

**State of Connecticut**  
**Department of Consumer Protection**  
**Liquor Control Commission**



**Commissioner Michelle H. Seagull**  
**THE LIQUOR PERMIT OF:**

**CENTRAL CAFE**

**54 W MAIN ST, PLAINVILLE, CT 06062-1904**  
**LCA.0006715**

**HAS BEEN**

**SUSPENDED**

for the following dates:

**INDEFINITELY**

**This suspension has been imposed for violation of the following  
statutes or regulations:**

30-6-A24 (a) CONDUCT OF PERMIT PREMISES-BRAWLS,DISTURBANCES  
4-182 (C) OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES – SUMMARY SUSPENSION

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

Central Café  
54 West Main Street  
Plainville, Connecticut  
Shirley M. Papallo, Permittee  
Big Dog Entertainment, LLC Backer  
Permit No. LCA-6715

May 21, 2019

**SUMMARY SUSPENSION ORDER**

This premises operates under a café liquor permit issued by the Department of Consumer Protection (“DCP”). It operates under the trade name “Central Café.” The permit was first issued by DCP on April 11, 2006.

We find that on Thursday, May 16, 2019, Central Café was the scene of a motorcycle gang brawl, which resulted in two patrons sustaining injuries and numerous motorcycle operators recklessly fleeing the scene. Specifically, a preliminary investigative report completed by the Plainville Police Department indicates that the entire evening shift of the police department responded to a bar fight between dueling motorcycle clubs at the premise. Upon arrival, officers observed numerous motorcyclists wearing known gang insignia, specifically some individuals wearing black leather vests with red devil faces and the inscription “Diablos,” and others wearing black leather vests with white lettering reading “Outlaws.” The police know the Diablos and Outlaws to be dueling outlaw motorcycle clubs. Up to twenty motorcyclists were observed fleeing the premise at high rates of speed and driving over lawns, driving down the wrong side of the road, and driving around other vehicles in an unsafe manner, all while disobeying officer’s signals.

Inside the premise, officers observed one patron bleeding profusely from a deep laceration on the right side of his head; this same patron also had human bite mark on his arm. His head injuries are consistent with being hit by a blunt object. He claimed that he was “hanging out” and was then “jumped,” but refused to provide additional details. A second patron was bleeding slightly from a laceration on the right side of his head. This patron was known to police as an associate of the Outlaws, and refused to cooperate with police. An anonymous witness ultimately informed police that members of the Outlaws were on the outside patio of the premise when a significant number of Diablos drove into the parking lot very fast, quickly disembarked from their motorcycles, and ran toward the patio. Those individuals then jumped the fence that enclosed the patio and began attacking the Outlaws.

Although the Diablos and some Outlaws initially fled the scene, several Outlaws remained and yelled obscenities at the police. More members of the Outlaws arrived, whom the police believed to be reinforcements in case the situation escalated. Several other motorcyclists were observed slowly driving by the premise, whom the police believed were Diablos who had taken off their vests and were watching the premise. To secure the scene, the Plainville police ultimately had to request and receive mutual aid from three surrounding towns.

After securing the premise, the police contacted permittee Shirley Papallo, who voluntarily agreed to shut down the bar for the evening. The police informed the bar manager, Roger Papallo, of the order and he complied. Mr. Papallo acknowledged that he is friends with numerous members of the Outlaws. The police stated to Mr. Papallo that it “appears that the Central Café is being operated as a ‘gang bar’ and [Mr.] Papallo replied ‘yeah.’”

In a letter to Liquor Control Director John Suchy, Plainville Chief of Police Matthew Catania reports that he is aware of two similar recent incidents at this premise involving motorcycle gang violence. He describes the circumstances as a “volatile and dangerous situation” and states that “[i]t is not likely that we have seen the last of this type of behavior at this location.” In an email from Chief Catania to Plainville Town Manager Robert Lee, a copy of which was also provided to Director Suchy, Chief Catania highlighted the events of May 16<sup>th</sup> with the town leadership because they encapsulate “the intensity and seriousness of this incident and similar incidents we are encountering. . . . Add to this, Central Café is welcoming the gang members in with their colors displayed.” He moreover noted that “I do not get the impression that the current manager of the Central Café, Robert Papallo, is police friendly nor well equipped to deal with the crowd he had last night or previously. It is common knowledge at this point that Papallo has friends in the Outlaws motorcycle gang. His actual involvement with the gang has not been determined.” Additionally, Chief Catania detailed more explicitly the broad-ranging danger these types of motorcycle fights create: “[W]hen the police break up a biker crowd just after a violate assault, we experience motorcycles driving recklessly from the scene, putting on a show of defiance. The riders last night [May 16<sup>th</sup>] were shouting at the police profanit[ies] and threats. This type of activity presents a very real danger to the involved parties, the police, but even more so to the innocent people who happen to be walking/driving by when the mass exodus occurs.”

We find that the May 16, 2019 brawl between two known dueling outlaw motorcycle clubs within the premise, in conjunction with reports of recent similar incidents and the knowledge that the bar manager is affiliated with one of the motorcycle clubs, imperils public safety and demonstrates the need for better control of the premises 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 café liquor permit **suspended immediately and premises closed** pending proceedings for revocation or other action.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION



Michelle Seagull  
Commissioner of Consumer Protection  
Chairperson, Liquor Control Commission