

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM



No. AM XXX-2024

Meeting Date: October 8, 2024

From: Assembly Chair Constant

Subject: AM 755-2024 – Licensee #437, Public Safety Concerns Regarding Gaslight Lounge

The Gaslight Lounge, located at 721 W 4th Avenue, has become a focal point for public safety concerns in downtown Anchorage. With hundreds of police calls for service, including serious incidents such as a stabbing in February 2024, the establishment has prompted alarm in the community. These frequent disturbances not only impact the surrounding neighborhood but also present challenges to maintaining a safe and vibrant downtown core.

Per an APD report dated September 26, 2024 reviewing Calls for Service to Alcohol & Marijuana Establishment locations, the Gaslight Lounge location (Muni License #437; State license #175087) had 337 calls for service to APD, including 3 for homicides, between 11/1/2022 and 7/31/2024, excluding calls or cases for traffic stops, accidents, accidents with injuries, and towed vehicles. The second highest number of calls for service to an establishment in that report was 50, a huge disparity. Attached are pages excerpted from this APD slide deck report.

In response to these concerns, it is imperative that we establish a clear and detailed record of ongoing issues associated with this venue. This memorandum serves that purpose, offering a historical snapshot of the problems at the Gaslight Lounge for the benefit of current and future Assemblies, community leaders, and public safety officials.

Moving forward, a key focus will be on fostering collaboration between the Gaslight Lounge's operators, the Anchorage Police Department (APD), and the local community council. The goal is to develop and implement strategies to mitigate these recurring issues, ensuring that the business can operate safely while reducing the burden on public resources. Potential solutions are difficult to determine as the bar owner has made significant investments in lighting, cameras, security details, etc.

I am not seeking a protest of this license at this time. By proactively addressing these concerns, I intend to seek a balance between the business interests of downtown establishments and the broader community's safety and well-being. This memorandum will serve as a foundation for continued dialogue and provide a critical record should future Assemblies need to revisit this matter.

Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel's Office

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Constant, Assembly Chair
District 1, North Anchorage

Attachments: Pages 6-8, Anchorage Police Department, *Municipality of Anchorage, Calls for Service Review, Alcohol & Marijuana Business Locations*, September 26, 2024

Exhibit A
AM 755-2024

Gaslight Lounge

721 W 4th Ave

- Licensee: Gaslight Lounge, Inc
- City View Reference Number: LC11616
- MOA License Number: 437
- Look-back Period: 11/1/2022 – 7/31/24 (Most recent review was on 11/29/21)
- 337 Calls For Service attributed to this business
 - 88 Community Patrol CFS
 - 67 Disturbance/Disturbance with Weapon CFS
 - 29 Assault CFS
 - 23 Trespass CFS
 - 3 Homicides

Gaslight Lounge

- These are CFS that could be directly attributed to patrons/customers/employees of the business.
- CFS or reports that did not specifically mention that involved people were patrons or employees of Gaslight were excluded.
- CFS that occurred in the parking lot or on the sidewalk outside Gaslight, but did not mention that the incident started in Gaslight or that the participants were inside Gaslight just prior to the incident were excluded.

Gaslight Lounge

