

(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 1, 2024 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 Christopher G. Paplauskas
Councilman Daniel Wall
Councilman John P. Donegan
Council Vice-President Lammis J. Vargas, Vice-Chair
Councilman Robert J. Ferri, Chair
Council President Jessica M. Marino

Also Present: John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of the minutes of the January 8, 2024 Regular meeting.*
- B. Approval of the minutes of the February 5, 2024 Regular meeting.*

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 and the minutes of the February 5, 2024 regular meetings and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Heather McCabe, 136 Eldrige St., appeared to speak regarding applications for Dunkin Donuts on Reservoir Ave. she stated that with Uncle Sushi open late at night, it is difficult for traffic to see cars coming out or going in. Asked if there is any consideration of one-way from Reservoir to Julia because with the car wash and Uncle Sushi, it is impossible for two-way traffic there on weekends.

Jane Swift appeared to speak as a Trustee of 107, 109, 101 and 111 Orchard St. in regards to the liquor license application for Lunch Bos. She stated that everyone is in favor of small businesses in our community, however, what is happening now is due to traffic and the parking, it is virtually impossible to get up and down the street. There have been issues with accidents on that street and they are hoping there is a mutual beneficial solution for everyone. With additional license, traffic will increase. Asked if there is any consideration of either no parking zone on one side of the street.

Nelson Pedro appeared to speak as a Trustee of 107, 109, 101 and 111 Orchard St. in regards to the liquor license application for Lunch Box. He echoed the statements made by his sister, Jane Swift. This is not an occasional problem, it is regular. The concern is there is zero control over that intersection of Orchard and Park. It is a huge problem.

Bart Beans, 145 Eldrige St., appeared to speak regarding Dunkin Donuts on Reservoir Ave. application and stated that his property abuts the Dunkin Donuts. His concern is the traffic. Traffic is horrendous there with the car wash, with other businesses on the corner and trying to make a turn off on Reservoir Ave. is horrendous and getting in his driveway is difficult on a daily basis. Other concern is the extended hours. There is plenty of noise that goes on with something like that. He is opposed to the extended hours request.

Chair stated that all motions to approve business licenses appearing on this agenda are approved subject to receipt of all documents and fees by the City Clerk's Office.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. CLASS BV LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER

From: Royal Buffet & Grill, Inc. d/b/a Royal Buffet located at 272 Garfield Ave.

To: Royal Buffet Cranston, Inc. d/b/a Royal Buffet located at 272 Garfield Ave.

Suet Chung Lau

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

- [RI Dept of Health License/Final Inspection](#)
- [RI Division of Taxation Letter of Good Standing](#)
- [Certificate of Liability Insurance](#)
- [TIPS Certificates](#)

No one appeared to speak.

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

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Cont.)

2. CLASS BVL LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER OF CLASS

(Class BVL to Class BV)

Lunch Box Café, LLC d/b/a Lunch Box Café located at 751 Park Ave.

Sandy M. Tavarez

LICENSE WILL BE OVER CAP AND REQUIRES FULL COUNCIL APPROVAL

Sandy Tavarez and Maria Calcano appeared to speak. Emil Alara appeared to translate for the applicants. She stated that hours of operation will be 8 am to 9 pm every day and alcohol will start to be served after noon.

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

Under Discussion:

Council Vice-President Vargas asked Ms. Alara where the applicants are telling their patrons where to park. Ms. Alara stated that they tell them to park anywhere but not block driveways.

Councilman Paplauskas suggested that the Traffic Engineer go out and do a site visit in case signage needs to be updated or crosswalks need to be repainted.

Council Vice-President Vargas agreed with Councilman Paplauskas and added that we have an Economic Development Director and if he is out in the community, maybe he can be asked to go out into the community and echo those concerns as well to those local businesses.

Chair initially had asked that this issue be placed on the next Public Works agenda for discussion, but he in fact will speak to the Traffic Engineer himself rather than bring it before the Public Works Committee.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this license transfer and motion passed unanimously.

3. EXTENDED HOURS LICENSE-NEW

Zwerge, Inc. d/b/a Dunkin located at 548 Reservoir Ave. (5am-10pm)

George Zwiener

George Zwiener appeared to speak and stated that he is requesting an extension of hours from 5 am instead of 6 am and closing at 9 pm.

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

Under Discussion:

Councilwoman Germain asked reason for extended hours request. Mr. Zwiener stated that this is a breakfast business and he also operates the Reservoir Ave. and Sockanosset Crossroad locations and there is significant business between those hours. Councilwoman Germain stated that she would support the hours of 6-9. Mr. Zwiener stated that the previous business, Honey Dew, never had any kind of sound mitigation in terms of fencing or any kind of barrier between his lot and the neighbors. His intention was to construct a wall or a fence to mitigate the sound.

Roll call was taken on motion to approve this license application with hours as requested by applicant and motion passed on a vote of 7-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilman Ferri, Council Vice-President Vargas, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Paplauskas, Wall and Council President Marino -7. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Germain -1.

VI. SHOW CAUSE

CLASS BY LIQUOR LICENSE- RENEWAL

La Bandera Bistro located at 407 Laurel Hill Ave. *(Cont. from 01/08/24, 2/5/24 & 3/4/24)*

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

- [Certificate of Good Standing from RI Division of Taxation](#)

No one appeared to speak.

Chair asked how the Committee would go about taking this off the docket. Solicitor stated that the Committee has two options. It can vote to not renew this license and they would have to reapply or vote to remove. Chair asked for motion to remove this from the agenda.

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Council Vice-President Vargas, it was voted to remove this item from the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

VICTUALLING LICENSES - RENEWALS *(Cont from 2/5/24 & 3/4/24)*

1. Sophie's Sweets LLC located at 1458 Park Ave.

SERVED CEASE AND DESIST BY PD ON 2/22/24; FILED RENEWAL APP FOR 2024 BUT HAS NOT PICKED UP 2023 LICENSE DUE TO TANGIBLE TAXES OWED

No one appeared to speak.

Chair stated that applicant has been served and has not paid 2023 taxes and they are still open. He asked for Solicitor's opinion on how to proceed with this.

Solicitor stated that he understands the frustration of the Committee, but the problem is his first thought was to serve the Cease and Desist, but the problem then becomes what happens if they ignore the Cease and Desist. Cease and Desist for not paying tangible taxes is not something that affects health and safety. He does not believe this Committee has the authority to simply shut them down, however, those taxes do need to be paid and they should not be

operating. He consulted with some of his colleagues and some other cities and towns and based on his discussions, he confirmed what he suspected that ultimately if we want to force compliance, we are going to have to seek assistance of the Superior Court. Superior Court can issue a Restraining Order and if they defy that Order, the Court has the power that this City does not and shut them down. Superior Court could legally shut them down.

Chair requested Solicitor's Office to advise the Safety Services and Licenses Committee on how to proceed with this issue.

Solicitor stated that he will have discussions with Solicitor Millea of his authority to act further on that. Unfortunately, our Ordinances do not provide any type of enforcement mechanism for this Committee or for this Council and that is something that he thinks needs to be addressed in the future. The Committee this evening can either continue this again and keep it on the docket so he can report back next month or it can be removed from the docket and he will follow up with Solicitor Millea to see how they want to approach it. He suggested continuing this one more month.

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilman Wall, it was voted to continue this item for one more month. Motion passed unanimously.

2. *Summer Food LLC, d/b/a Tomaselli's* located at 693 Oaklawn Ave.

Tangible taxes due **HAS NOT BEEN SERVED CEASE AND DESIST BY PD YET; CLOSED UNTIL 4/3**

Chair indicated that he was advised that applicant has paid the taxes due and is in compliance.

Nat Ercelik appeared to speak.

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

3. *Rainbow Water* located at 2160 Broad St.

Tangible taxes due /did not renew for 2024 **HAS NOT BEEN SERVED CEASE AND DESIST BY PD YET**

Chair indicated to the Solicitor that we can't seem to serve this business. The Police have not served them and the business is still open.

Solicitor suggested tabling this again and see if they can be served.

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Council Vice-President Vargas, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

A. CLASS BV LIQUOR LICENSE – NEW cont. to 5/6/24

1. ***The Spot Bar and Grill*** located at 20 Rolfe Square (*Attorney Thomas Hanley*)
(*Cont. from 9/11/23, 10/2/23, 11/6/23, 12/4/23, 2/5/24 & 3/4/24*)
(*Over the Cap; requires full Council approval*)

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

- Department of Health License/Final Inspection
- Certificate of Good Standing from RI Division of Taxation
- Certificate of Liquor Liability Insurance

Chair indicated that applicant's attorney has requested another continuance.

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

B. VICTUALLING LICENSE – NEW

1. ***The Spot Bar and Grill*** located at 20 Rolfe Square (*Attorney Thomas Hanley*)
To be cont to 5/6/24
(*Cont. from 9/11/23, 10/2/2023, 11/6/23, 12/4/23, 2/5/24 & 3/4/24*)

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

- Department of Health Final Inspection

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

2. ***KIZILKULA, LLC d/b/a Boulevard Pizza*** located at 1031 Narragansett Blvd.
Mevlut Kizilkula (*Cont. from 3/4/24*)

No one appeared to speak.

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

3. ***Nelvas Cakes, Inc.*** located at 37 Phenix Ave. (*Cont. from 3/4/2024*)
Novely Giron

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

- RI Department of Health License (Waiting on final inspection)

No one appeared to speak.

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

VIII. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

HOLIDAY SALES (*Votes may be taken*)

Free People #1887 located at 85 Hillside Rd.

Nick Sliwka: **will be attending via Zoom**

No one appeared to speak.

Tom Lima, Zoom Technician, indicated that there was a person on Zoom earlier but no longer on.

Chair asked Solicitor if Committee can vote on this. Solicitor stated, yes, totally within the discretion of the Committee.

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

VICTUALLING LICENSE

Great Wall located at 1480 Park Ave.

Zhi Hao Zhang

Zhi Hao Zhang appeared to speak

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

1. **Royal Buffet Cranston, Inc.** located at 272 Garfield Ave.

Suet Chung Lau

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

- [RI Dept of Health License/ Final Inspection](#)

No one appeared to speak.

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

2. **Spaghetti Lane Pizza, LLC** located at 1860 Broad St.

Michael St. Angelo

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

- [RI Dept of Health License/ Final Inspection](#)
- [Owes City Tangible Taxes](#)

Chair indicated that application has been withdrawn.

IX. TRAFFIC ENGINEER

No business.

X. POLICE DEPARTMENT

No business.

XI. FIRE DEPARTMENT

No Business.

XII. LICENSE RENEWALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

FIREWORKS VENDOR LICENSE

1. *Phantom Fireworks @ Stop & Shop #2702* located at 275 Warwick Ave.
2. *Phantom Fireworks @ Stop & Shop #714* located at 204 Garfield Ave.
3. *Phantom Fireworks @ Stop & Shop #707* located at 200 Atwood Ave.

HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE

1. *Aaron's Sales and Lease Ownership* located at 460 Reservoir Ave.
2. *Anthropologie* located at 56 Hillside Rd.
3. *Expo Nails* located at 800 Oaklawn Ave.
4. *Francesca's Collection* located at 37 Hillside Dr.
5. *Lakeshore Learning* located at 1400 Oaklawn Ave.
6. *Party City 6012* located at 162 Hillside Rd.
7. *Recreational Equipment, Inc.* located at 22 Chapel View Blvd.
8. *The Time Capsule* located at 537 Pontiac Ave.
9. *The Wine & Liquor Co., Inc. d/b/a Christy's Liquors* located at 1350 Oaklawn Ave.
10. *Warhammer* located at 5 Chapel View Blvd.

LEASING /RENTING OF MOTOR VEHICLES LICENSE

Enterprise Rent -a-Car located at 275 Atwood Ave.

MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE

1. *Amano, LLC d/b/a A Mano Pizza & Gelato*- MFE 202
2. *Atomic Blonde Ice Cream*- MFE 553
3. *La Guaguita Del Sabor*- MFE 126
4. *Moo Mobile Ice Cream Truck*- MFE 352
5. *Twisted T's, LLC* MFE- 27
6. *WW Newport, LLC*- MFE 125

PRIVATE DETECTIVE LICENSE

Lawrence Pezza, Jr. #450

SECONDHAND LICENSE

Innecity Recycling located at 85 Carlsbad St.

TEMPORARY MASS GATHERING LICENSE

Ocean State Concessions @ Mulligans Island located at 1000 New London Ave.
Food Truck Nights Fridays from May 10th- October 25th

USED CAR LICENSE

1. *CarMax Auto Superstores, Inc.* located at 153 Bald Hill Rd.
2. *Cranston Auto Sales* located at 19 Elena St.
3. *Dyer Ave Motors* located at 454 Dyer Ave.

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

On motion by Councilwoman Germain, seconded by Council Vice-President Vargas, 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 Councilwoman Germain, seconded by Council Vice-President Vargas, it was voted to accept the list of events into the record. Motion passed unanimously.

B. CRANSTON STADIUM

No schedule received as of 1/04/2024

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS (*No votes to be taken*) (*Informational Purposes Only*)

None.

XV. PRESENTATIONS

None.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees