

(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, September 12, 2022 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Richard D. Campopiano
Councilwoman Aniece Germain
Council Vice-President Robert J. Ferri
Councilman Matthew R. Reilly, Vice-Chair
Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli, Chair
Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Absent: Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas

Also Present: Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino
Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
Daniel Parrillo, Director of Personnel
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Major Todd Patalano, Police Department
James Warren, Fire Chief
Stephen Angell, City Council Legal Counsel
David DiMaio, City Council Budget Analyst
Rosalba Zanni, Acting City Clerk
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to continue the approval of the minutes to the last meeting to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE
La Birria LLC (Cont. from 7/11/22 & 8/1/22 SSM)
(Luis Jimenez)

1 Cedar Pond Dr.

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

Chair stated that this is the third time the Committee has extended this license application. She asked Solicitor if it can be removed from the agenda. Solicitor stated that that is up to the Committee.

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

Semper Pie LLC (Cont. from 8/1/22 SSM)
(Joshua Gato)

45 Cora St.

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

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

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

CLASS BV LIQUOR LICENSE- NEW

Cafe é Fumare (Amedeo DiRocco)

1464 Park Ave.

(Over the BV cap-needs City Council approval)

Amadeo DiRocco appeared to speak and stated that hours of operation are not definite, but possibly seven days a week, from 11 am to 1 am. Councilman Reilly asked if there will be any food served. Mr. DiRocco stated that this will be a café with a humidor and cordials with coffee and pastry. No one appeared to oppose.

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

CLASS BVL LIQUOR LICENSE- NEW

Laila & Athena LLC d/b/a Athena's Restaurant
(Christos Spyridis) (From VIC to BVL)

1482 Park Ave.

Christos Spyridis appeared to speak.

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

Under Discussion:

Mr. Spyridis stated hours of operation will be seven days a week 6-2 and liquor license would just be for mimosas on weekends and there will be no hard liquor.

No one appeared to oppose.

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

CLASS D LIQUOR LICENSE- RENEWAL

The Edgewood Yacht Club

1 Shaw Ave.

On motion by Council Vice-President Ferri, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to approve this license renewal application. Motion passed unanimously.

CLASS A LIQUOR LICENSE- RENEWAL

LEV Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Majestic Liquors

1075 Park Ave.

MAB Liquors, LTD d/b/a Atwood Wine & Spirits

426 Atwood Ave.

Ruthvi Inc. d/b/a Liquid Assets

995 Pontiac Ave.

Wines & More of RI, Inc.

125 Sockanosset Crsrdr.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to take all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to approve all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

CLASS BV LIQUOR LICENSE- RENEWAL

Chapel Restaurant, LLC d/b/a Chapel Grille

3000 Chapel View Blvd.

Cinets, Inc. d/b/a The Blue Moon Pub

42 Phenix Ave.

Dean Nicholas, Inc. d/b/a Campanella's

930 Oaklawn Ave.

Fabrizi Fast Food, Inc. d/b/a Betty's Pub

31 Gansett Ave.

Fresco Too, Inc. d/b/a Fresco

140 Comstock Pkwy.

Kochi Sushi & Steakhouse

1800 Plainfield Pike.

Lang's Bowlarama, Inc. d/b/a Lang's Bowlarama

225 Niantic Ave.

Mendon Food Corp d/b/a Uncle Tony's Pizza & Pasta

1455 Oaklawn Ave.

Miller's Crossing

43 Bald Hill Rd.

Riviera Main Event and Pub, LLC

1612 Elmwood Ave.

Spice Kraft Inc. d/b/a Chaska

16 Midway Rd.

On motion by Councilwoman Germain, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to approve all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

CLASS J LIQUOR LICENSE- RENEWAL
Rhodes On The Pawtuxet, Inc.

60 Rhodes Place.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to approve this license renewal application.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Donegan stated that approximately two years ago, someone had brought up the question of restrictions placed on the license approximate a decade ago. He asked if those are grandfathered in with the existing license or not. Clerk stated that those restrictions carry over year after year unless the Committee votes to remove a certain restriction.

Councilman Donegan asked if one of those restrictions is ‘no boxing events’. Clerk stated that she does not have the file, she would have to check into this.

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE

Boba Wave LLC (Janine Anthony)

28A Mount Hygeia Rd.

Janine Anthony appeared to speak. 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.

Casa Tia Rosa (Manuel Leander)

14 Jennifer Ln.

Cultro (Daniel Nunez)

53 Sterling Rd.

Food Vibes (Tammy Miccoli) - Ratification

26 Brett Ct.

Gorditos Sno Cones (John Balleste)

9 Whelan Rd.

Mangiamo on Wheels, LLC (Lisa Cairo)

2 Canonchet Trail.

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose to Casa Tia Rosa.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to continue the license application for Casa Tia Rosa.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Donegan stated that it is his understanding that as to the MFE applicants, the Committee would more or less ratify the application as long as they have met the State requirements for their application. If we do not approve this this evening, it could prevent the applicant from participating in some of the events. If they have their State License, he does not see why we should hold it up.

Council President Paplauskas stated that there has been discussion in the past where we could try to handle these a little more administratively. He does not know if that is something that Legal can talk about or if the Clerk has any insight. These food truck licenses do seem pretty standard. It is certainly different than a brick and mortar where there is a lot more involved.

Solicitor stated that this is strictly something that is in the discretion of the Committee. If they fulfill all of the requirements, which he assumes they had to have or it should not be on the agenda, it is really not necessary for them to appear before the Committee. That is something that is done because the Committee likes to have some personal contact and one on one with applicants, but that is not going to be a legal requirement or legal impediment if they do not appear, but that is strictly up to the Committee on how it wants to handle it. There is nothing legally preventing the Committee from grating these once all of the pre-conditions have been met.

Council Vice-President Ferri agreed that if they have filed the application and they have dotted all the 'i's' and crossed all the 't's' to get through the State and they are just applying and paying a fee with the City, he does not see why we should make them appear.

Council President Paplauskas suggested having the Clerk put a checklist together so when applicants apply, they can sign off or fill out the form for this license acknowledging the requirements are met and provided with a copy of those regulations, but he will leave that up to the Chair's discretion.

Councilwoman Germain stated that she agrees, but we need to be fair because the Committee just removed one business or applicant from the agenda and another was continued. She would have to assume that these two people satisfied the requirements as well. She questioned if the Committee needs to go back and change the vote on those two because if we do it for some, we need to be fair.

Councilman Donegan stated that Councilwoman Germain brings up a good point and, he can't because he is not on the Committee, but if those prevailing on the Committee want to make a motion to reconsider, they can do so to consider ratifying the MFE license for LaBirria LLC that was previously taken off the agenda.

Councilwoman Germain asked for legal opinion if this can be done.

Solicitor suggested the Committee handle these MFE's already pending and then entertain a motion to basically revisit that first one that was removed.

Chair asked Solicitor if this is more administrative and we know that they have already met the State requirements and they pay for their City license, is this something that even needs to come before this Committee or can these licenses be approved right through the Clerk's Office? Solicitor stated that, in his opinion, he does not think that they have to come before the Committee. This is something that has always been done, but he does not see any requirement that it has to be done that way. This is something that is a policy or has been a policy of the Committee, which can always be changed or amended at the Committee's discretion.

Chair asked if that is something that she would have to ask for a vote on in the future to have Mobile Food Truck Establishments licenses approved administratively? Solicitor stated that he does not think so because there is no vote required to place it on the docket or on the agenda that he is aware of. He is not quite sure how they get on the docket, but there is no vote to put these items on the docket so he does not see a need to take a vote going forward to change the process. He thinks that is an administrative function.

Councilman Donegan stated that he agrees that if there is a way to just ratify it and get around them having to appear before the Committee, that would be a help for them and not have them wait to appear before the Committee when they could be making the most out of the last couple of weeks of good weather.

Councilman Donegan stated that he was on the Council when the Ordinance was passed creating the MFE license and he thinks there is language within the Ordinance that does reference 'no permit shall be revoked, suspended, modified or renewed without hearing before the Committee'. It makes reference to the Committee taking some sort of action. He would think that the Code would have to be amended to change that process.

Solicitor stated that the Clerk just reminded him of this and that is a good point. He would like to review the Ordinance in more detail if the people have to appear in person even though it requires Committee approval. Even though it requires Committee approval, there may be another way of doing it without placing it on the docket or other option would be to amend the Ordinance adding language that if all the requirements are met then they can be approved administratively. He will report back on it.

Council President Paplauskas asked Solicitor whether or not this would prevent the Committee this evening of approving these in the meantime. Solicitor stated, yes, that would be fine.

Chair asked Solicitor, if they do not have to be present, can she entertain to approve them as a block. Solicitor stated, yes.

Council President Paplauskas motioned to approve the MFE license for Casa Tia Rosa, Cultro, Food Vibes, Gorditos Sno Cones and Mangiamo on Wheels LLC. Councilwoman Germain seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to reconsider the vote taken for La Birria LLC to remove it from the table. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to approve the license application for La Birria LLC. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Vice-President Ferri, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to reconsider the vote taken for Semper Pie LLC to continue the license application. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Vice-President Ferri, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to approve the license application for Semper Pie LLC. Motion passed unanimously.

VICTUALLING LICENSE

Arianella's Pizza Café & Deli (Eli Ghali)

228 Atwood Ave.

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

Under Discussion:

Eli Ghali appeared to speak and stated hours of operation will be 10-9 Mondays thru Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10-11 and Sundays 12-9. No one appeared to oppose.

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

Café Ava (Andrea Moreno)

48B Rolfe Sq.

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

Cafe é Fumare (Amedeo DiRocco)

1464 Park Ave.

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

Diner on Dyer (George Sepulveda)

877 Dyer Ave.

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

The Breakfast Club on Phenix (Marissa Carvalho)

245 Phenix Ave.

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

Under Discussion:

Marissa Carvalho appeared to speak and stated hours of operation will be Wednesdays thru Sundays 7-2.

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

Food and Fuel (Cont. from 6/6/22 SSM)

873 Cranston St.

Solicitor asked owners to identify themselves.

Mian Saleem and **Muhammad Saleem** appeared to speak.

Solicitor asked Stenographer to swear in both gentlemen.

Solicitor stated to the Committee, to refresh everyone's recollection, the last time we were here was back at the June meeting and at that time, there was a Show Cause Hearing held involving two places of business that are owned by Mr Saleem. At that time, he presented the testimony of Sgt. Lori Sweeney, who testified that she on various occasions, on behalf of the Cranston Police Department, had been running compliance checks through the City, not only with regard to these businesses but compliance checks all over the City in order to determine if businesses who were licensed to sell tobacco products were in fact complying with State Law and not selling those products to individuals under the age of 21. At that time, evidence was introduced to the testimony of Sgt. Sweeney that on several occasions these establishments had in fact sold tobacco products to underaged patrons. At that time, he believes, Mr. Saleem testified that that was due to an employee problem person who was working behind the counter and he assured the Committee at that time that that person had been fired or would be spoken to or reprimanded in some manner or fashion. What is important is that we basically did not take any action at that time and we gave both Mr. Saleems the benefit of the doubt and consideration and put them on sort of unofficial probation to see if going forward they would comply with State Law after receiving these citations from Cranston Police Department and warning from the Committee. Last Friday, he was in Municipal Court and spoke to Sgt. Sweeney and he spoke to her again today and unfortunately, the business establishment, Quality Fuel, was once again cited for selling tobacco products to underaged individuals. That in and of itself would constitute a breach of trust, a violation of consideration given to them by this Committee. However, he did discuss this with Sgt. Sweeney and he would like to inform the Committee that all of these citations will be heard in the Cranston Municipal Court. There is a trial date on those violations scheduled for October 28th. Mr. Saleem is represented by counsel at those proceedings, he believes it is Mr. Gillick and his understanding is that Solicitor Orton and Attorney Gillick are in negotiations to try to resolve these outstanding citations. He believes that the disposition that

was being discussed involved a suspension of some period of time of their license to sell tobacco products in addition to some heavy fines. As he stands here tonight and in consideration of what he discussed with Sgt. Sweeney, at this point in time, he is not going to proceed and ask the Committee to impose any type of sanction, rather, what he proposes to do is ask this Committee to place this on the October calendar. The reason he is asking that is because if the matter is resolved in Municipal Court, depending on the outcome, he may not proceed before the Committee. However, if it is not resolved in the Municipal Court by that time, then in all likelihood, he is going to move forward and he will be asking for fairly heavy sanctions at that time. He addressed the applicant and stated that he realized his attorney is not present this evening and it is not up to him to give him legal advice, but he stated to the two individuals that they are on extremely thin ice with this City and they are very lucky that he is not proceeding tonight because they hold several licenses and if they lose the tobacco license, they also lose the other licenses that they hold and if that were to occur, they would be out of business for whatever period of time this Committee feels is appropriate. It is not a threat, but all together, there are seven incidents. Seven different citations for the same thing. He does not know if the applicant is not taking it seriously, but he can assure him that this Committee takes this very seriously. Closing the business is the last thing we want to do, but seven violations in a short period of time is unacceptable. He asked that a motion be made to continue this to the October meeting and he will continue to deal with Sgt. Sweeney and Municipal Court to see if they can resolve it there. If a resolution is not reached by the first week of October in Municipal Court, he will proceed here so that is going to give Mr. Saleem and his attorney an incentive to resolve the matter in the Municipal Court.

Councilman Reilly commented on the process and stated that it is this body that removes or approves licenses. He asked Solicitor if that is correct. Solicitor stated, yes. Councilman Reilly stated that to hear that it is going to be in a negotiation of a possible resolution of numerous violations of the City's policy endangering children, selling cigarettes to children, any resolution with the evidence from the Officer is a little concerning that that license suspension of any kind is going to be dealt with another entity who is not us. He thinks that we need to be a part of any of those discussions and in his mind, whatever the fines are, he thinks we still have to take a very serious look at this because it is a short amount of time. It was after that they were already warned and given the benefit of the doubt by us and then went and did it again. In his mind, he would not even continue this this evening, but he will follow the advice of the Solicitor, but this is not something that we will deal with in our City. He thinks that we should take some very strong action against this business, but he is willing to wait that month.

Solicitor clarified that just because himself and Sgt. Sweeney want to see how this flushes out in Municipal Court, it does not mean that he is simply going to walk away from it after that, however, he thinks it is important from an evidentiary point of view, so that he can bring all of the facts in front of the Committee including what may be mitigating factors if they have been punished in the Municipal Court that is something that this Committee may want to take into consideration in fashioning a sanction. He is in no way suggesting that the Municipal

Court is the do all end all. He made it very clear that the Municipal Court is dealing simply with violations of the tobacco Ordinance. That is it, Also, their actions on that license affect their other licenses so there are two separate things, however, he thinks it makes sense to do it that way only because as he stated, if the Committee still wants to fashion some type of sanction at that point, at least you have the information as to what sanctions have already been imposed.

Councilman Donegan stated that he is the Ward Councilman where this business is located. Children or people underage being sold tobacco is not ok. Seven times is just inexcusable. He does not know what the right penalty is going forward, but this is just inexcusable.

Council President Paplauskas stated that he has been on the City Council for eight years and Chair of this Committee for four and has never seen this many violations. Ever. The Solicitor mentioned thin ice, he thinks that ice melted a long time ago. He will vote to continue this because the Solicitor has never steered the Committee wrong. He is excellent legal mind and is glad it is staying in our purview and will look forward to see what the results are in Municipal Court and this body can still take action. He just can't believe the disregard for the law.

Chair asked Solicitor if she can ask the owners a question. Solicitor stated that he would strongly suggest that she does not. He is giving them every break. They are represented by counsel. He is afraid they are going to say something on the record that can only harm them. He would prefer that no one asks them questions, not at this point.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

V. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Discussion regarding the shooting range (Councilwoman Renzulli)

Martha DiMaio, 69 Laconia Rd., appeared to speak and stated that she lives exactly 0.4 miles from the firing range. She hears every bullet that is fired at that range. She had a conversation with former Police Chief Kenneth Mancuso, who was Chief when the range was put in and she asked him why it is so much louder now than when she lived on Laconia Rd. in the 60's and 70's and what he stated was that they are training with more powerful weapons now. They use a lot of shotguns, which they used then, but not as much as they use now. They use automatic weapons, which they did not have in those days so naturally it is louder. It is unfortunate that the neighbors have to put up with this. She stated to him if it is true that there is more practice there now. He stated to her, yes, and that there are several departments who use the range. Now it is the FBI, it is private organizations. They all come and use it. It has changed completely from when he was Chief. He agreed that something should be done about it because a lot of people talk to him about it. She then spoke to a representative from Jack Reed's Office and stated to him that she wanted to know where the National Guard trains on their AR-15S. She learned that what we are expected to put up in Cranston, does not happen in wealthy

communities. This is a class issue. The developers and residents in East Greenwich got the Feds to shut down that outdoor range at the Guard facility. She continued to ask where the military practice and where do they qualify and she posed this question to John Curtin, an ex-military staffer in Reed's Office and the answer she received was they go to military bases. That is a solution that would solve this problem. Another person she spoke to was an active duty soldier stationed in New London. She shared with him the Mayor's proposal of building an indoor facility, an indoor range in a congested neighborhood across from schools. The soldier listed the six bases that he had been stationed at and told her that the military does not have shooting ranges indoor or outdoor anywhere near civilian neighborhoods. She concluded with three irrefutable truths: 1) No child in her City should listen to gunfire during the school day. In 2022, there should not be any shooting ranges indoor or outdoor anywhere near schools. 2) No resident, no homeowner should have to leave their home eight hours a day to escape gunfire. 3) If there was an active shooter at Stop and Shop, or a shooter at Cranston West, how would we know the difference? The answer she received from Chief Winqvist was it would take a few minutes. This is not a situation that can be deliberated for another nine months and this is not a situation that can wait until grants that may never materialize. The people of Cranston deserve nothing less than the wealthy people of East Greenwich. Nothing short of that range being shut down would suffice. She asked that the Council do the right thing.

Patricia Schoeninger, 7 Scotland Rd., appeared to speak and stated that she has lived in her home for forty-four years. She raised her kids in this neighborhood and they attended Cranston Schools, Peters, Western Hills and Cranston West. Her family was never subjected to the barrage of gunfire in her home or in her children's schools like they live with now. On any given day of the week, at any time, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and some days until 9:00 p.m., they are bombarded with hours of gunfire. There are days when she has to leave her home because the gunfire is intolerable. It has affected her quality of life and that is unacceptable. The children from her community tell her that if there was an attack at the school, that they would not know the difference. They hear gunfire all the time. She finds that statement dangerous and disturbing. These children have a zero tolerance for any type of violence in school, but it is ok for them to hear military weapons being shot while they are in their classrooms. What type of quality of life is that for our children attending school? They deserve to have the best environment for learning and growing. She attended a meeting on December 8, 2021 at City Hall regarding the gun range with Mayor Hopkins, his staff, State Representative Brandon Potter, two Cranston Police Officers and these constituents from her community. The Mayor acknowledged that the gun range is a public nuisance and gave her his word he would do something about it. Both Police Officers acknowledged that they are using military weapons and ammunition that are more powerful and louder than in the past years and the gun range is ventured out to other City's Police Departments for State Qualifications, which increases activity and gunfire in her neighborhood. She questioned how Cranston became host City for State Qualifications. There is nothing in the State requirement that suggest it has to be here and why should her neighborhood take on the burden of all this chaos? The world has changed. Mass shootings are everywhere and her community is a dangerous place. This gun range does not belong in her neighborhood and has to be shut down. As voters and taxpayers of the City of Cranston, they deserve to live in their neighborhood in a peaceful, quiet and safe environment.

Eric Asselin, 10 Cobblestone Terrace, State Senate Candidate District 26, public school teacher and a father of an elementary school student, appeared to speak. He stated that when he moved to Cranston a few years ago and heard pops, he asked the neighbors about it and they said it came from the gun range. He assumed that the gun range must be in some rural area. This past July, he met Ms. Schoeninger while gathering signatures and found out the range is directly across the street from the Middle and High School and in the direct vicinity of several neighborhoods. In today's climate where we have had 464 mass shootings this year including Uvalde, there is no way that there should be gunfire heard just yards away from a school. He questioned how this is a productive learning environment and how this is good for the mental well-being of our children. For the people of the neighborhood, this is an economic as well as a quality of life issue. What does having a gun range adjacent to your house do to your property value? We live in a central part of the smallest State. Our Police Department is less than 30 minutes from each corner of the State. There are plenty of ranges in more rural areas where they can practice. If elected, he would support Representative Potter's Bill prohibiting gun ranges near schools. Too often politicians lack the political courage to do the right thing and instead kick the can down the road to their successor. Regardless of what the Council decides, your decision of action or inaction will be remembered in Cranston's history. Years down the line, there will be headlines written about what you decide on this issue. It could read 'Despite public appeals, the City Council decided to keep the gun range across the street from public schools' or 'The City Council closed the gun range that was located across the street from the schools'. Which one of these headlines is the right side of history? He thinks it is pretty obvious.

Sherry Izzi, 12 Midland Dr., appeared to speak and stated that she works from home and she has had to end Zoom calls with very high-level executives due to rapid gunfire. This is not just a one time thing. It happens all the time. She has been working from home for a long time and this is not a product of COVID. This is very disconcerting to her that it is directly affecting her livelihood. It has been said frequently that the gun shooting happens only during the day and it is infrequent. She left her home on Midland Dr. at exactly 6:11 p.m. this evening and she opened the door to gunfire as she was leaving to come to this meeting. She thought this was unbelievable. It is dinnertime and the shooting is going on. This happens all the time. Also, she went for a walk one day with her husband and they frequently walk around Cranston West. On the morning of August 11th, in front of Cranston West, she stepped on a 9mm spent casing. That should alarm everyone in the room. She had never seen a spent casing on the ground so she called the Police when she got back home at 8:08 a.m. She asked the Police Officer if that was something that should be concerning and they told her that they would ride down and get it. The Officer looked at it and stated that it was probably from the range. That is absolutely incredulous that this is happening right in front of Cranston West. If she has to end Zoom calls in the middle of the day, these children are hearing it on a regular basis. The word that keeps coming to mind is incredulous that children should have to listen to this this day and age. She wants to make it clear that she is pro-Police and completely understands that this needs to happen, but she would hope that everyone would come to the table and take this as serious as it is and do something to solve this.

Peter Schzerbinski, 60 Midland Dr., appeared to speak and stated that he addressed this issue to the City Council three or four years go. He did a great amount of research on shooting ranges throughout the Country. He knows about shooting ranges and he knows about this

shooting range. He experienced a shooting range when he was in the Army in Boot Camp in Fort Dix, New Jersey. He also knows that we have probably the best Police force in the Country. The Police Department does a magnificent job. What he proposed to the City Council and he will state it again tonight and proposed it to Mayor Hopkins and he agreed, the only solution to solve the problem without moving the range out somewhere, is to enclose it. If you go to the shooting range in Coventry, you can stand close by the walls outside and hear nothing. If we had an indoor shooting range, you would not hear anything anywhere and Mayor Hopkins has agreed to pursue that issue and was trying to allocate funds to have that accomplished. He implored the members of this Committee and members of the full City Council to vote on something that will give us the answer that we need as law abiding citizens.

Lauren Pergoni, 72 Dean St., appeared to speak and stated that she is really concerned about the gunshots in her neighborhood. She has lived in major cities in the Country including several in Southern California and has never witnessed those local Police Departments use these types of weapons that are being practiced on in Cranston. She does not understand why Cranston Police Department needs to practice with such powerful weapons in a small community. As other people have mentioned, it is so incredibly close to the High School and Middle School and at the rate we have school shootings in this Country, it is egregious that we allow this to occur. She and her husband both work from home and they both also have had to stop Zoom meetings because of the loud shooting. This also impacts when she has guests over and them hearing that is totally alarming. We should really consider the home property value this bring up, the safety and environmental issues., the psychological impact to our children and probably eliminate it completely from the neighborhood.

Jeffrey Maynard, 80 Midland Dr., appeared to speak and stated that he lives approximately 250 yards from the range. It is in his backyard. Gunfire sometimes begins as early as 9:30 in the morning and goes until approximately 8:30 at night. Could be seven days a week and sometimes there are some breaks in it, sometimes there are not. His wife works from home and has to keep the windows closed pretty much at all times. This is incredibly disruptive and in this era where we have had so many school shootings and so many constant reminders of this kind of gun violence and hearing gunfire from the backyard, is very difficult. He asked that the City Council consider some of the solutions that have been mentioned this evening, such as closing it or relocating it or at the very least, limiting the hours so they are not shooting on the weekends or deep into the night.

Nancy Russo, 81 Angell Ave., appeared to speak and stated that from 1994 to 2002 she lived in the Meshanticut neighborhood. She heard the Police Academy shooting range daily. It sounded like popcorn in the distance. She heard it more recently while walking around Meshanticut Lake. It sounded like a war. The range used to be used for pistol practice and now it is used for the daily shooting of automatic weapons all within a mile of Cranston West and Western Hills. As a Safety Committee, she wants the members to consider this as a safety issue. The Police have told Cranston residents that children of Cranston West and Western Hills should 'get used to the sound of gunfire' and largely they have. Substitute teachers at Western Hills have been known to dive under the desks when they hear the Police Academy gunfire.

Jose Giusti, 34 Midland Dr., appeared to speak and stated that he lives approximately 700 yards from the shooting range. He echoed statements made by prior speakers. He stated that he purchased his home in 2019 so he was sort of exposed to the shooting range already there although he did raise a lot of questions when they were purchasing their home to see whether or not this is what they wanted to purchase or not. He indicated that that there is not just one school, it is two schools that the shooting range is near and not to mention that approximately ten yards away from it, clearing out of some land has started, so, eventually in the near future, there are going to be a couple of residential homes built there which could pose an impact on the sale or the value of those homes. He is not against Police, it is just that the noise coming from the range is unbearable. He has a five-year old and it is sad that at 7:30 at night, he has to put his daughter to bed with background noise and has to put a fan on just to block out some of the noise.

Scott Robinson, 63 Scotland Rd., appeared to speak and stated that his wife recorded gunfire from the range at 6:16 this evening while this meeting is going on when they are supposed to end at 4:30 and she forwarded him the audio recording. He is constantly listening to the gunfire from 8:30 to sometimes 8:30-9:00 at night and on Sundays, which is unacceptable.

Chair gave the Police Department as well as the Administration the opportunity to speak.

Major Patalano addressed the issues with the Schools about how the Schools are unsafe. He stated that Western Hills and Cranston West are the two safest Schools in the Country. Cranston West has a Police Officer stationed there every day in the School. There are surveillance cameras throughout the School and monitored at the School and at the Police Station and, yes, the response will be fast if the Officer is at the range if something were to happen and the School has been spoken to. We have spoken to the Principal, we have spoken to the School Administrators and the Principal himself has said he wants the range there, he likes the range there. If there is a problem with the School, the Police will be there momentarily and there will be no delay. We have yet to have one complaint from a student or a teacher to the Police Department about the shooting. What the people feel is unsafe, he does not want that to be put out there that there is a problem in the Schools. That is clearly not the case. He addressed where we stand today and how this started. The range was started with shooting there since 1952. The Police range was built or began to be built approximately seventy years ago. It was built in this location for safety reasons. On two sides it has a rock quarry. There has also been a building installed over the years on the third side. On the last side, bushes have been installed and berms have been put in. We put sound mitigation baffles. So, there has been a lot of work done over the years to try to circumvent this noise pollution that has been described. He agrees with the residents and the Police Department is sympathetic to their concerns, but they are working to solve it. The training facility sole purpose is to train the Cranston Police Officers, to have professionalism, professional skilled trained Officers to promote effective and precise Policing. The reason they are up there shooting is to make sure the Officers are trained, accurate and proficient in firearms usage. They do not use shotguns, they do not use automatic weapons, as he has heard that numerous times this evening. They use AR-15S and they use their handguns, their pistol, which is a Glock. They are required by State Law each year annually to qualify. Cranston has 153 Officers. As to the times the shooting goes on, they clearly list the times and dates to the concerned parties that they are shooting. If people look right now, they will see that

they have their qualifications September and October and tonight, there is qualifications until 8 o'clock at night. Officers have to be trained to not only shoot during the day in daylight conditions, but they have to be trained to also shoot at night in nighttime conditions. They have to make sure that the situations they encounter are as realistic as possible and that is why they train at night when it gets dark. They do that immediately when it gets dark. They do not want to go to nine, ten o'clock. As far as who uses the range, the FBI does not use the range anymore. Several Departments did use the range and when the complaints were brought to the Department, they moved it back to three Departments who do not have any other options. We have East Providence, Johnston and Smithfield, that is it. They use it one week a year. The last agency that used it is the RI Police Municipal Academy. That is used where all the Officers throughout the State are trained, which is the two weeks every session of the Police Academy. If we use their two weeks, the three weeks for the other Departments, plus our qualifications in September and October, that is the schedule. It is listed, it is provided to the Mayor's Office and to all the concerned parties that would like to know it. There is no weekend shooting. There is no one up there on the weekends and he has cameras to prove it. We have surveillance system on the facility. He can assure everyone that there is no one shooting there on the weekends. There is no one there working on the weekends at the training facility. It is a Monday thru Friday operation. Aside from the berms, the trees, the mitigation baffles, they obtained a quote from a sound proofing company from New Hampshire to provide additional mitigation. It was for \$400,000 and they were going to hang more baffles and put up some barricades and the Department did not feel it was a good investment. They did not feel it was going to work. It was going to be the same situation as now. The Police has also responded to Midland Rd. earlier today as well as Preston Ave. at Laconia Rd. A certified noise instructor was sent there and recorded the noise. The highest reading we got today and they used the AR-15S, our most powerful weapon, was a 53 from the curb on Midland Rd. We are not over the 55 decibel reading limit in accordance with the Ordinance. There are currently have two Grants pending and, unfortunately, they take time to be reviewed, but we are hoping they get approved. If we had the funding, we would have already enclosed the facility. We would love to enclose the facility so we do not have the complaints. We want to build a facility and enclose it. Bottom line is it has to stay open for now, we do not have any other options and right now we have to maintain the training platform that we have to maintain.

Director Moretti thanked members of the public and the residents for their input and concerns. He stated that the Mayor hears everyone's concerns and understands their concerns and he fundamentally agrees with all their valid concerns. Things come down to money sometimes and there are four options. 1) leave the range as it is; 2) close the range down; 3) move the range; or 4) enclose the range. Probably the best practical solution would be enclosing the range. The Mayor did look into this with the Colonel and the Major into the possibility of putting a curtain there, but given the quarry rock formations around it, sound could still escape there. So, that is not a valid solution. As the Major mentioned, there are two Grants pending and hopefully obtain one or both Grants with the federal government and the Mayor is working with Senators Reed and Whitehouse. If either of those Grants or both come through, we are going to have a nice opportunity to springboard this. If those two Grants fail, he asked that everyone go to the ballot box in November and vote for Referendum for City Buildings. The thought is to get that approved by the voters and if passed, the Mayor promises to propose in the next Budget cycle, the Capital Budget cycle, the completion of the enclosing of the range. The residents have

the Mayor's assurance that if we are not able to receive the funding and, hopefully get the Bond approved, he will propose and work with the Council for the Council to approve enclosing that range.

Council President Paplauskas thanked every member of the public for appearing this evening and speaking and bringing their videos. This helps when it comes time to make a decision or figure out what we are going to do moving forward. He is a resident of the Meshanticut neighborhood and hears the gunfire also and his wife works from home and she hears it too. He thinks enclosing the range is the right thing to do. He also believes strongly that we need a well-trained Police Department to ensure safety in the City and ensure the safety of the students. He will work to do whatever he has to do to get that range enclosed whether it is Grants or whether it's the Bond passing.

Councilwoman Marino stated that having lived in Cranston and having a son who is a Senior at Cranston West, she knows what those sounds are. Also, having been at the Training Academy at the range itself and being a responsible gun owner herself, she believes the range is in the right location because it has been there a long time. She respects very much the Administration's efforts and the Police Department's efforts to work to enclose it. She agrees with Council President Paplauskas that should whatever funding we get, whether it is Grant funding or with respect to the Ballot Referendum approval, if we can make this happen where it's enclosed, she thinks it would be a benefit to the City. She knows, as a parent, she is comforted by the fact that the Training Academy is in that location, especially since the Police Station moved from Atwood Ave. to the other end of the City. She sympathizes with the residents and respects very much that the Police have good intentions at looking to keep the community safe and most of the residents agree with that as well and is hopeful that we can find the solution as soon as we can get the funding.

Councilwoman Germain stated that she hears all the comments and understands noise and pollution affect our quality of life, but at the same time, we understand that this issue cannot be resolved right now, but she thinks it is a good step of what we are doing now. The City Council passed a Resolution last month where different Police Departments can collaborate. She questioned if there is any way where we have, for example, when a department needs to practice with AR-15S, for example, we can collaborate with another City or Town, such as Coventry, where they have to practice with this high capacity weapon.

Council Vice-President Ferri suggested making some kind of concession to give a better quality of life to the residents. He also stated that he agrees that the range should be enclosed.

Councilman Donegan stated that he is glad to hear there are plans in place to actively enclose the range. This is clearly something that needs to get done.

Chair indicated to the Administration that she appreciates the research that has been done as far as the cost and the feasibility of enclosing the range. She asked if there is any kind of estimate to enclose the range if we had money tomorrow and how long something like this takes to build. Director Moretti stated that it could take 12-15 months.

Chair asked Mr. DiMaio if ARPA funds could qualify to be used for this. Mr. DiMaio stated that there is a section under the ARPA funds that could be used for health and safety, but he would like to look at this further.

Councilman Reilly stated that this issue has been going on for decades and he commended Colonel Winquist, Major Patalano and Mayor Hopkins for tackling a large issue. They are at the table, they are trying to find a solution and they are willing to work with the residents.

VI. FIRE DEPARTMENT

No Business.

VII. LICENSE RENEWALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

19-HOUR ALCOHOL LICENSE

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church 175 Oaklawn Ave.

BAZAAR LICENSE

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church 175 Oaklawn Ave.

BOWLING ALLEY LICENSE

Lang's Bowlarama, Inc. d/b/a Lang's Bowlarama 225 Niantic Ave.

BUSINESS IN TEMPORARY STRUCTURE

Leyden Tree Farm (John Leyden)(11/22/22-12/25/22) 1000 New London Ave.

DANCE HALL LICENSE

Rhodes On The Pawtuxet, Inc. 60 Rhodes Place.

EXTENDED HOURS OF OPERATION LICENSE

Bowlero Cranston 1450 Elmwood Ave.

CVS Pharmacy #212 681 Reservoir Ave.

Walmart #1873 1776 Plainfield Pike.

HAUNTED HOUSE LICENSE

Haunted Labyrinth 804 Dyer Ave.

HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE

Warhammer 5 Chapel View Blvd.

MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSE

Back in Balance, Inc. (Michelle Neuner) 105 Sockanosset Crsrd.

MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE

Café Modesto

Dinolicious

Sam's New York System

231 Leban St.
1065 Wallum Lake Rd.
6 Freeborne St.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church (Per Diem Ent.)

Chapel Restaurant, LLC d/b/a Chapel Grille

Cinets, Inc. d/b/a The Blue Moon Pub

Lang's Bowlarama, Inc. d/b/a Lang's Bowlarama

Miller's Crossing

Zona Lounge & Restaurant LLC

We Be Jammin' (9/24/22 10:00am-3:00pm) (Harvest Fest.)

175 Oaklawn Ave.
3000 Chapel View Blvd.
42 Phenix Ave.
225 Niantic Ave.
43 Bald Hill Rd.
195 Niantic Ave.
100 Sockanosset Crsrd.

TEMPORARY MASS GATHERING LICENSE

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

We Be Jammin' (9/24/22 10:00am-3:00pm) (Harvest Fest.)

175 Oaklawn Ave.
100 Sockanosset Crsrd.

VICTUALLING LICENSE

2 Sister 4 Good, LLC d/b/a Cornerstone Café

A&G Subs Corp. d/b/a Subway

A&M Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Cranston Diner

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Albanese's Delizioso

Ara Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Sonia's Near East Market & Deli

Artists' Exchange

Atwood Group, LLC d/b/a Jersey Mike's Subs

Baylee Thai Cuisine

Bestway 4 Corporation

BGR Hospitality, LLC d/b/a Blaze Pizza

Brewed Awakenings Cranston, LLC

B.S. Management, Inc. d/b/a Shores Market

Caffé Bon Ami, Inc.

Calvitto's Bakery

Calvitto's Bakery

Chapel Restaurant, LLC d/b/a Chapel Grille

Chicago Scoops, LLC d/b/a Cold Stone Creamery

China Fun

Cinets, Inc. d/b/a The Blue Moon Pub

City Line Convenience Plus

C&L Cranston, LLC d/b/a Denny's

Cranston Department of Senior Services

D&L Subs, LLC d/b/a Subway

Dave's Fresh Marketplace of Cranston

Dean Nicholas, Inc. d/b/a Campanella's

Deli Express d/b/a Michaelangelo's

82 Rolfe Sq.
40 Sockanosset Crsrd.
1150 Oaklawn Ave.
175 Oaklawn Ave.
1288 Oaklawn Ave.
816 Park Ave.
50 Rolfe Square
261 Atwood Ave.
761 Oaklawn Ave.
1353 Park Ave.
2 Chapel View Blvd.
1200 Pontiac Ave.
435 Atwood Ave.
1082 Park Ave.
285 Park Ave.
1401 Park Ave.
3000 Chapel View Blvd.
1000 Chapel View Blvd.
1071 Park Ave.
42 Phenix Ave.
1017 Narragansett Blvd.
1177 Reservoir Ave.
1070 Cranston St.
962 Cranston St.
550 Pontiac Ave.
930 Oaklawn Ave.
995 Pontiac Ave.

<i>Delini, LLC d/b/a Subway #34278</i>	300 Park Ave.
<i>Del's Lemonade</i>	298 Park Ave.
<i>Del's Lemonade and Refreshments, Inc.</i>	1264 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Deluise Bakery</i>	701 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Domino's Pizza</i>	1401 Park Ave.
<i>Dunkin' Donuts</i>	900 Cranston St.
<i>Edgewood Cheese Shop</i>	1828 Broad St.
<i>Edgewood Market</i>	1043 Narraganset Blvd.
<i>Emmanuel's Bakery & Taqueria</i>	492 Dyer Ave.
<i>Enduring Group d/b/a Dairy Queen</i>	275 Atwood Ave.
<i>Fabrizi Fast Food, Inc. d/b/a Betty's Pub</i>	31 Gansett Ave.
<i>Firehouse Subs</i>	1000 Chapel View Blvd.
<i>Fresco Too, Inc. d/b/a Fresco</i>	140 Comstock Pkwy.
<i>Great Wall</i>	1480 Park Ave.
<i>Harriet's Kitchen Inc.</i>	350 Atwood Ave.
<i>Honey Dew Donuts</i>	300 Atwood Ave.
<i>Honey Dew Donuts</i>	690 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Honey Dew Donuts</i>	1334 Park Ave.
<i>Immaculate Conception Church</i>	237 Garden Hills Dr.
<i>Jalat, LLC d/b/a Subway #27236</i>	1009 Narraganset Blvd.
<i>J&K Subway, LLC</i>	2214 Plainfield Pike.
<i>JP Subway, LLC</i>	1776 Plainfield Pike.
<i>JSC New England Operating, LLC d/b/a Burger King #28867</i>	1155 Pontiac Ave.
<i>Kattan Market</i>	644 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Keane's Wood-Fired Catering</i>	850 Broad St.
<i>KFC</i>	822 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Kochi Sushi & Steakhouse</i>	1800 Plainfield Pike.
<i>LaFrontera Market</i>	1522 Broad St.
<i>Laila & Athena d/b/a Athena's Restaurant</i>	1482 Park Ave.
<i>Lang's Bowlarama, Inc. d/b/a Lang's Bowlarama</i>	225 Niantic Ave.
<i>LN-Blessing, LLC d/b/a California Taco</i>	716 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Little Caesars</i>	763 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Mendon Food Corp d/b/a Uncle Tonys Pizza & Pasta</i>	1455 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Metropolitana, LLC d/b/a Subway #4415</i>	626 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Miller's Crossing</i>	43 Bald Hill Rd.
<i>Napolitano's Brooklyn Pizza</i>	100 East St.
<i>New England Authentic Eats, LLC d/b/a D'Angelo</i>	875 Reservoir Ave.
<i>New Rhim Nahm Thai Cuisine</i>	2212 Broad St.
<i>Ocean Pride Seafood of Cranston</i>	270 Atwood Ave.
<i>Pinkberry</i>	53 Hillside Dr.
<i>Ralphs Catering</i>	470 Atwood Ave.
<i>Rapid Refill #141</i>	1036 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Rhodes On The Pawtuxet, Inc.</i>	60 Rhodes Place.
<i>Riviera Main Event and Pub, LLC</i>	1612 Elmwood Ave.
<i>Sakos Pizza, LLC</i>	823 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Savers Mart</i>	1025 Park Ave.

<i>Sayfs Enterprises d/b/a Mutual Market</i>	397 Dyer Ave.
<i>S&D Little Oak, LLC d/b/a Dunkin'</i>	644 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>S&D Oaklawn, LLC d/b/a Dunkin'</i>	1288 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>S&D Park, LLC d/b/a Dunkin'</i>	283 Park Ave.
<i>S&D Pontiac, LLC d/b/a Dunkin'</i>	480 Pontiac Ave.
<i>Seven Stars Bakery LLC.</i>	1255 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Shaw's #625</i>	8 Chapel View Blvd.
<i>Solitro's Bakery</i>	1594 Cranston St.
<i>Speedway #2820</i>	305 Phenix Ave.
<i>Spice Kraft, Inc. d/b/a Chaska</i>	16 Midway Rd.
<i>St. George Church</i>	1693 Cranston St.
<i>Stop & Shop #2702</i>	275 Warwick Ave.
<i>Stop & Shop #714</i>	204 Garfield Ave.
<i>Stop & Shop #707</i>	200 Atwood Ave.
<i>Summer Food, LLC d/b/a Tomaselli's</i>	693 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Thai Orchid</i>	800 Park Ave.
<i>Thai Star</i>	961 Dyer Ave.
<i>The Edgewood Yacht Club</i>	1 Shaw Ave.
<i>The Wienerman, Inc. d/b/a Olneyville NY System</i>	1012 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Torus Inc d/b/a Dunkin'</i>	8 Chapel View Blvd.
<i>Torus Inc d/b/a Dunkin'</i>	1111 Park Ave.
<i>Torus Inc d/b/a Dunkin'</i>	630 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Torus Inc d/b/a Dunkin'</i>	189 Sockanosset Crsrd.
<i>Udder Delights Ice Cream & Frozen Desserts</i>	1426 Park Ave.
<i>Wai Wai House</i>	1850 Broad St.
<i>Walach Enterprises, LLC d/b/a McDonald's</i>	1099 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Wein-O-Rama</i>	1009 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Wendy's</i>	950 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Wendy's</i>	110 Garfield Ave.
<i>Whole Foods Market</i>	151 Sockanosset Crsrd.
<i>Zona Lounge & Restaurant LLC</i>	195 Niantic Ave.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to take all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to approve all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. MONTHLY SCHEDULES

HISTORIC PARK THEATRE

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to accept the list of events. Motion passed unanimously.

RHODES ON THE PAWTUXET

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to accept the list of events. Motion passed unanimously.

CRANSTON STADIUM

None.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

None.

- **PRESENTATION**

None.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Acting City Clerk