

**LIQUOR AND BEER MEETING  
LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY  
CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL HEARING ROOM, CITY HALL, 250 NORTH 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020, 2:00 P.M.**

**HEARING OFFICER SAM D. STARRITT**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:58 p.m. Those present were Hearing Officer Sam Starritt, City Attorney John Shaver and Deputy City Clerk Janet Harrell.

**II. APPLICATIONS TO RENEW LIQUOR AND BEER LICENSES**

1. Lehr, LLC dba Twisted Turtle, 436 Main Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501, Tavern and Outdoor Dining Lease
2. Maverik, Inc. dba Maverik #500, 2696 Hwy 50, Grand Junction, CO 81503, Fermented Malt Beverage Off Premises
3. Scallywags Bar and Grill, LLC dba Scallywags Bar and Grill, 509 28 ½ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81501, Tavern
4. JMJ Ventures, LLC dba Fly'n Roosters, 200 W Grand Avenue #5, Grand Junction, CO 81501, Hotel & Restaurant
5. Azzamco, Inc. dba Freeway Bowl Fun Center, 1900 Main Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501, Lodging & Entertainment
6. Hong Luong, Inc. dba Bamboo City, 2472 Patterson Road, Grand Junction, CO 81505, Beer & Wine
7. Sang Garden, Inc. dba Sang Garden, 687 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81501, Hotel & Restaurant
8. Tay Tot, LLC dba The Warehouse 2565, 2565 American Way, Grand Junction, CO 81505, Hotel & Restaurant

Hearing Officer Starritt read renewals #2 - #8 into the record and verified with Ms. Harrell the applications were in order. He asked if anyone wished to speak against any of the applications. There was no one. Renewal applications #2 - #8 were approved.

Hearing Officer Starritt read renewal #1 into the record, verified with Ms. Harrell that the application did not include the required proof of insurance for the outdoor dining lease, reviewed a warning letter issued from the Grand Junction Police Department

(GJPD) and complaint letters submitted from neighboring businesses (attached). Twisted Turtle Manager Will Jones answered questions regarding their security procedures, alcohol service, exterior maintenance and neighborhood safety concerns. Hearing Officer Starritt asked if anyone wished to speak against the application. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Executive Director Brandon Stam expressed concerns about ongoing exterior maintenance issues and complaints from DDA businesses. CandyTime Shoppe owner Ben Hall spoke against this license being renewed. Information also submitted was the GJPD has had 13 Calls for Service in 2020 but there are no open cases/investigations regarding liquor violations, there have been no Code Enforcement issues in the last two years and Citadel Security has not noticed any issues related to Twisted Turtle.

Hearing Officer Starritt conditionally approved the renewal pending proof of insurance for the outdoor dining lease and requested this item be reviewed at the October 7, 2020 Liquor and Beer meeting.

### **III. APPLICATION TO RENEW LIQUOR AND BEER LICENSES WITH LATE FILING**

1. Colorado Mesa University dba Colorado Mesa University Downtown Art Gallery, 437 Colorado Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501, Arts License – **136 Days Late – Continued from August 19, 2020**

Hearing Officer Starritt read the renewal into the record and verified with Ms. Harrell the application was in order. Registered Manager Meghan Bissonnette explained regarding the late filing. Hearing Officer Starritt found good cause for the late filing and approved the application.

### **IV. APPLICATIONS TO RENEW LIQUOR AND BEER LICENSES WITH LATE FILING AND REPORT OF CHANGES**

1. Pinnacle Venue Services, LLC dba Two Rivers Convention Center, 159 Main Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501, Hotel & Restaurant – **124 Days Late**

Peter Allan Luukko, COO/Chairman, 19 Riverview Street, Essex, CT 06426 Added

Hearing Officer Starritt read the application into the record and Ms. Harrell verified the application was in order but the background report was pending. Registered Manager Maria Rainsdon explained regarding the late filing and corporate structure change. Hearing Officer Starritt found good cause for the late filing and conditionally approved the application pending the background report.

2. Pinnacle Venue Services, LLC dba Avalon Theatre, 645 Main Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501, Lodging & Entertainment – **108 Days Late**

Peter Allan Luukko, COO/Chairman, 19 Riverview Street, Essex, CT 06426 Added

Hearing Officer Starritt read the application into the record and Ms. Harrell verified the application was in order but the background report was pending. Registered Manager Maria Rainsdon explained regarding the late filing and corporate structure change.

Hearing Officer Starritt found good cause for the late filing and conditionally approved the application pending the background report.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING – September 16, 2020**

**Janet Harrell**

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**Subject:** FW: Twisted Turtle Liquor License

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Teresa Rens United Country Real Colorado Properties <[trensrealestate@gmail.com](mailto:trensrealestate@gmail.com)>

**Date:** Fri, Aug 21, 2020 at 5:28 PM

**Subject:** Twisted Turtle Liquor License

**To:** <[brandon@downtowngi.org](mailto:brandon@downtowngi.org)>

Hello Brandon,

It has come to my attention that the liquor license for the Twisted Turtle is up for renewal and I'd like to take this opportunity to reach out and express some concerns I have about their business operation.

Our office is next door to the night club and while they are a great daytime neighbor (quiet, since they are not open) they are not the type of business that I feel represents our beautiful downtown business area. Not only do I find the drunken/high turtle plastered to the front of the building to be in poor taste, but the business does a poor job of keeping their exterior clean. The front of their location often has trash, cigarettes, outdoor debris all over and generally looks dirty. Most business owners downtown take pride in their location, making a charming and welcoming storefront that aids the other businesses by presenting a boutique, historic downtown character and vibe. An outdoor park, a unique and memorable place to shop and visit. I have had to clean up vomit, beer bottles, cups, chew spit bottles, and drug paraphernalia from our front entrance prior to opening. Now I do understand we cannot contribute all of this to the Twisted Turtle, as there is nightly traffic from other venues and the homeless population in the area. However, the evenings that I have been down here working late, to the wild thumping of bass next door, I have seen the customers of the nightclub and have seen them spilling out, over served and drunk, onto main street and have witnessed episodes of vomiting, breaking bottles, fighting, and general disorderly conduct.... so I do know some, if not most, of it can be attributed to their lack of control and oversight of the operation.

The alley STINKS from the dumpster all year long.... as a professional parking in the garage and walking to my office I despise having to hold my breath and watch where I walk because the dumpster is leaking putrid, old alcohol down into the drain. It's been months since they have been open and the dumpster still stinks! It needs to be CLEANED. I've spoken with management several times to no avail. Their irresponsible disposal of alcohol has brought in countless homeless and I'm sure underage kids to scavenge the dumpster, pouring old, unfinished drinks into a container. How can this be ok? Don't they have some obligation to dispose of alcohol in a safe manner so as not to be possibly serving underage kids?

I am not simply against bars in the downtown area.... I just think something with a little different feel would suit the area better, as well as better oversight. Something that draws in more of the client base that is already supporting our businesses - we want them to feel comfortable and safe and the Twisted Turtle does not help that. With many instances of police calls, gun shots, fights.... this is not a good representation of downtown.

I would like to voice my opinion that I believe the Twisted Turtle should not be renewed their liquor license amid safety concerns for myself and patrons of downtown.

Please let me know if you would like additional information or to discuss my concerns. Thank you for your time.

Teresa



## Teresa Rens

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Browse Luxury Ranch Listings at [UCRanchesForSale.com](http://UCRanchesForSale.com)

**NOTE! Always call before you wire! Never wire funds to the title company without verbally verifying the instructions with your closer or closer's assistant. Wire fraud is on the rise! Be aware, be safe!**

## Janet Harrell

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**From:** Brandon Stam <brandon@downtowngj.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 30, 2020 9:21 PM  
**To:** John Shaver; Janet Harrell; DeLayne Merritt  
**Subject:** Fwd: Twisted Turtle

**\*\* - EXTERNAL SENDER. Only open links and attachments from known senders. DO NOT provide sensitive information. Check email for threats per risk training. - \*\***

Good Evening,

Below is another email regarding TT.

Kind regards,



**Brandon Stam**  
Downtown Director  
Downtown Grand Junction  
Life Happens Here.

t. 970 255 4924  
e. [brandon@downtowngj.org](mailto:brandon@downtowngj.org)  
w. [downtowngj.org](http://downtowngj.org)  
s. 437 Colorado Avenue  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

follow us: Four small square icons with red 'x' marks, representing missing social media links.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Aaron Hart <[aaron@jbhartmusic.com](mailto:aaron@jbhartmusic.com)>  
**Date:** Sat, Aug 29, 2020 at 4:16 PM  
**Subject:** Twisted Turtle  
**To:** Brandon Stam <[brandon@downtowngj.org](mailto:brandon@downtowngj.org)>

Brandon,

We want to offer the opinion that the Twisted Turtles liquor license not be renewed.

The downtown is more dangerous and dirty when they are operating. We've seen an increase in crime, shootings, damage, and general public disorder since their inception. Our business has suffered two significant window breaks during this time. We also have to clean up vomit and urine from our entry regularly. Our video surveillance system shows these individuals come from Twisted Turtle.



Other business in the 400 block of Main street, will also report broken windows, shot windows, mischief, drunkenness, lewd behavior, liter, and violence since the opening of Twisted Turtle.

In addition to the issues above, there are nightly incidents in the parking lot behind our building. Just this summer, I received a court summons to testify about an accident that involved patrons from Twisted Turtle. These individuals had been over-served and endangered their lives and lives of others. It took a day out of work-life because our video cameras captured the events.

We strongly feel that Downtown Grand Junction would be a safer environment if Twisted Turtle lost their Liquor Licence. The current situation is a public safety time bomb.

-Aaron  
Hart Music

**Janet Harrell**

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**From:** Brandon Stam <brandon@downtowngj.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 1:34 PM  
**To:** John Shaver; DeLayne Merritt; Janet Harrell  
**Subject:** Fwd: The Twisted Turtle

**\*\* - EXTERNAL SENDER. Only open links and attachments from known senders. DO NOT provide sensitive information. Check email for threats per risk training. - \*\***

See email below regarding TT from Ben Hall.

Kind regards,



**Brandon Stam**  
Downtown Director  
Downtown Grand Junction  
Life Happens Here.  
t. 970 255 4924  
e. [brandon@downtowngj.org](mailto:brandon@downtowngj.org)  
w. [downtowngj.org](http://downtowngj.org)  
s. 437 Colorado Avenue  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Ben Hall <[candytimeshoppe@gmail.com](mailto:candytimeshoppe@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 1:05 PM  
**Subject:** The Twisted Turtle  
**To:** Brandon Stam <[brandon@downtowngj.org](mailto:brandon@downtowngj.org)>

Dear Licensing Authority,

By way of introduction my name is Ben Hall and my wife Elise and I own and operate Candy Time Shoppe downtown. We own two buildings on Main Street as well, one at 500 Main and 510 Main which is where our store is located. Within the last few years we have experienced 3 acts of crime and vandalism to our building at 500 Main. A late night fight ensued and as a result a large pane of glass was broken in the location of our tenant, The Candle Kitchen. We also had damage to the exterior of the same building from what looked like a baseball bat which created a large hole in the stucco. Last December there was an altercation in which a bullet went through a window also at the Candle Kitchen. From that same altercation a man was shot in the leg just outside our building. All three of the incidents were traced to patrons of the Twisted



Turtle through the police department. Since Twisted Turtle has opened its doors, numerous panes of glass have been broken in businesses up and down Main Street. Other buildings have been shot, people have been stabbed, shot and beaten to near death, all being reported to the police as coming from patrons of the Twisted Turtle. One business, Old Friends Trading Company, has gone so far as to install a grated enclosure to protect their storefront at night. I don't know if you've seen it when it's down but what a negative message it sends. Imagine if all businesses on Main Street installed these enclosures to protect our property.

We as a family take great pride in our downtown and do our best on a daily basis to enhance the local and visitor experience and provide a safe and enjoyable atmosphere. It is my belief that the owner of the Twisted Turtle does not share the same goals. We reached out last December after the shooting through Brandon Stam of the DDA and asked to sit down with the owner and manager to discuss what had just happened and see if there might be something that they could do to help prevent these types of issues from happening again in the future. We received no response.

Please understand, it is not our intent to shutter or alter the Twisted Turtles business in a negative way. Our intent is for them to be held accountable for the crime that ensues from their establishment and hopefully change the violent pattern that they have allowed to continue. As you know there are many other bars, restaurants and nightclubs downtown, you issue their licenses. From my experience over the past 10 years from being downtown, the other establishments manage their business in a manner that minimizes the negative impact that is being discussed here.

It is time for these violent acts of crime and vandalism to stop. We call upon you as the licensing authority to do something about it. Many business owners on Main Street have tried, the police have tried, there have been no changes other than crime ratcheting up from beatings to people being shot. Now it's up to you. You hold their ability to continue business as usual in your hands. Too many years have passed where you reissue their license without any ramification to the amount and severity of police reports linked directly to the establishment. Does it take a life being lost to act?

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter...

Sincerely,

Ben and Elise Hall

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CandyTime Shoppe and Novelties  
510 Main Street  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

[www.candytimeshoppe.com](http://www.candytimeshoppe.com)

970.628.4252