

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Building and Planning Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: 5 West Lancaster Avenue, Ardmore Liquor License Transfer

Prepared By: Robert Duncan, Assistant Township Manager

Date: October 9, 2019

I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the transfer of a liquor license to 5 W. Lancaster Avenue, Ardmore from a location that is outside of the Township.

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:

Under the PA Liquor Control Code, approval from the Board of Commissioners is required before the PA Liquor Control Board (LCB) can consider an application to transfer a license from one municipality to another municipality in Montgomery County. The applicable section of the code is included below.

“An inter-municipal transfer of a license . . . must first be approved by the governing body of the receiving municipality when the total number of existing restaurant liquor licenses and eating place retail dispenser licenses exceed one license per three thousand inhabitants.” 47 P.S. §461(b.3).

III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):

There is no current policy but the Board of Commissioners has approved previous requests to transfer a license into Lower Merion Township. The Board has considered the impact to adjacent residential communities with recent liquor license transfer requests.

IV. Other Relevant Background Information:

Buena Vista restaurant is currently operating at this location but is seeking to expand operations to include liquor service subject to obtaining a liquor license. The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Almost all of the recent liquor license transfers into Lower Merion Township have been transfers to grocery stores for beer and wine sales.

One of the concerns raised in previous transfers has been the proximity to residential neighbors and the impact of liquor sales on the abutting residential community. This location is in the center of the Ardmore Business District and is completely surrounded by commercial properties.

V. Impact On Township Finances:

This application has no impact on Township finances.

VI. Staff Recommendation:

Staff supports this request to transfer a liquor license.