



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

February 24, 2019

Mr. Fred Moosally
Director, Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration
2000 14th Street, Northwest
Suite 400 South
Washington, D.C. 20009

Re: REQUEST FOR REVOCATION OF LICENSE – Safari Restaurant and Lounge

Dear Mr. Moosally:

This letter is in reference to the establishment located at 4306 Georgia Avenue, NW, operating as “Safari Restaurant and Lounge,” with a Tavern Class “C” license (ABRA # 090424). I am requesting that an immediate revocation of the alcohol license take place to ensure the safety of all citizens and visitors of Washington, DC.

On Sunday, February 24, 2019, at approximately 1:25 a.m., the Metropolitan Police Department’s Fourth District officers were dispatched to the Safari Restaurant and Lounge, located at 4306 Georgia Avenue, NW, for an assault in progress. Moments later, at 1:27 a.m., the Fourth District received multiple calls for sounds of gunshots in the 4300 block of Georgia Avenue, NW, in front of the Safari Restaurant and Lounge. Upon MPD’s arrival on scene, several subjects were observed dispersing from the area after exiting the lounge. MPD located the assault victim, the deejay, who advised that he was assaulted inside the lounge by several patrons. The victim sustained swelling to his face and was treated by DCFEMS. While on the scene, officers located a crime scene with multiple shell casings and blood in front 4306 Georgia Avenue, NW. As the officers began processing the scene the dispatcher advised that two shooting victims arrived at the Washington Hospital Center. One of the victims, who was shot multiple times in the body, was pronounced at 2:11 a.m. by Dr. Anthony Shifflet. Preliminary investigation revealed that the victim of the homicide was transported to the hospital from the 4300 block of Georgia Avenue, NW.

On Sunday, February 24, 2019, the establishment was open to the public and was having a special rap event with a deejay occurring at the time of the assault.

There were no security personnel working the event. According to the Office of Unified Communications (OUC), there were no telephone calls to 911 for any assault originating from the establishment’s management. The manager was intoxicated during the interviewing process. One employee, who identified himself as a food runner was unwilling to cooperate with the responding police officers. There is on site security surveillance; however, it was inoperable.

The violent, criminal act that resulted in the homicide can be connected directly to the operations of this establishment. Of significance was the apparent failure of management of

the establishment to notify the Metropolitan Police Department immediately following the revelation of an assault victim. In fact, a manager in the establishment asked for subjects to leave the premises. The information developed thus far in this investigation leads me to conclude that the public safety interests of the community and protection of lives would best be served if the license to operate "Safari Restaurant and Lounge" was revoked.

I find that continued operation of this establishment presents an imminent danger to the health and safety of the public, that there would be an additional imminent danger to the health and welfare of the public if the establishment is not closed, and that there is no other immediately available measure that would ameliorate the threat to public safety. I have made my determination based upon the recommendation of Commander Randy Griffin of the Fourth District.

Consequently, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-827, I hereby request that the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (The Board) revoke the license for the "Safari Restaurant and Lounge" to sell alcoholic beverages. Pursuant to my authority under the Emergency Suspension of Liquor Licenses Act of 2005 (D.C. Law 16-20, D.C. Official Code § 25-827), I intend to close the "Safari Restaurant and Lounge" effective 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 24, 2019, for up to 96 hours subject to a hearing and pending disposition by the Board under D.C. Official Code § 25-826.

Additionally, any information pertaining to crime statistics and calls for service will be provided to the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration. I believe that the information obtained by the Metropolitan Police Department and provided to the Board is sufficient to make an evaluation and decision of my request. Should you need additional information, please contact Commander Randy Griffin, Fourth District on (202) 715-7500.

Sincerely,



Peter Newsham
Chief of Police

cc: Rashad M. Young, City Administrator
Kevin Donahue, Deputy City Administrator and Deputy Mayor
Shawn Townsend, Deputy Mayor for Nightlife and Culture
Karl Racine, Attorney General
Ernest Chrappah, Interim Director, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
Lamar Greene, Patrol Chief, Patrol Services North
Commander Randy Griffin, Fourth District