

Douglas County Liquor Licensing Authority Worksession

Friday, March 11, 2011
100 Third Street, Castle Rock
BCC Conference Room

Attendees: Scott Lemmon, Don Bammes, Chris Carlson
Staff: Kelly Dunnaway, Holly Carrell

1. Hearing Agenda Review

Members of the Authority did not request any changes be made to the Minutes, which were scheduled for approval at the hearing. They were pleased with the new violation letter, which will be provided to licensees who have been proven to have violated the liquor code *directly following* the show cause hearing versus being sent the letter the Monday after the hearing. Also, *two* signs will be provided to the guilty licensees as opposed to *one* being provided in the past. They were happy with the added clarity of the verbiage and providing the information to the licensees immediately.

2. Fine In Lieu of Suspension Option

Kelly explained that, based on the Liquor Code, the resolution authorizing the use of Fine In Lieu of Suspension must be passed by the Board of County Commissioners in order for the Authority to impose a Fine In Lieu of Suspension. The members discussed at length the language and implications of using the option along with myriad situations that could arise and how it would work in reality. There was a consensus that imposing a license suspension was their preferred choice for disciplinary action, but they also acknowledge that there may be unique conditions in the future and want to have the option available should they ever need it. They discussed crafting a set of guidelines for when a petition for a Fine In Lieu would be accepted and how the process would take place. They had a desire to entertain this possibility in a very limited number of circumstances and only in extreme cases where innocent third-party customers would be negatively impacted by a closure such as previously signed banquet contracts (wedding, etc.) at a hotel or in the case of a violation of a special event permit by a community association. The Authority understood that a licensee must first petition them and that it is not a consequence at their disposal if not also agreed upon by the licensee. If approved by the BCC, the Authority will further clarify their intentions and agree upon internal guidelines for using the Fine In Lieu of Suspension as well as provide direction to staff on how to process a petition, etc. A framework was agreed upon, but would be discussed at a finer detail should the option become available.

3. Other Business

Authority members discussed the details of the recent veto by Governor Hickenlooper of the new alcohol testing rules.

Adjournment at 12:07 pm.