STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

NOTICE AND PARTICULARS

By Email: hchandler83@yahoo.com

In the matter of:

Holly M Chandler, Permittee Holly's Place Cafe 117 E Main Street Thomaston, CT 06787

Permit No. LCA.0007085 Case No. 2024-164

Backer: Holly M Chandler

PURSUANT TO CONN. GEN. STAT. § 30-43 AS AMENDED:

Pursuant to Chapter 545 generally and specifically Section 30-55 of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended, you and a member of the backer limited liability company are hereby summoned to appear before the Department of Consumer Protection of the State of Connecticut, on the 19th day of September 2024 at 9:30 a.m., remotely through Microsoft Teams, then and there to answer to the complaint and charges of said Division, the particulars of which are as follows:

Incident 1. May 11, 2024

Charge 1. New applications (Karaoke). On or about May 11, 2024, you violated Sec. 30-6-A1(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies which provides that all new applications...shall be accompanied by: zoning officer approval for the proposed use....

Charge 2. Applications for permits, renewals. (2 Counts). On or about May 11, 2024, you violated Sec. 30-39(b)(1) of the Connecticut General Statutes which provides that any person desiring a liquor permit or a renewal of such a permit shall make an affirmed application therefor to the Department of Consumer Protection, upon forms to be furnished by the department, showing the name and address of the applicant and of the applicant's backer, if any, the location of the club or place of business which is to be operated under such permit and a financial statement setting forth all elements and details of any business transactions connected with the application. Such application shall include a detailed description of the type of live entertainment that is to be provided.

Charge 3. Failure to cooperate. On or about May 11, 2024, you violated Sec. 30-6-A10 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies which provides that no permittee or backer or his agent shall refuse to cooperate with or give information to the department, the police

authorities or any other enforcement agency upon any matter arising out of the conduct of the permit premises.

AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH:

During a previous investigation of your premises, you admitted that you were hosting karaoke nights. Since you did not have a karaoke endorsement on your permit – and, in fact, had a no live entertainment endorsement on your permit – you were given a copy of an application to apply for a live entertainment endorsement. On or about May 11, 2024, during an inspection at your establishment, patrons were using a karaoke machine but there was still not a karaoke endorsement on your permit, and the no live entertainment endorsement remained on your permit.

Charge 4. Unlawful conduct - Labor violations (110 counts). On or about May 11, 2024, you violated Sec. 30-6-A24(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies which provides that no ... unlawful conduct ... of any kind except where provided by the general statutes, ..., shall be permitted or suffered upon any permit premises, nor shall such premises be conducted in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance.

AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH:

On or about May 11, 2024, during an inspection at your establishment, Department of Labor agents identified the following violations of Connecticut General Statutes:

- Section 31-288 lack of Connecticut Workers Compensation policy and employees are misclassified as independent contractors and being paid in cash;
- Section 31-13a paystubs are not being provided to employees with their payments;
- Section 31-60 one employee claimed to be paid under minimum wage;
- Section 31-40q smoking and use of vapor products in the workplace;
- Section 31-66 DOL posters were not posted;
- Section 31-48d Electronic monitoring poster not posted;

As a result of the violations mentioned above, the Department of Labor issued a stop work order and your premises was closed immediately.

Charge 5. Suspension of Permit for Failure to Pay Unemployment Compensation Contributions. On or about May 11, 2024, you violated Sec. 30-55a(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes which provides that The Department of Consumer Protection shall, upon notice from the administrator of the Unemployment Compensation Act of the name and address of any employer subject to chapter 567 who has failed to file any return or to pay the contributions prescribed under the provisions of said chapter, suspend the permit of such employer until written notice from the administrator has been received that the returns have been filed and the contributions, including interest, have been paid.

AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH:

During the investigation of your premises, Liquor Control agents were advised by Department of Labor agents that your business had not been registered with unemployment,

thus had not been paying unemployment contributions.

Charge 6. Unlawful conduct – Smoking/Vaping (9 counts). On or about May 11, 2024, you violated Sec. 30-6-A24(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies which provides that no ... unlawful conduct ... of any kind except where provided by the general statutes, ..., shall be permitted or suffered upon any permit premises, nor shall such premises be conducted in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance.

AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH:

On or about May 11, 2024, during an inspection at your establishment, Liquor Control agents and Labor Department agents witnessed at least 9 patrons smoking e-cigarettes inside the premises.

Charge 7. Unlawful conduct – Age Statement Forms. On or about May 11, 2024, you violated Sec. 30-6-A24(g) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies which provides that age statement forms as required by section 30-86a of the Connecticut General Statutes must be obtained and a supply kept available on the premises.

AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH:

On or about May 11, 2024, during an inspection at your establishment, you or your agent were not able to produce age statement forms.

Charge 8. Permit hung in plain view. On or about May 11, 2024, you violated Sec. 30-54 of the Connecticut General Statutes which provides that Every permittee, other than a corporation holding a cafe permit issued under subsection (h) of section 30-22a, or an airline permit issued under section 30-28a, shall cause such permittee's permit or a duplicate thereof to be framed and hung in plain view in a conspicuous place in any room where the sales so permitted are to be carried on.

AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH:

On or about May 11, 2024, during an inspection at your establishment, a valid copy of the permit was not posted in plain view.

Charge 9. Permittee Strictly Accountable. On or about May 11, 2024, you violated Sec. 30-6-A24(f) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies which provides that a permittee shall be held strictly accountable for the conduct of his permit premises.

AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH:

On or about May 11, 2024, during an inspection at your establishment, liquor control agents and Department of Labor agents found numerous violations of the permitted premises.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO APPEAR WHEN YOUR HEARING IS CALLED BY THE COMMISSION. FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THE DESIGNATED TIME MAY RESULT IN A DEFAULT. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO SHOW CAUSE, IF THERE BE ANY, WHY YOUR LIQUOR PERMIT SHOULD NOT BE REVOKED OR SUSPENDED OR ANY OTHER AUTHORIZED PENALTY IMPOSED ON YOU.

This matter is being set down for a formal hearing following a compliance meeting held on July 23, 2024, by decision by the full Commission.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna C. Martinez of the Department of Consumer Protection's Legal Division by email Anna.Martinez@ct.gov

Dated this 15th day of August 2024.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

Scott P. Madeo Staff Attorney Legal Division