

# Hills party stores face losing liquor licenses

By Joanna Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills officials are ready for a tougher battle against the sale of liquor to minors.

For the first time under a new and tougher liquor law ordinance, city manager William Costick and police Chief William Dwyer are recommending the revocation of three liquor licenses for selling to minors.

The three licensees, owners of party/convenience stores in the city, will have a chance to defend themselves at a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15 in city council chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

The licensees and their stores are: Siesua Hesano, Last Stop Party Store, 29154 Grand River; Deogun & Associates, Inc., Convenience Food Mart, 29405 12 Mile; and Dawood Torna Soroki, Grand Square Liquor Shoppe, 38441 Grand River.

"I have no comments at this time," Soroki said Tuesday, adding that he had not yet been notified of a public hearing on his license.

Hesano was unavailable for comment Tuesday. The Convenience Food Mart is closed for business.

According to Dwyer's records, Last Stop Party Store has chalked up

eight violations of selling to minors since 1981. One violation was later dismissed. The Convenience Food Mart has received five violations since 1987, and Grand Square Liquor Shoppe three violations since 1986.

SOROKI ALSO is awaiting trial in Oakland County Circuit Court on charges of selling pornographic magazines to a minor. Not-guilty pleas were entered on Soroki's behalf at his June 19 district court arraignment.

He faces two counts of distributing obscene materials to children, a high misdemeanor, and two counts of violating the state obscenity law, a misdemeanor.

The charges stem from a Farmington Hills police undercover operation June 2, 1989, in which a 15-year-old son of a police officer from another city bought three pornographic magazines from the Grand Square Liquor Shoppe, Dwyer said.

"This hasn't been submitted to the LCC (Liquor Control Commission) yet. We are waiting the outcome of the trial," Dwyer added.

THE PUBLIC hearing is the first scheduled under the new ordinance, enacted Feb. 19, that puts in writing

the city council's authority to recommend that a liquor license be revoked or not renewed because of illegal sales of liquor to minors.

... these three operations do stand out in terms of both the frequency of violations themselves and the frequency and nature of police calls to these licensed establishments for request for service or police and law enforcement services," according to Costick.

Costick and Dwyer's recommendation to revoke the licenses follows an investigation of the city's 83 liquor licenses as all come up for annual renewal in April. Any final recommendation to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, however, is up to the city council. Five of the seven council members would be required to revoke, transfer or give a new license.

"THE PRACTICAL effect is if the city council says revoke it, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission is obliged to follow that recommendation unless something is wrong," said Ronald Aho, Farmington Hills special counsel. Liquor licenses are issued by the Liquor Control Commission.

A decision to revoke, as recom-

mended by Costick and Dwyer, "is not a foregone conclusion," Aho said. "The licensee has the opportunity of responding to all complaints."

Licenses are allowed to bring their attorneys to the public hearing, provide evidence and "confront any adverse witnesses," according to the ordinance.

If the city council decides against recommending revocation, it may decide to put a licensee on probation or even work out a compromise, Aho said.

Councilman Terry Sever won't participate in the first public hearing because of his recent involvement in the police department's un-

dercover liquor stings, started in 1986.

"I THINK I should publicly state on this go-round, I will abstain from participating in the proceedings," Sever said.

He also was instrumental in the city getting tougher with liquor licenses for selling to minors, including the new ordinance.

The ordinance and other strong efforts embraced by the city council

stem from city officials' disappointment over what they say is a poor record by liquor licensees in the city's undercover crackdowns.

In the latest Dec. 15 undercover operation, 16 restaurants and bars and two package liquor stores — 33 percent of those establishments checked in the daylight sting — were ticketed for selling alcohol to an undercover police cadet, younger than 21, the legal drinking age.

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## Districts schedule parent workshop

A parent workshop is being scheduled for March by four area school districts, including Farmington Public Schools.

The workshop, slated for Monday, March 12, and Tuesday, March 13, at Roma's of Bloomfield, is aimed at providing practical strategies for parents to use at home. Parents can

sign up for one or both days. Costs are \$25 per day or \$40 for both days.

Workshop leaders include Anne Cairns Federlein, director of the Regents' Center for Early Developmental Education at the University of Northern Iowa; Frank Smith, a writer and researcher from British Columbia, Canada; John Nicholls, a pro-

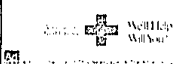
fessor with the University of Illinois; and John Allen Paulos, a professor of mathematics at Temple University.

Sponsoring districts include Farmington, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield. For further information, call the Bloomfield Hills Staff Development Department at 540-5292.

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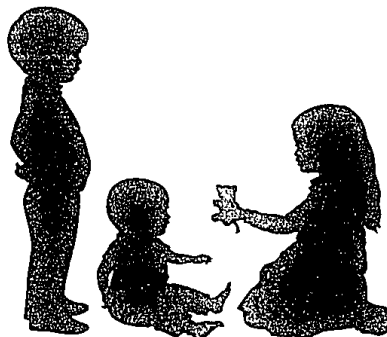
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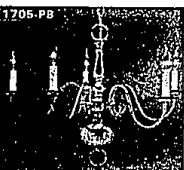
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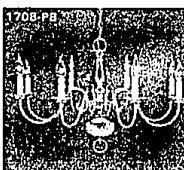
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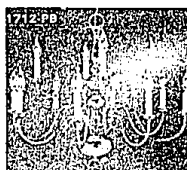
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