



City of Grand Forks

Staff Report

Committee of the Whole – March 9, 2026

City Council – March 16, 2026

APPROVED & ACCEPTED

by City Council

03/16/2026

Maureen Storstad
Maureen Storstad
City Auditor

Agenda Item: Application for Class 3 (On/Off-Sale Beer & Wine) Alcoholic Beverage License from Diaspora Restaurant, LLC, dba Joe’s Italian Restaurant

Submitted by: Maureen Storstad, Finance Director
Sherie Lundmark, City Clerk

Staff Recommended Action: Review and approve application from Diaspora Restaurant, LLC with approval subject to final review of various city departments and payment of associated fees.

Committee Recommended Action: Motion by Osowski, second by Sande to refer to City Council with recommendation to approve the application. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Action: Motion by Berg, second by Fridolfs to approve consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

BACKGROUND: The Finance Department is in receipt of a new application for a Class 3 (On/Off-Sale Beer & Wine) Alcoholic Beverage License from Diaspora Restaurant, LLC dba Joe’s Italian Restaurant, to be located at 1970 S Columbia Rd, Suite 101 (formerly Vinyl Taco).

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- Diaspora Restaurant, LLC has submitted an application for a Class 3 Alcoholic Beverage License and has paid the application fee. Issuance fee of \$5,500 and annual fee of \$1,750 apply to this class of license. All fees must be paid prior to license issuance.
- Diaspora Restaurant, LLC has 100% ownership of Edison Beluli. Mr. Beluli will also be serving as manager for this location.
- There are several other Joe’s Italian Restaurants operated throughout the nation, including Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa, with a Joe’s Italian Restaurant also opening soon in Minot.
- Issuance of new alcoholic beverage licenses requires review and approval of various city departments including: Fire, Police, Health, Building Safety, Finance, and City Attorney.
- City Council approval is required for issuance of a new alcoholic beverage license.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Application from Diaspora Restaurant, LLC (Excerpt)
(Full application is available for review in the Finance Department)

CITY OF GRAND FORKS
APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE
 255 N. 4th St. Grand Forks, ND 58203 • (701) 746-2620

LICENSE INFORMATION. Must be completed for all types of applications

License Year: 2026	License Class/Type: (See listing of class type attached hereto) 3	Application is hereby made for a Sunday alcoholic beverage license issued by the City of Grand Forks pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 5.02.05.1
(Office use only) License #: 3100320		
Name of Applicant (If an LLC, name of LLC; If partnership, at least 2 partners' names; If corporation, name of corporation) DIASPORA RESTAURANT LLC	Trade Name of Establishment (DBA): Joels Italian Restaurant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Mailing Address: 1970 S. COLUMBIA RD STE 101		Is this a renewal application? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
City, State, Zip: GRAND FORKS ND 58201		Email Address: joesitaliangrandforks@gmail.com
Business Telephone Number: Fax Number: 701-314-3313		
Street Address of Premises: 1970 S. COLUMBIA RD, STE 101 GRAND FORKS ND 58201	Legal Description of Premises: Lot A, Block 1, Replat of Lots 2 & 3, Columbia Park 17th Addition.	
State how the premises is zoned under the Grand Forks zoning ordinance:		
Premises to be licensed is: <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing facility <input type="checkbox"/> New building	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans or diagram of premises attached <input type="checkbox"/> Plans or diagram already on file with City Engineer's Office	<i>*Plans/diagram must depict all bar and lounge areas. If a renewal application and if substantial changes have been made, attach updated plans/diagram</i>
Date title acquired (if premises owned by applicant):	Closest school (College, Public or Parochial) Name and Street Address: Red River 2211 17th AVE S GRAND FORKS, ND 58201	Closest church SHARON LUTHERAN Name and Street Address CHURCH 'ELCA' 1720 S 20TH ST GRAND FORKS, ND 58201
If building premises owned by other than applicant, COPY OF LEASE MUST BE ATTACHED.		
In addition, please provide the following with respect to each building owner:		
Name: GF 1970 LLC	Street Address 4609 33rd AVE STE 400, FARGO, ND 58104	City State Zip 58104
		Phone No. 701-371-4364
Applicant is applying as a:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Sole Proprietor - Proceed to Page 2 of the Application		
<input type="checkbox"/> Partnership - Proceed to Page 3 of the Application		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LLC - Proceed to Page 5 of the Application		
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporation - Proceed to Page 5 of the Application		