



Alcohol  
and Gambling  
Enforcement

Bureau of  
Criminal  
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Marshal

## Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement

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age.dps.mn.gov

December 19, 2020

MLH Enterprises, LLC  
d/b/a The Interchange  
Licensee: Melissa Hanson  
211 South Broadway  
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Via Email/Certified Mail

### NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION 60-DAY LIQUOR LICENSE SUSPENSION

Pursuant to Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-99 *Implementing a Four Week Dial Back on Certain Activities to Slow the Spread of COVID-19* (EO-99), all restaurants and bars are prohibited from selling alcohol for on-premises consumption from Friday, November 20, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. through Friday, December 18, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.<sup>1</sup>

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement division (AGED) may take civil action in the form of a fine, license suspension or license revocation for any violation of Statute, Rule or Ordinance related to alcoholic beverages or the operation of a licensed establishment. Minn. Stat. § 340A.415.

AGED was notified that The Interchange failed to comply with a Cease and Desist Order issued by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on December 16, 2020. That order was based on The Interchange opening for on-premises consumption of food and beverages on December 16.

On December 18, AGED agents observed the establishment open for on-premises consumption of food and alcohol, again violating EO-99. A sign on the door stated:

As the owner of The Interchange, I have decided to open for IN-DOOR DINING in defiance of the governor's orders. This is our only chance of possible surviving the governor's illegal shutdowns.

According to the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, as a United States citizen I have the right to life, liberty, and property. This means I have the right to legally operate my business and earn a living doing so.

Please enter at your own risk.

<sup>1</sup> EO-99 has "the full force and effect of law" pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 12.32 (2020).

Thank you for your support in these very trying times. Lisa Hanson –  
Owner & Proprietor

AGED agents observed indoor service with customers present consuming what appeared to be alcoholic beverages. Agents obtained photos capturing live music, a table of customers, and the above-referenced sign indicating the establishment was open for indoor service in willful violation of Governor's Executive Order.

As a result of these actions, AGED intends to suspend wine license #43119 and 3.2 beer on-sale license #43120 for a period of 60 days. Pursuant to the Minnesota Administrative Procedures Act,<sup>2</sup> this suspension is not effective until you have had the opportunity for a hearing before the Office of Administrative Hearings. AGED will schedule this hearing at the earliest possible date. You will receive further instructions from the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Sincerely,

*Carla Cincotta*

Carla Cincotta

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<sup>2</sup> Minn. Stat. ch. 14.