



City of Newport

**REQUEST FOR ACTION BY CITY COUNCIL, SITTING AS
BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**

To: Chairman Khamsyvoravong and Members of the Board of License Commissioners
From: Laura L. Sitrin, Interim City Manager *L. Sitrin /psd*
Date: June 18, 2024
Subject: Show Cause Hearing: Waite's Wharf Grille, LLC, d/b/a The Boat Dockside-
Violations of the Conditions of the Class BV Alcoholic Beverage License-
Service of Alcoholic Beverages to Underage Patrons

Staff Presentation:

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the licensee show cause as to why his Class BV liquor license should not be suspended or revoked, or a fine imposed, for the apparent violations of the Rules and Regulations of the Liquor Control Section of the RI Department of Business Regulation and/or the Rules and Regulations of the Board of License Commissioners and the Codified Ordinances of the City of Newport.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

In response to several community complaints of pervasive underage drinking, on Friday night, June 7, 2024., the Newport Police Department conducted an under-age drinking enforcement detail at the referenced establishment. As a result of this investigation, as detailed in the attached Memorandum from the Chief of Police, it was determined that the licensed establishment did provide alcohol to multiple persons under the legal drinking age.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE ACTION

FISCAL IMPACT

Currently Budgeted (Account _____) No Fiscal Impact provided licensee assessed cost of Police Officers' attendance at the hearing.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Complaint served June 14, 2024
Memorandum dated June 11, 2024 from Chief of Police Ryan Duffy

Finance Dept. Review: _____ **Date By:** _____ (if applicable)

CITY OF NEWPORT
BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

TO: Waite's Wharf Grille, LLC
d/b/a Boat Dockside, The
Jill Abruzese, Vice President
25 Waites Wharf, Unit A
Newport, RI 02840

Please take notice that the within Complaint will be called for hearing before the Board of License Commissioners of the City of Newport on the 26th day of June, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., City Hall, Council Chambers, 43 Broadway, Newport, RI or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.


Robert Schultz
Acting City Manager

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, officer Coates, hereby certify that on the 14 day of June, I hand-delivered a true copy of the foregoing Complaint to DOCKSIDE MURKIN in his/her capacity as Manager at the above-named establishment. Tom M...

Alyssa Wiley #49
Police Officer Badge No.

**CITY OF NEWPORT
BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**

Robert Schultz, in his
capacity as Acting City Manager

vs.

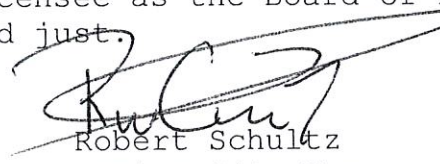
Waite's Wharf Grille, LLC
d/b/a Boat Dockside, The
Jill Abruzese, Vice President
25 Waites Wharf, Unit A
Newport, RI 02840

C O M P L A I N T

Robert Schultz, in his capacity as Acting City Manager of the City of Newport, hereby complains that the above-named liquor licensee has violated the following statutory and/or regulatory provisions of the General Laws of Rhode Island, the Regulations of the Liquor Control Administrator, and/or the Rules and Regulations of the Board of License Commission of the City of Newport, in the following specifications:

On June 7, 2024, said licensee and/or his employee did sell and or serve alcoholic beverages to (15) under-aged persons, in violation of Section 3-8-1 of the Rhode Island General Laws, Section 5.12.060 (F) (15) and (H) and 9.04.010 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Newport, Rhode Island.

WHEREFORE, the Director of Public Safety requests the Board of License Commissioners to take such action against the liquor license of the defendant licensee as the Board of License Commissioners deems fair and just.


Robert Schultz
Acting City Manager




NEWPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Police and Community - Partners in Excellence"

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE



To: Acting City Manager Robert Schultz
From: Chief Ryan Duffy 
Date: June 11, 2024
Re: The Dockside

Acting City Manager Schultz,

Recently we have been receiving information that The Dockside has been a destination for underage drinking. We sent officers out this past Friday night in plain clothes to investigate identify and summons any underage persons drinking at the establishment.

We found a significant number of patrons at The Dockside consuming alcohol who were underage. During our investigation The Dockside staff was cooperative.

Here are the statistics to that investigation:

- Number of arrests: 15
- Numbers of arrested persons with a fake ID: 8
- Number of arrested persons without an ID: 7

According to the officers who responded to the Dockside, there would have been many more summonses issued and the only reason we did not issue more was that we didn't have enough officers available to issue the summonses as the underage crowd dispersed. The officers observed that although the staff at the Dockside had an ID scanner available to them, they observed the staff to use it only periodically.

We have not had this many underage drinking summonses from one establishment in recent memory. This investigation began with several community complaints of pervasive underage drinking. The investigation seemed to confirm the allegation and therefore I present these facts to you for your consideration to share with Council in their role as Board of License Commissioners.

120 Broadway Newport, RI 02840
Office Number: 401-845-5776
Email: chiefofpolice@cityofnewport.com