



**SOLOMON SALTSMAN & JAMIESON**

A Partnership of Professional Corporations  
426 Culver Boulevard | Playa Del Rey, CA 90293  
Telephone: 310.822.9848 | Facsimile: 310.822.3512  
Toll Free: 800.405.4222  
www.ssjlaw.com

**Stephen A. Jamieson**

Partner  
sjamieson@ssjlaw.com

July 3, 2024

**Via Email**

Kimberly M. Rodrigues, City Clerk  
The City Council and each Member of the City Council  
Robby Nesovic, Principal Planner  
City of Agoura Hills  
Civic Center – City Hall  
30001 Ladyface Court  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301  
[krodrigues@agourahillscity.org](mailto:krodrigues@agourahillscity.org) (city clerk)  
[ibuckleyweber@agourahillscity.org](mailto:ibuckleyweber@agourahillscity.org)  
[psylvester@agourahillscity.org](mailto:psylvester@agourahillscity.org)  
[canstead@agourahillscity.org](mailto:canstead@agourahillscity.org)  
[dlopez@agourahillscity.org](mailto:dlopez@agourahillscity.org)  
[jwolf@agourahillscity.org](mailto:jwolf@agourahillscity.org)  
[rnesovic@agourahillscity.org](mailto:rnesovic@agourahillscity.org)

RE: Letters in Support of Appeal of Planning Commission Resolution 24-1290 (Denying Case No. CUP-2023-0026) Cronies Sports Grill – 5687 Kanan Road – APN 2053-007-030

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council City of Agoura Hills:

As you are aware, we are legal counsel to the Applicant/Appellant, Cronies Sports Grill, in this matter. We previously filed the Appeal on its behalf. The Appeal document makes clear that the sole issue before you at the hearing on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, is whether the City will amend, revise, and issue an approval to include distilled spirits with the existing CUP that already covers beer and wine.

Cronies has been a responsible retailer serving its patrons beer and wine in a family-friendly restaurant for approximately a decade under the existing CUP, without causing nuisance or problems for the City and your community. Cronies is heavily supported by the community as reflected by the attached letters of support that come from the Kumon School, which shares a wall with Cronies and is therefore intimately familiar with its operations; and other local businesses that would be detrimentally affected if Cronies were to cause a problem but these businesses know

California | Oregon | Washington | Wisconsin | Michigan | Alaska

**Litigation | Employment Law | Personal Injury | Gaming | Land Use | Indian Law | Alcohol Licensing**

that Cronies has been responsibly operating for over a decade. These letters also reflect that Cronies has gone out to the community, including but not limited to its closest neighbors, Kumon School and others, and that there is no, and will be no, problem with noise, nuisance, traffic,<sup>1</sup> or anything else caused by Cronies. These were issues brought up by the Planning Commission and they have been successfully addressed. Instead, this Application/Appeal has broad community support as is shown by these Letters from neighbors and patrons, as well as additional information and documents that will be provided for and at the hearing by Cronies. There is also support being submitted independently and separately by others in the community in favor of this Application/Appeal. Indeed, as of today we understand that there are already at least an additional 23 letters or emails in support of Cronies in the City's file for this matter, so far.

Moreover, Cronies is also supported by numerous other local constituents such as local teachers, coaches, police officers, firefighters, business owners, churches, schools, chamber of commerce, and others.

One reason for the community supports is that Cronies' servers are professional, experienced and well-trained in the responsible service of alcoholic beverages. Each server and manager have completed the State required training on Responsible Beverage Service (RBS training).<sup>2</sup> Many have been employed at this location for about 10 years. Cronies also has four (4) other locations in nearby communities, all the others have ABC Type 47 restaurant liquor Licenses as is being requested now in Agoura Hills, all are staples of the community, and Cronies has been in operation overall since 1990. Indeed, the former Chief of Police for the City of Ventura, who has extensive experience in determining if an alcohol retailer operated lawfully and responsibly, and is also familiar with Cronies operations, is supportive of this Appeal/Application.

And for years this community has requested that Cronies add to its menu distilled spirits such that it can satisfy customers' requests for drinks such as Margaritas or Martinis to enjoy with their food order at this local restaurant. Cronies desire is to always satisfy the needs and wants of its loyal customers and to do so in a safe responsible manner. Furthermore, not being able to provide similar beverages puts Cronies at a competitive disadvantage in comparison to its restaurant neighbors who provide such beverage offerings with meals.

No change to any other existing Conditions is requested. At the Planning Commission level, Cronies had previously requested a slight change in hours. Due to concerns raised by the Planning

---

<sup>1</sup> There have been no increased traffic incidents or accidents at other Cronies locations selling a full line of beer, wine, and mixed cocktails with food in other jurisdictions. And, the minor addition of distilled spirits to the beer and wine already provided at this Cronies in Agoura Hills is expected, due to experience at these other Cronies locations, to account for only a small increase in the sales of alcohol, however, it is also expected to support the additional sales of food at this restaurant since those patrons desiring, for example, a Margarita need not go elsewhere to get that Margarita with their lunch or dinner as is happening now.

<sup>2</sup> Assembly Bill 1221 (2017), and per California Code of Regulations Title 4, Sections 162-166, RBS training of these Cronies servers is designed to "ensure on-premises servers of alcoholic beverages and their managers are educated on the dangers of serving alcohol to minors and overs-serving patrons." These servers are also trained to understand how to safely comply with the law and the penalties for violating such laws. Certificates for each server are valid for 3 years and each server and manager at Cronies are currently and validly trained and certified per RBS. See also: [State ABC Frequently Asked Question re RBS Training](#)

Commission on that issue, however, that request for a change in hours was and is withdrawn and rescinded and therefore is not at issue in this Appeal. Thus, the only issue before this Council on this appeal is the addition of the distilled spirits to the existing beverages which already include beer and wine.

Planning's Staff Report previously recommended approval to the Planning Commission. Furthermore, the State ABC, the entity responsible for regulating alcoholic beverages service and consumption, has advised that it has completed its investigation with favorable conclusion to Cronies and is ready to issue the Type 47 restaurant ABC License once the CUP is approved. We have respectfully requested that Planning Staff once again recommend approval of this Application/Appeal to this Council at this time. Finally, our research also reflects that this City has never before denied a request for a CUP of this nature under similar circumstances.

In sum, Cronies is a family restaurant that has been in operation at this particular location, under these very same hours of operation, by the same ownership/management, and successfully and safely providing beer and wine with meals for the last 10 years. The *only* change now being requested is the addition of distilled spirits to the existing beverage offerings, and that single change is solely because the community has requested it, *e.g.* a Margarita with excellent food. No other change is requested, anticipated, or planned.

Cronies, therefore, now respectfully requests this Council to recognize that it contributes to the local economy through employment, local sourcing, and community sponsorships. Cronies sponsors and donates to local causes, teams, local charities, and even helping public safety personnel during times of natural disaster. Cronies is a valuable community asset that also deserves now to be supported. It deserves to be treated fairly and equally so that it can provide what the community wants and compete with its competitors in the area.

It is respectfully requested, therefore, that this Council listen to, review, and consider all evidence and vote to reverse the Planning Commission, grant this appeal, and approve the application.

Very Truly Yours,

SOLOMON SALTSMAN & JAMIESON

  
STEPHEN ALLEN JAMIESON  
Licensed in California, Michigan, and Wisconsin

Attorneys for Applicant/Appellant:  
DAVID FOLDES and CROAG Inc., dba: Cronies Sports Grill

Enclosures/Attachments



MATH. READING. SUCCESS.

29054 Thousand Oaks Blvd. Agoura Hills, CA 91301

(818) 665-3600

June 24, 2024

Agoura Hills City Council  
30001 Ladyface Ct.  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

City of Agoura Hills,

My name is Fan Long, I am the owner of the Agoura Kumon Learning Center. Our location is the adjacent business to Cronies in the shopping center. We share a common wall.

This letter is to confirm that Cronies has always been good neighbor, and I've never experienced noise or other disruptive issues with Cronies in the past.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fan Long". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Fan Long

Agoura Kumon Learning Center

# LOVE'S PETS

5651 Kanan Rd. Agoura Hills, CA 91301 (818) 999-3449

June 23, 2024

Agoura Hills City Council  
30001 Ladyface Court  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Agoura Hills City Council,

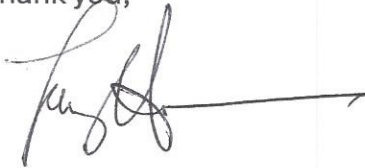
This letter is in support of the Cronies restaurant in our shopping center, to be granted a Conditional Use Permit, allowing them to serve alcohol to their customers.

My name is Larry Horn, I am the owner of Love's Pets, a speciality pet store. I am a neighbor tenant, in the same shopping center of Cronies Sports Grill. Cronies has been a good tenant in our shopping center for over 10 years, and we share many of the same customers.

I think it would be very unfair to not allow Cronies to serve alcohol, especially since another good tenant, Latigo Kid serves alcohol.

It is getting more difficult to operate a small business. Cronies has the opportunity to help give the community more drink choices which will help improve their business. Please approve the Conditional Use Permit for Cronies to serve alcohol.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Horn', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Larry Horn  
Love's Pets  
Owner / Operator

**From:** Michael De Giosa <[upesce@gmail.com](mailto:upesce@gmail.com)>

**Date:** June 27, 2024 at 4:58:24 PM PDT

**To:** Christine Foldes <[christine.foldes@cronies.com](mailto:christine.foldes@cronies.com)>

**Subject:** Cronies

Michael De Giosa- Italia Deli & Bakery  
5657 Kanan Rd  
Agoura Hills Ca 91301  
6-24-2024

City Council  
Agoura City Hall  
30001 Ladyface Court  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Subject: Support for Cronies Sports Grill Modifying their Conditional Use Permit

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for my fellow tenant, Cronies and their application to modify their Conditional Use Permit. As a former resident, student and continued business owner of 43 years in our community, I have had the pleasure of witnessing firsthand the value that Cronies brings to our shopping center and the entire community. On numerous occasions, I have met friendly families who either are watching their favorite sports team play on one of Cronies many TVs or are grabbing a bite and a drink after their children finished a sports game in our community. Usually on their next visit to our community, they stop by the deli for some pregame food or some of our sandwiches for the beach. Our businesses all reciprocate for one another

We along with Cronies value the city of Agoura Hills and we both contribute to local schools, sports teams, and community events

In fact, they were personally helpful to us when renegotiating our lease in the Agoura Meadows shopping center including our beautiful storefront signage.

Being a small business owner becomes harder and harder every year. We need to support the wonderful small businesses we have in this great community.

It is evident that Cronies is deeply committed to the well-being of our community. Their dedication to supporting local initiatives and organizations not only adds value to our shopping center but also enhances the overall quality of life for residents of Agoura.

Any additional business to Cronies means extra business to the City of Agoura hills and our shopping center. We all rely on each other to bring new customers to the center.

Thank you for your time if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael De Giosa

Sent from my iPhone



**WE CREATE CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE**  
5675 KANAN RD., AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301 (818) 597-0777

June 24, 2024

Agoura Hills City Council  
30001 Ladyface Court  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Agoura Hills City Council,

My name is Manny Bujold, I am the Owner and Chief Instructor of Agoura Hills World Champion Karate. I am a neighboring business to Cronies Sports Grill.

I support Cronies having a permit to serve alcohol. I have never experienced any negative or loud issues from the restaurant. I regularly stop into Cronies. They have a professional and friendly staff. Many of my clients and their families are also Cronies customers.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Manny Bujold



29056 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Agoura Hills, CA (213) 389-7446

June 26, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sheldon Kuna and I am the Owner/Operator of Print A Sign in the Agoura Meadows Shopping Center. We are one of the two tenants on Thousand Oaks Boulevard, and probably the closest business to any residences.

In a recent conversation with my business neighbors from Cronies, I was asked if we have ever heard any noise coming from the restaurant. I responded by telling them that I have never heard any type of noise or disturbance.

It was explained to me that Cronies was denied for an alcohol use permit by the Planning Commission in part, because the concerns of noise to tenants and the residents. If my associates and I cannot hear any disturbance, then I can't imagine any of the residences can.

I understand that Cronies is appealing the decision. I recommend that the City Council approves the liquor license for Cronies. They are a responsible business with years of experience with alcohol in their other locations.

They are great neighbors and I wish them success.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheldon Kuna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheldon Kuna





June 20, 2024

City of Agoura Hills City Council,

My Name is Raul Reynoso. I am the owner of Raul's Barbershop located at 5679 Kanan Road in Agoura Hills. My business location is just a couple of business units away from Cronies Sports Grill.

Not only myself, but my work associates, friends, and customers regularly eat and drink at Cronies. The food is always good, and the staff is always friendly.

I think it would be very positive for customers in the community and other tenants in our shopping center, if Cronies receives approval for a permit to serve alcohol. Although Cronies has great beer, it would be better to have the option to order a mixed drink sometimes. At present we must go to another restaurant if we want a mixed drink, but we would rather have it at Cronies.

Cronies is operated very professionally. I have never experienced noise or any other negative issues. Also, there has never been an issue with excessive traffic, and there is plenty of available parking in the center.

Please contact me for any other information.

Thank you,

  
Raul Reynoso

(747) 222-7318



5649 KANAN RD, AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301 (818) 318-1079

June 28, 2024

Agoura Hills City Council Members,

My name is Mick Mahan, I am the Owner/Operator of Parma's Pizzeria in Agoura. I am a neighbor tenant with Cronies Sports Grill.

I am in favor of Cronies Sports Grill receiving a Conditional Use Permit allowing them to have a liquor license in their restaurant.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mick Mahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mick Mahan