

(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting, but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records).

SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Safety Services and Licenses Committee was held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 via Zoom webinar.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilmember Steven A. Stycos
Councilmember Lammis J. Vargas
Councilmember Edward J. Brady
Councilmember Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Christopher G. Paplauskas, Chair
Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio (appeared at 6:02 p.m.)

Also Present: Councilmember John P. Donegan
Daniel Parrillo, Director of Administration
John Psilopoulos, Deputy Director of Administration
Steven Angell, Assistant City Solicitor
Major Robert Quirk, Police Department
Chief Stephen MacIntosh, Fire Department
Leanne Zarrella, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

II. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilmember Hopkins, seconded by Councilmember Brady, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved a recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS:

Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza of Cranston, LLC. Class B License, - 220 Hillside Rd.
Change of CFO per correspondence

No action needed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

CLASS B VICTUALLING LIQUOR LICENSE-NEW *(Continued from 8/3 & 9/14/2020)*

La Casa, LLC. dba La Casa

407 Laurel Hill Ave.

Orlando Worthington

Christopher Gilchrist

Chair stated that this came before the Committee at the last meeting and there were signatures and paperwork that was filled in from remonstrants which would take the hearing away from us put in our jurisdiction and Solicitor had to go through that and he asked Solicitor for an update of the paperwork that was submitted.

Solicitor stated that, based on his review of the paperwork submitted and his review of the map of the 200' radius, Mr. Nevola's correspondence of September 14th, he had listed a group of objectors and he did a fairly good job identifying the square footage relative to those objectors. If we were over a fifty percentile of actual square footage, there wouldn't be a remonstrants. There was a submission to the Clerk which he reviewed which was essentially a revocation in the letter of support relative to several of the land owners in the area. AS a result of that, subtracting those land areas from the list of objections brings the list of objectors to well under fifty in that particular instance and this Committee may hear the request.

On motion by Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Vargas, it was voted to approve this license application.

Under Discussion:

Nick Hemond, Esq., appeared to represent the applicant and stated that LaCasa is a business that is owned and operated by Orlando Worthington and Christopher Gilchrist. It is a Latin restaurant and they have tremendous food. His clients have spent a lot of time walking and speaking to their community members. They are not looking to change this business model or making it a club. They are both experienced in the hospitality business.

Orlando Worthington appeared to speak and stated that this business has been open for over a year and a half and do not plan to change their business model. They have been kind to the neighborhood and have had no problems. They are looking for the Committee's support and try to make it through these tough times.

Councilmember Brady stated that he has been at this business many times and he knows for a fact that they are running their business properly. LaCasa has been a great addition to Cranston and he will support this and asked the Committee to support it also.

Councilmember Vargas asked if the hours will be changing with beer and wine, or will they stay the same. Attorney Hemond stated that the hours will remain the same.

Councilmember Donegan stated that he was not anticipating a vote on this this evening. He thoroughly enjoys the restaurant and they have been good neighbors. He has not received a single call or complaint about them since they opened until letters went out to the neighbors about this application. His concern is the neighbors have been very adamant to him that they do not want this in their neighborhood. Some of the concerns that have been relayed to him from neighbors are regarding the hours they are open and time they will close. Attorney Hemond stated that the latest they stay open until 11 pm on weekends and earlier during the week.

Councilmember Stycos asked if approved, could we make the liquor license contingent on certain hours. Councilmember Brady stated that if they were the only restaurant that would be restricted to certain hours, in his opinion, as a restaurant owner himself, they would argue that they would get unfair practice against them. Solicitor stated that Councilmember Brady is correct. The applicant has applied for a license which speaks for itself and any deviation from that, in his view, we are treating this applicant different from others with no real basis to do so.

Councilmember Stycos asked if anyone has connected with the remonstrants and have they been informed of the decision of the Solicitor that the remonstrants is invalid. Solicitor stated that the Solicitor's Office has not decisioned anything relative to this application. What they have done is provide advice to this Committee relative to the existence of the remonstrants and it is the opinion of the Solicitor's Office and his that the result of the decision of three of the objectors that the list of objectors, as presented by Mr. Nevola, does not meet the statutory square footage requirement to pose remonstrants with respect to this particular license application. Therefore, the hearing may go forward.

Attorney Hemond stated that this matter had been scheduled for the September meeting and days and weeks prior to that, his clients had been canvassing door to door telling people what they were going to do and what they had applied for. They found out that there was a lot of misinformation and misunderstandings of what the license was for, what the intended use of the property was and his clients obtained signatures from individuals either within the 200' or without. Most of the people that spoke to his clients who learned about LaCasa and real nature of what the proposal was, signed a letter rescinding their objections and supporting the application. Those signatures were turned in some before the hearing in September and then the rest were turned in the Thursday before the meeting that was set for last Monday. Attorney Hemond asked for a vote to be taken on this this evening whether approved or denial because his clients deserve a decision for the planning of their business. This was duly noticed meeting, not at their request and not continue this matter anymore. The public has a right to appeal a decision if they are not in favor of it.

Councilmember Stycos stated that the City should have notified the City Council especially the Ward Councilman of the update on the remonstrants issue.

Councilmember Hopkins stated that we have to continue to support businesses in our neighborhoods as well as the neighbors. If there are issues, this Committee can call the business back before the Committee.

Councilmember Brady stated that this business has operated properly for 1 ½ years in our City without any problems.

Councilmember Stycos motioned to continue this for two weeks and the Clerk notify everyone who has participated in this remonstrants whether it is adding their name or deleting their name and at that meeting a vote will be taken. Councilmember Vargas seconded the motion for discussion.

Under Discussion:

Councilmember Vargas stated that she understands that this is a concern with residents near this business, but she also knows that the applicants have invested into the City and they have gone through a lot of hoops to have this establishment opened and now with a liquor license.

Attorney Hemond stated that he is Court excused and will be on vacation until October 27th.

Councilmember Stycos motioned to amend the motion to continue this to October 28th. Councilmember Brady seconded motion for discussion.

Under Discussion:

Chair stated that he will not vote in favor of this continuance for all the reasons stated this evening.

Roll call was taken on motion to continue this license and motion failed on a vote of 1-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmember Stycos -1. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilmembers Vargas, Brady, Hopkins, Paplauskas and Council Vice-President Favicchio -5.

Discussion continued on motion to approve this license.

Council Vice-President Favicchio stated that we should give this business a chance. They have demonstrated that they have had no problems. We are not giving them a full liquor license.

Councilmember Donegan asked that LaCasa continue to be a good neighbor as they have been and asked for a six month review.

Roll Call was taken on motion to approve this license and motion passed on a vote of 5-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmembers Vargas, Brady, Hopkins, Paplauskas and Council Vice-President Favicchio -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilmember Stycos -1.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Including Ordinances)

The Annunciation Greek Festival- COVID event template 175 Oaklawn Ave.
(Ratify the Action)

On motion by Council Vice-President Favicchio, seconded by Councilmember Brady, it was voted to approve this template. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. NEW LICENSE APPLICATIONS:

None.

VII. TRAFFIC ENGINEER:

No business.

VIII. SHOW CAUSE:

Waste Connections (early pickup at CVS 205 Atwood) PO Box 189, Seekonk, MA
James Simoneau -noticed per Certified Mail
Violation fee \$1150 (\$50 X 23 violations) **payment received on 9/28/2020**

Chair stated that a week after the fines were paid, he had constituent complaints that this business had three early pickups, one at CVS on Phenix Ave. on September 25th and two on Atwood Ave. on September 17th and September 24th.

Mr. Caluoric stated that obviously they did not get the message to all their drivers and he was very apologetic to be present again before the Council. They have to communicate better with all their drivers to let them know what the rules are in Cranston.

Steven Finley, 131 Mirick Ave., appeared to speak and stated that this has been going on for months. He does not think the fine imposed last month was enough, but this has to stop. He asked that the City Council fine them the maximum amount it can.

Steve Bonanca, Operations Director, was on the call, but was not able to speak.

On motion by Councilmember Brady, seconded by Council Vice-President Favicchio, it was voted to fine this business \$200 per fine. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

No business.

X. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

No business.

Councilmember Vargas extended condolences to the Fire Department and family of lost one of their own.

XI. LICENSE RENEWALS:

Chair asked for clarification for Red Lounge was shut down by DBR. He would like this renewal continued to next month and have questions answered as to the reasons why DBR shut them down. He would also like to have the status of the COVID violation and asked Solicitor to send letter to them about this.

BILLIARDS TABLE LICENSE-RENEWAL

Legion Pub Inc. d/b/a Pub on Park

661 Park Ave.

BOWLING ALLEY LICENSE-RENEWAL

AMF Bowling Centers Inc. d/b/a AMF Cranston Bowl
Lang's Bowlarama, Inc. d/b/a Lang's Bowlarama

1450 Elmwood Ave.
225 Niantic Ave.

XI. LICENSE RENEWALS: (Cont.)

BUSINESS IN TEMPORARY STRUCTURE LICENSE-RENEWAL

Color House 8190 Post Rd.
Jack Leyden @ Mulligan's Island 1000 New London Ave.

CLASS A RETAIL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE- RENEWAL

Aum Shakti Inc. d/b/a Cranston Liquors 1219 Cranston St.
LEV Enterprises Inc. d/b/a Majestic Liquors 1075 Park Ave.
M. Flaherty & Associates Inc. d/b/a Cork & Bottle Liquors 526 Pontiac Ave.

CLASS BV LIMITED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE- RENEWAL

Lou Umberto's Italian Kitchen, LLC 1606 Cranston St.
Lunch Box Café, LLC d/b/a Lunch Box Café 751 Park Ave.

CLASS B VICTUALLING ALCOHOLIC BEV. LICENSE- RENEWAL (Cont'd)

848 Park Ave Associates LLC. d/b/a Park Theatre & Stage Door Lounge 848 Park Ave.
AMF Bowling Centers Inc. d/b/a AMF Cranston Bowl 1450 Elmwood Ave.
Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza of Cranston, LLC. d/b/a Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza 220 Hillside Rd.
Asia Grille GC, LLC. d/b/a Asia Grille 140 Hillside Rd.
Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC. d/b/a Chipotle Mexican Grill #1371 87 Hillside Rd.
Crepe Corner, LLC d/b/a Crepe Corner 2170 Broad St.
Efendi's Mediterranean Café, Inc. d/b/a Efendi's Mediterranean Café 160 Atwood Ave.
Fabrizi's Fast Food, Inc. d/b/a Betty's Pub 31 Gansett Ave.
Franco Bros Inc. d/b/a Nino's Pizza 500 Atwood Ave.
Fresco Too, Inc. d/b/a Fresco Too 140 Comstock Pkwy.
Jonmar, Inc. d/b/a L'Osteria Ristorante 1703 Cranston St
Lang's Bowlarama, Inc. d/b/a Lang's Bowlarama 225 Niantic Ave.
Legion Pub, Inc. d/b/a Pub on Park 661 Park Ave.
Macera's Italian Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Macera's Italian Restaurant 957 Reservoir Ave.
One Bell, Inc. d/b/a The Bricks 641 Atwood Ave.
PJ's Pub, LLC. d/b/a PJ's Pub 1139 Pontiac Ave.
Red Lounge Restaurant LLC d/b/a Red Lounge 355 Dyer Ave.
Richie Inc. d/b/a El Tapatio 1045 Reservoir Ave.
Royal Buffet & Grill Inc. d/b/a Royal Buffet & Grill 272 Garfield Ave.
The Gentleman, LLC. d/b/a The Gentleman 100 East St.
The Griddle, LLC. d/b/a The Griddle 2244 Plainfield Pike
The Joint Bar and Grill, LLC. d/b/a The Joint Bar and Grill 1150 Oaklawn Ave.
VP Hospitality Corp. d/b/a Mai Thai Cuisine 1401 Park Ave, Unit 1

CLASS B TAVERN LICENSE-RENEWAL

Johnson & Wales University d/b/a Harbor View 1150 Narragansett Blvd.

CLASS D CLUB LICENSE- RENEWAL

Circolo Maria SS Carmine d/b/a Mt. Carmel Club 326 Union Ave.
Laurel Hill Social & Athletic Club 49 Governor St.
RI Ceilidhe Club 50 America St.

XI. LICENSE RENEWALS: (Cont.)

MASSAGE THERAPIST LICENSE-RENEWAL

Angela Perry-Place

105 Sockanosset Cross Rd., Ste 314

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE-RENEWAL

848 Park Ave Associates LLC. d/b/a Park Theatre & Stage Door Lounge	848 Park Ave.
Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza of Cranston, LLC. d/b/a Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza	220 Hillside Rd.
Ellaham Sham Restaurant	91 Rolfe Sq.
Lang's Bowlarama, Inc. d/b/a Lang's Bowlarama	225 Niantic Ave.
Legion Pub, Inc. d/b/a Pub on Park	661 Park Ave.
One Bell, Inc. d/b/a The Bricks	641 Atwood Ave.
PJ's Pub, LLC. d/b/a PJ's Pub	1139 Pontiac Ave.
Red Lounge Restaurant LLC d/b/a Red Lounge	355 Dyer Ave.
The Joint Bar and Grill, LLC. d/b/a The Joint Bar and Grill	1150 Oaklawn Ave.

VICTUALLING LICENSE-RENEWAL

848 Park Ave Associates LLC. d/b/a Park Theatre & Stage Door Lounge	848 Park Ave.
1353 Park Ave.	1353 Park Ave.
AFC Sushi	90 Pontiac Ave.
AMF Bowling Centers Inc. d/b/a AMF Cranston Bowl	1450 Elmwood Ave.
Athena's Restaurant	1482 Park Ave.
Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza of Cranston, LLC. d/b/a Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza	220 Hillside Rd.
Asia Grille GC, LLC. d/b/a Asia Grille	140 Hillside Rd.
Bader Market Inc.	120 East St.
Boston Market #96	185 Sockanosset Cross Rd.
Brewed Awakenings	1200 Pontiac Ave.
Carina E. Dolce	1402 Plainfield Pike
Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC. d/b/a Chipotle Mexican Grill #1371	87 Hillside Rd.
Circolo Maria SS Carmine d/b/a Mt. Carmel Club	326 Union Ave.
City Line Convenience Plus	615 Narragansett Blvd.
Crepe Corner, LLC d/b/a Crepe Corner	2170 Broad St.
Dairy Twirl	787 Reservoir Ave.
Dear Hearts Ice Cream	2218 Broad St.
Dyer Mart, Inc.	500 Dyer Ave.
Eddies Diner, LLC	877 Dyer Ave.
Efendi's Mediterranean Café, Inc. d/b/a Efendi's Mediterranean Café	160 Atwood Ave.
Ellaham Sham Restaurant	91 Rolfe Sq.
Fabrizi's Fast Food, Inc. d/b/a Betty's Pub	31 Gansett Ave.
Franco Bros Inc. d/b/a Nino's Pizza	500 Atwood Ave.
Fresco Too, Inc. d/b/a Fresco Too	140 Comstock Pkwy.
Harriets Kitchen Inc.	350 Atwood Ave.
Johnson & Wales University d/b/a Harbor View	1150 Narragansett Blvd
Jonmar, Inc. d/b/a L'Osteria Ristorante	1703 Cranston St
Kamborian Bros. Inc. d/b/a Napolitano's Brooklyn Pizza	100 East St.
Lang's Bowlarama, Inc. d/b/a Lang's Bowlarama	225 Niantic Ave.

XI. LICENSE RENEWALS: (Cont.)

VICTUALLING LICENSE-RENEWAL (Cont.)

Legion Pub, Inc. d/b/a Pub on Park	661 Park Ave.
LN Blessing LLC d/b/a California Taco	716 Reservoir Ave.
Lou Umberto's Italian Kitchen LLC d/b/a Lou Umberto's Italian Kitchen	1606 Cranston St.
Lunch Box Café LLC d/b/a Lunch Box Café	751 Park Ave.
McDonald's Restaurant	1820 Plainfield Pike
McDonald's Restaurant	923 Cranston St.
Macera's Italian Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Macera's Italian Restaurant	957 Reservoir Ave.
Mario's Italian Deli	164 Gansett Ave.
Newport Creamery	100 Hillside Rd.
New York Style Pizza	152 Gansett Ave.
One Bell, Inc. d/b/a The Bricks	641 Atwood Ave.
Paco's Tacos Mexicali	100 East St.
Panera Bread	4000 Chapel View Unit 150
Papi's Tacos Express	342 Budlong Rd.
Pawtuxet Village Farmer's Market	37 Ferncrest Ave.
Pinkberry	53 Hillside Rd.
PJ's Pub, LLC. d/b/a PJ's Pub	1139 Pontiac Ave.
Ramadevi, LLC. d/b/a Chennai Express Indian Cuisine	745 Reservoir Ave.
Red Lounge Restaurant LLC d/b/a Red Lounge	355 Dyer Ave.
Richie Inc. d/b/a El Tapatio	1045 Reservoir Ave.
Royal Buffet & Grill Inc. d/b/a Royal Buffet & Grill	272 Garfield Ave.
Sundaes	775 Oaklawn Ave.
St. George Maronite Catholic Church	1493 Cranston St.
Seven Stars Bakery	1255 Reservoir Ave.
Stadium Fish & Chips, Inc.	1079 Park Ave.
Starbucks Coffee #7355	4 Midway Rd.
Stop & Shop #714	200 Garfield Ave.
Stop & Shop #701	200 Atwood Ave.
Stop & Shop #2702	275 Warwick Ave.
The Gentleman, LLC. d/b/a The Gentleman	100 East St.
The Griddle, LLC. d/b/a The Griddle	2244 Plainfield Pike
The Joint Bar and Grill, LLC. d/b/a The Joint Bar and Grill	1150 Oaklawn Ave.
VP Hospitality Corp. d/b/a Mai Thai Cuisine	1401 Park Ave, Unit 1
Walach Enterprises, LLC d/b/a McDonald's	1099 Reservoir Ave.
Whole Foods Market	151 Sockanosset Cross Rd.
Wildcat Concessions	60 Harborside Blvd.

On motion by Councilmember Hopkins, seconded by Councilmember Brady, it was voted to approve all the above-listed license renewal applications except for Red Lounge. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Vice-President Favicchio, seconded by Councilmember Hopkins, it was voted to continue the license renewal application for Red Lounge. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. MONTHLY SCHEDULES:

848 PARK THEATRE – no events scheduled for October

LEGENDS PUB & GRUB –

RHODES ON THE PAWTUXET –

On motion by Council Vice-President Favicchio, seconded by Councilmember Hopkins, it was voted to approve the above list of events. Motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

COVID 19 EVENT COMPLIANCE PLANS:

- **Halloween Drive Thru Trunk or Treat** (Cranston Stadium-October 31st 2-4pm) 9 Flint Ave.

On motion by Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Hopkins, it was voted to approve the above event.

Under Discussion:

City Clerk explained this event and stated that they have met all guidelines.

Regina Lynch appeared to speak and answer any questions from the Committee.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion passed unanimously.

- **St, Mary's Feast Society Craft Fair** (November 7, 2020) 15 Phenix Ave.

On motion by Councilmember Hopkins, seconded by Councilmember Vargas, it was voted to approve the above event.

Under Discussion:

City Clerk explained this event and stated that they have met all guidelines.

Maria Manzi appeared to speak and answer any questions from the Committee. She stated that she met with the City Clerk and all other departments that need to approve this. They are open to more suggestions.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion passed unanimously.

- **Update regarding Fire Pits** (referred from 10/5/2020 Council meeting)

Chair stated that this be placed under the Fire Department for next month's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees