

LICENSES AND CONSUMER SERVICES

LICENSE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

LICENSE NUMBER: L242-50043

POLICE FILE NUMBER: F. 13582

DATE OF APPLICATION: Sept. 2, 2014

INSPECTOR: Leanne Selander

APPLICANT/LEGAL ENTITY: The Southern Theater Foundation

DBA/TRADE NAME: The Southern Theater

COMPLETE ADDRESS: 1420 Washington Ave S Minneapolis MN 55454

LICENSE REQUESTED: On-Sale Wine with Strong Beer, Class A. A Class A license permits all Class B, C, D and E activities, and in addition, permits dancing, stage shows, skits, vaudeville, theater, contests, and patron participation in all legal forms of entertainment, excluding adult.

CURRENT LICENSES: Theater, Confectionery

RESPONSIBLE PERSON WITHIN 75 MILES: Damon Runnals

PUBLIC HEARING REQUIREMENT: Required

LICENSE CONDITIONS: None

NEIGHBORHOOD/WARD: Cedar Riverside/6

ZONING: C3A. The Office of the Zoning Administrator has certified that this is a permitted use.

7 ACRE REQUIREMENT: Met

OFF-STREET PARKING: The Office of the Zoning Administrator has determined that this license does not require any additional parking spaces.

CHURCHES OR SCHOOLS WITHIN 300 FEET OF THE PROPOSED PREMISES: None

500 FT. FROM RESIDENTIAL ZONE: N/A Theaters are not required to meet the distance requirement.

SEATING: INSIDE: 210

OUTDOOR: N/A No outside area

FIRE OCCUPANCY: 299

FOOD SERVICE REQUIREMENT: N/A Theaters are not required to meet a minimum food

service requirement.

HOURS OF OPERATION PROPOSED: Inside: Friday through Sunday: Noon to 2:00 AM; Monday through Thursday: 5:00 PM to 2:00 AM. **Outside:** None

MET COUNCIL SAC CHARGES: TBD prior to Full Council

POLICE REVIEW: Police Licensing and this Inspector have reviewed the expenses and source of funds reported in this application. The applicant has provided documentation showing adequate legal and traceable funding to complete the requirements for obtaining a license. They have also completed a security plan and discussed this application with the Minneapolis Police First Precinct.

APPLICANT: The applicant is The Southern Theater Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 1983. The Board of Directors is made up of all volunteers; there are no shares. Executive Director and manager, Damon Runnals, is the only paid staff person.

HISTORY OF LOCATION: The Southern Theater first opened in 1920, but through the years the space was also used for other things and was sometimes vacant. In 1976, it reopened again as a theater, and has remained so ever since.

PREMISES: The premises occupies approximately 7000 square feet encompassing the 210-seat theater and balcony, and first and second floor lobbies. The Southern Theater Foundation is the property owner. They occupy the entire premises except for space leased to the neighborhood business association and a non-profit Somali youth arts group.

BUSINESS/PLAN/OPERATIONS:

The Southern serves as a venue for experimental theatrical performances. Entertainment will consist of all types of theatrical productions except adult.

Wine and strong beer will be served from a bar located on the main floor lobby. Patrons may consume alcohol within this lobby, a 2nd floor lobby, or within the theater, itself. The Southern has obtained temporary liquor licenses in the past and has never had a problem. Runnals has taken alcohol serving training and his volunteer serving staff will also be taking classes. The theater's policy is to card all customers. Any volunteer who serves anyone underage will not be able to work again in the bar. Runnals will also be doing internal testing of the volunteers. In addition, the bar will not operate during any daytime performances for schools.

The Southern holds a Confectionery license allowing it to serve prepackaged foods such as snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY: The public hearing is scheduled for September 23, 2014 at the Community Development & Regulatory Services meeting. Notices were sent to 67 residents and property owners within 600 feet of the premises on Sept. 10, 2014. Apartment buildings at 1400 2nd St. S., 1414 3rd St. S., and 1849 Washington Ave. S. were also posted. The neighborhood and business associations were notified, as well as the area Councilperson.

Licensing has received one response back. The West Bank Business Association expressed their support, stating the theater was "a valuable community participant" and that a wine and beer license would help them "remain competitive" with other theaters.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Licenses and Consumer Services Division recommends approving this license application for a Class A On-Sale Wine and Strong Beer at The Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S.