

November 14, 2025

Froggz L.L.C.
Attn: Nicolas Erickson
307 Water Street S.
Northfield, MN 55057

VIA PERSONAL SERVICE AND EMAIL

Re: Notice of Violations, Notice of Hearing, and Civil Penalty – Liquor License Violations at Froggz L.L.C. d/b/a Froggz

Dear Mr. Erickson:

I am writing you as City Clerk for the City of Northfield (the “City”) as Froggz L.L.C. is the record liquor licensee (the “Licensee”) for a City licensed premises named “Froggz”, located at 307 Water Street South, Suite B, and 303 Water Street South, Northfield, MN 55057 (the “Licensed Premises”). This letter is to inform you that the City intends to take action on violations of City Code and Minnesota State Statutes on the Licensed Premises pursuant to Northfield City Code, Sec. 6-69.

Violations

The following are the specific violations of City Code and State law that have occurred on or relate to the Licensed Premises:

1. *Lapse of Required Insurance; Failure to Notify City*

On November 3, 2025, the City received proof from the Licensee’s insurance carrier that liquor liability insurance was terminated **July 2, 2025**. On November 4, 2025, the City Council indefinitely suspended the liquor license for the Licensed Premises for failure to maintain proof of financial responsibility in the form of required insurance coverages under Northfield City Code, Secs. 6-65 and 6-69(c) and Minn. Stat. § 340A.409. You did not provide notice to the City of the lapse in liquor liability insurance. As of the date of this notice, the City has not received updated proof of financial responsibility under Northfield City Code, Sec. 6-65, and the liquor license for the Licensed Premises remains suspended.

Pursuant to Northfield City Code, Sec. 6-69, the City Council may impose a civil fine, suspension, or revocation of the liquor licenses issued to Licensee upon the “[e]xpiration or cancellation of any required insurance, or failure to notify the city within a reasonable time of changes in the term of the insurance or the carriers.”



2. *Compliance Check Failure*

On October 2, 2025, the Northfield City Police Department conducted an unannounced compliance check at the Licensed Premises. According to a report from the Northfield Police Department, a bartender at Froggz did sell liquor to a minor in violation of Minn. Stat. § 340A.503.2(1) and Northfield City Code, Sec. 6-100. The bartender has been charged with a violation of Minn. Stat. § 340A.503.2(1). This case remains pending at this time.

Pursuant to Northfield City Code, Sec. 6-96, and Minn. Stat. § 340A.501, the Licensee is responsible for the conduct of every person on the Licensed Premises, and any sale of alcoholic beverages by an employee of the Licensee on the Licensed Premises is the act of the Licensee.

Pursuant to Northfield City Code, Sec. 6-100, and Minnesota Statutes, Section 340A.503, no alcoholic beverages shall be sold to any person under 21 years of age on the Licensed Premises.

Pursuant to Northfield City Code, Sec. 6-69, the City Council may impose a civil fine, suspension, or revocation of the liquor licenses issued to Licensee upon the “[v]iolation of any federal, state, or local law regulating the sale of intoxicating liquor, 3.2 percent malt liquor, or controlled substances.”

3. *Minnesota State Building and Fire Code Violations on the Licensed Premises*

After receiving reports that individuals were residing in Froggz at 303 Water Street South in April 2025, an inspection revealed a mattress and other domestic household items in that location. An inspection revealed a number of violations, and an Order to Correct was issued by the Building Official, dated July 11, 2025 and served on the owner of the Licensed Premises. On reinspection, some issues had been addressed, but certain Fire Code violations remained. The following items from the Fire Inspection Report dated August 13, 2025, remain outstanding:

- Clean commercial kitchen hoods, grease-removal, devices, fans, ductwork and other appurtenances in accordance with Table 607.3.3.1 or as allowed by the fire code official.
- Inspect, test and maintain fire extinguishing systems protecting commercial cooking operations at least once every six months and after activation of the system. For seasonal operations, inspections shall be conducted at least annually. Water-based



kitchen hood systems need only be inspected annually by a licensed sprinkler contractor.

During an inspection conducted in July 2025 by the Building Official, it was determined that the basement of 303 Water Street South was still being used as a sleeping area. In addition, on October 30, 2025, the Building Official received a report from the Northfield Police Department that the tenants were found sleeping at 307 Water Street South, which is not designed to be used as a residential occupancy. As the Licensed Premises is not designed for residential occupancy, this use would be a violation of the Minnesota State Building Code, and the Building Official intends to revoke the Certificate of Occupancy.

Pursuant to Northfield City Code, Sec. 6-69, the City Council may impose a civil fine, suspension, or revocation of the liquor licenses issued to Licensee if “the licensee suffered or permitted illegal acts upon the licensed premises or on property owned or controlled by the licensee adjacent to the licensed premises, unrelated to the sale of intoxicating liquor or 3.2 percent malt liquor.”

4. *Ongoing Safety Issues and Police Contacts*

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 340A.402, subd. 1, the City Council may refuse to renew a liquor license to a person who has been convicted of a felony within five years of the liquor license application. In addition, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 340A.402, subd. 1(3), no retail license may be issued to “a person not of good moral character and repute.”

During the public hearing on the issuance of the liquor license for the Licensed Premises, concerns were raised regarding previous criminal citations and a pending felony matter for Nicolas Erickson. As Nicolas Erickson represented one of three members of the Licensee, Froggz L.L.C., applying for the liquor license, the City Council approved the liquor license following statements made by the other members of the Licensee.

At this time, the City is aware that one of those three members has left the Licensee and another member has informed the City that they are no longer affiliated with the Licensee and have not been so for some time. As a result, it appears that the only remaining member of the Froggz L.L.C. is Nicolas Erickson. This is directly contrary to the representation to the City Council that induced the City Council to initially grant a license to the Licensee for the Licensed Premises. Further, the Police Chief has determined that Nicolas Erickson has since been charged with another felony-level offense, this time in the City of Northfield, and now has two pending felony offenses in the State of Minnesota.

In addition, Licensee made assurances to the City Council regarding protecting the safety of the community and keeping all three names on the liquor license for the Licensed



Premises when the City Council was induced to initially grant the license. In addition to the recent changes to the membership of Licensee, there have been approximately 38 police-related calls involving Froggz between March 2025 and November 2025, including five (5) incidents involving intoxicated patrons requiring transport to the hospital. According to the Northfield Police Department, Froggz demonstrates a higher-than-typical number of disorderly, disturbance, and substance-related incidents, including medical calls and suspected narcotics activity.

Pursuant to Northfield City Code, Sec. 6-69, the City Council may impose a civil fine, suspension, or revocation of the liquor licenses issued to Licensee for “[f]alse or misleading statements made on a license application or renewal, or failure to abide by the commitments, promises or representations made to the city council.”

Hearing Notice

Based on the foregoing, City staff have found that there have been multiple violations of Northfield City Code and applicable State liquor laws at the Licensed Premises since March 2025. The Licensee has not received fines or penalties for any of the violations at this point, except as to the immediate suspension for failure to maintain proof of financial responsibility in the form of a liquor liability insurance policy, and correspondingly City staff is recommending penalties be cumulative to reflect all violations. City staff is recommending revocation of the liquor license and, in the City Council’s discretion, a fine of \$2,000.00, which must be paid within 5 business days of the date of Council action on this matter.

Pursuant to Northfield City Code, Sec. 6-69, and Minn. Stat. § 340A.415, on a finding that the holder of any liquor license issued by the City has failed to comply with an applicable statute, rule, or ordinance relating to alcoholic beverages or the operation of the licensed establishment, or failed to comply with a lawful license condition duly imposed by the City or agreed to by the Licensee, the City Council may revoke the license, suspend the license for up to 60 days, impose a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 for each violation, or impose any combination of these sanctions.

Pursuant to Northfield City Code, Licensee has the right to a hearing before the City Council before the City Council can impose a suspension or revocation of your liquor licenses.

Accordingly, you are hereby notified that a hearing before the City Council on this matter is scheduled and will occur before the City Council in the Council Chambers, 801 Washington Avenue, Northfield, Minnesota 55057, at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, to consider the imposition of the recommended revocation, civil fine, or the suspension of the liquor licenses issued to Licensee for the Licensed Premises.



At the time and place designated above, an opportunity will be given to all persons affected wishing to speak for or against the imposition of a civil fine and the suspension or revocation of the liquor licenses for the Licensed Premises to be heard by the City Council. The procedure for the conduct of the above-noticed City Council hearing is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A.

Please note that the above guidelines and staff recommendation are advisory only, and that the City Council may deviate from the guidelines and staff recommendation in its discretion to revoke the liquor license, impose a greater fine or impose the suspension now or for a longer suspension if the City Council determines that the circumstances warrant a more severe penalty.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at your earliest convenience at (507)-645-3001.

Sincerely,

Lynette R. Peterson, City Clerk

Encls.

cc: Jeff Schroepfer, Chief of Police
Mike Morehouse, Building Official



EXHIBIT A

SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 25, 2025 LIQUOR LICENSE HEARING PROCESS:

IN RE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING IMPOSITION OF A CIVIL FINE AND THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LIQUOR LICENSES ISSUED TO FROGGZ L.L.C.

Hearing Issue: Should civil penalty sanctions be imposed upon the Licensee for the violations of Northfield City Code and applicable State liquor law, and if so, what should the penalty sanctions be?

Appeal Hearing Procedure: The recommended order of procedure for the hearing shall be as follows:

1. Open public hearing – Mayor Zweifel.
2. Opening comments on hearing process – Mayor
3. Presentation by City staff of the matter at issue and procedural status of the matter (10 minutes) – City Clerk and Police Chief.
4. Questions from City Council members of City staff.
5. Licensee shall have the opportunity to be heard by the City Council on the issue (10 minutes).
6. Questions from City Council members of Licensee.
7. Opportunity for other interested persons, not already having spoken, to be heard, provided however, that such testimony is limited to the specific issue and does not repeat testimony already presented (2 minutes per person not to exceed 10 minutes cumulatively).
8. City staff additional presentation, if necessary (10 minutes).
9. Additional questions from City Council members of City staff, if necessary.
10. Close public hearing and evidentiary record – Mayor Zweifel.
11. **Council Deliberations.** The City Council may discuss and deliberate on the substantive issue and the Council Resolution – Findings, Conclusions and Order.
12. **Council Decision.** The City Council may make a motion and take action on the resolution, Council Resolution – Findings, Conclusions and Order, which will be before the Council for consideration, with a majority vote. Council decision options as contained in the Council Resolution – Findings, Conclusions and Order, include the following (Council should choose one or more of the below alternatives):
 - a. **ALTERNATIVE 1: REVOCATION.** That the on-sale intoxicating liquor license and the Sunday on-sale intoxicating liquor issued to Licensee shall be revoked effective immediately upon passage of this Resolution.



- b. ALTERNATIVE 2: FINE. That a civil fine in the amount of \$2,000 shall be imposed and shall be paid on or before December 3, 2025.

- c. ALTERNATIVE 3: SUSPENSION. That the on-sale intoxicating liquor license and the Sunday on-sale intoxicating liquor issued to Licensee shall be suspended for a period of 10 days (the “suspension period”) commencing immediately upon passage of this Resolution and ending at 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, December 6, 2025.