



Meeting Date:	April 13, 2026
Submitter:	Daniel Ritter, Community Development Director
Department:	Community Development
Agenda Item:	Discuss Bernie's Chapter Bites & Bevs Liquor License Request

Summary:

The Mayor and Community Development Director recently met with Bernadette (Bernie) Soto to discuss her business plan for Bernie's Chapter Bites and Bevs. Ms. Soto's proposal is to bring an upscale bar and restaurant to Crest Hill. The proposal would include a food and drink menu in a renovated space that would also include up to six gaming machines in a back area to support the overall business. The restaurant will include a menu of small bites and charcuterie, along with drinks that include mostly beer and wine (some cocktails may be considered). The space would be fully renovated to have an upscale and modern feel.

A specific or final location has not been determined, but she has been discussing locations within the 2355-2359 Plainfield Road building (the building includes Jeric's Skateboard Shop and the Former Gipper's/Kickerz Bar) and has supplied concepts based on that building's availability. Other Crest Hill locations are still being considered.

The proposal may qualify under a Class H "restaurant" liquor license as it would have 75% or more of the floor space dedicated to the bar, seating, kitchen, and other restaurant-related spaces. However, since a large share of the income is likely to be based on the gaming machine profits, it also fits under a Class K, video gaming café/bistro license. Class K licenses are currently limited to a maximum of seven licenses in use and would require City Council action to raise the limit to eight to allow another license.

Attached are a business plan, conceptual menu, conceptual floor plan, and renderings. Since the proposal for Bernie's Chapter is unique compared to other Class K license holders and traditional gaming cafés, the desire was to have the full City Council review the proposal to provide feedback. Ms. Soto is looking for the initial feedback from the council on her concept and ability to obtain a Class K license before finalizing a lease or location.

Recommended Council Action: Discuss the proposal of Bernie's Chapter proposal for a Class K license.

Attachments:

1. Bernie's Chapter - Business Overview and Conceptual Menu
2. Bernie's Chapter - Conceptual Floor Plan, Layout, and Signage