

*(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, June 5, 2023 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 P.M. by the Chair.

### **II. ROLL CALL BY THE CLERK:**

Present: Councilman Richard D. Campopiano  
Councilwoman Aniece Germain  
Councilman John P. Donegan  
Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas  
Councilman Robert J. Ferri Chair  
Council President Jessica M. Marino

Absent: Council Vice-President Lammis J. Vargas, Vice-Chair

Also Present: Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli  
Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff  
Christopher Millea, City Solicitor  
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor  
Stephen Angell, City Council Legal Counsel  
David DiMaio, City Council Budget Analyst  
Major Todd Patalano, Police Department  
Chief James Warren, Fire Department  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees  
Heather Finger, Stenographer

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Councilwoman Germain, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023 regular meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **V. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER**

### **A. CLASS BV LIQUOR LICENSE – NEW**

*The Spot Bar and Grill* located at 20 Rolfe Square (*Attorney Thomas Hanley*)  
**(Cont. from 5/1/23 SSM) (Over the Cap; requires full Council approval)**

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk:

- Department of Health Final Inspection
- Food Safety Managers Certificate
- Certificate of Good Standing from RI Division of Taxation
- Alcohol Training Certificates for all staff
- Certificate of Liquor Liability Insurance

On motion by Councilwoman Germain, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to continue all the matters regarding The Spot Bar and Grill to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

### **B. DISCUSSION** relative to issues and complaints of vibration allegedly from business:

*Edgewood Laundry* located at 1980 Broad St.  
**(Cont. from 5/1/23 SSM)**

**Chair** indicated that this business has had study completed, but do not have results and neighbors asked for a continuance to next month.

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Council President Marino, it was voted to continue this item to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

### **C. HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE – RENEWAL**

*Em's Liquor Store* located at 1285 Park Ave.  
**(Cont. from 3/6/23 SSM) (For Status Review)**

**Lawrence Almagno, Esq.**, appeared to represent the applicant.

**Solicitor** stated that he has not seen any other complaints from Sgt. Sweeney since the last time this was before the Committee for a Show Cause. He asked Attorney Almagno to address what steps his client has taken since the last meeting.

**Attorney Almagno** stated that all employees are TIPS Certified, even new hires. He also stated that the card reader system has been implemented and it is working well.

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to pass on the Show Cause. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to approve the renewal application for this establishment. Motion passed unanimously.

**D. SEPTAGE HAULER LICENSE – NEW**

*Hockomock Environmental* located at 225 South Main St. (*Jonathan Snell*)  
*(Cont. from 5/1/23 SSM)*

**Jonathan Snell** appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to approve this license application.

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Paplauskas** asked Mr. Snell if he is picking up any waste in the City. Mr. Snell stated, no. Councilman Paplauskas indicated to Mr. Snell that he cannot pickup in the City before 7 a.m.

**E. VICTUALING LICENSE – NEW**

*The Spot Bar and Grill* located at 20 Rolfe Square (*Attorney Thomas Hanley*)  
*(Cont. from 5/1/23 SSM)*

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk:

- Department of Health Final Inspection
- Food Safety Managers Certificate
- Certificate of Good Standing from RI Division of Taxation
- Alcohol Training Certificates for all staff
- Certificate of Liquor Liability Insurance

On motion by Councilwoman Germain, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to continue all the matters regarding The Spot Bard and Grill to next month’s meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**SECONDHAND LICENSE - NEW**

*A Bit of Everything* located at 1348 Plainfield St.  
*(Michael Badessa)*

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

**VII. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

**A. BUSINESS IN TEMPORARY STRUCTURE**

*Diluvium Fireworks LLC* located at 379 Atwood Ave.  
*Dates: June 23, 2023 – July 4, 2023*

**Chair** indicated that applicant has withdrawn application and no action is needed.

**B. FIREWORKS VENDOR LICENSE**

*Diluvium Fireworks LLC* located at 379 Atwood Ave.

*Dates: June 23, 2023 – July 4, 2023*

**Chair** indicated that applicant has withdrawn application and no action is needed.

**C. SEPTAGE HAULER LICENSE – NEW**

*Podgurski Corp (Christopher Podgurski)* 8 Springdale Ave, Canton, MA

*License Plate # S25700, 5456, W33934*

**Christopher Podgurski** appeared to speak.

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

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Paplauskas** indicated to applicant that City Code prohibits any pickup before 7 am.

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

**D. VICTUALING LICENSE – NEW**

1. *Dee's Deli* located at 1296 Cranston St.  
*(Change of Ownership) (Timothy Aldrich)*

**Timothy Aldrich** appeared to speak Robert Blinkhorn, current owner, also appeared to speak.

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

2. *Merlino's Pizza* located at 889 Dyer Ave.  
*(Jeffrey Merlino)*
  - [Department of Health License/Inspection](#)

**Jeffrey Merlino** appeared to speak and stated that he would like to open within the next week or two.

**Solicitor** stated that in speaking with Attorney Angell, the Clerk and Council President Marino, the Committee needs to keep consistency and uniformity and cannot grant this license until everything is met.

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Council President Marino, it was voted to continue this license application.

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Donegan** asked if a special meeting can be held to vote on this if applicant clears everything up within the next week or two. Chair asked that Mr. Merlino keep in touch with the Clerk and if he has everything required, a special meeting can be scheduled prior to the June Council meeting at 6:30 to approve this license application.

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

**3. *The Macro Bar*** located at 180 Gansett Ave.  
(*Joel Vaz*)

**Joel Vaz** appeared to speak and stated hours of operation to be 6:30-4:30 during the week and 7:30-3:30 on weekends.

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

**VIII. TRAFFIC ENGINEER**

No Business.

**IX. SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS**

**A. CLASS A LIQUOR LICENSE**

*Em's Liquor Store* located at 1285 Park Ave.

*(Cont. from 3/6/23) (Status review for illegal sales to minors)*

Discussion was held and vote taken earlier in the meeting.

**B. CLASS BV LIQUOR LICENSE,  
VICTUALLING, PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT, & BOXING LICENSE**

*Historic Park Theatre LLC d/b/a Historic Park Theatre* located at 848 Park Ave.

*(For May 20, 2023 incident)*

**Solicitor** stated that he has three reports that he would like made part of the record and a final report is a Narrative from Sgt. Anthony Sasson and asked that the Committee accept all these reports and made part of the record.

On motion by Council President Marino, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to accept all the reports for the record.

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Paplauskas** stated that he has not seen the reports and will be voting 'nay' because he has not seen them.

**Councilwoman Germain** asked if the Committee can view the reports. Solicitor stated that he can call Major Patalano or Captain Carnevale, who are present, and they can testify as to the contents of the reports.

Chair asked Major Patalano to state summary of what is in those reports.

**Major Patalano** stated that those reports are by the Officers who responded and were on detail there that evening of the event. The Police Department did not initiate tis Show Cause. This was an isolated incident. There was private security on duty and staff of the Park Theatre on scene. This was a domestic incident. In review of this incident, the Police Department did not feel there was any need to bring it before as a Show Cause. He was contacted by the City Clerk to forward the reports to her,

**Solicitor** asked Major Patalano, going forward, does he have any recommendations to the Committee in terms of future events of this type and if he is satisfied with the amount of Detail on duty that evening. Major Patalano stated that they speak to the facility and set that up with them. Right now, the Police Department has no recommendations based on knowledge that they have. If they need to add an additional Officer for the next boxing event, they will make that recommendation to the facility.

**Solicitor** stated that from his position, he thinks this is something of a concern. It was a fairly extensive incident that took place and he brought it before the Committee to see if there is anything that could or should be done in going forward. There are no sanctions being suggested.

**Councilwoman Germain** asked how many incidents have occurred at this business, because this is listed under Show Cause. Solicitor stated that this is not something he decides. He just follows directions. Whenever there is significant Police response, several members of the Committee or Administration have concerns.

**Chair** asked how many Officers were requested for that event. Major Patalano stated one, which they filled an hour before. Chair asked how many people were in attendance at that particular event. Major Patalano stated, over 500 and they took the private security into account.

**Council President Marino** stated that it would be beneficial for everyone, especially the Committee, if the schedule of events could be provided to the Clerk monthly.

**Chair** stated that this is not personal, no one is blaming anyone, we just want this business to succeed and be safe for the people attending events and for the neighborhood.

**Councilman Paplauskas** stated that he does not agree with this process. He did not receive these reports in advance and will vote not to do anything further.

**Councilman Campopiano** echoed Councilman Paplauskas's statements and is satisfied with what the Theatre did and followed all protocol.

**Councilwoman Renzulli** asked if there have been Show Cause Hearings initiated in the past without the direction of the Police. Solicitor stated that it has been a very informal process. He has had Show Cause requests from members of the City Council, from the Police and from the Administration. Councilwoman Renzulli stated that in her opinion, this could have been handled in a different way. The way this was handled is tarnishing their reputation. Solicitor stated that he is not aware of any other way of bringing a licensee before this Committee for inquiry regardless of fault or no fault,

**Chair** stated that the most negative impact of the Park Theatre was the news coverage of the fight.

**Solicitor** asked that the Show Cause letter sent to the business also be included in the motion to accept.

On motion by Council President Marino, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to accept the three reports and the Show Cause letter. Motion failed on a tie vote. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Ferry, Donegan and Council President Marino -3. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwoman Germain, Councilmen Campopiano and Paplauskas -3.

**Solicitor** stated that he does not see any reason to move forward and urged Committee to withdraw the Show Cause.

**Jimmy Burchfield, Jr.**, even promoter, appeared to speak and stated that as Major Patalano stated, this incident appeared to be a domestic issue.

**Ed Brady**, owner of Park Theatre, appeared to speak and stated that he can't stand here and say he did not take this personally. He served on this Committee and he knows what goes into government. He thinks this could have been handled differently. He feels personally attacked. He will continue with his team to continue keeping this Theatre going. They will take any recommendations from this Committee to move forward and make this Theatre successful.

**Chair** asked Major Patalano, when he spoke to hm about this, what did you recommend as far as having this business come and speak before the Committee? Major Patalano stated that he stated to the Chair that he agreed with him to bring them in.

**Chair** stated that this is personal for him right now. He is doing his job. He asked three people in this room what he should do and all three of them said to bring them in, so that is what he did.

**Chair** asked for a motion to remove this item from the agenda.

On motion by Councilman Campopiano, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to remove this item from the agenda. Motion passed on a vote of 5-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Ferri and Paplauskas -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Council President Marino -1.

**X. POLICE DEPARTMENT**

No Business.

**XI. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

No Business.

**XII. LICENSE RENEWALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

**A. AMUSEMENT MACHINE LICENSE**

*Classic Enterprise, Inc.* located at 1116 Cranston St.

**B. AUTO REPAIR LICENSE**

1. *Clarks Auto* located at 364 Wellington Ave
2. *East Side Collision Center* located at 2050 Plainfield Pike
3. *Edgewood Service* located at 1647 Broad St.
4. *Ercilio's Electro Auto Inc.* located at 173 Niantic Ave.
5. *Funes Towing* located at 32 Dewey St.
6. *Kayros Auto Tech* located at 529 Dyer Ave.
7. *Lasalle Auto Repair* located at 492 Reservoir Ave.
8. *Oaklawn Auto Service* located at 975 Oaklawn Ave.
9. *Phoenix Truck & Auto* located at 86 Calder St.
10. *R&S Auto* located at 266 Park Ave.
11. *The Car Lot, Inc.* located at 441 Dyer Ave.
12. *Valley Auto* located at 9 Cory Ave.
13. *Valvoline Instant Oil Change* located at 520 Reservoir Ave.

**C. BILLIARDS LICENSE**

*Pawtuxet Athletic Club* located at 12 Aborn St.

**D. EMPLOYMENT AGENCY LICENSE**

*CoWorx Staffing Services LLC*

**E. FIREARMS DEALER LICENSE**

*Econoloads, LLC* located at 1065 Park Ave.



**F. FIREWORKS VENDOR LICENSE**

1. *Moon Market* located at 1478 Park Ave.
2. *Moon Market* located at 579 Reservoir Ave.

**G. HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE**

*Alpine Wine & Spirits* located at 1 Starline Way.

**H. MASSAGE THERAPIST LICENSE**

*Tree of Life Massage Therapy* located at 1 Starline Way. Unit 2

**I. PARADE LICENSE**

*Gaspee Days Committee* located at 2045 Broad St.  
Date: June 10, 2023 10am-2pm

**J. PEDDLERS LICENSE**

1. *NorthEast Novelty (Rebecca Mullen)*
2. *NorthEast Novelty (Susana Arruda Fidalgo)*

**K. PRIVATE DETECTIVE LICENSE**

1. *James Lynch #452* located at 25 Ash Ave.
2. *Thomas Luongo #467* located at 114 Hazelton St.

**L. PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE (*Per Diem*)**

*Pawtuxet Athletic Club* located at 12 Aborn St.  
Dates: June 10, 2023 12pm-5pm & August 6, 2023 2pm-8pm

**M. ROAD RACE LICENSE**

*Gaspee Days Committee* located at 2045 Broad St.  
Date: June 10, 2023 10am-2pm

**N. SEPTAGE HAULER LICENSE**

1. *Paul R. Mumford & Son (Paul Mumford)* 160 Railroad Ave, Saunderstown, RI
2. *Bay State Sewage Disposal (Richard Chaves)* 105 Kingman St, Lakeville, MA

**O. TEMPORARY MASS GATHERING**

*Ocean State Concessions LLC* located at Mulligan's Island  
Food Truck Fridays May 5, 2023 - October 27, 2023

**P. USED CAR LICENSE**

*Dyer Avenue Motors* located at 454 Dyer Ave.

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

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

**XIII. MONTHLY SCHEDULES** (*Votes will be taken to enter lists of events in to record*)

**A. RHODES ON THE PAWTUXET**

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to enter the list of events into the record. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. HISTORIC PARK THEATRE**

**Chair** indicated that the Clerk has been requesting an updated schedule for two months and has not received it.

**C. CRANSTON STADIUM**

None.

**XIV. LICENSES ISSUED ADMINISTRATIVELY** (*For informational purposes; no votes to be taken*)

**A. MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE(S) – NEW**

1. *A.I. Catering & Vending LLC d/b/a Rolling Ice Cream MFE-1040*
2. *ANM, LLC d/b/a Mac Daddy MFE-1010*
3. *A Mano Pizza & Gelato MFE-202*
4. *Cluck Truck MFE-720*
5. *Full House Q BBQ MFE-140*
6. *Full House Q Mobile BBQ MFE-1009*
7. *La Costa Lobster and Tacos MFE-111*
8. *Ming's Asian Street Food MFE-45*
9. *Newport Chowder Company MFE- 855*
10. *Palagi Brothers Ice Cream MFE-300*
11. *Wally's Hot Dog Cart MFE-125*
12. *Wiener Wagon MFE-850*

**B. MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE(S) – RENEWALS**

1. *Espanghish Empanadas MFE-544*
2. *Hook N Ladder Pizza Co. MFE-733*
3. *Pacos Tacos d/b/a Rara's Surf Shack MFE-39*
3. *Palagi Brothers Ice Cream MFE-300*
4. *Pam's Grill On The Go MFE-752*

5. *Poco Loco MFE-26*
6. *Supa Dupa Food Truck MFE-209*
7. *The Sausage Guy MFE-738*

No action needed.

## **XV. COMMUNICATIONS** *(Informational Purposes Only)*

***GCC Wine & Beer Garden*** located at Avvio Ristorante 90 Hillside Rd.  
*(Dates & times listed on letter in link)*

No action needed.

### **Council President Marino:**

- ***City Hall parking lot availability concerns related to Park Cinema events.***

**Council President Marino** stated that just this past month, she received numerous complaints of no availability for City Hall Employees to park in the parking lot during early morning hours. She was told there was an event going on across the street at the Park Theatre and that was the reason for the parking issue. Once again, if there was a list of events from the Park Theatre, then we, as a City, will know in advance when there is an event scheduled and can anticipate there being a parking issue. She asked if the Administration has any recommendations on any way to help alleviate this issue.

**Director Moretti** stated that there was a daytime event at the Park Theatre on that particular day. There were a number of people that occupied a great portion of the lot. He spoke to the people that were on duty at the Park Theatre and they apologized that it was a mistake. He then contacted Major Patalano and made a decision to not disrupt the event and suspended any ticketing. As to going forward, daytime management will be communicating with the Administration should there be an event that we may have to accommodate them so we can notify the employees and arrange possible shuttling type service for the employees.

## **XVI. PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees