

STAFF REPORT

Date: July 27, 2022

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of a Nevada State Liquor Importer/Wholesaler License Application for Stefphon Jefferson and Luis Rosales, ASKL Group, LLC dbas Aguavawava located at 7111 South Virginia Street, Suite A5, Reno, Nevada and if approved, authorize the Mayor to sign the Nevada State Liquor License Application.

From: Lance Ferrato, Business License Manager

Department: City Manager's - Business License

Summary: This application is for a Nevada State Liquor License (“state license”) to import and wholesale wine, beer, and spirits. The facility is located at 7111 South Virginia Street, Suite A5, Reno, Nevada. Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) require 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 applicants are of good moral character in order to approve.

Staff recommends Council find satisfactory evidence that the applicants, Stefphon Jefferson and Luis Rosales are of good moral character and approve the state license application for ASKL Group, LLC dbas Aguavawava (“Aguavawava”) and authorize the Mayor to sign the application.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Not applicable.

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 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 applicant is 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.

Discussion: On April 22, 2022, staff received a state license application from Aguavawava to be licensed as an importer and wholesaler of wine, beer, and spirits (Exhibit A). Additionally, Aguavawava submitted a City application for a privileged alcoholic beverage wholesaler’s licenses, which will also be considered on this agenda.

NRS 369.190(3) and 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 applicants’ background investigations on July 1, 2022 and recommended approval for the alcoholic beverage wholesaler’s license. Based on completion of the background investigations, staff has determined that the applicants are “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 Council find satisfactory evidence the applicants, Stephon Jefferson and Luis Rosales, are of good moral character and approve the Nevada State Liquor Importer/Wholesaler License for ASKL Group, LLC dbas Aguavawava and authorize the Mayor to sign the application.

Proposed Motion: I move to approve staff recommendation

Attachments:

Exhibit A - Nevada State Liquor License Application

Notice Waiver - Stephon Jefferson

Notice Waiver - Luis Rosales