



325 E Aspen
Fruita, CO 81521
(970) 858-3663

CITY OF FRUITA LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY, MESA COUNTY COLORADO

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS AND REPORT UPON APPLICATION FOR A NEW HOTEL AND RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE – AMENDED TO INCLUDE SERVER TRAINING

IN RE: Hot Tomato Pizzeria, LLC
Db a Hot Tomato Pizzeria
124 N. Mulberry Street
Fruita, CO 81521

TO THE APPLICANT NAMED ABOVE AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

You are hereby advised that with regard to your application for a new Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License, an investigation has been made and based on the results thereof the following has been determined:

1. That the application was filed on December 13, 2023.
2. That the Notices of Public Hearing on this matter were posted by the applicant on December 23, 2023 and publication was made in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel on December 27, 2023 for the hearing date of January 16, 2023.
3. There has not been, within two years preceding the date of your application, a denial of an application by the County Commissioners of Mesa County, the State Licensing Authority, or the Local Licensing Authority of the City of Fruita for a Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License at the location for which you make application for the reason that the reasonable requirements of the neighborhood and the desires of the inhabitants have been satisfied by the existing outlets.
4. It appears from the evidence submitted by you that you will be entitled to possession of the premises where you propose to exercise the license applied for.
5. Sixteen (16) employees of the Hot Tomato Pizzeria including owner Aaron Knapp successfully completed the Colorado Responsible Alcohol Vendor Training hosted by the City of Fruita on April 18, 2022. The certifications are valid for two (2) years. This is a two-hour class on Colorado laws pertaining to but not limited to: serving alcohol, identifying intoxicated persons, and how to identify those of age to drink alcoholic beverages. The City of Fruita is currently in the process of scheduling the first of two training sessions this year with an approved Colorado Responsible Alcohol Vendor Trainer. The training will be offered to all Fruita liquor licensees.

6. The proposed establishment is located in a Downtown Mixed-Use Zoning District. Food Service, Restaurant (including alcohol) is an allowed use in this zone. A certificate of occupancy, a food establishment permit and any other applicable licenses and permits must be issued prior to commencement of operations including Planning Clearances from the City of Fruita Planning Department.
7. The building and grounds where you propose to exercise the privilege of serving alcohol do not appear to be within 500 feet from any public or parochial school or the principal campus of any college, university or seminary.
8. Within a one-mile radius from the building and grounds where you propose to sell malt and vinous liquors there are the following **Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License** establishments:

Strayhorn Grill
 Rib City Grill
 El Tapatío
 Fiesta Guadalajara
 Karma Kitchen
 El Mescal Family Mexican Restaurant & Bar
 Dragon Treasure
 Aspen Street Coffee
 Rib City
 Mike's Famous Chicken

9. The following criminal history information has been brought to the attention of the authority:

Applicant and Owner: Aaron Michael Knapp – ALL CLEAR

Source of information:

Colorado Bureau of Investigation
 Mesa County Sheriff's Office
 Grand Junction Police Department
 Fruita Police Department

10. The results of the petition circulated with respect to this application are as follows:

Total Signatures obtained by applicant:	10 (Exhibit A)
For:	10
Against:	0
No Opinion:	0

11. The public hearing on your application will be held on January 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fruita Civic Center, 325 E. Aspen Ave., 2nd Floor. At said hearing you shall have the

opportunity to be heard regarding all matters related to your application, including all matters set forth herein.

12. At the public hearing, and pursuant to CRS 12-46-108, as amended, you have the burden of proving that you are qualified to hold the license applied for and that your character, record and reputation are satisfactory; that the neighborhood needs this license and that the residents of the neighborhood desire that this license be granted.
13. A copy of the "Order of Hearing" procedures used by the Local Licensing Authority of the City of Fruita for use and guidance in holding hearings on liquor license applications is attached for your information and review. (Exhibit B)

Dated this 12th day of January, 2024

Debra Woods, Deputy City Clerk
for the Local Licensing Authority