

CITY OF JOLIET LIQUOR COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE  
TERRY D'ARCY  
150 WEST JEFFERSON STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60432



**FINDINGS OF THE LIQUOR COMMISSION**  
**ISSUANCE OF A LIQUOR LICENSE**

Based on a public hearing that took place on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, the Liquor Commission of the City of Joliet hereby reports its findings based on Chapter 4, Section 5C of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Joliet to the City Council. The findings are as follows:

1. **(a) Applicant:** Joliet Park District  
**d/b/a:** Barber Oberwortmann Horticultural Center-Venue Ninety-Eight  
  
**(b) Address of premises:** 227 N. Gougar Road
2. **Class of liquor license applied:** Class B – They also applied for Class M Permit – Music/Entertainment
3. **Past Performance:** Years of experience with sales and service of alcoholic liquor at the Joliet Park District.
4. **Character and reputation of the applicant:** The applicant is not a convicted felon.
5. **General design and layout of the premises:** On file in the Mayor's Office.
6. **Amount of anticipated gross revenue from sale of alcoholic beverages:** 20%
7. **Nature of entertainment:** Live Music
8. **Premise compliance with all ordinances of the City:**  
  
Building Inspections Department approval pending final inspection.  
  
Joliet Fire Department states there are no fire code violations.
9. **Any outstanding monies owed to the City of Joliet:** There are no monies owed to this address.

**10. The following are the class, type and number of licensed premises within a one (1) mile radius of the proposed premises:**

| <b>Class Type of Liquor License</b>  | <b>Total</b> |
|--|--------------|
| Class "A" Premises & Package:  |              |
| Class "A1" Brew Pub:   |              |
| Class "A2" Craft Brewery:  |              |
| Class "A3" Craft Distillery:   |              |
| Class "B" Premises Only:   |              |
| Class "C" Package Goods Only:  |              |
| Class "C-D" Package Goods Only/ Beer & Wine Only:                                      |              |
| Class "D" Premises/Beer & Wine Only:   |              |
| Class "E" Restaurant or Hotel:   |              |
| Class "F" Club:  |              |
| Class "J" Governmental & Non-for-profit:   | 1            |
| Class "K" Stadium:   |              |
| Class "L" Riverboat-Related Facility:  |              |
| Class "P" Bicentennial Park:   |              |
| Class "TH" Theater or Cinema:  |              |
| Class "BG" Gas Station/On-Site/Gaming:   |              |
| Class "CG" Gas Station/Package:  |              |
| The total amount of liquor licenses within a one-mile radius of the proposed location: | 1            |

**11. Zoning, general character of the neighborhood and the impact of the premises of the surrounding neighborhood and the city as a whole:**

The subject site is part of the Pilcher Park property owned by the Joliet Park District and contains the existing event center and the Bird Haven Greenhouse. The property is zoned R-2 (single-family residential). In 1998, City Council approved a Variation of Use (Ordinance #12002) to allow a "banquet hall including liquor service," a B-3 (general business) use, in the R-2 (single-family residential) zoning district at this location. The sale and on-premises consumption of liquor as well as the use as an event venue is permitted at the Horticultural Center through this Variation of Use.

The Horticultural Center is surrounded to the north, west, and south by Pilcher Park land. To the east across Gougar Road is additional wooded land owned by the Joliet Park District that is also zoned R-2 (single-family residential).

**12. Any law enforcement problems created by the issuance of the liquor license:**

Joliet Police Department does not foresee any special law enforcement problems associated with the issuance of this liquor license.

**13. Comments at the hearing:**

The liquor hearing was conducted by Deputy Liquor Commissioners James O'Connell and Kevin Kelley, Assistant Corporation Counsel Stephanie Silkey, and Detective TJ Gruber.

No one appeared in opposition to the issuance of the liquor license.

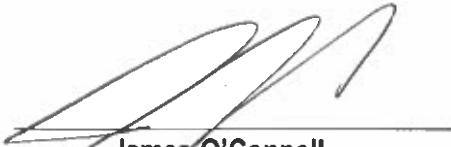
**14. Recommendation:**

Based on the liquor hearing, the Liquor Commission feels that the issuance of the liquor license would be in the best interest of the city, and therefore, recommends approval of the license.



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**Terry D'arcy**  
**Mayor and Liquor Commissioner**



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**James O'Connell**  
**Deputy Liquor Commissioner**