

(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).

SPECIAL SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

A special meeting of the Safety Services and Licenses Committee was held on Monday, November 23, 2020 via Zoom webinar.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilmember Steven A. Stycos
Councilmember Lammis J. Vargas
Councilmember Edward J. Brady
Councilmember Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Christopher G. Paplauskas, Chair
Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio

Also Present: Daniel Parrillo, Director of Administration
Councilmember John P. Donegan
Councilmember Aniece Germain
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
David Dimeo, City Council Budget Analyst
Leanne Zarrella, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Ron Ronzio, Stenographer

Chair recognized Council Members-Elect Reilly, Renzulli and Ferri to the meeting.

PreGame Lounge

Hamlet Lopez

DBR Violations

349 Dyer Ave.

Solicitor stated that this business was investigated as a result of complaints, at least one was made by the Cranston Police Department, of large crowd and no mask wearing. The DBR investigated the incident and he reviewed a series of emails between Director Parrillo and the legal counsel for DBR and they looked into this and decided not to take any action. They acknowledged that the establishment was overcrowded, but not taking any action. The Department of Health closed them sometime in

October for non-compliance and then reopened after that. He does not know what action, if any, DOH may be taking, if any. DBR indicated to Director Parrillo that they will continue to make regular visits and clearly the establishment is on notice. He does not see the City taking much utility in taking any action at this point since the State will be monitoring them. At this point, he does not think we can do anything more since the State is monitoring them.

Councilmember Stycos asked if we have authority to fine them for violations of Health Department pandemic rules. Solicitor stated that we have authority under our Ordinance. We can fine them, but we would need to convene under a separate show cause hearing, give them notice and take evidence, but this is complicated by the fact that DBR did not find enough evidence to take action so how can we. That may be a legal argument.

Nick Hemond, Esq., appeared to represent the establishment and stated that he has been in contact with the Department of Health pretty extensively for this client, including a complete re-write of their COVID compliance plan, restructuring of how they were set up inside and they were closed by the Department of Health for a period of four to five days, if not more. They have suffered some consequences and they are mindful of what is going on. They are going to do everything they can to follow the plans they submitted to the Department of Health.

Chair stated that no action is needed since DBR and the Health Department will be monitoring this establishment. He asked Chair if any vote is needed. Solicitor stated that this is on the agenda for status and information only and no vote or action is needed at this point.

Red Lounge

355 Dyer Ave.

Victor Delgadillo

Review and update of DBR Violations

Victor Delgadillo, Manager, appeared to speak.

Chair stated that the license renewals for this establishment came before this Committee a few months ago and it was stated in the newspaper that this establishment had been closed for DBR and DOH violations so this business was called in to discuss if they are in compliance now and what happened.

Mr. Delgadillo stated that on October 4th, there was an inspector that came in and did a random check of his establishment and they had a few violations, but were not issued shut down order, they were issued an order giving him ten days to come up with a new plan and meet other conditions they stated, which they did within a week and they are now in compliance with DBR and DOH.

Chair stated that the renewal applications for this establishment can be ratified at the next Safety Services meeting.

Councilmember Stycos asked what the violations were. Mr. Delgadillo stated that some employees were not wearing masks properly and there were customers moving around the establishment without a mask and bar area was open past eleven. Also, they had some people mingling within the establishment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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