

*(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 Monday, April 5, 2021 via Zoom webinar.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Robert J. Ferri  
Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas  
Councilwoman Aniece Germain  
Council Vice-President Edward J. Brady  
Councilman Matthew R. Reilly, Vice-Chair  
Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli, Chair  
Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Also Present: Councilman John P. Donegan  
Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino  
Anthony Moretti, Director of Administration  
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor  
Paul Casey, Deputy Chief, Fire Department  
David Dimaio, City Council Budget Analyst  
Leanne Zarrella, City Clerk  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees  
Heather Finger, Stenographer

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Council Vice-President 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.

**I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER**

**GRAVEL BANK LICENSE** *(vote will be taken)*

**P.J. Keating Co. – applicant was mailed notice**

875 Phenix Ave.

**(Cont'd from 3-1-21)**

**Douglas Vigneau**, Compliance Manager, and **Michael Vacchi**, Quarry Manager, of PJ Keating appeared to speak.

No one appeared to speak from the public.

**Council President Paplauskas** asked for explanation of gravel process on site and if that gravel that is manufactured or taken from the ground at this site. Mr. Vacchi stated that that is ledge that is blasted on property and put through crushing system and sold to asphalt plants and concrete plants in the area.

**Mr. Vacchi** sated spoke regarding the process when blasting is done and who regulates that. Council President Paplauskas asked if there are any limitations to where the blasting can take place on the property. Mr. Vacchi stated that he is not aware of any outside of the property lines.

**Jason Bruyere** appeared to speak regarding the blasting and distance from neighbors and stated that the closest he's blasted is 1500 ft. closest to the neighbor's houses.

**Councilwoman Vargas** asked what the hours of operation are. Mr. Vigneau stated general operation is 7 am to 3 pm. and would not blast any later than that.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Council Vice-President Brady, it was voted to approve this license application. Motion passed unanimously.

**USED CAR LICENSE** *(vote will be taken)*

**New World Processing Inc. d/b/a LaSalle Auto Sales**

492 Reservoir Ave.

**Elias Makhoulouf-applicant was mailed notice**

**(Cont'd from 1-11-21)-Restrictions: 7 parking spaces allowed; vehicle display shall be per site plan**

Applicant had problems logging into the meeting.

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that he believes this is on the agenda for a three month review.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Council Vice-President Brady, it was voted to approve this license application. Motion passed unanimously.

**WASTE HAULER LICENSE**

*Hippo Disposal, Inc. (vote will be taken)*

207 Union Ave, Providence

Mr. Shou Liu Li

**(Cont'd from 3-1-21 for NO SHOW)**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council Vice-President Brady, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to continue this license application. Motion passed unanimously.

**II. PUBLIC HEARINGS\* and/ or NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

No one appeared to speak.

**A. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**AUTO REPAIR LICENSE** *(vote will be taken)*

***Collision Management Center, LLC. d/b/a AutoPaint RI***

47 Stamp Farm Rd.

Robert Tasca Jr.

**Michael Tasca** appeared to speak and stated that they are looking to continue to operate Auto Paint RI and nothing will be changed.

No one appeared to oppose.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Council Vice-President Brady, it was voted to approve this license application. Motion passed unanimously.

**SECONDHAND LICENSE** *(vote will be taken)*

***Taly's Garage LLC. d/b/a Taly's Garage***

344 Dyer Ave.

Franny Contreras

**Franny Contreras** appeared to speak and stated hours of operation to be 9-5 weekdays, Saturdays 10-3 and Mondays and Sundays closed.

No one appeared to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to approve this license application. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

**HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE**

*Jay Goga, Inc. d/b/a Capital Liquors (vote will be taken)*

811 Park Ave.

On motion by Council Vice-President Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to approve this license application.

Under Discussion:

**Neil Brafman, Esq.**- Palumbo Law, appeared to represent Bhavya Patel and stated that closing took place last week. He also stated that earlier the City Council approved the transfer of the liquor license. This application is requesting Holiday license with hours of 12-6 compliance with RIGL 3.81.

**Chair** asked for Solicitor to address this.

**Solicitor** stated that originally, the application was seeking Sunday Sales commencing at 12. This afternoon, we were notified that the applicant actually wanted to open at 10 am on Sundays, which is allowed under State Law 3.81. This is within the Committee's discretion. His reading of 3.81 does not allow the Class A establishment to remain open until 9 pm unless the following Monday is a holiday, so normal authorization is 6 pm. Attorney Brafman agreed with Solicitor.

Roll call was taken on motion to approve this license application and motion passed unanimously.

**Council Vice-President Brady** indicated that it is now 6:57 and the Finance Committee is scheduled for 7 pm and the Finance Agenda only has one item on it. He asked if the Committee would like to continue with Safety Services and reschedule the Finance meeting and we obviously are not going to finish in the next two minutes. Council President Paplauskas stated that he would rather continue with Safety Services. He recommended holding the Finance meeting next Monday prior to the budget hearing and suggested that next months this meeting start at 5:30 instead of 6 pm and hopefully next month we can do one link so we are not running into two links. He just does not want these businesses to be held up that have been patiently waiting. Chair asked for Solicitor's opinion. Solicitor stated that it is the Committee's discretion, but suggested taking a brief recess and take up Finance Committee meeting and take a vote to continue that meeting to next Monday and then continue with this meeting.

It was agreed to post a notice on the City's website indicating that the Finance Committee meeting for this evening will be continued to April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm and repost and re-notice the updated agenda.

**HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE**

*Yard Works (vote will be taken)*

Joseph Fox

311 Warwick Ave.

**Joseph Fox** appeared to speak. Councilman Ferri asked what the hours of operation will be and what this business will be doing. Mr. Fox stated that the hours of operation will be Monday thru Friday 9-5 and Saturday and Sunday 9-5 or what the law requires. They have a garden center down the street

and they will be selling same types of materials, such as plants, flowers, landscape materials, loom, mulch and stone. They also will be selling such things as gas grills and fire pits. Councilman Ferri asked if any equipment will be used on weekends to go into the property to pick up stones or mulch during these hours of 9-5 on weekends. Mr. Fox stated, no, there will not be, not on Sundays, but possibly on Saturdays. Councilman Ferri stated that he is opposed to this if any equipment is going to be run on Sundays. Mr. Fox stated that they will not be using any equipment on Sundays on 305 Warwick Ave., the back lot.

**Director Moretti** asked Solicitor if that is legally binding in terms of not being able to use any equipment on one property or is that just a handshake. Solicitor stated that it could be made a condition of the license assuming the license were granted and the Committee could put that as a condition. Director Moretti recommended that this be a condition if approved.

**Councilwoman Vargas** asked for the condition to be repeated. Councilman Ferri stated that he would like to make condition of the license that they cannot use their equipment on Sundays to use for this retail purpose that we would be granting this license for. Chair agreed that this should be made a condition that is for the back lot, 305 Warwick Ave.

**Councilman Reilly** asked Solicitor if this business is licensed and, if so, what licenses are needed to have retail sales and are they zoned and/or do they have appropriate licenses to do retail sales. Solicitor stated that that is a good question and he is a little in the dark in terms of the facts underlined in this request. The first question he has is the application states “Yardworks”. He stated that Yardworks encompasses a contractor’s yard as well as the business Mr. Fox has testified to. He asked Mr. Fox if these are two separate business entities or are they all under the auspices of “Yardworks”, the corporation. Mr. Fox stated that this is all one business. Yardworks has a garden center at Warwick Ave. in Warwick and the back lot at 305 Warwick Ave. and they recently bought a building that fronts on Warwick Ave., a former liquor store and they recently got a CO for that building. Solicitor asked Mr. Fox where the physical location is for the sale of the nursery items that he spoke about, plants, flowers, etc. Mr. Fox stated that that would be at 311 Warwick Ave. Solicitor asked if that is a free-standing building and not connected in any way to 305. Mr. Fox stated that that is correct, they share an easement. Solicitor asked Mr. Fox if he currently holds a retail sales license at that location. Mr. Fox stated not at that location, but he does at 1309 Warwick Ave. location. Solicitor asked what is at 1309 Warwick Ave. Mr. Fox stated that that is where his main office is and where his garden center is and that is in Warwick. Solicitor stated that the problem he is having from a legal standpoint is he does not know how this Committee can grant a holiday sales license when, to his knowledge, there currently is no license in effect to conduct business at that location. Mr. Fox stated that he has his CO for the new building and the building was a retail location with an office and in his change of use, he made an office with retail sales. Solicitor stated that the Certificate of Occupancy is all well and good and proper zoning is all well and good, but that is a lot different than a license to conduct business and it sounds to him that there isn’t even a license to conduct retail sales at this location. He asked the Clerk to confirm that in fact if that location Mr. Fox is speaking about on Warwick Ave. has a license to conduct retail sales there. Clerk stated that she does not see that in the file. Mr. Fox stated that when he was applying for this application, he asked what he needed to do retail sales there and he was told that because he already has a State permit to do retail sales, he would just need a holiday sales permit and this is what he applied for.

**Councilwoman Vargas** asked Solicitor if 311 Warwick Ave. has come before this Committee to make sure they had approval. Clerk stated that she has just received a text message from the License Clerk who is indicating that she was mailed this application and she has not had any conversation with anyone about this or what would be the appropriate licenses.

**Solicitor** stated that at this point, he does not have enough facts or information in front of him. This is a pretty complex issue because it seems to be one corporate entity sort of split into three different locations and doing three different types of things and now we are hearing one retail sales business and one is in a complete different City yet it is under the auspices of “Yardworks”, whatever that entails. He is not comfortable at this point that this is here legally. He suggested placing this on next month’s agenda so he can research this not just the law but the facts because the facts are confusing, incomplete and unclear to him and he can’t give a coherent legal opinion unless he has the facts straight.

**Councilwoman Marino** asked Mr. Fox, as to the retail business selling plants, flowers, mulch, loom and stone, how specifically will you be selling the mulch, loom and stone at the supposed retail location. Mr. Fox stated mainly through residential deliveries with their trucks. Councilwoman Marino asked if the loom will be stored at the 311 store. Mr. Fox stated that they have it at two locations, 305 and 1309 and the same with the mulch and stone. The mulch and stone will be sold bagged and by trucks.

On motion by Councilman Ferri, seconded by Council Vice-President Brady, it was voted to continue this license application to next month’s meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**MASSAGE THERAPIST LICENSE**

**Cheryl McGuinness** (vote will be taken)  
(pending zoning certificate)

100 Midway St. Ste 13

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council Vice-President Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Vargas, it was voted to continue this license application to next month’s meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE**

**Saugy INC.** (vote will be taken)  
Mary O’Brien/Peter Parrella IV

43 Ralls Dr.

**Pete Parrella** appeared to speak and stated hours of operation to be Tuesdays thru Thursdays and Fridays 11-3 or 4.

**Council President Papluskas** asked the Clerk to provide Mr. Parrella with a copy of the Ordinance setting out the regulations for MFE.

**Council Vice-President Brady** asked that Mr. Parrella make sure he complies with the Ordinance as to the radius from the other restaurants in the area.

**Councilwoman Germain** stated that she is concerned about safety since there is a bus stop there. Mr. Parrella stated that the trailer will be off the street and will not be obstructing the bus stop or any businesses. This place was chosen because he was interested in leasing in the near future in the location next to it, 72, and the landlord owns the lot as well.

**Councilwoman Vargas** recommended having this application come back before the Committee in about three months to report on how things are going.

No one appeared to oppose.

On motion by Council Vice-President Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to approve this license application and review at the June meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**VICTUALLING LICENSE**

***Damas Delight Café*** (vote will be taken)

1375 Park Ave.

Jacqueline M. Grasso, Esq.

Wasem Ghazi

On motion by Council Vice-President Brady, seconded by Councilman Ferri, it was voted to approve this license application.

Under Discussion:

**Jacqueline Grasso, Esq.**, appeared to represent the applicant, Wasem Ghazi.

**Mr. Ghazi** appeared to speak and stated that he would like to serve Syrian food and no liquor. Hours of operation to be 8 am to 7 pm and it will be more of a takeout.

No one appeared to oppose.

Roll call was taken on motion to approve this license application and motion passed unanimously.

***PVDiet, LLC d/b/a PVDiet*** (vote will be taken)

1033 Narragansett Blvd.

Gyahn Delacruz

On motion by Council Vice-President Brady, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to approve the above license application.

Under Discussion:

**Gyahn Delacruz** appeared to speak and stated that this will be a nutrition lounge and hours of operation will be 7 am to 7 pm weekdays and 8 am to 3 pm weekends.

No one appeared to oppose.

Roll call was taken on motion to approve this license application and motion passed unanimously.

### III. TRAFFIC ENGINEER

No Business.

### IV. SHOW CAUSE

**Waste Connections-MAGA Truck Violation** 19 Industrial Way, Seekonk, MA  
(Early morning pickups: March 5 and March 18, 2021)  
(Second complaint: Mondays at Bank of America-Atwood Ave)  
Representative noticed Certified Mail (*Vote on possible penalty may be taken*)

**Solicitor** asked if anyone is on the call from this business. Mike Doyle was present.

**Solicitor** asked Mr. Doyle if he disputes the allegations. Mr. Doyle stated, no, he does not, but he can't say for sure it was them.

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that the constituent that made the complaint lives behind Walmart Plaza and has been woken up every time this happens. What is before this Committee is four locations for Waste Connections – Mega Disposal and this is not the first time they are before this Committee.

Council President Paplauskas motioned to fine this business \$200 per place (4) for total of \$800 and fine made payable to the Clerk within 14 days. Council Vice-President Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Waste Management of RI** 1610 Pontiac Ave., Cranston  
(Early morning pickups at The Thirsty Beaver, Honey Dew, and Stop and Shop)  
Representative noticed Certified Mail (*Vote on possible penalty may be taken*)

No one was present from the business.

**Council Vice-President Brady** stated that his business is listed on the agenda and he removed himself from any discussion.

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that he would like to hear from the constituent who made the complaint.

**Lawrence Messina**, 100 Burton St., appeared to speak and stated that he is new resident to the area and since he moved into the area, both Maga trucks and Waste Connection trucks, at least 3-4 days a week are picking up all the way around him from Bank of America, gas station and Thirsty Beaver and backing up from 4:15-5:30 in the morning and waking him from a dead sleep.

**Council President Paplauskas** asked Solicitor if this Committee can fine them in absentia or do we have to give them another notice. Solicitor stated that they can be fined in absentia. They were properly noticed and chose not to appear. He also stated that he would like to ask Mr. Messina some questions.



**Solicitor** asked the Clerk to swear in Mr. Messina so he can ask Mr. Messina some questions just to make sure that the evidentiary record is clear if the Committee is inclined to hear the matter and make a decision on this.

**Steno** swore in Mr. Messina.

**Solicitor** asked Mr. Messina when he made these observations. Mr. Messina stated that he made a few complaints. When he first called, it was after quite a few dates. When he called, he was asked to send an email to show what date it was and after that it was happening again, he sent more emails stating those dates. Solicitor asked Mr. Messina how he knows that it was a truck owned or managed by Waste Management. Mr. Messina stated that he can see the truck from his deck and usually Maga truck shows up about 4:15 and then Waste Management truck shows up about 5-5:15.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Ferri, it was voted to fine this business for two violations for total of \$400 payable within 14 days and notice to be sent certified mail regarding this fine. Motion passed unanimously.

**V. POLICE DEPARTMENT**

No Business.

**VI. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

No Business.

**VII. LICENSE RENEWALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

**AMUSEMENT MACHINE LICENSE** (*vote will be taken*)

*Miller's Crossing*

43 Bald Hill Rd.

**BILLIARDS TABLE LICENSE** (*vote will be taken*)

*Miller's Crossing*

43 Bald Hill Rd.

**EXTENDED HOURS OF OPERATION LICENSE** (*votes will be taken*)

*Coffee Bean Express*

1111 Cranston St.

*Cumberland Farms #1279*

659 Reservoir Ave.

*CVS Pharmacy #212*

681 Reservoir Ave.

*Laundromax*

1025 Cranston St.

*Veer Brothers Inc. d/b/a 7-11*

535 Reservoir Ave.

*Wendy's*

110 Garfield Ave.

**FLOWER VENDOR LICENSE** (*vote will be taken to ratify committee action*)

*Alan Linsky - at 135 Atwood Ave.*

34 Falmouth St., Johnston

**HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE** (*votes will be taken*)

<i>Chico's #107</i>	64 Hillside Rd.
<i>Cohoes Fashions of Cranston</i>	310 Garfield Ave.
<i>Hanna Food d/b/a Mirae Market</i>	602 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Lakeshore Learning</i>	1400 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Lululemon</i>	30 Hillside Rd.
<i>Price Rite of Cranston</i>	1415 Elmwood Ave.
<i>Soma Intimates #5304</i>	16 Hillside Rd
<i>The Container Store</i>	150 Hillside Rd.
<i>Warhammer</i>	5 Chapel View Blvd.
<i>Whitehouse Black Market #3106</i>	45 Hillside Rd.

**MASSAGE THERAPIST LICENSE** (*votes will be taken*)

<i>Embody Massage and Wellness</i>	155 Park Ave.
<i>Kati Hersey, LMT-(formerly Kati McNally)</i>	155 Park Ave.

**MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE**

(*vote will be taken to ratify committee actions on each*)

<i>Baby Duck LLC. d/b/a HG80-Joshua Berner</i>	78 Harrison St., Providence
<i>Friskie Fries LLC. d/b/a Friskie Fries LLC.-Randy Dantuono</i>	17 Bluff St., Providence
<i>Haven Brothers Mobile LLC.- Patty Prew</i>	37 Libera St.
<i>Palagis 2000 Inc. d/b/a Palagis Ice Cream-Alejandro Arteaga</i>	237 Suffolk Ave., Pawtucket
<i>The Moo Mobile Ice Cream Truck-James R Iannelli</i>	12 Alderbrook Dr.

**PRIVATE DETECTIVE LICENSES** (*vote will be taken*)

<i>Lawrence Pezza, Jr. #450</i>	336 Comstock Pkwy
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**USED CAR LICENSES** (*votes will be taken*)

<i>Auto Mart, Inc.</i>	1108 Park Ave.
<i>Cullco Auto Sales</i>	1300 Park Ave.
<i>Sams Auto Group d/b/a Sams Auto Sales</i>	936 Cranston St.
<i>The Car Lot, Inc. d/b/a The Car Lot</i>	441 Dyer Ave.
<i>The Car Lot, Inc. Annex d/b/a The Car Lot, Inc.</i>	1400 Plainfield Pike

**VICTUALLING LICENSES** (*vote will be taken*)

<i>Frenchy's Countryside Creamery</i>	1105 Scituate Ave.
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On motion by Council Vice-President Brady, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to approve all the above-listed license renewals as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Vice-President Brady, seconded by Councilman Ferri, it was voted to approve all the above-listed license renewals as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

## VIII. MONTHLY SCHEDULES

**848 PARK THEATRE** – no events scheduled (*no vote will be taken*)

No action needed.

**RHODES ON THE PAWTUXET** – (*vote will be taken to accept list of events*)

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilwoman Vargas, it was voted to approve the above list of events. Motion passed unanimously.

## IX. MISCELLANEOUS

- **COVID-19 EVENTS**

**Rhodes on the Pawtuxet** (*vote will be taken*) 60 Rhodes Place  
**Diabetes Education Partners of RI** **Date: April 13, 2021 9am-12pm**

**Rhodes on the Pawtuxet** (*vote will be taken*) 60 Rhodes Place  
**Lancia Political Event** **Date: April 15, 2021 6pm-8pm**

**Rhodes on the Pawtuxet** (*vote will be taken*) 60 Rhodes Place  
**Trapassi Wedding** **Date: April 17, 2021 5pm-11pm**

**Rhodes on the Pawtuxet** (*vote will be taken*) 60 Rhodes Place  
**Lifeline Screening** **Date: April 20-2021 8:30am-4pm Ballroom**

**Rhodes on the Pawtuxet** (*vote will be taken*) 60 Rhodes Place  
**Past Grandmasters Meeting** **Date: April 20, 2021 6pm-8pm Board Room**

**Hillary Williamson** from Rhodes appeared to speak and stated that there is a minor change, if possible, for the event of April 15<sup>th</sup>. It is now down to approximately 15 people and hors d'oeuvres will be added and will be served to tables. She also stated that the April 17<sup>th</sup> event's final count is 60 people.

**Council President Paplauskas** asked if all these events have met the COVID guidelines. City Clerk stated, yes, she has met with Marcia LoPresti in the Economic Development Office and they comply with COVID guidelines.

On motion by Council Vice-President Brady, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to approve the above events as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Vice-President Brady, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to approve the above events as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

- **PRESENTATION**

*Councilman Donegan*

*"OneCranston Health Equity Zone & Fire Dept partnership for Narcan"*  
(informational only)

**Deputy Chief Casey** appeared to speak and stated that he has been in collaboration with Health Equity Zone and CCAP and Anchor Recovery and a few other substance abuse disorder organizations in the State and that operate in the city of Cranston and have brought this education forward to all the firefighters in all the stations and it was a real challenge between vaccination clinics and the classroom time, but we managed to do that in educating everyone in how to try to help people with substance abuse disorder and one way to help them would be to have publicly available Narcan in the fire stations along with tool kits with information about recovery and resources for people to get help with.

**Ivy Swinski** appeared to speak and stated that this is all through grant funding and there is no cost to the Fire Department or the City. We are planning to do two videos, one with Chief Warren as sort of a new initiative and one with Deputy Chief Casey with a Spanish Interpreter about how you distribute Narcan and how you use it. There is a social media plan for this because we want to make sure the word is out. We also are planning to do a press release. We are hoping to roll it out mid-April where the Narcan will be in the stations and when the social media campaign will be starting.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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