

The decision follows a heated April 29 licensing hearing where area Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs recommended non-renewal of the tavern's license, citing a collapse in the cooperation that had previously defined the business's relationship with the community.

For years, the address—formerly known as Lounge 340—had operated under a tenuous peace agreement with neighbors. Former operator Patrice Dickerson had worked closely with residents to mitigate noise, manage litter, and address parking concerns. However, that stability evaporated in December when Kimberly Lloyd applied to take over the establishment.

During the licensing hearing, residents expressed deep frustration with the shift in management. Christopher Barnard, a local resident, lamented the loss of the prior, functional relationship. "We can coexist and the neighborhood can work," Barnard testified. "But in the absence of having that agreement... I am very, very concerned about the quality of life and residential welfare."

The city received 12 letters of opposition, and testimony was provided by neighbors who cited ongoing issues with noise and loitering.

While proponents of the tavern, including Andron Lane, argued that the business serves as a "safe space" and that communication with neighbors had been one-sided, the defense struggled to overcome evidence of operational failures. During the hearings, committee members were shown video evidence of a patron appearing nude at the establishment—a violation of tavern standards.

When questioned by Alderwoman Andrea Pratt regarding the footage, Lloyd claimed she was unaware of the nudity, stating she believed the patron was wearing a swimsuit and that she had addressed the issue later.

Alderwoman Coggs, however, remained unconvinced. She noted that her initial support for the transfer was based on a misunderstanding of the ownership structure, believing Lloyd was joining the previous owner rather than replacing her.

“From conversations about ownership, to having DJs you shouldn’t, to having strippers you shouldn’t, to serving food you shouldn’t, I have no confidence under this new ownership that this will be a successful business,” Coggs said. “This is at such a level that I can’t support this license anymore.”

The Council’s decision to uphold the non-renewal was based on a "preponderance of evidence," including resident testimonies, aldermanic findings, and the video footage provided during the hearing. The business is officially slated to close its doors on May 21.

Under city regulations, Lloyd will be eligible to reapply for a license at the same address in one year.