

Susan C. Jesion



March 29, 2017

City of West Allis
Chairman of the License & Health Committee

Ref: 6500 Bar & Grill
Montal Hinton and Tonja Bassett

I just watched the video of your meeting of March 28, 2017. I am writing this letter in reference to the case between Montal Hinton and Tonja Bassett. I would like to explain the reason for the two separate contracts that I signed between Tonja and Montal.

Montal answered an ad I had for leasing the bar last April 2016. I was very impressed with him as he is quite a smooth talker. I checked on his background and finances. After reviewing this I found Montal did not have the finances he claimed to have, I decided he might not be the right tenant. He called me several times after, then said he has someone who would give him the money to start the business including security deposit and 1st month rent.. At our next meeting, he brought his cousin along who wrote me a check for 1 month rent and part of the security deposit and we then signed a contract. One week later he said he would like to change the name on the contract to Tonja Bassett, as she would be holding all of the licenses and LLC and would be in charge of the bar with him being the bar manager. After meeting with them and writing a new lease between Tonja and I, we signed it. Her record was spotless, she was educated and held a very good job, she seemed like a person I would like to work with. All of my records show Tonja as holding ownership of the business. Previously I suggested to Montal that if he formed a partnership between his cousins and himself, he should get that in writing to protect all involved. I doubt that was ever done, but that really didn't involve me as I signed with the 6500 Investments LLC which is in Tonja's name only.

After a few months in business I called the bar phone about a late payment and Montal answered. Montal became very belligerent with me on the phone, causing me to hang up on him several times. At that time, he told me that in the future I should not call him regarding anything to do with the bar and said I should call Tonja as she writes all the checks and she is in charge. I haven't spoken to him since except for a call he made to me by Montal last week complaining that Tonja had fired him and he wanted me to say he held the ownership of the business. At that time, I told him as far as I'm concerned, Tonja signed the contract with me, holds the LLC and she is the legal owner and the only person I am dealing with. I noticed on caller ID that he was calling me from the bar phone and I know Tonja had changed the locks after firing him. I called Tonja and questioned why Montal was in the bar. She immediately went there and found Montal had kicked the door in and entered the premises. Tonja said she called the police.

Tonja signed the lease with me after the one I signed with Montal, as explained above. I was told the most recently dated lease would be the legal one and that is the one signed by Tonja and me. I hope this clears things up.

Susan C. Jesion

Owner of Building at 6500 West Greenfield Avenue.