Jury Grants Liquor Permit To Cock-Fighting Business

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The Vermilion Parish Police Jury granted a liquor permit despite protests of angry residents and its own protest. Police juror Louis Joe Hardy told the group of residents from the El Rancho Subdivision that the jury had no choice but to issue the permit to the owner of the Blood Valley Rooster Pit.

"There's nothing we (the jury) can do to stop the permit from being issued," Hardy stated. He added that he had researched the matter with district attorney Nathan Stansbury.

Joseph Huey Touchet, owner of the business located in that subdivision east of Kaplan, has already been granted a provisional health permit

from the state. However, the parish health supervisor Russell Boudreaux said that if certain health improvements are not made by June 20th the permit will be revoked.

Residents voiced several complaints concerning the loud noise, speeding down the street, driving across their property and urinating in public by some of the patrons of the establishment.

Hardy said that he had lived next to a business that sold liquor for seven years. "I know what it's like...it's not a good environment to raise a family."

One angry resident asked who would be responsible if his child was struck by a speeder. He (Turn to Page 13, Col.2)
said that 99 out 100 speeders go to Touchet's business. A 15 mile per hour speed limits is set in that area.

Juror James Dale Landry told the residents to call the sheriff's department. They (residents) claimed they have received no results from the sheriff's department against the violators.

"My subdivision is not Blood Valley, it's called El Rancho," announced one lady.

The jury granted the liquor permit and agreed to request the sheriff's department send a patrol to the area. A petition signed by over 100 residents was also submitted.

The jury gave its endorsement to goals for development in Vermilion Parish.

Submitted by the Economic Development Board of the parish, they include industrial support facilities such as ports and industrial parks; a major industry inducement program; industrial promotion financing; further agriculture and aquaculture research and promotion; a major tourism development and inducement program; and establishing recreational areas along coastal Vermilion.

Other goals set by the board are improvements to the water system (parishwide), public facilities, recreation, drainage (parishwide), the sewer system and the roads, streets and bridges; saltwater intrusion protection; and dredging of the lower Vermilion River.

These goals will be used as a toll when applying for grant money according to jury secretary-treasurer Mike Bertrand.