

RESOLUTION NO. 05, 2026

A RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO THE ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL OF RETAIL LIQUOR PERMIT 00653205-1 (D5 and D6) TO BEST FRIENDS MANAGEMENT, LLC, OPERATING THE JESTER BAR & CIGAR PATIO, IN ST. BERNARD, OHIO, REQUESTING A HEARING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, this **Objection** and **Request for Hearing** objecting to the renewal of retail liquor permit(s) 00653205-1 (D5 and D6) held by Best Friends Management, LLC ("Best Friends"), which operates The Jester Bar & Cigar Patio, at 4529 Vine Street, St. Bernard, Ohio, 45217, is being made as required by Ohio Revised Code 4303.271(B); and

WHEREAS, to register a valid objection with the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control (the "Division"), the Village of St. Bernard must pass a resolution and submit a statement to the Division postmarked no later than May 4, 2026, specifying the problems at that liquor license premises and the substantial legal grounds for the objection pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4303.292(A); and

WHEREAS, as set forth in Ohio Revised Code 4303.292(A), the Division may refuse to issue or renew any retail permit if it finds that the applicant, or any partner, member, officer, director, or manager of the applicant has operated liquor permit businesses in a manner that demonstrates a disregard for the laws, regulations, or local ordinances of this state or any other state; and

WHEREAS, St. Bernard has enacted ordinances, including adopting fire, building, and zoning codes, to provide safe and healthy neighborhoods and locations for businesses to thrive; and

WHEREAS, St. Bernard has established a tax on income and a withholding tax as authorized by Article XVIII, Section 3, of the Ohio Constitution and levied in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 718. St. Bernard Codified Ordinance 182.051 mandates that each employer or other payer located or doing business in St. Bernard shall deduct and withhold the tax from qualifying wages of each employee and remit the same to the St. Bernard Tax Administrator, along with any required reports, in accordance with a schedule set forth in the Ordinance. Codified Ordinance 182.061 determines the "Municipal Taxable Income" for a taxpayer who is not an individual, which income tax must also be remitted to the Tax Administrator on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, while relying on St. Bernard's exemplary municipal services since opening The Jester Bar and Cigar Patio in St. Bernard in 2022, and despite having one or more employees during this time, Best Friends has failed or neglected to deduct, withhold, and forward to the Tax Administrator the required income and withholding taxes for Best Friends and its employees; and

WHEREAS, Best Friends has also shown a disregard for St. Bernard's Zoning and Fire regulations. In July 2025, Best Friends caused or allowed a fence to be erected and a food truck to be parked on the lot at 4529 Vine Street, in violation of Ohio Fire Code (OFC) 320.7 and St. Bernard Planning & Zoning Code 1171.05, thereby creating fire and safety issues. Best Friends subsequently brought the fence into compliance and removed the food truck as ordered, but subsequently caused or allowed a food truck to be returned to the lot in March 2026, again in violation of municipal ordinances. St. Bernard again ordered the food truck to be removed. It

was only after the violation was issued that the food truck was removed; now therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1: The Legislative authority of the Village of St. Bernard objects to the renewal of liquor permits 00653205-1 (D5 and D6) to Best Friends Management, LLC, operating The Jester Bar and Cigar Patio, in St. Bernard, Ohio.


SECTION 2: As set forth above, since its opening in 2022, Best Friends Management, LLC has operated its business in a manner that demonstrates a blatant and continuing disregard for the duly enacted ordinances of the Village of St. Bernard, Ohio, thereby establishing substantial legal grounds within the meaning and intent of R.C. §4303.292(A), to support this objection.

SECTION 3: The Legislative authority hereby requests a hearing on its objection to be held in Hamilton County, Ohio.

SECTION 4: The Legislative authority hereby instructs the Director of Law to prepare the required written statement in support of this objection and request for hearing, and further instructs the Director of Law to submit this Resolution and the supporting statement to the Division of Liquor Control on or before May 4, 2026.

SECTION 5: The reason for the emergency is to enable timely passage of the Resolution and preparation of the required statement by the Director of Law to meet the deadline established by the Division of Liquor. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all such deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

Passed this 23rd day of April, 2026.



President of Council

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council

Approved this 23rd day of April, 2026.



Mayor

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I, CAROLINE STEGMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL, VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF OHIO, DO HEREBY testify that the publication of Resolution No. 05, 2026, was made by posting true copies of the same in the most public places designated by Council: the Village website and the Village social media account for a period of fifteen (15) days or more commencing April 23rd, 2026.

ATTEST: Carolei Stegman DATE April 23rd, 2026
Clerk of Council

Approved as to form Jim Cantelmo Date 23rd April 2026
Director of Law

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