

STAFF REPORT

Date: June 5, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of a Nevada State Liquor Manufacturer License Application for Adam Hand, Great Basin Winery LLC located at 415 East 4th Street, Reno, Nevada, and if approved, authorize the Mayor to sign the Nevada State Liquor License Application.

From: Lance Ferrato, Director of Business Licensing

Department: Business Licensing

Summary:

This application is for a Nevada state liquor manufacturer license (“state license”) to operate as a winemaker at 415 East 4th Street, Reno, Nevada. Nevada Revised Statutes (“NRS”) requires Council to review applications submitted for state licenses that will operate within the City. Based upon a background investigation conducted by the Reno Police Department (“RPD”), Council must find satisfactory evidence that the applicant is of good moral character in order to approve.

Staff recommends that Council find satisfactory evidence that the applicant, Adam Hand, is of good moral character and approve the state license application for Great Basin Winery LLC (“Great Basin”) and authorize the Mayor to sign the application.

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

Pursuant to NRS Chapter 369 entitled “Intoxicating Liquor: Licenses and Taxes,” certain persons and businesses engaged in the importation of liquor; wholesale dealers of beer, wine and liquors; winemakers; instructional wine-making facilities; breweries; brew pubs; and craft distilleries are required to obtain a state license to engage in the activities listed involving intoxicating liquor. Prior to the revisions in Senate Bill (“SB”) 22 (2015 legislative session), state law required applications for state licenses to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners in the county in which the applicant maintained their principal place of business.

SB 22 revised the provisions of NRS 369.190, governing the review and approval of the state license. The revisions in the bill now require an applicant whose principal place of business is

located within an incorporated city to submit the state license application to the governing body of the city instead of the Board of County Commissioners. The governing body shall approve or disapprove the application based on evidence that the applicants are of good moral character. The state license requirement is in addition to any licensing requirements in the municipal code of the local jurisdiction(s) in which the business is physically located.

On March 1, 2024, staff was informed that Great Basin's state liquor manufacturer's license was void due to non-renewal. Consequently, this application was filed to reactivate their license.

Discussion:

On March 8, 2024, staff received a state license application from Great Basin to be licensed as a winemaker (Exhibit A).

NRS 369.190(3) and Reno Municipal Code ("RMC") sec. 5.07.055(c) specify that Council shall determine if there is "satisfactory evidence that the applicant is a person of good moral character" when reviewing and approving a state license application.

RPD completed the applicant's background investigation on May 3, 2024, and recommended approval for the winemaker license. Based on completion of the background investigation, staff has determined that the applicant is "of good moral character" and suitable to hold the state license under the provisions of NRS and RMC.

Financial Implications:

No financial implications at this time.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that Council find satisfactory evidence that the applicant, Adam Hand, is of good moral character and approve the Nevada State Liquor Manufacturer License for Great Basin Winery LLC and authorize the Mayor to sign the application.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Exhibit A - Great Basin Winery LLC State Application
Notice of Waiver - Adam Hand