



February 8, 2021

EMAIL: [stu.putman@earthlink.net](mailto:stu.putman@earthlink.net),  
VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, RRR, AND REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Stuart Putman  
d/b/a/ Treehouse, The Rooftop Tavern, Inc.  
309 West St. Julian Street  
Savannah, Georgia 31401

Re: NOTICE OF HEARING TO SHOW CAUSE  
WHY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE SHOULD NOT BE REVOKED  
FEBRUARY 11, 2021, 2:00 P.M., CITY HALL SECOND FLOOR

Dear Mr. Putman:

City files reflect that you possess a license to sell alcoholic beverages at the Treehouse, located at 309 West St. Julian Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. You have previously been informed by the City's staff and the City Manager that you are in violation of the City's Alcohol Beverage Ordinance as follows:

- On December 21, 2016 – Officer Response Required - the management received a complaint from a patron that a subject was flashing a firearm at them. Off-duty officers were requested to assist with a person with a gun. The firearm was removed from him and secured.
- On November 24, 2018 – Officer Response Required - off-duty officers were working and heard a loud pop sound. The officers responded to the balcony area and two (2) individuals, one with a firearm. The individual with the firearm pointed it at the officers. Several officers responded due the 'active shooter' call. Officers verbally engaged the suspects and were able to get the male to drop the gun. There were no injuries. There was property damage to the inside structure. Both subjects were detained and transported to Headquarters.
- On November 30, 2018 - An Administrative meeting was held and you agreed to the following and to update your security plan with the Alcohol Unit:
  1. Wand all patrons (waist, ankle, and legs);
  2. Make "no guns" signs visible to patrons; and

3. Post dress code signs visible to prevent gang violence.
- On January 1, 2021 – Officer Response Required - A homicide occurred after gunfire erupted inside of your establishment. Complainants reported hearing loud popping sounds while inside drinking. There were reports of a male lying on the floor unresponsive. Off-duty officers responded and assisted the male on the floor. There was a male observed leaving the establishment with a female. He suffered what appeared to be a gunshot wound. Later at Candler Hospital a female who stated she was injured while at Treehouse showed up with a gunshot wound to her leg.
    - While on the scene, officers were contacted by a male who was inside of the establishment who gave the officer his firearm. The male stated that he has a permit and was inside of the establishment with his firearm but did not fire it. He advised that he was not searched by staff prior to entering the establishment. He voluntarily approached officers because he believed he was going to be searched upon leaving the premises.
    - One victim later died of his injuries and two (2) other victims suffered non-life-threatening injuries. The case remains under active investigation.
  - On January 16, 2021 – Officer Response Required – an assault case stemming from or in connection with patrons from your establishment triggered further investigation into the operation of your license. This case remains under activation.

The foregoing events constitute serious violations of the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance of 2019, including Section 6-1206(d)(4), which requires a licensee to revisit and resubmit a safety plan to include implantation of additional public safety measures. Accordingly, the City considers your establishment a threat to public safety, welfare or health, and a public nuisance. See City Code Sections 6-1207(b)(1) and (9).

Based upon the outlined violations, the Savannah Police Department and the City Manager have recommended that you be required to show cause as provided in Section 1207 as to why your alcoholic beverage license should not be revoked on the grounds that you have violated City ordinances and maintained a nuisance in your operation of the business, requiring an unusual amount of police and enforcement activity. Evidence of such violations of the ordinance will be presented at a Public Hearing at 2:00pm on Thursday, February 11, 2021 before the Mayor and City Council in Savannah City Hall.

You may be represented by counsel at the hearing, and you and/or your attorney will have an opportunity to cross-examine all witnesses and to examine any evidence presented. You will

further have the right present witnesses, testimony and/or evidence. If you or your attorney has any questions concerning the scheduling of this hearing you may contact me at (912) 844-1346

Very truly yours,

*/s/ R. Bates Lovett*

R. BATES LOVETT  
CITY ATTORNEY

RBL/DMC

cc: City Manager (via email)  
Chief of Police (via email)  
Revenue Director (via email)  
Clerk of Council (via email)  
Denise Cooper, Esq. (via email)