

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Senate Bill 2304

VFW Post 1326 Commander Matthew T. Jameson

- Legality

- If SB 2304 aims to define an “Alcoholic Beverage Establishment”
 - It must currently, without any amendment to law be legal?
 - If this bill has not been signed in to law, why were charities denied access to gas stations and convenience stores?
- Current Licensing Process. How it should work
 - City approval and city license
 - Site Agreement/Rental Agreement
 - State Licensing
- How it really went (Runway Express)

Denial

- Bismarck City License issued
 - Asked if we wanted to proceed with this even though the site would not approve our license
 - Bismarck City Administrator said he was asked by the AGs office “why they were approving these licenses” **(Strong arming)**
- Site Agreement Complete
- Denied in Person in the Office of the Attorney General
 - Due to Administrative Rule change, the license could not be issued (October)
 - No Administrative Rule Meeting until December

- New Sites are hard to come by
 - VFW about helping charities, not harming
 - We will not try to steal a location from another charitable organization to take for our own
 - With the passing of SB 2304 our organization will have an even smaller pool of potential locations to choose from **(21 years and older)**.

(Reiterate Quartermaster Fleck)

The VFW uses our charitable money. We are all volunteers taking care of our Veterans and our Communities. Without Gaming, we don't have a charity.

- \$450,000 to the VFW Sports Center Construction
- \$15,000 to the Cottonwood Ballpark
- \$30,000 to supporting sporting programs
- \$132,359 to various local groups in the last 5 years alone