

## **News Release**

Oregon Liquor Control Commission 9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Portland, OR 97222-7355 1-800-452-6522

For more information: Bryant Haley, Alcohol Program Spokesperson Bryant.haley@oregon.gov 971-990-3254 (mobile) www.oregon.gov/olcc

February 11, 2021

## Newberg bar threatens public health

## Repeated violations leads to alcohol license suspension

**Portland, OR --** On February 10, 2021, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission issued an Order of Immediate License Suspension to the licensee of <u>Old Town Bar & Grill in Newberg</u> for not following public health social distancing and face covering requirements. The business, which holds a Full On-Premises sales license, is NOT allowed to sell any alcoholic beverages.

During the month of January 2021, the OLCC received a wide range of complaints that the operators of Old Town Bar & Grill were allowing for the indoor consumption of both food and alcohol. Further, it was alleged that the licensee was hosting live music events inside the licensed premises.

OLCC enforcement staff contacted the operators of Old Town & Bar Grill to provide education and verbal instructions about the complaints that it had received. During those conversations, it became apparent that the licensee had no intention of modifying the operation to come into compliance with Public Health requirements.

In response to this situation, OLCC compliance staff went to the location to monitor the activity and observed patrons consuming food and beverages inside the bar with no social distancing and not wearing face coverings. These observations led to the Commission issue a Notice of Proposed License Suspension on January 27, 2021, for allowing indoor consumption of food and beverages, as Yamhill County was and continues to remain in the extreme risk category.

Over the course of the next week, OLCC staff received additional complaints and were made aware of more live music events. On February 3, 2021, OLCC compliance staff once again went to the location to find a live performance taking place and patrons consuming food and beverages with no social distancing or face coverings. These continued violations represent a disregard for the public health restrictions and resulted in the Commission issuing an Order of Immediate Suspension on February 10, 2021.

The licensees of record are Seamlessventures. LLC; Kristina Boley, Managing Member.

The licensee was cited for violating both the Governor's <u>Executive Order 20-66</u> and <u>Oregon Health</u> <u>Authority - Sector Guidance for Eating and Drinking Establishments and the OHA Statewide Reopening</u> <u>Guidance - Masks, Face Coverings, Face Shields</u> when it allowed patrons to consume food and beverages on the licensed premises.

The OLCC investigation is continuing and the licensee faces the possibility of additional charges for liquor rule violations. The licensee is entitled to exercise their administrative hearing rights to challenge the OLCC's actions.

###