

**CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SAFETY & REGULATORY SERVICE COMMITTEE**

In the Matter of Taqueria Don Blass, Inc.  
Held by Francisco Blass  
DBA: Taco Blass  
3764 Nicollet Avenue South  
Ward: 8  
License: Wine, Class E W/Strong Beer  
L247-39376

**Findings of Fact,  
Conclusions and  
Recommendation**

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This matter came before a License Settlement Conference on Thursday, March 6, 2008. Appearing was the licensee Francisco Blass, accompanied by Emilio Lopez, who acted as interpreter and who identified himself as Mr. Blass' cousin. Appearing for the Department were Ricardo Cervantes, Deputy Director of Licenses & Consumer Services, Lieutenant Steve Kincaid, Commander of Police Licensing, George Pridmore, License Inspector, Pat Hilden, License Supervisor, and Sergeant John Billington, Liquor Inspector. Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, the department makes the following findings of fact:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Minneapolis Police Department License Investigation Division conducts youth alcohol compliance checks in an effort to assure that retail-alcohol license holders are not serving alcohol to persons under the age of 21.
2. On February 10, 2006, the Minneapolis Police Officers conducted a youth alcohol compliance check at Taco Blass at 3764 Nicollet Avenue South. Two (2) shoppers under the age of 21 were served beer. The server did not ask for identification, nor their ages. The establishment was issued an administrative citation in the amount of \$500.
3. On December 17, 2007, another youth alcohol compliance check was done at Taco Blass. In this instance one (1) underage shopper was sold a bottle of beer. This was the second violation for Taco Blass in two (2) years. As a result of the compliance failure, an administrative citation was issued in the amount of \$1000, as detailed in a City Council resolution.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. On two separate occasions, employees of Taco Blass sold alcohol to persons under the age of 21, in violation of Minneapolis City Ordinance 370.10, Minnesota Statute 340A.503 subd. 2(1), and the established compliance check policy and procedures of the City of Minneapolis. These compliance failures occurred in a period of less than twenty four months.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on evidence presented at the hearing, the Department makes the following recommendations:

1. That Taqueria Don Blass, Inc. pay a fine of \$1000, which may be paid in three (3) installments: \$300 on or before May 15, 2008, \$350 on or before June 15, 2008, and \$350 on or before July 15, 2008.
2. That Taqueria Don Blass, Inc. shall not sell beverage alcohol in any form at 3764 Nicollet Ave. So. for 30 days, from April 14, 2008 until May 14, 2008.
3. That Taqueria Don Blass, Inc. complies with the Minneapolis Fire Department violation orders, obtain all required permits and complete all work within 30 days of the signing of this agreement.
4. That all current service staff undergo alcohol server training from a Department approved trainer within 30 days of this agreement, and that all new service staff undergo alcohol server training prior to serving alcohol.
5. That Taqueria Don Blass, Inc. purchase and deploy one (1) device with which to automatically scan drivers licenses and other identification cards for the purpose of determining customers age and eligibility to purchase alcohol, and that such device be deployed with thirty (30) days of this agreement.
6. That Taqueria Don Blass, Inc. within two weeks of the date of agreement shall provide the Department of License and Consumer Services a written policy regarding the elimination of alcohol service to minors in their establishments, that such policy include the use of the identity scanner, that the policy be approved by the Department of Licenses and Consumer Services, and that Taqueria Don Blass, Inc. implement and maintain this policy.

7. "Date of Agreement" shall be defined as the date that the licensee signs or otherwise executes this Agreement. This Agreement is subject to approval by the Minneapolis City Council; however should such approval be obtained after the execution of this Agreement the approval shall be retroactive to the date of execution.

I have read the above findings of fact, conclusions, and recommendations. I agree with their contents and I agree with the above noted Recommendations. This agreement shall not preclude any other adverse license action, including but not limited to suspension or revocation, for subsequent violations of this agreement, or of any federal, state or local laws, ordinances, or regulations. I understand that the failure of my business to adhere to this agreement may be cause for further suspension, revocation, or denial of my license. I understand that this report must be accepted and approved by the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor.

Based upon the foregoing, this agreement is freely & voluntarily entered into in good faith:

For Taqueria Don Blass, Inc  
d/b/a Taco Blass:

By: Francisco Blass

Owner/Licensee

Dated: 4-15-08, 2008.

For the City of Minneapolis:

By:   
Ricardo Cervantes, Deputy Director  
Licenses & Consumer Services

Dated: 4/15, 2008.