

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

IN THE MATTER OF

Johnny Utah's
80 Washington Street
Norwalk, Connecticut
Daniel Velasquez, Permittee
BB Washington Street, LLC, Backer
Permit No. LCA-7617

April 20, 2018

SUMMARY SUSPENSION ORDER

This premise operates under a café liquor permit issued by the Department of Consumer Protection ("DCP"). It operates under the trade name Johnny Utah's. The permit was first issued by DCP on April 24, 2014.

We find that on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at approximately 11:45pm officers from the Special Services Division of the Norwalk Police Department, representatives from the Norwalk Fire Marshal's office, and liquor control agents from the Department of Consumer Protection's Liquor Control Division entered the premises to address a report of underage patrons and drinking at the premises. The premises was crowded and frequented by a large number of underage persons, many of whom were observed discarding personal forms of identifications to the floor, many of whom were determined to be from Fairfield University. More than one hundred underage persons were identified, and our preliminary investigation shows that at least twenty-eight (28) of them were allegedly served alcoholic beverages by bartenders of the permit premises.

In a letter dated April 20, 2018 to Director John Suchy of the Liquor Control Division, Norwalk Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik wrote, in part, that the large number of underage persons, mainly of them under apparent intoxicating liquor, "caused a significant strain on manpower to investigate and properly deal with the large number of underage individuals, including arranging for transportation back to Fairfield to assure their safety. Twenty-three (23) Norwalk Police Officers along with two (2) Fairfield University Department of Public Safety Officers and one Norwalk Hospital Emergency response Unit were detailed to properly manage the incident."

In this same letter, Chief Kulhawik requested, in relevant part, that the Department of Consumer Protection issue "an immediate summary suspension of the license".

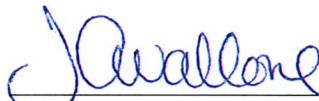
Due to the large number of apparently intoxicated underage persons, primarily from Fairfield University, representatives of the Fairfield University Public Safety unit responded to the permit premises, and assisted in the identification of the students and their subsequent transport back to the school by two chartered busses. The Special Services Division officers were supplemented for crowd control purposes by patrol officers from the Third and First Platoon shifts of the Norwalk Police Department, putting a strain on the resources of the police department for an extended period of time.

As a result of reports of underage drinking and disturbances emanating from the permit premises and spilling out into the street, agents from the Liquor Control Division and police officers from the Norwalk Police Department had met on March 22, 2018 with management of the permit premises to discuss security and beverage service protocols.

We find that the April 19, 2018 the large number of alleged sales or deliveries of alcoholic beverages to minors, the presence and possession of alcoholic beverages by minors in a barroom within the permit premises, in conjunction with the earlier reports of disturbances and assaults which emanated from the permit premises imperils public safety and demonstrates the need for much better control of the premises by the permittee, backer or agents.

Based upon the foregoing, DCP finds that public health, safety and welfare imperatively requires emergency action, in accordance with section 4-182 (c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, and **ORDERS** your café liquor permit **suspended immediately and premises closed** pending proceedings for revocation or other action.

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Julianne Avallone, Legal Director
On behalf of Michelle Seagull
Commissioner of Consumer Protection
Chairperson, Liquor Control Commission