



# memo

**To:** Rob Hernandez, City Manager  
**From:** Ashley Simpson, Revenue Director  
**CC:** Jen Herman, Assistant City Attorney  
 Lt. Shinita Young, ABC Unit  
**Date:** 9/19/2018  
**Re:** Liquid Café – J. Somesso

The Revenue Department is currently in receipt of an application, submitted by Jacqueline Somesso, for a new alcohol license at 10201 Abercorn Street. The business will operate as an eating establishment, and will do business under the name Liquid Café. The applicant has requested to be licensed as a retail dealer for on-site consumption, and plans to serve beer, wine, and liquor.

The Revenue Department submits the following history for consideration:

641 Indian Street		
Business Name	Council Date	Notable Incidents
Oz	02-05-04	Alcohol license request continued until 02-19-04 for Jacqueline Somesso
	02-19-04	City presents concerns with alcohol license including potential for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High occupancy load combined with customer base previously associated with business being very young</li> <li>• Concerns about noise and unruly behavior</li> </ul> Jacqueline Somesso makes commitments to address problems.  Alcohol license approved at hearing
	09-23-04	SPD reports show loud noise complaint - dismissed
	11-04-04	Revenue Department holds meeting between Oz and Comfort Suites to discuss concerns including noise and parking. Fence built at Club Oz to mitigate noise complaints.
	02-18-07	SPD reports show citation for allowing underage person where alcohol is sold or consumed - dismissed
	03-21-07	Submitted request of Transfer alcohol license for change of business name and address which triggers Show Cause Hearing for new location.

11508 Abercorn Street		
Business Name	Date	Notable Incidents
One Vision	4-12-07	Public Hearing for Transfer of license from Club Oz to former Club Ice location at 11508 Abercorn Street. One Vision is proposed to operate as an eating establishment with alcohol. City Manager requests Council to authorize City Attorney to notify applicant of Show Cause Hearing.  Show Cause Hearing scheduled for April 26, 2007.
	4-26-07	Show Cause Hearing held for transfer of license from Oz to One Vision. Key issues cited by the City include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citation of Jacqueline Somesso on February 18, 2007 for violation of City Code related to presence of minors in 21+ drinking establishment</li> <li>• Method of operation created a nuisance in the neighborhood resulting in citizen and business complaints; traffic congestion; excessive noise; littering; loitering; and parking violations</li> <li>• Lack of internal and external controls resulted in unusual amount of police resources having to be devoted in area</li> <li>• 222 calls for service reported in area between January 1, 2006 and date of hearing, including 31 Part I crimes and 72 Part II crimes. 150 calls directly related to Club Oz were presented from 2004-2007.</li> </ul> Transfer application denied by council.
	05-26-07	Performance at Club Ice/Visions draws large crowd. Reports include large fights and shots fired at the premises. No arrests made.
	06-30-07	Large after-party held at location is at capacity, resulting in crowds denied entry. Two arrests made outside of Club Ice/Visions, fights reported at nearby Checker's, youth at nearby Parker's reported to be stealing. Nearly 20 Police Officers called to area to disperse the crowd and restore order.
Visions	07-19-07	Public Hearing for new alcohol license at 11508 Abercorn- Michael Somesso, applicant. The building remained marked as Club Ice, but application indicates intent to operate as Visions, an eating establishment. City manager requests Council to authorize City Attorney to notify applicant of Show Cause Hearing.  Show Cause Hearing scheduled for August 2, 2007.

08-02-07	<p>Show Cause Hearing held for new license at 11508 Abercorn Street, to operate as Visions. Key issues cited by the City include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operations of the establishment as a teen club oriented entertainment establishment without alcohol in recent months</li> <li>• Two major incidents within one month requiring a large police response</li> </ul> <p>Alcohol license application denied.</p>
11-08-07	<p>Public Hearing for new license at 11508 Abercorn Street, applicant – Jacqueline Somesso. One Vision is proposed to operate as an eating establishment with alcohol. City Manager requests Council to authorize City Attorney to notify applicant of Show Cause Hearing.</p> <p>Show Cause Hearing scheduled for November 20, 2007. Show Cause later continued to December 6, 2007.</p>
12-06-07	<p>Show Cause Hearing held for new license at 11508 Abercorn Street, to operate as One Vision. Memo presented to Council detailing unresolved ownership issues.</p> <p>Applicant withdraws request as this application is for a 2007 license.</p>
01-16-08	<p>Burglary report filed at 11508 Abercorn Street. Lost inventory includes sizable amount of alcohol.</p>
01-30-08	<p>Public Hearing for new license at 11508 Abercorn Street, applicant – Jacqueline Somesso. One Vision is proposed to operate as an eating establishment with beer and wine sales. City Manager requests Council to authorize City Attorney to notify applicant of Show Cause Hearing.</p> <p>Show Cause Hearing scheduled for February 14, 2008.</p>
02-14-08	<p>Show Cause Hearing held for new license at 11508 Abercorn Street, to operate as One Vision. Key issues cited by the City include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequacies of the site for a large scale alcoholic beverage establishment or a promoted event venue</li> <li>• Previous problems with a bar and lounge and teen club at this locatoin</li> </ul> <p>Public hearing continued for two weeks to allow the applicant to prepare and present to Council a new plan for a full service restaurant.</p>

02-28-08	<p>Show Cause Hearing held for new license at 11508 Abercorn Street, to operate as One Vision, a full service restaurant without special events.</p> <p>City Manager recommends approval of the license on the condition that the business operate in accordance with an amended business plan that does not allow for special events and is limited to a 200 person occupancy level per recommendation by the Fire Marshal.</p> <p>Alcohol license is approved.</p>
06-05-08	<p>Public Hearing for transfer request for alcohol license, with addition of liquor, for Mohamad Abou-Harb, Council requests continuation until 06-19-08.</p>
06-19-08	<p>Continuation of Public Hearing for request of transfer of alcohol license with addition of liquor for Monhamad Abou-Harb.</p> <p>Show Cause Hearing scheduled for July 17, 2008.</p>
07-17-08	<p>Alcohol license application withdrawn.</p> <p>Alcohol license surrendered by Jacqueline Somesso</p>

In reviewing this application, it was noted by the Revenue Department that this applicant has previously held alcohol licenses within the City of Savannah. The Mayor and Aldermen have denied previous applications based on the history above. For this reason, the Revenue Department recommends denial.