

Moss, Julia

From: Matthew Hereford <matt.hereford@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 7, 2023 4:14 PM
To: City Council; francisco.gonzalez@abc.ca.gov; Clarke, Joe; Moss, Julia; marguxkeiser@gmail.com; Brown, Kristen; Brooks, Yvette
Subject: Capitola Bar & Grill

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I was the General Manager at Capitola Bar & Grill from March 2022 - Late July 2022 and I want to share with you heavy concerns over the music license and the owners in general.

Both LaSalle and Michelle Strong are very two faced people that look to take advantage of young people and people in need of a job. I've never in my 20 years working in the industry seen a more ridiculous pair of owners. They would show up to the bar completely intoxicated with a large group of friends often, take as long as possible to pay people who voluntarily quit, pay many people under the table, have minors work behind the bar doing glassware and buy alcohol last minute from liquor stores if they ran out which is illegal. The bartender Mario has been there since they opened and they have always paid him under the table including all his tips because he's illegal and doesn't have a visa. This made my job incredibly difficult as others found out and were upset because his paychecks were so much more with zero taxes coming out. Even my father was paid under the table from them for a few months. Vendors would cut them off because they simply would decide to stop paying and find a new vendor. Customers would be belligerent and assault the staff and LaSalle refused to support anyone but the customer which gets me to the music.

When I was hired I was hired to be the GM for a restaurant which is what they told me was the role. I was never told that I would basically become the manager of a club/ music venue which is what LaSalle wanted it to become. I shared with him concerns over the volume level and massive number of complaints I was receiving from many different people in the village community. His response was he laughed and said "fuck em." After one of the tenants in the building complained LaSalle became vindictive and widened the set up where the bands played so that their speaker stack was right up against a main beam for the building saying "now we're gonna rock the house." He would often offer the bands extra money to go past their scheduled set time to try and retaliate against the tenants and upset them. I was instructed to never ask the band to turn down the volume level. One of the many nights the police came by to warn us over the volume and check the music license LaSalle was angry that they came two times in the same night and told me to kick them the fuck out of the restaurant which I did because I knew he would probably let me go if I didn't. This upset the police Chief naturally and LaSalle begged me with a cash bonus to go a meeting at city hall and apologize which I did. In the meeting he claimed he installing new special sound proof curtains and then laughed that he had installed regular old curtains. Some of the neighbors who would complain I was told to offer them a couple glasses of free wine when they complained which one lady did and then had an episode because she was on medication.

I'm sure you all have received many emails about this matter so I tried my best to keep this short and to the point but believe when I say there is many more situations I could talk about regarding Capitola Bar & Grill. The Strongs have absolutely no business owning and running anything let only obtaining another music permit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Matt Hereford

Moss, Julia

From: ANNIE FITE <anniefite777@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 7, 2023 9:24 PM
To: City Council
Subject: I support Capitola Bar & Grill

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I love Capitola. I went to school in Capitola and so happy to live close enough to support my hometown village. I am writing this letter in support of Capitola Bar & Grill. I request the City Council of Capitola, CA approve the Entertainment Permit for Capitola Bar & Grill.

My mom spent her 75th birthday at Capitola Bar & Grill and danced all day long. She had so much fun. The music is wonderful and the crowd is never rowdy or rude. They have done a great job of bringing more live music to the village. Their location is perfect too and attracts passersby.

Please approve their permit by allowing this fabulous lively fun multicultural community to thrive in the village!

Thank you for your time
Annie Fite
Sent from my iPhone