STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

IN THE MATTER OF

Broad Package Store
Tanya Wilson, Permittee
Wilson Liquor Store LLC, Backer
Case No. 2014-241
Permit No. LIP.14910

Docket No. 14-726 December 16, 2014

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

This matter involves a package store liquor permit issued to Broad Package Store, 1949 Broad Street, Hartford, Connecticut. A formal administrative hearing was held before the Department of Consumer Protection on December 11, 2014. Despite proper notice, the Respondent did not appear at the hearing.

The following charges are alleged against the Respondent. It is alleged that on March 20, 2014, the Respondent violated: (1) Sec. 30-6-A10 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies in that Respondent's agent refused to cooperate with or give information to the department upon matters arising out of the conduct of the permit premises; (2) Sec. 30-6-A24(g) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies by failing to keep a supply of age statement forms on the premises; (3) Sec. 30-6-A40(i) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies by not posting the prices for the bottles of wine and liquor located behind the sales counter; (4) Sec. 30-6-A24(a) of the Regulations

of Connecticut State Agencies by selling bootleg DVDs; (5) Sec. 30-20(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes by selling prohibited commodities; (6) Sec. 30-20(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes and (7) Sec. 30-6-B21 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies in that alcohol was consumed upon the premises; (8) Sec. 30-6-A12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies by failing to post a permittee name sign; (9) Sec. 30-6-A27(d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies by failing to maintain two years of invoices upon the premises; and (10) Sec. 30-6-B25a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies by failing to maintain daily records.

Based upon the testimony presented at the hearing, we find the following facts. On March 20, 2014, Liquor Control Agent Lewis accompanied Hartford police officers to the permit premises and conducted a special investigation. She identified herself to the only employee in the store, Carl Adams, Jr., who did not have any identification on him. In the course of her inspection, she asked Mr. Adams if the premises maintained age statements forms. He had no idea what the age statement form was and no such forms were located on the premises during the inspection.

DVDs of movies were for offered for sale at this premises. Based upon Agent Lewis's training and experience, she determined them to be

"bootleg" and not authentic DVDs. When he was asked about the DVDs, Mr. Adams refused to speak or comment.

Agent Lewis asked Mr. Adams to locate the daily records and liquor invoices so that she could review them. Mr. Lewis did not respond to the request. No daily records or liquor invoices older than the current month could be located by Agent Lewis on the permit premises.

During the course of her inspection, Agent Lewis observed that the permittee name sign was not posted adjacent to the main entrance or anywhere on the premises, as is required.

Two open, partially full, bottles of Hennessey cognac were found on the premises, one in the basement and one under the sales counter. Unsealed containers are not allowed on the permit premises, and in accordance with Sec. 30-6-B21 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the presence of any unsealed containers on the premises, except those used in tastings, may be considered as *prima facie* evidence of consumption of alcohol on the premises.

Most troubling to this commission is Mr. Adams' failure to cooperate with Agent Lewis thus impeding the conduct of her investigation. After providing his name and address and commenting on the lack of age statement forms, Mr. Lewis refused to speak with Agent Lewis or police officers for the balance of the inspection and failed to

provide requested documents. This refusal of cooperation warrants stern enforcement action.

The Liquor Control Act grants the Liquor Control Commission a liberal discretionary power to determine factual matters with regard to liquor permits and to suspend or revoke the permit after a hearing. Balog v. Liquor Control Commission, 150 Conn. 473, 191 A.2d 20 (1963). This power to suspend or revoke a liquor permit is exercised conservatively, but mindful that dispensing liquor is a privilege, not a right. Beckanstin v. Liquor Control Commission, 140 Conn. 185, 99 A.2d 119 (1953).

Based upon the testimony and documents submitted at the hearing, the Respondent is found in violation of all charges alleged. Accordingly, we hereby suspend the Respondent's permit for a period of thirty (30) days, effective immediately pursuant to Sec. 30-6-A8(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

BY:

Elisa A. Nahas, Esq.

Designated Presiding Officer

Angelo J. Faenza, Commissioner

Stephen R. Somma, Commissioner

Parties:

Tanya Wilson, Permittee, Broad Package Store, 1949 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06114 (Via US Mail and Certified Mail # 7012 2920 0000 4562 7319) Tanya S. Wilson, 300 Deerfield Road, Windsor, CT 06095-4231 (Via US Mail and Certified Mail # 7012 2920 0000 4562 7326)

Non-Parties:

John Suchy, Director, Liquor Control Division Connecticut Beverage Journal Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106