STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

IN THE MATTER OF

Teddie's Cafe George Dugas, Permittee Backer: Silano Inc. Permit No. LCA.6641 Docket No. 10-361 Case No. 2009-5549 April 15, 2010

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

This matter involves a café liquor permit issued to Teddie's Café, 2068 East Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. A formal administrative hearing was held before the Department of Consumer Protection on April 8, 2010. Proper notice of the hearing was provided; however, the Respondent failed to appear.

The following charges are alleged against the Respondent. It is alleged that on May 7, 2009, the respondent violated (1) Sec. 30-77 of the Connecticut General Statutes; (2) Sec. 30-6-A3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies; (3) Sec. 30-6-A24(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (7 counts); (4) Sec. 30-6-A24(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (4 counts); (5) Sec. 30-6-A24(b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (3 counts); and, (6) Sec. 30-6-A24(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (8 counts).

These allegations came to the department by way of a police referral from the Bridgeport Police Department.

Based upon the testimony and documents, we find the following facts. On May 7, 2009, as a result of complaints concerning prostitution and liquor violations at Teddie's Café, Bridgeport police officers under the direction of Sgt.

(now Lieutenant) Ron Bailey conducted an investigation at that location. At approximately 9:30 p.m., an undercover officer entered the location. Two female entertainers, Maria Perez and Tammi Matos, each offered to engage in sexual acts for money with the undercover Bridgeport police officer. Ms. Perez and Ms. Motos were both arrested and charged with prostitution.

We further find that on May 7, 2009, unlawful conduct occurred on the permit premises. Employees of this premises controlled access to the lap dance room. The female entertainers paid the bouncers \$10 each time they wished to use the lap dance room. Upon receipt of the \$10 fee, the bouncers would open the door to the lap dance room by use of a buzzer. The female entertainers also paid a \$40 fee each night to work at this premises as well as a \$25 "house fee" which was collected by the bouncers at the end of the night. A female entertainer, Anaysa Avelino was observed by Bridgeport police officers while she performed oral sex on a male patron in a private lap dance room. Ms. Avelino was arrested and charged with prostitution. Also on May 7, 2009, the bartender, Synthia Garcia, was arrested for permitting prostitution. Three bouncers, Daniel Kulakov, Keith Beardsley and Nick Gorske, were each arrested and charged with promoting prostitution. Four additional female entertainers, Chelsea Johnson, Lin Pena, Jazmiry Cruz and Mercedes Jimenez, were arrested and charged with prostitution.

Lastly, we find that on May 7, 2009, two female performers, Jazmiry Cruz and Mercedes Jimenez each exposed and displayed her breasts and genitals. They caressed and fondled their breasts and genitals. Ms. Cruz mingled by permitting patrons to touch her breasts. Three female entertainers later

identified as Chelsea Johnson, Anaysa Avelino and Lin Pena each caressed and fondled her breasts and genitals.

Based upon the evidence adduced, the Respondent is found in violation of Charges 3, 4, 5 and 6. Charges 1 and 2 are dismissed.

The Liquor Control Act grants the Liquor Control Commission a liberal discretionary power to determine factual matters with regard to liquor permits and to suspend or revoke the permit after a hearing. <u>Balog v. Liquor Control Commission</u>, 150 Conn. 473, 191 A.2d 20 (1963). This power to suspend or revoke a liquor permit is exercised conservatively, but mindful that dispensing liquor is a privilege, not a right. <u>Beckanstin v. Liquor Control Commission</u>, 140 Conn. 185, 99 A.2d 119 (1953). The Respondent's actions in disregarding our laws regulating the conduct which is permitted at establishments which hold liquor permits warrant stern enforcement action. Therefore, we hereby **ORDER** the café liquor permit **revoked immediately** in accordance with § 30-6-A8(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSIONBY:

Elisa A. Nahas, Esq. Designated Presiding Officer	
Angelo J. Faenza, Commissioner	

Stephen R. Somma, Commissioner

Parties:

George Dugas, Permittee, Teddie's Café, 2068 East Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06610

George Dugas, Permittee c/o Jan Trendowski, Esq., 90 Main Street, Suite 201, Centerbrook, CT 06409

George Dugas, P.O. Box 506, Stratford, CT 06615-0506

Non-Parties:

John Suchy, Director, Liquor Control Division Connecticut Beverage Journal Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106