

**CITY OF OTTAWA**  
301 West Madison Street  
Ottawa, Illinois 61350



**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release: June 2, 2009

RE: Blarney Pub liquor license

The Blarney Pub, located at 1033 Fulton Street, Ottawa, Illinois no longer has a City of Ottawa liquor license to sell alcoholic beverages. This action follows a series of arrests and convictions for drug dealing that occurred on the premises.

A hearing was held before Mayor Robert M. Eschbach, acting as Local Liquor Control Commissioner for the City of Ottawa on May 28, 2009. The hearing followed the refusal of Mayor Eschbach to reissue a license to Lorinda Korth, owner of the Blarney Pub, when her City liquor license expired on April 30, 2009. Ms. Korth requested a hearing before the Liquor Control Commissioner, which according to Eschbach, she was entitled to by law. On the day of the hearing, the parties stipulated to an Order that included the denial of her liquor license application.

The action follows a series of arrests and convictions for drug dealing that occurred in the Blarney Pub during 2007. At the request of the Illinois State Police Drug Task Force, Eschbach took no action in 2008 because of ongoing investigations. During 2007/2008 undercover agents purchased cocaine on the licensed premises on multiple occasions, and some of said sales were by employees of the Blarney Pub. Numerous convictions were obtained as a result of the drug related arrests occurring at the establishment. Police reports dealing with said illicit activities were received in evidence and pursuant to the stipulation of the parties.

The Order also notes that Lorinda Korth was not personally present on any occasion when undercover agents purchased cocaine at the premises and there as no evidence that Lorinda Korth had knowledge that illegal drug sales were occurring on the licensed premises.

The Order further provides that Lorinda Korth may not apply for a liquor license in the future. It also requires that no liquor can be sold on the premises for ninety days, in the event the premises were sold or leased to another entity that applied for and qualified for a liquor license.