

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

IN THE MATTER OF

75 Center
75 Center Street
Southington, CT 06489
John Migliore, Permittee
75 Center LLC, Backer
Permit No. LCA.7882

March 26, 2024

SUMMARY SUSPENSION ORDER

This premises operates under a cafe liquor permit issued by the Department of Consumer Protection (“DCP”). It operates under the trade name “75 Center.” The permit was issued by DCP on January 10, 2017. The permit has been renewed annually and the current permit is set to expire on May 9, 2024.

We find that on March 23, 2024, 75 Center was the scene of a large fight and assault that began inside and spilled outside the premises. During the altercation, two employees were stabbed in the head, neck and face with a blunt, shank-like object by a patron. The patron also deployed pepper spray. This incident follows a trend of active police involvement at the premises.

Specifically, in a letter to DCP dated March 25, 2024, Southington Chief of Police John Daly states that police responded to a report of a large fight or altercation occurring at the premises. Officers found two employees of the premises with stab wounds in the head, neck and face. During the investigation, officers observed that several patrons of the premises appeared extremely intoxicated. Police reports written following the event add additional details. Officers observed patrons “spilling out of the establishment and into the street.” An arriving sergeant was involved in “scuffling with [two] parties” in the parking lot across the street; further investigation revealed these parties were involved in the stabbing. One party was “visibly intoxicated.” The individuals involved with the stabbing had been engaging in “continuous verbal and aggressive behavior” while inside of the bar; security physically escorted them from the premise. While removing the group from the premise, one patron punched a security guard. While restraining a member of the group, a second patron began stabbing a second security guard in the back and neck with a “red pick type object.” The patron later swung at the first guard, cutting his face. A witness summarized: “I saw blood everywhere.” Prior to stabbing the guard, she deployed pepper spray at him, as well as bit another guard on the chest.

Chief Daly notes that his department reviewed calls for service at 75 Center Street, Southington within the past year and identified nine calls. As Chief Daly explained, “these calls for service include: patrons overdosing on drugs inside the establishment, physical altercations that started inside the establishment and spill out onto the sidewalk in front of the establishment, intoxicated patrons passing out inside the establishment and needing medical attention, two calls [involving patrons] . . . leaving the establishment and then pulled firearms out and pointed them at people in front of the establishment, [and] patrons with firearms inside the establishment.”

A review of DCP records establishes that we received three other recent complaints about the premises predating the incidents included in Chief Daly's recitation:

- On January 4, 2023, DCP received a police referral indicating a disturbance occurred inside the premise by two intoxicated patrons on December 17, 2022. Video evidence obtained was unable to substantiate charges of sale to intoxicated persons.
- On December 8, 2022, DCP received a complaint from a patron alleging that she was assaulted inside the premises on November 5, 2022. She claims that after he accidentally bumped into someone while paying her tab, another patron threw a beer bottle at her and threatened to "beat my ass." Security cameras were not operational that night, and DCP was unable to substantiate unlawful conduct charges.
- On November 11, 2022, DCP received a police referral stating that police responded to a fight in progress on October 8, 2022. A highly intoxicated female approached officers claiming that she was "jumped" while inside. Separately, an intoxicated man standing with premises' security claimed he was "jumped" across the street, but during a follow up interview, he claimed that he had consumed too much alcohol to recollect the incident. Security cameras were not operational that night, and DCP was unable to substantiate unlawful conduct or sale to intoxicated person charges.

Although DCP could not formally substantiate administrative charges at the legal standards required for these incidents, the underlying activity is nonetheless demonstrative of the recent operation of the premises.

As Chief Daly summarized: "The current security practices/policies of 75 Center Street Southington, CT have caused an immediate and imminent danger to the public safety and welfare of those visiting this establishment. The possession of firearms and other dangerous instruments and deadly weapons by patrons of 75 Center Street is a great cause of concern from a public safety perspective. If these safety concerns are not remediated immediately, it is likely that someone visiting this establishment or walking past this establishment will incur physical injury or bodily harm." As Sergeant Ryan Lair succinctly noted in his report of the evening: "This bar/restaurant turns into more of a bar/night club during the late night/early morning hours, and attracts a younger demographic type crowd. 75 Center is well known for being the epicenter for many fights/disturbances/intoxicated parties requiring a police response."

We find that the March 25, 2024 altercation and stabbing, in conjunction with the repeated police presence at the location and DCP's own records of alleged altercations and intoxicated patrons, demonstrates that the premise is operated in a manner that imperils public safety and highlights the need for better control of the premise by the permittee, backer, or their 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 cafe liquor permit **suspended immediately and premises closed** pending proceedings for revocation or other action.

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Bryan T. Cafferelli
Commissioner of Consumer Protection
Chairperson, Liquor Control Commission