

Purple Ethiopian Restaurant & Lounge

U-3438-16-1 USE PERMIT REVIEW

County Board | December 14, 2019



Background



Reason for Out-of-Cycle Review of Use Permit

- Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) has cited serious safety concerns and excessive Police involvement
- Police memo describes the extent and severity of issues, including:
 - Excessive calls for Police service to establishment (71 since January 2018)
 - Concerns of underage alcohol sales and alcohol sales after hours
 - Use of excessive force on patrons
 - Violent altercations both within establishment and in parking lot
- Joint inspection of site in November 2018 including the Fire Marshal's Office, Public Health, Inspection Services, and Zoning resulted in multiple violations of local and state laws, Codes, and Ordinances

Staff Findings

- Evidence that live entertainment use is contributing to an increase in disorderly conduct that leads to an increase in calls for Police service
- The applicant has been found to be in violation of conditions of the use permit:
 - #2: Not compliant with “all applicable requirements of County Ordinances and State Codes, the Environmental Health Bureau, and the Fire Marshal, the Police Department and the Alcohol Beverage Control Board (ABC).”
- The applicant has been found to be in violation of state alcohol license laws and local Codes and Ordinances
 - Current ISD violations being handled in civil court, and current ABC violations being handled via the State Agency hearing process
 - Previous violations identified but since rectified by Public Health, Fire Marshal, and Zoning
- The live entertainment use has demonstrated that it does adversely affect the health and safety of residents and is detrimental to the public welfare, which are Zoning Ordinance requirements a use must meet in order for County Board to grant approval of a use

Staff Recommendation

Discontinue the use permit for live entertainment at Purple Ethiopian Restaurant and Lounge located at 3111 Columbia Pike.