



Memorandum

To: Pat Monahan, City Manager
Ashley Simpson, Revenue Director

From: Judee Jones, Revenue Administrator

Date: 07/10/19


Re: The Savoy Society

The Revenue Department is currently in receipt of an application scheduled for July 18, 2019 council hearing. The application was submitted by Matthew Garapolo operating as The Savoy Society, for a new alcohol license at 102 East Liberty Street Ste. 104. The business currently operated as Veritas is proposing to change its model from Bar/Lounge to a Restaurant. The applicant has requested to be licensed as a retail dealer for on premise consumption, and plans to serve liquor, beer and wine with Sunday sales.

During the investigation of this application, it was noted by the Revenue Department and ABC Unit that this application does not meet the measurement requirement for dispensing liquor by the drink to the nearest school. Measurement was conducted by Revenue Department Staff, ABC Unit and Georgia Department of Revenue from the requested location to Saint Vincent Academy school grounds, located at 207 East Liberty St. and was found to measure 85 yards from the requested location to the school grounds. The City generally follows State measurement requirements, but City Codes provides the following measurement exemptions that may be met in order to obtain an Alcoholic Beverage License from the City of Savannah:

Sec. C (1) Exceptions to State Distance Requirements. Georgia Code (O.C.G.A. § 3-3-21(b)(3) and § 3-4-47) grants municipalities the power to regulate the distance requirement for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises and the manufacture, distribution, and package sales of alcohol as it relates to churches, schools, and colleges. Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit the licensing of the sale of alcoholic beverages by:

- (i) Hotels of 50 rooms or more which have been in continuous operation for a period of at least five years preceding July 1, 1981;
- (ii) Hotels of less than 50 rooms for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages solely to occupants of the hotel and their guests by the drink for consumption only on premises;
- (iii) Private social clubs which are open only to their members and their guests and not to the general public, which do not advertise for or solicit patrons, which have an operating dining room as an integral part of its facilities, which dispense alcoholic beverages solely to club members or their guests by the drink and for consumption only on the premises;
- (iv) Restaurants that sell alcoholic beverages as a part of the meal or to restaurant patrons waiting for a table to be served a meal in a public place, licensed as a restaurant, and kept, maintained, advertised, and held out to the public as a place where meals are actually and regularly served, such place being provided with an adequate and sanitary kitchen and dining room equipment and seating capacity of at least 40 people, having employed therein a sufficient number and kind of employees to prepare, cook, and serve



suitable food for its guests with the serving of alcoholic beverages to be consumed on premises as only incidental thereto;

(v) No distance requirement shall apply to colleges within the Historic or Victorian Districts when the premises are zoned to allow such use;

(vi) For businesses classified as banquet, reception halls, or event venues whose dominant business activity and related gross sales receipts are from the rental of facilities and catering of food for banquets, receptions, and events, there shall be no distance requirements for businesses within the Historic District when the premises are zoned to allow such use and such businesses are otherwise determined eligible for a beverage alcohol license for consumption on premises.

The Revenue Department recommends approval of this alcohol license, contingent upon confirmation that the establishment has met all requirements of the above highlighted exemption. Revenue Department staff will perform a site review prior to releasing the approved license to the customer, and will review the gross receipts from food sales during the 2020 annual alcohol renewal and again in February for the annual 6-month review.