

BRENDAN REILLY  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
ALDERMAN, 42ND WARD

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CITY OF CHICAGO  
CITY COUNCIL

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER  
ALL COMMITTEES

November 10, 2022

Dear Neighbor:

I am writing to provide you with an update following the disturbing shooting that occurred at Hush Nightclub, located at Chicago and Franklin in our River North neighborhood on the morning of Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

I am pleased to report that on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Superintendent of Police issued a "Summary Closure" order requiring the immediate closure of this establishment. This action is not permanent and is not connected to the revocation of the license. It can be looked at as a "cooling off period" following this deadly shooting. However, I have also requested the Liquor Commissioner formally initiate the city's "Liquor License Revocation Process," to permanently revoke the licenses for this bad actor.

Living just three blocks from this location, I was immediately aware of the shooting – having heard the gunshots myself, in real-time. Shortly after the incident occurred, I spoke with Commander Hein of the 18<sup>th</sup> District to discuss the investigation and to strongly advocate for the Police Department to issue a "Summary Closure Order" – to shutdown Hush Nightclub immediately.

Commander Hein assured me that he immediately requested the summary closure. On Monday, I sent a letter to Liquor Commissioner Shannon Trotter and Police Superintendent David Brown to communicate my strong support for a summary closure of this bad business.

In addition, I have asked the Liquor Commissioner to formally initiate the city's "Liquor License Revocation Process," to permanently revoke the licenses. The licenses issued to Hush were done so in 2002, some five years before I was elected alderman. In recent years, following a change in ownership, this business has devolved into a chronic source of safety problems in the area.

Since 2007, I have used my legislative authority to enact liquor moratorium zones across the entire 42nd Ward to stop the issuance of any new Tavern or Late Hour licenses in our downtown neighborhoods. In 2015, I also co-sponsored the "Summary Closure Ordinance" to empower the Chicago Police Department (CPD) to immediately close an establishment that was deemed a threat to public safety.

As you know, aldermen do not control the police department and do not issue or revoke liquor licenses in the City of Chicago. That fact is extremely frustrating to me because, like you, I am a neighborhood resident who is absolutely fed-up with the number of violent incidents and shootings that are occurring in, and around, these late-hour liquor establishments. These businesses draw criminal elements and known gangbangers to our downtown neighborhoods every single weekend.

Commander Hein, having received multiple complaints about Hush Nightclub and Bounce Nightclub over the past year, assigned a manned patrol vehicle to be stationed on a fixed post at the intersection of Chicago and Franklin at night, on the weekends.

That police squad was in-place at this location on Sunday morning until the officer's shift ended at 2:00AM. Unfortunately, the bar brawl and ensuing shooting occurred just minutes after the squad had left its post at the end of shift, roughly around 2:15AM. CPD issued the Summary Closure on Tuesday morning.

Next, the licensee/owner has the right, at any time during the period of closure, to seek to resume business activities at the establishment, by requesting, in writing, a nuisance abatement hearing before the mayor to contest whether a public safety threat occurred or to rebut the Superintendent's determination that continued operation of the establishment presents a danger to the public. If requested in writing, a nuisance abatement hearing shall be commenced by the mayor within five business days of receipt of such request. A decision shall be announced no later than three business days after the hearing is completed.

Please know that I am 100% committed to ensuring Hush Nightclub is held responsible for its role in this most recent incident and for its continued deleterious impact on our neighborhood – demanding a full revocation of their business and liquor licenses.

When we learn more from the Liquor Commissioner and Police Superintendent about a nuisance abatement hearing being scheduled, my office will provide the neighborhood with an update.

Thank you again for contacting my office to share your concerns about nightclub-related criminal activity. My office will do everything within our ability, in partnership with the Police Department and Liquor Commissioner, to shut down these bad businesses as soon as we possibly can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B.M. Reilly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brendan Reilly  
Alderman, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
President Pro Tempore, City Council

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November 7, 2022

Shannon Trotter  
Local Liquor Control Commissioner  
Business Affairs and Consumer Protection  
121 North LaSalle Street, Room 805  
Chicago Illinois 60602

David Brown  
Superintendent  
Chicago Police Department  
3510 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago Illinois 60653

**Re: Hush Chicago, 311 West Chicago Avenue – Request for Summary Closure**

Dear Commissioner Trotter and Superintendent Brown:

I am writing to request your assistance in addressing an immediate public safety threat at a nightclub located in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward.

As you know, this weekend, 4 individuals were shot outside of Hush Chicago located at 311 West Chicago Avenue. One of the offenders involved in the deadly shooting was an employee of the business.

A disturbance which began inside the business spilled onto the street and resulted in gunfire. A security guard hired by the business even brandished a knife and fired multiple shots, escalating the situation.

I am aware that a formal request for Summary Closure has been made by 18<sup>th</sup> District Commander Jon Hein. I am writing to support this request and strongly urge your office to immediately close this business and expedite the revocation of this business' licenses. Your immediate action on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brendan Reilly,  
Alderman, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
President Pro Tempore

CC: Jon Hein, CPD 18<sup>th</sup> District  
Kimberly Roberts, Law Department