



Illinois Liquor Control Commission
Enforcement Division
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 7-801
Chicago, IL 60601
Telephone: (312) 814 -2206

Investigation Report

State License Number:

Licensee Name:

Business Name: Atlanta Public Library

Licensee Address: 100 Race Street, Atlanta, Illinois

DCN#:

Case ID #: 1-101-598-336

On 08/06/18 at 09:45 hours, I ([REDACTED]) arrived at the Atlanta Public Library, 100 Race Street, Atlanta, Illinois, in reference to a complaint follow-up investigation. When I arrived, I found the library was closed for the day, and proceeded to the Atlanta Public Golf Course to meet with the President of the library board Randy Brooks.

On 08/06/18 at 10:00 hours, I arrived at the Atlanta Public Golf Course. Upon arrival I spoke with library board President Randy Brooks. I explained the reason for my visit, and the nature of the complaint. Mr. Brooks confirmed the Atlanta Public Library did not have an Illinois Liquor License, but told me that on several occasions over the last few years the board had authorized the purchase of alcoholic beverages for different civic events hosted by the Atlanta Public Library. According to Mr. Brooks, the alcohol was never sold, and was offered free of charge to attendees of the events. Mr. Brooks explained to me the events were held at different locations around the village, one being the golf course. I asked Mr. Brooks how the alcohol was purchased, and he told me most of the time it was purchased with the libraries credit card. I asked Mr. Brooks what they did with any of the left over alcohol from the events, and said they just stored it until they had another event. According to Mr. Brooks the liquor was stored in the library, and in the museum owned by the library at 112 Arch Street, Atlanta, Illinois. Mr. Brooks said Bill Thomas might have more information about how it was handled, as he had served as the treasurer for the library board for several years. I thanked Mr. Brooks for the information, and left him with my contact information in the event he had any questions.

On 08/06/18 at 10:30 hours, I arrived at the Union Building, 110 Arch Street, Atlanta, Illinois. Upon arrival I met with William Thomas the former Treasurer for the Atlanta Public Library Board. I explained the reason for my visit, and the nature of the complaint. Mr. Thomas told me he had served as the Treasurer for the library board for several years, but has since resigned. Mr.

Thomas acknowledged the Library Board over the last several years has hosted different civic events around the village. Mr. Thomas also acknowledged the Library Board did provide alcoholic beverages free of charge to those in attendance. According to Mr. Thomas, it was always done with the full knowledge and approval of the Atlanta Library Board. I asked Mr. Thomas who purchased the alcohol, and he told me it was usually one of the employees at the library. I asked him how they purchased it, and he said it was usually done with the libraries credit card. Mr. Thomas confirmed any alcohol left over was either stored in the library, or in the museum. Mr. Thomas showed me the storage areas, and there was no alcohol stored there at this time. Mr. Thomas also told me if any alcohol was consumed after any of the business meetings of the Board, it was alcohol brought by the board members, not the alcohol purchased for the civic events. I thanked Mr. Thomas for the information, and gave him my contact information in the event he had any other questions.

On 08/06/18 at 10:50 hours, I arrived at the Palms Restaurant, 110 S. Arch Street, Atlanta, Illinois. Upon my arrival I met with Racheal Neisler Co- Director of the Atlanta Public Library. I asked Racheal about the events hosted by the library, and she told me most of the time either her, or Cathy Maciariello the other Co-Director of the library would purchase the alcohol for the events. Racheal told me it was usually bought at one of the retail businesses in either Bloomington, or Lincoln. Racheal said most of the time the alcohol was purchased with the libraries credit card. Racheal said the alcohol was used at different civic events sponsored by the library, and was given away to attendees free of charge. I thanked Miss Neisler for the information, and gave her my contact information in the event she had any questions.

On 08/15/18 at 09:30 hours I spoke with Sergeant Kevin Lynn of the Atlanta Illinois Police Department. The purpose of the call was to inform them of the nature of the investigation by the Illinois Liquor Commission of purchasing and giving away alcohol by the local library board. I recommended to Sgt. Lynn the library board contact the Village Attorney for information on how to apply for, and get, any required licenses and permits for future events involving alcohol within the village.

On 08/15/18 at 10:15 hours I spoke with the village Liquor Commissioner Mayor Fred Finchem. The purpose of the call was to inform him of the nature of the investigation, and explain what I found. I told the Mayor the library board had been hosting several civic events over the last several years, and they were giving away free alcohol at most of these events. The alcohol was purchased by the library board with the full knowledge and consent of the board. I told the Mayor I had informed the Library Board President Randy Brooks he needed to contact the Mayor and the Village Attorney about obtaining any required licenses, and permits, moving forward for any of their future events involving alcohol. The Mayor agreed, and both he and Randy said they would be meeting with the Village Attorney to work it out. I thanked him for his time and gave him my contact information.

On 08/15/18 at 10:30 I spoke with the Atlanta Library Board President Randy Brooks, and explained they needed to talk to their attorney, or the Village Attorney, about obtaining the proper licenses and permits required to host events in the village where they were going to give away or serve alcoholic beverages. Mr. Brooks said he would be attending the next council

meeting, and he would be discussing it with the Mayor and the Village Attorney. I thanked Mr. Brooks for his cooperation and left him with my contact information in the event he had any questions.

There is no further investigation needed at this time.

End of report: