PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WEST ALLIS COMMON COUNCIL CITY OF WEST ALLIS

In the Matter of the Complaint Against

Steffek LLC D/B/A The Drunk Uncle

Premises Location: 1902 S. 68th Street West Allis, WI 53219

Agent: Neal Steffek

COMMITTEE REPORT

On March 24, 2025, a sworn written complaint signed by West Allis Police

Department Officer C. Novinska ("Complainant") was filed with the West Allis City Clerk

against Steffek LLC d/b/a The Drunk Uncle as holder of West Allis License ALC-22-130, with

premises located at 1902 South 68th Street, West Allis, WI 53219 (the "Licensee"). The

complaint included seven counts against the Licensee and sought discipline against

Licensee's Class "B" fermented malt beverage license, "Class B" intoxicating liquor license,

and Public Entertainment License pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 125.12(1), 125.12(2), 125.12(3)

and West Allis Municipal Code §§ 9.51, 9.60(5), and 9.67(5).

On April 3, 2025, the Licensee appeared in person via its appointed agent, Neal Steffek ("Steffek"), before the common council and denied the complaint in its entirety. On April 17, 2025, a hearing on the complaint was held at 7525 West Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI 53214, before the Public Safety Committee of the West Allis Common Council pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 125.12(2)(b).

The Complainant was represented by Attorney Nicholas S. Cerwin. The Licensee was represented by Steffek. The Committee submits this report after considering the evidence and argument presented at the hearing as required by Wis. Stat. § 125.12(2)(b)3.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On or about the evening of March 30, 2024, Steffek was intoxicated and behind the bar at The Drunk Uncle. He exposed his torso and chest to a woman ("A.V.") and demanded multiple times that she expose her torso and chest to him.
- 2. After A.V. declined Steffek's demands, Steffek grabbed A.V.'s wrist without her consent and attempted to bring her closer to him, causing her to quickly pull away. This act of grabbing her wrist was alarming to A.V. and her reaction raised the concerns of a nearby man ("L.E.").
- 3. L.E. attempted to intervene between Steffek and A.V. multiple times, but Steffek continued to focus on A.V. and attempted to convince A.V. to consume a large pour of liquor she did not order or wish to consume.
- 4. Despite A.V. repeatedly declining Steffek's demands and becoming visibly upset, Steffek continued to sexually harass A.V.
- 5. L.E. eventually consumed the alcohol Steffek intended for A.V. to distract Steffek. A.V. felt violated after the interaction with Steffek.
- 6. A.V.'s husband demanded an apology from Steffek, but Steffek instead declined and verbally assaulted A.V.'s husband. As the parties attempted to leave, Steffek followed them outside the bar while insulting them. Steffek then charged after L.E., causing him to fear that Steffek was attempting to instigate a fight.

- 7. On or about May 26, 2024, a woman ("D.C.") was standing on the sidewalk outside The Drunk Uncle smoking a cigarette with a friend when Steffek approached them while intoxicated and began to yell at them.
- 8. Steffek approached them while agitated. Without provocation, Steffek yelled multiple times at them that they were "white trash," "bitches," and "sluts."
- 9. D.C. and her friend attempted to enter the bar to get their friends and leave when Steffek blocked the door with his body and threatened to shoot them while gesturing as though he was reaching for a firearm, causing D.C. and her friend to fear for their safety and flee the area.
- 10. Between 2014 and 2018, Steffek routinely exposed his bare torso and chest to a woman ("S.S.") at The Drunk Uncle and demanded that she do the same.
- 11. Although S.S. attempted to brush off Steffek's behavior, it eventually became so uncomfortable that S.S. avoided future contact with Steffek.
- 12. Several witnesses expressed fear in coming forward to report the instances of Steffek's harassment due to Steffek's reputation for retaliation.
- 13. On or about September 14, 2024, West Allis Police Officer Mussatti observed during a routine tavern check that the agent was absent and there was no licensed bartender on the premises of The Drunk Uncle while the business was open and serving alcohol to customers.
- 14. Steffek has sold alcohol from The Drunk Uncle on a regular basis without a seller's permit since July 18, 2024.
- 15. Counts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 described within the complaint are found to be true.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 16. The Licensee keeps or maintains a disorderly or riotous, indecent or improper house based on testimony indicating a pattern of sexual harassment, verbal harassment, aggressive behavior, and unprovoked threats committed by the agent of the Licensee against members of the public.
- 17. On or about September 14, 2024, the Licensee violated Wis. Stat. §§ 125.32(2) and 125.68(2) by being open for business without the agent or a licensed operator upon the premises.
- 18. Since July 18, 2024, the Licensee maintained an improper house by knowingly and regularly selling taxable goods without holding a valid seller's permit in violation of Wis. Stat. 77.52(1) and failing to pay state sales tax.

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the Public Safety Committee's findings of fact and conclusions of law stated above, the Class "B" fermented malt beverage license, "Class B" intoxicating liquor license, and Public Entertainment License issued to Steffek LLC, d/b/a The Drunk Uncle as License # 22-ALC-130 shall be revoked.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2025.

Alderperson Suzzette Grisham

As Chair of the Public Safety Committee of the West Allis Common Council