

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

IN THE MATTER OF

NOA by September in Bangkok
196 Crown Street, Commercial Unit 1
New Haven, CT 06510
Winyu Seetamyue, Permittee
NOA by September in Bangkok Corp., Backer
Permit No. LIR.20916

September 3, 2024

SUMMARY SUSPENSION ORDER

This premises operates under a restaurant liquor permit issued by the Department of Consumer Protection (“DCP”). It operates under the trade name “NOA by September in Bangkok,” and is also known by the name “NOA.” The permit was first issued by DCP on July 27, 2022 and has been renewed annually with the current permit set to expire on July 26, 2025.

We find that on August 31, 2024, NOA was the scene of a shooting that occurred inside the premises following a fight. This follows a stabbing incident inside the location less than a year prior on November 11, 2023. Therefore, there have been two serious incidents of violence inside the premise within one calendar year.

Specifically, in a letter to DCP dated August 31, 2024, New Haven Lieutenant Brendan Borer states that on August 31, 2024 at approximately 1:00 a.m., New Haven Police responded to NOA on a report of gun shots fired. Lieutenant Borer’s letter, along with a subsequently written police report, explains that responding officers located two 9mm shell casings near the bar counter. Police learned from witnesses that a fight broke out inside the bar. Subsequent review of video footage by New Haven Police revealed that two male patrons retrieved firearms directly from their front waistbands and loaded a round into the guns’ chambers. The men then re-enter the crowd before two shots were shortly thereafter fired. Two women were grazed by the bullets; one was transported to Yale New Haven Hospital. Police subsequently pursued the suspected involved persons by car until the vehicle stopped after being disabled. Four occupants then left the vehicle, three of whom were arrested.

Lieutenant Borer additionally provided a list of ten police reports and incidents that purportedly involved employees or patrons of NOA. Such incidents include:

- Referrals from Yale University Police about intoxicated students allegedly at NOA at January 29, 2023 and May 1, 2024;
- A complaint that a patron was assaulted at NOA, resulting in the arrest of a bartender on January 17, 2024; and
- Two separate fight incidents at NOA on May 18, 2024, including the arrest of a subject in possession of a tire iron during one of the incidents.

These calls for service demonstrate that the police are a frequent presence at NOA.

Moreover, DCP has been involved with the premises three times in the two years and one month it has held a permit:

- On November 11, 2023, a stabbing incident occurred inside the premises around 12:45 a.m. Witnesses approached police after the victim realized he was injured following an altercation in the premises. He suffered two stab wounds. NOA employees did not contact the police themselves, though they admitted that prior to the stabbing, a man who was there with the victim had started a fight with a group of men before being kicked out. Police found blood on the floor near the dance floor and bar counter. Although New Haven Police did not request a summary suspension at that time, they did request that DCP conduct a security meeting. Various improved safety measures were discussed, including conducting pat downs or otherwise checking patrons to prevent weapons from coming inside the business. Agents and police also discussed the appearance of the security team, which at the time included ballistic vests, handguns, and shotguns.
- On December 6, 2023, DCP received a complaint from Yale University Police about parties occurring at NOA and bartenders pouring shots directly into the mouths of patrons and not carding patrons. A Liquor Control Agent met with NOA's manager to review the allegations. The use of age statement forms were discussed, as well as the risk of overservice involved with pouring shots into patrons' mouths.
- On January 27, 2024, DCP conducted an unannounced inspection of the premises around 11:00 p.m. A twenty-year-old minor was found standing at the consumer bar. She had entered the premises using a fake identification. She was not found holding an alcoholic beverage.

As these incidents show, DCP and New Haven Police have engaged with NOA numerous times to educate and improve safety and operational measures. As the recent incident demonstrates, these attempts have made little impact in the continued operation of the premises.

As Lieutenant Borer summarized: "This establishment poses an immediate danger to its customers, the commercial businesses that it adjoins, pedestrians, and vehicular traffic. . . . The business has been educated on improved security measures previously. This recent shooting incident could have resulted in loss of life or serious injuries. We are extremely fortunate that we did not have that outcome." We agree.

We find that the August 31, 2024 shooting event, which follows a stabbing in the premise and is the second incident of violence in less than one year, demonstrates that the premises is operated in a manner that imperils public safety and highlights the need for better control of the premise by the permittee, backer, or their agent.

Based upon the foregoing, DCP finds that public health, safety and welfare imperatively requires emergency action, in accordance with section 4-182 (c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, and **ORDERS** your restaurant liquor permit **suspended immediately** pending proceedings for revocation or other action.

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Bryan T. Cafferelli
Commissioner of Consumer Protection
Chairperson, Liquor Control Commission