



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Hilltop Market OLCC Change of Ownership

Preferred Agenda: June 14th, 2022

Submitted By: Jeff Lynn, Chief of Police

Reviewed By: Christy Wurster, City Manager Pro-Tem

Type of Action: Resolution X Motion Roll Call Other

Relevant Code/Policy: ORS 471.166

Towards Council Goal: Goal 4: Economic Strength

Attachments: OLCC Liquor License Application

Purpose of this RCA:

The Hilltop Market is changing ownership and the new owner, Saraswati Acharya, has applied for an “Off-Premises” liquor license. The location of the business is 4824 Highway 20, Sweet Home.

Background/Context:

The Sweet Home Police Department is tasked with reviewing applications for liquor licenses that are within the City Limits of Sweet Home. The Hilltop Market is changing ownership. As with any change of ownership, the new owner must apply for a Liquor License through the Oregon Liquor Control Commission under their name. The new owner, Saraswati Acharya, has applied for an Off-Premises liquor license. This type of license allows beer and wine to be sold for off premises consumption only. This type of license is appropriate for this type of business.

The Police Department received this application May 2022 and has conducted an investigation into this request. As part of the investigation the on-site manager, and husband of the owner, Sudip Lamichhane, was contacted. The business will maintain its existing methods of operation and staff. Mr. Lamichhane indicated that he does have experience managing locations that sell alcohol as they currently own Foster Lake Market in Sweet Home.

OLCC was also contacted, and I learned that they have no concerns over the change of ownership.

Based upon review of the investigation I found no reason to recommend denial to the Sweet Home City Council.

Stakeholders:

- Hilltop Market - A liquor license and the ability to sell beer and wine as part of a convenience store business.
- Citizens/Community – Hilltop Market creates additional opportunities and choices for the community.

Issues and financial impacts:

- Denial of an OLCC liquor license would have a negative impact on sales for Hilltop Market.
- There are no known or anticipated financial impacts for the Sweet Home Police Department or the City of Sweet Home.

Options:

1. Do Nothing.
2. Direct further investigation prior to City's recommendation
3. Make a motion that the City of Sweet Home recommends an OLCC license be granted to Hilltop Market.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends option #3 - *Make a motion that the City of Sweet Home recommends an OLCC license be granted to Hilltop Market.*