

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

IN THE MATTER OF

BullsEye Billiards & Bar
655 Main Street
East Haven, CT 06512
David Clough, Permittee
Crown East, LLC, Backer
Permit No. LCA.6116

August 9, 2022

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 “BullsEye Billiards & Bar.” The permit was first issued by DCP on June 13, 2001 and has been renewed annually, with the current permit set to expire on February 11, 2023.

We find that on August 6, 2022, BullsEye Billiards & Bar was the scene of a fight and shooting during which at least two individuals were shot, resulting in one fatality and one critical injury. This incident follows ten other reports of fights and stabbings at the premise since March 2021, as well as numerous other instances of police involvement at the premise.

Specifically, in a letter to DCP dated August 8, 2022, East Haven Police Chief Edward Lennon Jr. stated that on August 6, 2022, at approximately 1:38 a.m., East Haven police officers responded to the premise for a report of a shooting. Initial investigation determined that a dispute occurred between at least two individuals that escalated over the course of the evening. The dispute concluded in a physical altercation between victim Julius Bolden-Lowe and an unidentified individual. Mr. Bolden-Lowe was ultimately shot 5-6 times throughout his torso, stomach, and head, and he later died from his injuries at the hospital. During this altercation, another victim believed to be a bystander was shot in the face. Both victims possessed loaded firearms. East Haven police found more than one caliber of spent bullet casings inside the premise, which suggests that there was more than one shooter. It is unclear whether the deceased exchanged gunfire with his assailant. Police also learned that, although there was a bouncer at the door checking I.D.’s, he did not conduct any weapons checks on the night of the shooting.

Chief Lennon also described a “pattern of incidents involving violent behavior” at the premise, some of which resulted in victims sustaining serious injuries. Chief Lennon identified a double stabbing with multiple serious injuries that occurred on June 6, 2021 and seven other fights (some involving multiple people, with at least one fight involving more than twenty people) ranging from March 10, 2021 to January 1, 2022. Police additionally responded to two other instances where men outside the bar were asking people to fight. Additionally, during this time period, Chief Lennon noted that there were sixty-two additional case numbers representing times that police officers were assigned to the premise at closing time “in an effort to deter illegal and/or violent activity.”

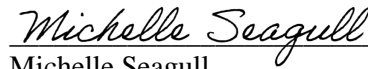
As Chief Lennon summarized, “[t]his continued illegal activity has been a constant drain on police resources and has taken officers away from patrolling other areas of Town. Despite these efforts,

BullsEye Billiards & Bar still has had many violent incidents.” Chief Lennon went on to note that the “serious violence that has occurred, the threat to public safety and the drain on police resources” created by this premise requires summary suspension.

We find that the August 6, 2022 shooting that resulted in one fatality and one critical injury, in conjunction with the numerous other police reports of fighting at the premise and the need for frequent police involvement, 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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Michelle Seagull
Commissioner of Consumer Protection
Chairperson, Liquor Control Commission