THE CITY OF DUBUQUE

Masterpiece on the Mississippi

Dubuque
★★★★★
All-America City
2007

CONTACTS:
Lt. Scott Baxter, Police Department
563-589-4473, sbaxter@cityofdubuque.org
Dubuque Police Chief Mark Dalsing
563-589-4410, mdalsing@cityofdubuque.org

www.cityofdubuque.org/police

N E W S   R E L E A S E

Oct. 11, 2010 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Will Not Appeal Decision on Liquor License

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque will not appeal the decision of Administrative Law Judge Laura E. Lockard of the Iowa Department of Commerce/Alcoholic Beverages Division which reversed the Dubuque City Council's decision to deny renewal of Players Sports Bar's liquor license.

The Dubuque City Council voted unanimously on March 1, 2010, to deny Players Sports Bar's liquor license renewal. The City Council's action was consistent with the non-renewal recommendation from City staff, which cited 285 police calls for service attributed to the bar from Jan. 1, 2009, through Feb. 7, 2010. The bar's owners appealed the City Council decision to the Iowa ABD and an administrative hearing was held in Des Moines on May 25, 2010. The proposed decision was released on Sept. 20, 2010. The Administrator of the Iowa ABD may opt to review the decision within thirty (30) days, or the City may file a notice of appeal within 30 days requesting further review of the proposed decision by the Administrator and to supply additional evidence in support of its case.

Based on internal discussions, review of the decision document, similar decisions against other Iowa municipalities, and the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division's (ABD) strict interpretation of the State Code, it was determined that the chance of a successful appeal does not justify the additional investment of time and resources in an appeal.   Like Dubuque, other municipalities (including Iowa City and Council Bluffs) have taken similar administrative actions against drinking establishments based on excessive police calls for service, up to and including appeals to the Administrator of the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division in the past year and received similar results.

# # #