

**THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD**

In the Matter of:)	Case No.:	N/A
)	License No.:	N/A
Sugar Rim Bar, Inc.)	Order No:	2022-086
)		
Order to Cease and Desist)		
)		
12900 Asbury Drive)		
Ft. Washington, MD 20744)		

BEFORE: Donovan Anderson, Chairperson
James Short, Member
Bobby Cato, Member
Rafi Aliya Crockett, Member
Jeni Hansen, Member
Edward S. Grandis, Member

PARTIES: Cory T. Brim, Owner
Sugar Rim Bar, Inc.
ABRA License No. 119155
12900 Asbury Drive
Ft. Washington, MD 20744

Jerin Wall-Thame
ABRA License No. 109041

Emma Goldberg

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

INTRODUCTION

On March 2, 2022, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board reviewed compelling evidence that Cory T. Brim, Sugar Rim Bar, Inc., and Emma Goldberg illegally sold and permitted the consumption of alcohol on February 3, 2022, and February 4, 2022. The Board further notes that Jerin Wall-Thame also participated in a similar event on February 4, 2022. In light of these violations, the parties are ordered to cease and desist the sale, service, and consumption of

alcohol at 1262 5th Street, N.E., and any other location that is not authorized by a valid alcohol license.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On February 3, 2022, ABRA Investigator Mark Ruiz and ABRA Investigator Adam Mitchell were instructed to investigate a catered event at 1262 5th Street, N.E., called the “The Little Mermaid Cocktail Experience.” *Case Report*, Sugar Rim Bar Inc., at 1 (Feb. 3, 2022).
2. At around 8:35 p.m., on that day, they arrived at the target premise. *Id.* at 1. At the entrance, the investigators observed a security person at the door and met Emma Goldberg. *Id.* The investigators informed Ms. Goldberg that they intended to perform an inspection. *Id.*
3. Inside the premises, the investigators observed a bar area where cocktails were being prepared. *Id.* They then asked to speak to the licensed manager. *Id.* A man, who identified himself as Cory T. Brim, presented an ABC manager’s license. *Id.* He indicated that Wine Key Experience, LLC, ABRA License No. 114575, was his employer and provided the alcohol. *Id.* No food was present at the event. *Id.* at 2. He also presented a photocopy of the Wine Key’s ABRA license. *Id.* at 2.
4. During the conversation, Ms. Goldberg identified herself as the General Manager for a business called Fever. *Id.* at 2. She indicated that Fever was producing the event and contracted with a caterer. *Id.* An advertisement indicated that a ticket to the event cost \$59.00. *Id.* at Exhibit No. 1.
5. On February 4, 2022, Investigator Ruiz received an email from the owner of Wine Key Experience, LLC, Marcelle Folk. *Id.* The owner indicated that she had not been contracted by Fever and was unaware of the event occurring at 1262 5th Street, N.E. *Id.* She further denied that Mr. Brim was an employee but had only worked with him on two other events. *Id.*
6. On February 4, 2022, Investigator Ruiz visited 1262 5th Street, N.E., with Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) at around 8:15 p.m. *Id.* At the time, “The Little Mermaid Cocktail Experience” was ongoing again. *Id.* ABRA licensed manager Jerin Wall-Thame and Ms. Goldberg were present. *Id.* Investigator Ruiz informed them that they did not have permission to use the Wine Key’s license. *Id.* During the investigation, Ms. Goldberg provided an agreement with Sugar Rim Bar, Inc., signed by Cory Brim and The Madhatter Experience, LLC. *Id.*
7. Outside the establishment, Investigator Ruiz met Ms. Folk. *Id.* Ms. Folk indicated that Cory Brim’s company, Sugar Rim Bar, Inc., had provided bartending services for her in the past. *Id.* She further provided the investigator with an email from Mr. Brim apologizing to her. *Id.*
8. Inside the event, Mr. Wall-Thame showed the investigator containers of alcohol that were unlabeled in a refrigerator. *Id.* at 3. Mr. Wall-Thame stated that the alcohol was mixed in Clinton, MD, and brought into D.C. *Id.* There were also cases of White Claw Hard Seltzer as

well. *Id.* The investigator observed various patrons inside the premises consuming alcohol. *Id.* He also observed QR codes that linked to a drink menu on each table. *Id.*

9. ABRA’s records reveal that Sugar Rim Bar, Inc., previously held an ABC license, which was voided on July 17, 2015. *Id.* at 3.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

10. Title 25 of the District of Columbia (D.C.) Official Code (Title 25) provides the Board with the authority to order any individual or licensee to immediately cease “. . . violating any provision of . . . [Title 25 when] the violation has caused, or may cause, immediate and irreparable harm to the public” D.C. Official Code § 25-829(a).

I. The Event Violated D.C. Official Code §§ 25-102 and 25-1001.

11. The Board finds that the event held on February 3, 2022, and February 4, 2022, violated D.C. Official Code §§ 25-102(a), 25-102(d) and 25-1001. Under § 25-102(a), “No person shall sell any alcoholic beverage in the District without having first obtained an appropriate license as required by this title.” D.C. Code § 25-102(a). Under § 25-102(d), “No person operating any premises . . . where facilities are especially provided and service is rendered for the consumption of alcoholic beverages who does not possess a license under this title shall permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises.” D.C. Code § 25-102(d). Furthermore, under § 25-1001(a)(4), it is illegal for a person to possess an open container of alcoholic beverages: . . . “Any place to which the public is invited and for which a license to sell alcoholic beverages has not been issued under this title.” D.C. Official Code § 25-1001(a)(4). In this case, ABRA investigators observed an alcohol event in operation where tickets were sold and alcohol was provided and patrons were consuming alcohol on February 3, 2022, and February 4, 2022. *Supra*, at ¶¶ 1-9. Consequently, there is sufficient evidence in the record to find that the event constituted a violation of D.C. Official Code §§ 25-102(a), 25-102(d), and § 25-1001(a)(4).

II. THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE PREMISES FOR UNLICENSED PARTIES CREATES IRREPERABLE HARM TO THE PUBLIC.

12. The Board finds that the continued operation of the establishment by an unapproved operator causes irreparable harm to the public by allowing the establishment to maintain a continuing nuisance and threatens the safety and welfare of the public. All violations of Title 25 are deemed nuisances pursuant to § 25-805. D.C. Official Code § 25-805; *see also Com. ex rel. Preate v. Danny's New Adam & Eve Bookstore*, 625 A.2d 119, 122 (1993) (It is well-settled that even a lawful business may be enjoined from operation if it is shown that, under the particular circumstance, its operation constitutes a public nuisance); *Camp v. Warrington*, 227 Ga. 674, 674, (1971) (“where it is made to appear with reasonable certainty that irreparable harm and damage will occur from the operation of an otherwise lawful business amounting to a continuing nuisance, equity will restrain the construction, maintenance or operation of such lawful business.”). In this case, permitting the proprietors to continue to illegally operate without approval would allow them to maintain and benefit from the operation of a continuing nuisance.

13. Furthermore, the Board is convinced that the circumvention of the licensing process threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The misuse of alcohol encourages crime, disorder, and other antisocial behavior. The licensing process keeps those who cannot be trusted to superintend a licensed establishment, such as criminals and individuals with a history of repeated violations of the District's alcohol laws, from obtaining a license. Therefore, the business cannot be permitted to continue operating and the landlord cannot allow or permit the nuisance to continue.

ORDER

Therefore, the Board on this 2nd day of March 2022, hereby orders Cory T. Brim, Sugar Rim Bar, Inc., Emma Golberg, and Jerin Wall-Thame to cease distributing, purchasing, selling, serving, or otherwise permitting the consumption of alcoholic beverages at 1262 5th Street, N.E., and any other location not authorized by a valid alcohol license.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-115(c) and 23 DCMR § 1003.1, that ABRA shall no longer issue temporary licenses and one-day substantial change licenses for the above-mentioned address until this matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the Board.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-801(e), that ABRA refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) for prosecution. The Board further requests that OAG seek the enforcement of this Order in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia under D.C. Official Code §§ 25-829(f) (cease and desist orders) and 25-805 (nuisance) should it be deemed necessary.

Please be **ADVISED** that a copy of this Order is being forwarded to the Metropolitan Police Department to ensure compliance. If it is found that you are continuing to sell, serve, or permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages without approval from the Board, you and all other persons involved may be subject to both civil and criminal penalties.

ABRA shall serve notice by certified mail or personal delivery on the parties.

District of Columbia
Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com
Donovan Anderson
Key: ac43cb9eb9d5f09e4b730093d1dccc8

Donovan Anderson, Chairperson

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com
James Short
Key: 54f7ae373f820de6ac8d1b332d42949ec

James Short, Member

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com
Bobby Cato
Key: 256d3fcaadfb6146d7f4b75bd7917d2bd

Bobby Cato, Member

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Rafi Aliya Crockett, Member
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Rafi Crockett, Member

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Jeni Hansen, Member
Key: 82172931f050447491b56f9c2a4189f

Jeni Hansen, Member

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com
Edward Grandis, Member
Key: 5027bda7f09f0040ec14adeb52541ce5

Edward S. Grandis, Member

You have the right to request a hearing before the Board conducted in accordance with subchapter I of Chapter 5 of Title 2. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-829(b)(1), you may submit a written request to the Board for a hearing within fifteen (15) days of service of this Order. Additionally, you also have the option of submitting a written request to the Board for an expedited hearing pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-829(c)(1) within ten (10) days of service of this Order. Please note that if you fail to request a hearing, this Order shall be deemed final. D.C. Official Code § 25-829(d).

If you request a hearing, you may appear personally at the hearing, and you and the establishment, may be represented by legal counsel. You have the right to produce witnesses and evidence on your behalf and to cross-examine witnesses. You may examine evidence produced, and have subpoenas issued on your behalf to require the production of witnesses and evidence.

All hearings are conducted in the English language. If you, any corporate officer, or any witnesses to be called are deaf, have a hearing impediment, or cannot readily understand or communicate the spoken English language, an application may be made to the Board for the appointment of a qualified interpreter.

Your failure to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, if requested, either in person or through counsel, or both, will not preclude the Board from proceeding in this matter. Should you have any questions, contact ABRA Adjudication Specialist Danette Walker at 202-442-4418.

Finally, pursuant to section 11 of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, Pub. L. 90-614, 82 Stat. 1209, District of Columbia Official Code § 2-510 (2001), and Rule 15 of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, any party adversely affected has the right to appeal this Order by filing a petition for review, within thirty (30) days of the date of service of this Order, with the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. However, the timely filing of a Motion for Reconsideration pursuant to 23 DCMR § 1719.1 stays the time for filing a petition for review in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals until the Board rules on the motion. *See* D.C. App. Rule 15(b).