



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Mayor

Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

February 14, 2020

PRATT LIQUORS & BAR
1812 W. Pratt St.
Baltimore, MD 21223

AAYUSH, LLC
3512 Blue Coat Road
Nottingham, MD 21236
Rupak Karki, Resident Agent

EVA GROUP, LLC
doing business as Pratt Liquors & Bar
3508 Blue Coat Road
Nottingham, MD 21236
Bijay Ranabhat, Resident Agent

Sujata Ranabhat
3508 Blue Coat Road
Nottingham, MD 21236

Robert Kinsley Tompori
1701 Eutaw Place, Apt #524
Baltimore, MD 21217

**Re: NOTICE OF PUBLIC NUISANCE HEARING FOR Pratt Liquors & Bar, 1812 W. Pratt Street,
Baltimore, Maryland 21223**

TO: Aayush, LLC; Eva Group, LLC, Sujata Ranabhat, Robert Tompori

As owner of the property at 1812 W. Pratt Street (Aayush, LLC), operator of the "Pratt Street Liquors & Bar" at 1812 W. Pratt Street, you are hereby notified that on March 9, 2020 at 9:00 am, a hearing shall be held before the Police Commissioner for Baltimore City, or the Commissioner's designee, to determine if the property at 1812 W. Pratt Street ("the Property") is a "public nuisance," as defined under Baltimore City Code, Article 19, Subtitle 43, and whether the Property should be closed. Under Baltimore City Code, Article 19, § 43-3, the Commissioner has the right to order that the Property be closed, more commonly referred to as "padlocked." The business at the Property is being considered for closing because, over the past twenty-four months, there have been at least eleven (11) incidents involving crimes of violence or the illegal distribution of controlled

dangerous substances in/at/or near the Property. Baltimore City Code, Article 19, § 43-1(L) defines a “public nuisance” as any premises that, on two or more separate occasions within a twenty-four month period, were used for such criminal activity.

On January 22, 2020, while patrolling the area, police stopped in front of the Property and observed an unknown male standing in the doorway with his right hand in his jacket pocket clutching a large L-shaped object. When the male observed the officers, he went inside the Property. As a police detective entered, he heard the sound of a heavy metal object dropping on a wood surface. The suspect was located inside the Property and no longer showing the bulging L-shaped object from his jacket pocket. Officers then found a Cobra FS380 semi-automatic handgun with 6 live .380 caliber rounds in the magazine and 1 live in the chamber on the countertop of the Property. Officers rendered the weapon safe. No other individuals had gone to the counter between the time the Detective heard the metal object hit the counter and recovery of the weapon. The suspect was arrested. Such activity, in conjunction with any other violation set forth in this notice, constitutes a “public nuisance” pursuant to Baltimore City Code, Art. 19, § 43-1(L)(1).

On January 8, 2020, police responded to the Property as part of routine enforcement. Officers then observed an unknown black male run through the parking lot owned by the Property and enter the business. Police then enter the Property and see the unknown male standing next to another male. Officers ask the men if they had any guns. Both men then lifted their jackets to show officers that they had no weapons around their waists. Officers then saw one of the men cupping his hand around his jacket pocket and asked this suspect what he had in his pocket. The suspect replied he had “weed (a slang name for marijuana). Police then searched and recovered a plastic zip lock bag containing 16 jugs of suspected marijuana. Suspect was placed under arrest inside the Property. Recovered from the suspect’s left jacket pocket was a clear plastic bag containing twenty-six (26) gray top vials containing a white substance, suspected cocaine, and \$20 in U.S. currency. Such activity, in conjunction with any other violation set forth in this notice, constitutes a “public nuisance” pursuant to Baltimore City Code, Art. 19, § 43-1(L)(1).

On December 26, 2019, the police responded to the Property for a call of shots fired. Upon arrival, they observed the victim suffering from a gunshot wound. Investigation revealed that the victim and the suspect had been inside the Property. The suspect engaged in a hand to hand transaction with another male seated at a table. The suspect and the victim had interacted while standing inside the Property. The suspect then left the property with the victim following behind. As soon as the victim was coming out the door, the suspect turned around and fired at the victim. The victim succumbed to his injuries and homicide detectives assumed the investigation. Such activity, in conjunction with any other violation set forth in this notice, constitutes a “public nuisance” pursuant to Baltimore City Code, Art. 19, § 43-1(L)(1).

On November 25, 2019, the police responded to the Property for a report of a shooting. Upon arrival, officers found the victim inside the Property near the rear of the bar, with an apparent fatal gunshot wound to the head. Paramedics pronounced the victim dead on the scene. Recovered from the victim was a 9mm handgun. Numerous shell casings and projectiles were recovered by crime scene technicians. Found on the floor next to the victim was 1 plastic bag containing \$76 in U.S. currency, 11 ziplocks of green plant substance of suspected marijuana, and 2 clear plastic bags of a green plant substance and other drug related paraphernalia. Homicide detectives assumed control of the investigation. Such activity, in conjunction with any other violation set forth in this notice, constitutes a “public nuisance” pursuant to Baltimore City Code, Art. 19, § 43-1(L)(1).

On July 1, 2019, the police responded to the Property to conduct a bar check. Upon entering the Property, they observed a black male seated a table with a cigar of suspected marijuana unrolled laying on the table in front of him in plain sight. Upon approaching the suspect, he voluntarily displayed an additional ziplock of green plant like substance. Suspect was placed under arrest. Search incident arrest recovered 19 vials of suspect cocaine from the suspect’s person. Such activity, in conjunction with any other violation set forth in this notice, constitutes a “public nuisance” pursuant to Baltimore City Code, Art. 19, § 43-1(L)(1).

On June 23, 2019, officers responded to McHenry Street for a report of a robbery. The victim stated that he was inside the Property when he was assaulted by two unknown suspects who took his cellphone during the assault and fled. Victim sustained a laceration to his ear. Such activity, in conjunction with any other violation set forth in this notice, constitutes a “public nuisance” pursuant to Baltimore City Code, Art. 19, § 43-1(L)(1).

On April 15, 2019, officers while on routine patrol observed an unidentified male running west in the 1800 block of W. Pratt Street. Officers believed that this individual had a weapon in his right hand. They observed him enter the Property. As the officers were calling for additional back up units, the male exited the Property and walked east on S. Fulton Ave. Officers then saw the male closing the left rear door of a 2006 Saturn. Officers apprehended the suspect. Recovered from the backseat of the vehicle was a .40 caliber handgun with 1 live cartridge in the chamber and 1 in the magazine. Also recovered from the car was backpack containing 14 pink gel cap of suspect heroin and 2 black top vials of suspected cocaine. Evidence showed that the suspect was in the bar with a black handgun in his right hand walking through the Property and checking into the pool room as if looking for someone and then leave out the front door. Such activity, in conjunction with any other violation set forth in this notice, constitutes a “public nuisance” pursuant to Baltimore City Code, Art. 19, § 43-1(L)(1).

On February 16, 2019, the police while reviewing CCTV that has a clear view of the 1800 block of W. Pratt Street, observed a black male, later identified as Michael Cofield sitting on the front steps of the Property. Officers observed another male approach suspect Cofield. The two exchange words and they both walk a short distance away from the front door of the Property. Suspect Cofield then removes a clear plastic bag containing numerous small objects consistent with the shape and size of street level narcotics from inside his coat pocket. He hands these objects to the unknown male in exchange for US currency in bill form. Officers then observe suspect Cofield engage in another hand to hand transaction with a second unidentified male near the Property. The CCTV officer then saw suspect Cofield engage in a third suspected drug transaction with an unknown man standing by a van near the Property. All three transactions occurred in a 90 second timespan. An arrest team apprehended suspect Cofield. Recovered from his person was left inside jacket pocket was 1 clear plastic bag containing 114 gel caps of suspected heroin. Additional suspected drugs and \$442 in U.S. were recovered from other pockets in the suspect Cofield’s jacket. Chemical analysis of the drugs recovered tested positive for fentanyl and marijuana. Such activity, in conjunction with any other violation set forth in this notice, constitutes a “public nuisance” pursuant to Baltimore City Code, Art. 19, § 43-1(L)(1).

On December 27, 2018, police responded to the Property for an armed carjacking. On arrival, officers met the two victims. The male victim stated that he parked his car outside the Property leaving his girlfriend in the car while he went to purchase merchandise inside the Property. As he turned to exit, he was approached by an unknown black male who asked the victim if the victim had \$10. The victim responded “No” and then exited the front door. As he did so, he was immediately approached by another black male who placed a gun to the victim’s right side. A third black male approached and pulled the female victim out of the car and all three males then got into the car and drove away. Such activity, in conjunction with any other violation set forth in this notice, constitutes a “public nuisance” pursuant to Baltimore City Code, Art. 19, § 43-1(L)(1).

On December 5, 2018, officers on routine patrol in a marked vehicle when they observed a Toyota Corolla parked in the parking lot owned by the Property. CCTV operators had informed the officers that drug activity had been observed in the 1800 block of W. Pratt Street. Two individuals were in the Corolla, an unidentified female in the driver’s seat and a male in the front passenger seat. As officers approached, they noticed the female had money tucked under her right thigh. Officers asked the male suspect if he had any drugs on his person and the suspect retrieved a bag of suspected marijuana from his right sock and provided it the officers. The suspect was then placed under arrest. Search incident to arrest recovered 2 plastic bags, one contained 7 gel caps of suspected heroin another 15 purple top vials of suspected cocaine. A digital scale containing a green plant residue and \$520 in U.S. currency were retrieved from suspect’s coat pockets. Such activity, in

conjunction with any other violation set forth in this notice, constitutes a "public nuisance" pursuant to Baltimore City Code, Art. 19, § 43-1(L)(1).

On July 17, 2018, officers responded to the Property for a report of an armed carjacking. The victim reported that he had parked his car in front of the property and went inside the Property to make a purchase. As he was leaving the Property 2 suspects approached from behind him, one pressing a black handgun against his side stating: "give me the loot." When the victim told the suspect, he did not have any money, the suspect holding the gun demanded "give me them keys" and grabbed the victim's car keys. Both suspects got into the victim's vehicle and drove away. Such activity, in conjunction with any other violation set forth in this notice, constitutes a "public nuisance" pursuant to Baltimore City Code, Art. 19, § 43-1(L)(1).

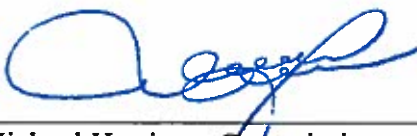
You have the right to be heard and represented at the hearing. Failure to appear at the hearing will not prevent the Police Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee from issuing a default order to close all or a portion of the property. In closing all or a portion of the property, neither the Police Commissioner, the Baltimore Police Department nor the City of Baltimore are taking possession, ownership or control of the property. Enclosed please find copies of Baltimore City Code, Art. 19, Subtitle 43-1 (the "Padlock" law) and "The Rules and Regulations for Padlock Hearings."

The hearing will be held on March 9, 2020. The hearing will begin at 9:00 AM. The location of the hearing to be determined.

Any request for a postponement must be made five business days prior to the hearing. The request shall be sent to the Baltimore Police Department, Office of Legal Affairs, c/o 242 W. 29th Street, Baltimore, MD 21211 and the Baltimore Housing Code Enforcement Legal Section, Property Based Crime Solutions Program, 417 E. Fayette Street, Room 355, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. The postponement request shall state the reason(s) for the postponement request and shall be signed by the party requesting the postponement.

Upon receipt of this notice, please contact the Property Based Crime Solutions Program at (410) 396-4140, with any questions about this process and to confirm your attendance at the hearing on **March 9, 2020.**

2/14/2020
Date



Michael Harrison, Commissioner
Baltimore City Police Department

Cc:
Col. Richard Worley
LTC Kevin A. Jones
Maj. Byron Conaway
Mark Dewire, Chief Solicitor
Eileen Murphy, Assistant State's Attorney

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Enclosures