

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair Pearse and Members of the Wheaton Local Tobacco Commission

FROM: James P. Kozik, AICP Director of Planning and Economic Development

DATE: February 12, 2026

SUBJECT: **Violation Hearing – Puff Place Smoke Shop, LLC d/b/a Puff Place Smoke Shop - 945 Geneva Road**

Action

The Local Tobacco Commission will convene a public hearing on February 12, 2026 to review evidence relating to allegations of a violation of the Tobacco Control Ordinance by Puff Place Smoke Shop, LLC d/b/a Puff Place Smoke Shop whereby tobacco products were sold without having first obtained a tobacco dealer's license.

Background

Puff Place Smoke Shop, LLC d/b/a Puff Place Smoke Shop at 945 Geneva Road held a tobacco dealer's license in 2025. Despite numerous attempts to reach the licensee about renewing their license for 2026, they did not do so.

On Monday, January 5, 2026 a Wheaton undercover detective completed a compliance check at Puff Place, 945 W. Geneva Rd. The detective was able to purchase a Lost Mary Blue Razz Ice vape cartridge from the business and he subsequently issued the employee who sold the vape, identified as Benyamin Daraji, a DACRA citation, number 0091-000012, for the tobacco ordinance violation. Mr. Daraji, who is also the licensee, was sent notice of his alleged City Code violation. Mr. Daraji did not respond to the notice and did not provide a notification of plea. As a result, the hearing will be held in absentia.

Mr. Daraji no longer owns and operates the business. A new owner/operator has received an Occupancy Permit and Tobacco License to operate a new tobacco store at the former Puff Place location.

Section 26-143 (b) of the City Code states the tobacco commissioner, after a hearing conducted by the tobacco commission, may suspend or revoke any license issued under the provisions of this article if he determines that the licensee has violated any of the provisions of this article.

In lieu of suspension or revocation of the license, the tobacco commissioner may instead levy a fine on the licensee. The fine imposed shall not exceed \$500 for each violation. The licensee shall also pay the costs of the hearing held before the tobacco commission.

Attachment

c: Benyamin Daraji



Incident Report

WHEATON POLICE DEPARTMENT

900 W LIBERTY DR

WHEATON, IL 60187

(630) 260-2161

Incident # WHPC2600030	Case Title Compliance Check / BV Corner Smoke & Vape /	CAD Incident # WHP26000599
Primary Offense ACT AS RETAILER OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS WITHOUT A		Page 1 of 3
Date / Time Occurred 1/5/2026 16:00:00 to		Date / Time Reported 1/5/2026 16:11:00

Arrested Suspects	Additional Suspects 1	Unknown Suspects	Victims 1	Other Persons	Vehicles	Items	Leoka Count
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Incident Details

Disposition CLOSED	Disposition Date	Case Status CLEARED BY CITATION (LOCAL CHARGE)	Case Status Date/Time
Reason for Contact	Officer Involved	Officer Firearm	Duty Status

Elements of the Incident

<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/> CIT	<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Gang	<input type="checkbox"/> Hate Crime
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile	<input type="checkbox"/> Pursuit	<input type="checkbox"/> Transient	<input type="checkbox"/> Use of Force	<input type="checkbox"/> Article 36	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward to Investigations

Incident Address

Street Address 945 W GENEVA RD				
City WHEATON	State Illinois	Zip 60188	County DUPAGE	Beat WH01

Administrative Info

Reporting Officer DOHERTY, DENIS	Employee Number 540134	Approving Supervisor POTTER, PATRICIA
Assisted By FREEMAN, KEVIN	Assisted By	Assisted By

OFFENSE			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Reportable Offense	Offense Code ACT AS RETAILER OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS WITHOUT A LICENSE	Offense Code Value 6572
Attempt COMPLETED		Location SPECIALTY STORE	
Bias 1 NONE		Bias 2	
Criminal Activity 1	Criminal Activity 2	Criminal Activity 3	
Offender Using 1 NOT APPLICABLE	Offender Using 2	Offender Using 3	
# Premise Entered	Group Activity 1	Group Activity 2	
Group Type #1	Group Name #1		
Group Type #2	Group Name #2		
Drug Related	Drug Type	Drug Origin	Drug Precursors
Animal Cruelty Type	Animal Cruelty Involvement	Animal Cruelty Action	
Arson Total Damage	Arson Occupancy	Arson Location Type	
School Related	Firearm Involved	Firearm 1	Firearm 2
			Firearm 3
	# of Firearms 1	# of Firearms 2	# of Firearms 3

SUSPECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Known	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested	<input type="checkbox"/> Naloxone Administered
Name (Last, First Middle) DARAJI, BENYAMIN				
Suffix	Nickname	Sex MALE	Race UNKNOWN	Ethnicity UNKNOWN
SSN	Date of Birth	Age	Age Range	Age At Time Of Incident

Details

Height	Height High	Weight	Weight High	Hair Color	Hair Length	Eye Color	Glasses	Build
Facial Hair	Facial Hair Color	Complexion	Handedness	DL State Illinois	License Class D			
Local ID#	SID#	FBI#	DCN#	IR#				
Reporting Agency Resident	Place of Birth	Citizenship	Marital Status					
Home Phone	Mobile Phone	Other Phone	Work Phone	Email Address				
Social Media 1	Social Media 2	Social Media 3						<input type="checkbox"/> Current Address Unknown



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Date / Time Occurred 1/5/2026 16:00:00 to		Date / Time Reported 1/5/2026 16:11:00

Suspect Home Address		
Street Address		

State Illinois	County
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Suspect Employment Information		
Employer / School BV CORNER SMOKE AND VAPE	Occupation / Grade OWNER	Work Schedule
Street Address 945 W GENEVA RD		
City WHEATON	State Illinois	Zip 60188
County		
Transported To		Transported By

Associated Offenses	
Offense ACT AS RETAILER OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS WITHOUT A LICENSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Associated With Suspect

VICTIM		Victim Name Type GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> Naloxone Administered	
Name (Last, First Middle) CITY OF WHEATON				
Suffix	Nickname	Sex	Race	Ethnicity
SSN	Date of Birth	Age	Age Range to	Infant Type
Age At Time Of Incident				
Details				
Height	Weight	Hair Color	Eye Color	Build
Resident				
Driver's License #	DL State	License Class	Place of Birth	Citizenship
Marital Status	Home Phone	Mobile Phone	Other Phone	Work Phone
Email Address				
Social Media 1	Social Media 2	Social Media 3		

Victim Home Address			
Street Address 303 W WESLEY ST			
City WHEATON	State Illinois	Zip 60187	County

Victim Employment Information			
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	On Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	College	
Employer / School	Occupation / Grade	Work Schedule	
Street Address			
City	State	Zip	County
Injury 1	Injury 2	Transported To	Transported By
Circumstance		Additional Circumstance	Justifiable Homicide Circumstance

Associated Offenses	
Offense ACT AS RETAILER OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS WITHOUT A LICENSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Associated With Victim

Victim Suspect Relationships	
Suspect Suspect:1 DARAJI, BENYAMIN ,	Relationship RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN

Narrative Information

On January 5, 2026, Lt. Potter assigned myself and Detective Freeman to conduct a tobacco compliance check of Puff Place Smoke Shop, 945 W. Geneva Rd. Wheaton, IL 60187. It was related to myself and Detective Freeman that Puff Place, also known as BV CORNER SMOKE AND VAPE, based on the sign placed on the business, had let their City of Wheaton tobacco license expire effective January 1, 2026, and had yet to renew their license after numerous reminders via email from Wheaton City Clerk Andrea Rosedale. Lt. Potter provided us \$20 petty cash for us to use in an attempt to purchase a tobacco product from BV CORNER SMOKE AND VAPE.

On January 5, 2026, at approximately 4:00 PM, Detective Freeman and I arrived at 945 W. Geneva Rd at which time Detective Freeman went into



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BV CORNER SMOKE AND VAPE in an undercover capacity and purchased (1) Lost Mary Blue Razz Ice vape cartridge for \$14. Detective Freeman then returned to the vehicle and showed me the vape cartridge and provided a description of the person who sold him the vape (short middle eastern male with a beard) and that he was the only person inside the store. I in turn took the vape cartridge from Detective Freeman and returned to BV CORNER SMOKE AND VAPE.

Upon entering the store, I was greeted by the only person in the store and the person who fit Detective Freeman's description, now known as Benjamin Daraji. I asked Benjamin if he just sold the Lost Mary Blue Razz Ice vape cartridge I was holding and he said yes. I informed Benjamin he sold the vape cartridge to a police officer and that he was not allowed to due to BV CORNER SMOKE AND VAPE'S tobacco license being expired. Benjamin stated he had a tobacco license and provided me with an expired City of Wheaton tobacco license with an expiration date of 12/31/2025. I informed Benjamin the license was currently expired and that he could no longer sell tobacco from the store until he renewed his tobacco license with the City of Wheaton.

Benjamin returned the money Detective Freeman used to purchase the Lost Mary Blue Razz Ice vape cartridge and I returned the vape back to him. I informed Benjamin that I would have to issue him a City of Wheaton Ordinance Violation, which I would serve to him at a later date. Benjamin stated he understood, at which time I left the store.

On January 6, 2026, I drafted a City of Wheaton Ordinance Violation Notice via DACRA under citation number 0091-000012 and served it to Benjamin Daraji. The DACRA citation showed a must appear court date of 02/11/26 at 6:30 PM, 303 W. Wesley Street Wheaton, IL 60187.

I also attached to this police report a copy of the numerous emails from City Clerk Andrea Rosedale to Benjamin Daraji informing him of his tobacco license expiring dating back to October 2025, as well as a City of Wheaton letterhead letter explaining the process of renewing the tobacco license and the actual application to renew.

Citation issued.