attorney Buruin acquired from the case files from the aforementioned drug case:

- Julia Nino Gomez (Morales) was among those present at the Mr. Taco location in Kimberly on 12/2/20 when a search warrant for the establishment was executed related to the suspected cocaine distribution of her son, Luis Morales. Luis was the proprietor of the restaurant. According to the investigative reports, multiple containers of suspected cocaine were located during the subsequent search. Julia was an employee of Mr. Taco in Kimberly.
- Another employee of Mr. Taco, Laura Saint Geours, told investigators that on 12/7/20, Julia had come to her house and indicated that she should not be worried because Luis had confessed to being guilty of everything. Saint Geours made reference to money seized by police during the previous search warrant. Julia asked if the police could prove where the money came from, and again advised her not to worry.
- Jennifer Almeida-Sandoval was interviewed by investigators on 12/23/20. Jennifer is the

former spouse of Luis Morales and former daughter-in-law of Julia. Jennifer indicated in her interview that Julia was aware of Luis being involved in the distribution of cocaine, but did not believe that she was engaged in selling on his behalf.

- On 4/12/21, LWAM and Wisconsin DOJ-Division of Criminal Investigation conducted a search of an address in Hilbert, Wisconsin. Officers became interested in this address following an interview with Sandra Munoz. Sandra Munoz is Julia's adult daughter. As referenced in the report of the search, Sandra indicated during the interview that Julia Morales knew the location of a large quantity of marijuana that investigators were aware belonged to Luis Morales. Officers had not been able to locate the marijuana up to that point.
- Julia Morales provided officers with consent to enter the residence. Inside, officers located five large black garbage bags containing individually packed pounds of marijuana. They were packaged in shrink wrap and dryer sheets to make the odor more difficult to detect. In total, the marijuana weighed 78.6 pounds.
- Officers learned that the residence was jointly owned by Julia Morales and Jennifer Almeida Sandoval. There were also identifiers in the bags for Jennifer and for Luis Morales.

Given the facts of this case and Julia's knowledge and complicity of the drug dealing operation, the Appleton Police Department has concerns that drug dealing activity will occur at 409 W. College Ave., "Mr. Frog's", if Ms. Gomez is granted an original alcohol beverage license for the business. It is the recommendation of the Appleton Police Department to deny Julia Gomez's original alcohol beverage license application.

Very Respectfully:

Lt. Ben Goodin
Appleton Police Department