

Liquor License Building Division Review

Name of Business: Pho Ever Vietnamese Cuisine

Address: 300 S Phelps Dr.

Liquor License Applicant: Khiet Than Ha

License requested: Restaurant

Date of Inspection: 3/7/2018

Background-

Pho Ever Vietnamese Cuisine replaces Mongolian Grill as occupant of the old Feedbag Restaurant. This is one of Apache Junction's newer restaurant buildings dating from 2000. The new owner is pursuing a "restaurant" liquor license. The restaurant contains three indoor seating areas and no exterior seating areas and no bar area.

Findings

Pho Ever is in an existing restaurant building. The building includes a fire suppression system as required by current codes.

Inspection

Dave Zellner performed an inspection of the building on March 7, 2018. The primary focus of the liquor license inspection is to check for issues related to large assembly buildings with cooking facilities. Issues with exiting/egress, unpermitted work, occupant load, general fire hazards and proper maintenance and function of the mechanical systems are of concern.

The inspection found issues with locked exit doors, obstructed sprinkler heads, commercial kitchen ventilation exhaust system issues, and improper use of extension cords.

The issues with the commercial kitchen hood include relocated cooking appliances under the hood and incorrect nozzle placement.

I was not able to discuss the issues with new owner Khiet Than Ha due to language issues.

Building Division Recommendation

It is of significant concern that exits are kept locked in violation of the Building and Fire codes. Installation and maintenance of the correct type of panic hardware on exit doors will remove the need for any locks on required exit doors.

The Building Division recommends approval subject to the new owner addressing the issues found. This will probably require the finding of a translator to assist in the communication of the issues and requirements. The council should direct Superstition Fire and Medical District to get the issues with locked exits and obstructed sprinkler heads resolved promptly.

The Building Division will work to get the cooking appliance configuration and suppression system corrections made quickly.