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April 27, 2018

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Via Messenger**

Re: Angry Otter, Inc. dba Tonic  
California ABC Liquor License Transfer  
890 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94109  
**Public Convenience and Necessity Determination Request**

*ABC Type-48 —On-Sale General*

*Premise to Premise Transfer from 2360 Polk St to 895 Post St. SF CA 94109*

Dear Ms. Cavillo:

This office represents Angry Otter, Inc. dba Tonic. My client presently owns a bar and lounge located at 2360 Polk Street near Union Street. Unfortunately, Tonic has lost its lease and wishes to move nearby to 895 Post Street, to a long-vacant building that the company wishes to rehabilitate and convert to a new lounge and bar. We have just submitted an application to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to move the business and its On-Sale General license [Type 48] to the new intended location.

Tonic is a local business that has been serving the community since 2008. This Tonic Beverage Group has built and owned nine other restaurants and bars and operates a successful beverage catering business. Tonic's owners, Mr. Ben Bleiman and Duncan Ley, are active in the community and have served in a number of community and City commissions and task forces. Duncan was the President of the Polk Street Merchants association from 2012-2016, served on the Wells Fargo Community Board which was instrumental in securing philanthropic dollars for a number of projects in the Tenderloin, sat on the Board of St. Francis Hospital and currently serves on the SF Cannabis Task Force as the small business representative, appointed by the SF Board of Supervisors. Ben is an San Francisco Entertainment Commissioner and the Chairman of the Board of Bay.org, the largest environmental nonprofit to serve SF Bay and its watershed, which owns and operates the Aquarium of the Bay at Pier 39. Ben also organized all of the bar

owners in San Francisco into an informal, but extremely active group called the SF Bar Owner Alliance, which is comprised of over 350 bar-owning members. Duncan and Ben also co-chair the California Music & Culture Association (CMAC) which is the only trade organization in San Francisco to represent bars, clubs, music venues and music festivals.

This proposed relocation of Tonic is now being vetted by the San Francisco Planning Department. The new lounge and bar is a principally permitted use in the RC-4 district where the lounge will be located. My clients intend to do extensive community outreach prior to moving their bar to Post Street. We will also meet with Supervisor Jane Kim's staff regarding this proposed transfer.

Since taking over Tonic in 2008, Duncan and Ben worked hard to insure the business was a positive influence on their community. They regularly and often offer the space at no cost for community events. Most effective, however, has been their "Guest Bartending" program which they have used to raise money for local nonprofits since 2009. Through this program, Tonic has raised over \$500,000 for charities.


Tonic has been well-managed and non-problematic since 2008. There have been no noise complaints and minimal police issues since the business opened ten years ago. My client will continue in the new location to be respectful to the neighborhood and to its customers. Tonic is committed to providing an excellent experience for their customers and will strive to make its Post Street area safer and crime free. Foremost, they will be Good Neighbors.

The requested move, if approved, will allow Tonic to offer more of what they are known for: friendly service and great value in a relaxed, and social atmosphere. Tonic will continue to provide jobs in the service industry that support and enhance opportunity for local residents and support other local businesses in the Lower Nob Hill neighborhood. The approval by the Board of Supervisors of the transfer of this existing ABC license would not have any detrimental effect on the surrounding neighborhood or the City of San Francisco. The clientele of this operation typically lives in the neighborhood and poses no public safety problems.

For the reasons outlined above, applicant Angry Otter, Inc. dba Tonic respectfully requests that this letter be forwarded to the Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee of the Board and that this Committee and the full Board of Supervisors make a determination under California Business and Professions Code Section 23958.4 that the public need or convenience would be served by the premise-to-premise transfer of this liquor license to a new location at 895 Post Street.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,



Mark E. Rennie

MER/mb