

From: [Jarret Oulman](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Noecker](#)
Subject: White Squirrel Bar Adverse Action - statement for public record
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 3:04:12 PM
Attachments: [White Squirrel LOS.pdf](#)
[DSI Correspondence timeline - White Squirrel Amendment.pdf](#)

Considering the adverse action notice and recommendation against the White Squirrel Bar

I am asking the council not to take adverse action against the license of the White Squirrel Bar.

This adverse action is not about being out of compliance with requests made by DSI or SPPD. All related recommendations made of The White Squirrel Bar by DSI have been quickly implemented and appreciated. These specific requested conditions have been readily met. This action and condition is only about how we operate moving forward into the future and not about a pattern of violations or being out of compliance.

While this condition is a well intentioned recommendation, the basis for action creates unneeded collateral impact on our business. I do not take any issue with the recommended activity described in the condition itself, specifically to have a camera plan and exterior lighting plan that is reviewed by SPPD. However, I do not think it is reasonable or appropriate to take adverse action to impose a condition that requires us to be named as a detriment to public safety and a licensee that creates public nuisance in order to address an issue which has been already addressed.

Furthermore, the items listed on the notice compiled to create the basis for action does not create a reasonable basis to show our operation as a public nuisance or detriment to public safety. They do not show that we are out of compliance or unwilling to work with DSI to address issues as they arise. Rather, they are a list of items compiled to create a basis to show that DSI can reasonably impose conditions on our license. Once created, this basis can easily be used as a basis for further or future action against our business.

The referenced quadruple homicide of 9/12/2021 did not happen at or near our establishment, the people involved were at our bar earlier in the evening that the tragedy occurred.

AGED (State Department) fined the White Squirrel Bar for improperly holding batched cocktails without date stickers, which is a state statute. The state inspection was to investigate our sourcing of Delta 8 thc and our use of it in beverages. This is not reasonably related or relevant to the requested condition. Further, it does not create a

basis for reasonable action relating to our business being a threat to public safety.

We were not notified of the reported domestic strangulation incident in the parking lot from 4/19/2022. I first found out about this incident when I received this adverse action notice.

Jarret Oulman

5/11/2023

Owner, White Squirrel Bar

Please see attached items for reference.

- Letter of Support on this matter from our district council, The Fort Road Federation
- Screenshots of our camera system as recommended and shown to Lt Grauman in November
- Timeline of correspondence with DSI as a part of this license review



West 7th / Fort Road Federation

882 West 7th Street, Suite 6
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651.298.5599
www.FortRoadFederation.org

May 9, 2023

Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Subject: Letter of Support against Adverse Action for The White Squirrel Bar

Dear Council Members,

Jarret Oulman, of The White Squirrel Bar, met with the West 7th / Fort Road Federation at our Board meeting on May 8, 2023. Jarret requested the Federation Board support his request for the City Council to drop the proposed adverse action against his liquor license. The Board voted to support this request.

Jarret has shown that he is willing to work with the Department of Safety and Inspection, Saint Paul Police, and other City contacts to maintain a business that is an asset to the West 7th community. Jarret has expanded and adjusted video surveillance and lighting (both interior and exterior) at The White Squirrel Bar, per the suggestion from the SPPD liaison and the Department of Safety and Inspection in an effort to increase public safety. Jarret will continue to coordinate with these parties should footage be required in the future. Throughout this process, Jarret has shown he is willing to collaborate and comply with requests from the City. Jarret is in compliance with municipal codes, and the Fort Road Federation sees no reason to impose the adverse action against his license.

If you have any questions, please call 651-298-5599 or email me at julia@fortroadfederation.org.

Sincerely,

Julia McColley
Executive Director and Community Organizer

The Fort Road Federation coordinates participation in advocacy and planning and builds community connections for the residents, businesses, and nonprofit organizations of the West 7th neighborhood so that it is a place where people want to live, work, and play.



23 sec ago

9+ interior front



22 sec ago

2 parking lot



17 sec ago

patio





9+ Bar



 Garden



9+ interior front





9+ register



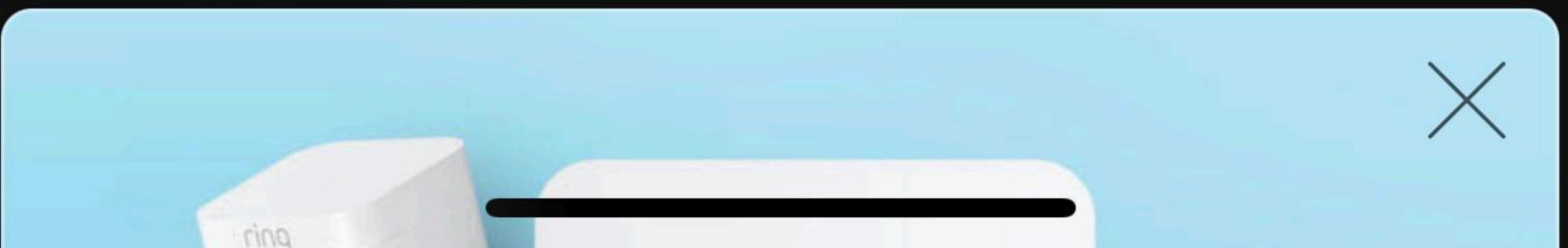
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Amendment - DSI Correspondence timeline

On October 20th, Inspector Joe Voyda called me and told me to make an appointment to meet with me to go over my premise and my originally approved site plan. When I asked why, he referenced the shooting in early October and said that because it was the second incident at our establishment of that nature, DSI reviews a license. Then he referenced a shooting on October 6th and the quadruple homicide from September 11th 2021 as the two events. I noted that the incident from September 11th did not happen at or even near our establishment, rather the people involved had been at our bar much earlier in the evening.

October 27th, 2022, Deputy Director Dan Niziolek, Inspector Joe Voyda and Lt Charles Grauman met me on premise at The White Squirrel Bar. Deputy Director Niziolek alerted me at the very beginning of the meeting that it was his intention to place a license condition regarding an approved camera and lighting plan. At the same meeting Lt Grauman made several suggestions for improvements to our camera plan, and was content with the amount of existing exterior lighting we offered at that time. Inspector Voyda and Director Niziolek made multiple specific instructions for adding fencing, manipulating railings and changing gates. Inspector Voyda and Lt Grauman both said that they would follow up independently within 2 weeks time to move forward with plans. Because it was so late in the season for making changes, I completed many of these requests within the next week, as if I waited longer, the ground would have been frozen.

Thursday, November 10th - Lt Grauman attends a meeting with myself and the bar manager to discuss the camera system. By this time, we had already implemented all of his suggestions which he made two weeks prior. He was very pleased with our system and happy with the changes we implemented per his suggestions.

I called and emailed Inspector Voyda on January 19th, 2023 requesting follow up and did not hear back. I emailed and called him again on February 16th. He later told me that we should have never had our original site plan approved and that I will have to re-submit our site plan to bring our license into compliance, but to wait to hear back from him with specific detail.

March 27th I heard back from Joe Voyda via email officially requesting that I re-do our site plan with an architect and resubmit it with new details changing rails into fences and building 2 gates. At this point DSI is requesting that we wait to address their verbal requests from our October on-site meeting until after the plan review process is completed.