

# End of line

## Bid to save Bootleggers over

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

After more than 2 1/2 years of fighting to retain a Class C liquor license, the owner of the former Bootleggers bar in Farmington has lost the battle.

On Oct. 15, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission permanently cancelled the bar's liquor license, previously held in escrow by the bar's parent company, Pal Joey's, Inc., which is owned by longtime bar owner Joe Asclone.

The license also included a dance permit and allowed Sunday liquor sales for the bar, at the corner of Grand River and Brookside.

According to a letter from Roger Rosendale, director of the LCC's Licensing and Enforcement Division to Livonia resident Asclone: "pursuant to the Commission's decision, the above licenses have been cancelled and our records marked accordingly."

"The council stuck with this through a lengthy and costly process," Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman told city council members Monday. "I'm not sure if the liquor control commission has had a case like this before. It's really unique. They struggled with this."

MAYOR WILLIAM Hartsook noted, "There are a lot of potential problems we could have faced, but everybody did their jobs."

Councilman Ralph Yoder said he was "glad it's over."

Attorneys representing Asclone had requested a license extension several times, as Asclone attempted to sell the business and license as a package. The LCC can offer extensions on license renewal if the person holding the license can show good cause for the extension, according to the decision.

Further extensions would be "pointless," the decision said, because Asclone could not transfer or reactivate the license without approval from the city of Farmington. Last March, the city reaffirmed

its position considering the matter closed and the license cancelled. "Absent such an approval, the licensee is precluded from transferring and/or reactivating the subject licensed business," the decision said.

THE OCTOBER ruling upholds the original April 22, 1986 LCC decision denying Pal Joey's, Inc. further extensions for the Farmington location. An LCC appeal hearing on the matter was heard on Aug. 7, from which the final, October decision was rendered.

According to city and state information, there are no further avenues of appeal for Asclone.

No other businesses in the city of Farmington have requested this license, Deadman added. There are five Class C liquor licenses allowed in Farmington.

Asclone opened his facility in 1981 and received liquor license renewals

without city objection until 1984.

In March 1984, the Farmington City Council objected to renewal of the bar's license at the end of the licensing year, April 30, under Section 17 of the Liquor Control Act.

THE COUNCIL ACTION followed lengthy public hearings where a number of homeowner complained about the Bootleggers bar. Police statistics showed more than 100 police incidents in one year related to the bar. These factors plus a general increase in drunk driving incidents in 1983 spurred the city to take action, officials said.

The city action led to Asclone's filing a suit heard in Ingham County Circuit Court and the Michigan Court of Appeals. Both courts upheld Farmington's license objection. The Michigan Supreme Court denied Asclone an appeal hearing on March 5, 1986.

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