

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL AUTHORITY  
VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF:     **PURPLE ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE, LLC  
T/A PURPLE ETHIOPIAN LOUNGE  
3111 COLUMBIA PIKE  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22204-4303  
SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

**PURPLE ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE, LLC  
ATTN: FIREHIWOT KIDANE AND FREZER WODOSILASSIE  
3111 COLUMBIA PIKE  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22204-4303  
SERVED VIA PERSONAL SERVICE**

LICENSE NO.:           **89350 – WINE AND BEER ON PREMISES  
89350 – MIXED BEVERAGE RESTAURANT**

ABC INCIDENT NO.:     **20-01281**

**ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Upon completion of an initial investigation commenced on August 30, 2020 and a review of all findings, pursuant to Sections 4.1-202 and 4.1-225.1 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (“Board”) finds that it has reasonable cause to believe that at approximately 4:55 a.m. on August 30, 2020, an act of gun violence occurred in the parking lot of the licensed premises resulting in two individuals sustaining serious bodily injury. Interviews of those present during the incident and the Arlington County Police Department (“ACPD”), indicated that the shooting was subsequent to an incident outside the establishment between the licensee’s security staff and two individuals attempting to gain entry into the establishment. The licensee’s security officers told the individuals that they could not come into the establishment because the business was nearing its closing time which led to a scuffle between the individuals and the security officers. As the individuals were walking away through the parking lot of the business, one of them took out a firearm and started firing into the air. The other patrons of the establishment that were in the parking lot when the shots were fired dispersed and ran around the cars or back into the establishment. At the time the individual fired into the air, one of the licensee’s security officers began firing at the individual. During the crossfire, the licensee’s security officer shot one of the individuals in the shoulder and a bullet grazed the neck of the other individual. This incident is the second shooting incident to occur at the licensed location in the last two (2) months. On June 28, 2020, there was an incident of gunfire where following an altercation inside the establishment the suspect drove away from the area and then fired a gun into the crowd in the parking lot of the business leaving two people injured.

The licensee was issued a wine and beer on premise and mixed beverage restaurant license on May 16, 2016. Since February 2019, the licensee has been found in violation of various provisions of the Code and regulations to include serving alcohol after hours and serving alcohol while the ABC license was suspended. Between June 10, 2020 and August 30, 2020, ACPD has received at least twenty-three (23) calls for service attributed to the establishment ranging from loud music in the parking lot to fights. Following the shooting that occurred on August 30, 2020, agents with BLE conducted a residence canvass as part of its investigation. Multiple residents in the surrounding area expressed concerns for their safety attributed to the activity occurring at the licensed establishment. According to the licensee, the business hours for Saturday night into Sunday morning are 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. The licensee alleges that alcohol service stops at 1:45 a.m. and all customers are gone by 2:00 a.m.; however, the restaurant is then cleaned and customers are allowed back in at 3:00 a.m. until 5:00 a.m. According to multiple residents, many patrons loiter in the parking lot contributing to the ongoing safety concerns

and noise disturbances.

Due to the licensee's history of multiple violations of the Code and the regulations, the multiple calls for service to the establishment, the concerns for safety expressed by nearby residents, and the multiple incidents of gun violence resulting in serious bodily injury, the Board concludes that there exists a continuing threat to public safety and that temporary suspension of the license is justified to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

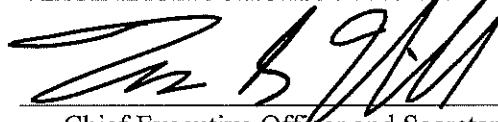
IT IS ORDERED that any and all privileges granted by the above-referenced license, shall be suspended, effective immediately, and the suspension shall remain in effect pending the results of a formal investigation and any resulting proceedings for disciplinary review. Once the suspension has been in effect for forty-eight (48) hours, as required by Section 4.1-225.1(B), the licensee may petition the Board for a restricted license pending the results of the formal investigation and any proceedings for disciplinary review. The Board may deny the petition for a restricted license and the summary suspension shall continue until the conclusion of the disciplinary review; however, if the Board determines that a restricted license is warranted, the Board shall have discretion to impose appropriate restrictions based on facts presented.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon issuance of this Order, ABC Enforcement is directed to immediately commence a formal investigation. The formal investigation shall be completed within ten (10) days of its commencement, and the findings shall be immediately reported to the Secretary of the Board. If following the formal investigation, the Secretary of the Board determines that suspension of the license is warranted, a hearing shall be held within five (5) days of the completion of the formal investigation.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that a special agent of the Board shall serve a true copy of this order in person and by certified mail to the licensee. The order of suspension shall take effect immediately upon service.

AS PROVIDED BY SECTIONS 4.1-225.1(A) AND 2.2-4018(4) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, THIS SUMMARY ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION IS FINAL AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL OR JUDICIAL REVIEW.

VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD



Chief Executive Officer and Secretary to the Board

9/11/2020

Date