



State of Arizona
Department of Liquor Licenses and Control

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Death of a Firefighter at a Phoenix Bar Results in Liquor License Suspension

PHOENIX – Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control Director John Cocca announced that he has issued an order summarily suspending the liquor license for Centerfolds Cabaret & Sports Fever, 2031 W Peoria Avenue, Phoenix. According to the department order, DLLC Case No. 17-00182, the suspension is based on Phoenix Police Department arrests arising out of events from January 21, 2017, wherein customer Luke Jones died following repeated strikes to the head by employee Brandon Douglas Draper. The order indicates that police reports state that Jones had his left arm in a brace from a preexisting injury and was therefore unable to defend himself against Draper's attack. The order further mentions that on-duty manager, Timothy John Piegari, initially denied knowledge of the incident and told Phoenix Police the business surveillance equipment did not work on the day of the incident, but a later review of the camera footage showed the assault plus Piegari disconnecting the system ahead of police arrival.

The Phoenix Police Department charged Draper with second degree murder, a class 1 felony. Additionally, Piegari was charged with tampering with evidence, a class 6 felony, and hindering prosecution, a class 3 felony.

The department order alleges these actions constituted grounds for discipline based on numbers of violations of Arizona law, including:

- The business failed to maintain the capability, qualifications, and reliability requirements for licensees;
- The business failed to reasonably protect the safety of its customer;
- That a "serious act of violence" occurred at the business; and
- The business failed to report the incident to the Department of Liquor or another law enforcement agency.

The department order states that the suspension is effective immediately, stating that "the Director finds that the public health, safety, and welfare imperatively require emergency action." The order requires Centerfolds Cabaret & Sports Fever to "cease all liquor sales and liquor licensed activity" but does not prevent it from conducting other business. The matter will be promptly set for a hearing to decide the long-term standing of the liquor license.

According to published media reports, Jones was a 12-year veteran of the Daisy Mountain Fire Department.

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