

(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, May 4, 2015 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Council Vice-President Richard D. Santamaria, Jr., Chair
Councilman Michael J Farina
Council Majority Leader Paul H. Archetto
Councilman Mario Aceto
Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas
Council Minority Leader Michael W. Favicchio
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Also Present: Councilman Steven A. Stycos
Jeffrey Barone, Constituent Affairs
Captain Gerard Carnevale, Police Department
Captain Sean Carmody, Police Department
Deputy Chief, Stephen MacIntosh, Fire Department
Evan Kirshenbaum, Asst. City Solicitor
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

II. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Farina, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS:

Night Owl Inc. d/b/a Basta 2195 Broad St
Request to lift entertainment restriction 6/13/2015 and 9/2/2015 [[click to view](#)]

Alexander Guarino appeared to speak and stated that he is seeking outdoor entertainment for two dates: June 13th, which is their 25th Anniversary and September 2nd, which is a wedding.

Councilman Farina asked if there are any plans available. Mr. Guarino stated that the alcohol will be kept on the exiting patio and he will obtain a permit for a tent in case it is needed.

Councilman Farina asked for details for the June 13th event.

Councilman Stycos stated that he has some concerns about amplified music at this location. Mr. Guarino stated that he has had piped in music and for the past two and half years since he applied for the expansion he has had no incidents.

Chair stated that Captain Carnevale would like to see a plan for the June 13th event of where the band is going to be set up so he can determine if detail is needed and how much.

Chair stated that this request can be approved based on the detail report being provided to the Police Department tomorrow to determine the detail.

Councilman Stycos asked how the Police would determine if music is too loud. Captain Carnevale stated that if they have the right to have music, they can have it as long as it is not too loud. As long as it is reasonable, they can be told to turn it down. There is a limitation on how long the music goes as to the time.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Santamaria, it was voted to approve this request pending delivery of a plan to the Police Department and Police recommendation on Police details for the June 13th event and closing time for band at 11:00 p.m. rather than 11:30 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Minority Leader Favicchio, it was voted to approve the request for the September 2nd event. Motion passed unanimously.

Powers Pub

2190 Broad St

Request for outdoor block party event 6/13/2015 [\[click to view\]](#)

Angela Lentz appeared to speak.

Ms. Lentz stated that they would like to close off the street for service and entertainment. **Chair** asked how many people would be expected for this event. Ms. Lentz said that being Gaspee Days, it is hard to estimate. There will be a band from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Chair asked if the area will be roped off. Ms. Lentz stated that it cannot be roped off because the area has to be open for traffic unless the street is closed.

Councilman Farina stated that if this establishment had a patio or an area on the side of the building that could be closed off for safety of the patrons and just people on the street, he wouldn't have a problem approving this, but the way the plan is, it is dangerous.

Council President Lanni asked if this establishment has an Entertainment License. City Clerk stated that they do not and they would also need to apply for an Expansion of Service License. Ms. Lentz stated that there is a liquor store that she can ask to use their area and place cones to close the area.

Councilman Stycos stated that he sees this as problems.

Councilman Farina stated that his suggestion to the applicant is to speak to the Fire Department to see if a portion of the street can be closed and this would make it safer for the people and there will be enough room.

Council President Lanni indicated that this establishment does not have an Expansion of Service License. City Clerk stated that there is time to process and hear the Expansion of Service License and it can be heard at the June Committee meeting. Council President Lanni stated that this is putting the cart before the horse. Discussion needs to take place between the establishments and the Police and Fire Departments.

Councilman Aceto stated that this applicant will have to meet with the neighbors to close off the street, and the other two establishments, Fellini's and Revolution, and come up with a plan with the Police and Fire and if a special meeting is needed by this Committee, it will be held.

Fellini's Pizzeria

2190 Broad St

Request for outdoor event 6/13/2015 [[click to view](#)]

Kristy Knoedler appeared to speak.

Chair stated that same restrictions be placed on this establishment as Powers.

Ms. Knoedler stated that the plan is for a small tent with a small bar for wine and beer and the area will be roped off and if Police detail is needed, she does not have a problem with that. She is in the process of applying for an Expansion License, this a permanent expansion for her patio area.

Chair asked that Ms. Knoedler contact the Police and Fire Departments to discuss this.

Revolution American Bistro

2190 Broad St

Request for outdoor service event 6/13/2015 [[click to view](#)]

Dean Scanlon appeared to speak and stated that he has had a beer garden since 1999. He did not know there was a permit needed.

City Clerk stated that applicant needs to apply for an Expansion of Service License, and that generally the attitude during the parade time was a don't ask, don't tell, but there was never a "beer garden" that the City was aware of.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

SECONDHAND PAWN SHOP LICENSE – RENEWAL (cont'd from 4/6/15)

Cranston Pawn Brokers

843 Reservoir Ave

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

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to approve this license renewal application. Motion passed unanimously. Councilman Farina recalled that this applicant had some criminal record and was denied at another location. He would like a report from the Police Department as to this applicant.

V. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

3-15-4 ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE 2, CHAPTER 24, SECTION 090 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON ENTITLED “CONNECTION OF FIRE ALARMS TO MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS” Referred from Finance 4/16/2015
[\[click to view\]](#).

Deputy Chief MacIntosh appeared to speak and stated that one of the concerns the Committee had last month is the cost to the City. He researched this based on the number of City buildings. There are approximately 30 school buildings and approximately 10 City buildings and on the School side, the cost is approximately \$200,000 and on the City side, the cost is approximately \$65,000 over time. The date stated in the Ordinance is not correct. He recommended the date be setting an amount over years' time.

Councilman Aceto asked if this change to the system is due to some sort of State or Federal mandate. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated, no, it is due to technology that is available. Councilman Aceto asked why we have to switch systems. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated that there is continual maintenance to the wire system. During storms, system goes down and we lose wires. The radio system will prevent that.

On motion by Council Minority Leader Favicchio, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to amend this Ordinance by changing the date from “2016” to “2025”. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council Minority Leader Favicchio, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

4-15-03 ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE 5.64, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON, 2005, ENTITLED “BUSINESS LICENSES AND REGULATIONS” (Public Entertainment license fee 2015) [\[click to view\]](#).

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. NEW LICENSE APPLICATIONS:

**PEDDLER LICENSE – NEW
*S & S NOVELTY – 3 TRUCKS***

55 Burgess St

Dewayne Davis appeared to speak. No one appeared to oppose.

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

Wolfie's Freezer Delights

33 Atlantic Blvd

Jennifer Wolfinger appeared to speak. No one appeared to oppose.

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

**MASSAGE THERAPY – NEW
*Little Genie Tanning & Spa***

1340 Plainfield St

Captain Carmody stated that the Police Department objects to the granting of this license.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to deny this license application.

Under Discussion:

Captain Carmody stated that the Police Department has conducted investigations of numerous spas which resulted in prostitution and illegal massages charges.

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

B & B Tanning

465 Reservoir Ave

Mario Mastrostefano appeared to speak.

Captain Carmody stated that the Police Department has conducted undercover investigation which has resulted in prostitution and illegal massage charges.

Mr. Mastrostefano stated that the business that he took over was Aroma Spa. Mr. Lim also appeared to speak and stated that he will be working at this establishment.

Captain Carmody stated that Mr. Lim is the person who holds a massage therapist license with the State. He advertises on the web for people to work under his license and they are involved in prostitution.

Chair asked stenographer to swear in both Mr. Mastrostefano and Mr. Lim.

Councilman Farina stated that Captain Carmody has asked that applicant provide a business plan and the names of all the people involved in this business and once it is reviewed, application will be considered. This is per the Ordinance which was recently passed by the City Council.

Council Minority Leader Favicchio stated that if this is denied, the applicant can re-apply under the new Ordinance since he applied for this license prior to the Ordinance being passed.

On motion by Council Minority Leader Favicchio, seconded by Councilman Farina, it was voted to deny this license application and applicant can re-apply if he wishes. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE – NEW

1106 Corp d/b/a Milestone

1106 Pontiac Ave

Mr. Costantino and John Cerelli appeared to speak.

Chair asked what the capacity of this establishment is. Mr. Costantino stated approximately 50. No one appeared to oppose.

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

VII. TRAFFIC ENGINEER:

No business.

VIII. SHOW CAUSE:

IN TOWN AUTO (Used Car and Auto Repair)
[\[click to view\]](#)

11 East Josephine Street

Wilfredo Hernandez appeared to speak and asked what the issue of the show cause is. City Clerk stated that she received complaints from neighbors regarding illegal activity and a raid and arrest. After researching this, it was found out that there was State Police arrest for fraudulent activity. There was also a zoning issue that the neighbors complained about of which was excessive cars and the business was cited.

Councilman Aceto questioned if the neighbors who complained were Providence residents.

Councilman Farina clarified that eleven (11) vehicles was approved by the Inspections Department for sale in front of the building on all three lots based on investigation report and applicant exceeded that.

Joseph Natale, owner of 487 Niantic Ave., Cranston, appeared to speak and stated that when this business came before this Committee last year, none of the Providence abutters were notified of the hearing. He stated the following concerns and problems with this business: traffic in the area all hours of the night; repairs being done on weekends, which is prohibited; number of cars for sale exceeded; on 1/22/2015, this business was raided by the State Police. He asked that this Committee suspend this license for selling vehicles indefinitely. He believes members of the City Council know Mr. Rocha, who owns the property, and may be related.

Councilman Farina stated that he does not know Mr. Rocha and decisions made by him are based on facts and law.

Council Minority Leader Favicchio stated that he thinks the remark made by Mr. Natale was directed at him. He does not know the business owner. He knows the owner of the land and is he is a constituent of his. This does not affect how he makes decisions. The Council bases decisions based on law and facts.

Councilman Aceto addressed the issue of the Providence residents not being notified of the original hearing and he indicated that the Cranston City Clerk stated at the hearing that notice is given to the Providence City Hall and what happens after that, he can't answer to that.

Council President Lanni stated that he does not know Mr. Rocha or Mr. Natale and the integrity of the City Council is impeccable. As to Providence abutters not being notified, they obviously knew about it because they were present at the hearing.

Councilman Paplauskas stated that a family member is an acquaintance of Mr. Rocha and he recused himself from discussion or voting.

Councilman Aceto stated that he just knows that his son went to school with Mr. Rocha's son, but he does not know him.

John Natale, 441 Niantic Ave., appeared to speak and stated that there is a lot of activity going on at night at this business.

George Gregorian, Providence resident, appeared to speak and stated that he was one of the people who was not originally notified of the initial hearing. He stated that the Providence City Clerk was adamant with him that it was not their responsibility to forward notices to the Providence residents. There is no clarity of official procedure on how to notify people.

Councilman Farina urged Mr. Gregorian to contact his Council member in Providence to notify him that the Providence City Clerk did not forward notices to the Providence residents.

Councilman Aceto asked Solicitor if proper procedure was followed on giving notice of hearing. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated, yes, we did. He also stated that there are two issues before this Committee this evening: 1) applicant engaged in behavior which would be subject to committing discipline as to the State Police incident and 2) whether applicant had more than allowed number of vehicles on property.

Kenneth Rocha, 555 Cranston St., Providence, appeared to speak and stated that there is a lot of allegations. The State of Rhode Island has renewed Mr. Hernandez's license and there has been no action on it.

Captain Carnevale stated that he has a copy of the State Police report and a letter from State Police Colonel O'Donnell to the media explaining the charges.

Mr. Rocha stated that he is not denying any of that.

Council Minority Leader Favicchio stated that unless there is a conviction, we have to treat this like we do every other case. We can't take any action unless there is a conviction.

Chair instructed, through the Administration, that the City Inspector visit this business once a week to count the number of cars randomly until further notice.

Mr. Barone stated that he can instruct the Inspector to do that. He just needs to know what to tell the Inspector if he finds more than 11 cars. Chair stated that he will contact him regarding this.

Mr. Rocha stated that there is an issue that has not been addressed. He came up with a plan to split the place in thirds and have employees' and customers' cars in a separate area so the cars that are being sold will be the only cars visible. He is in negotiations with Mr. Hernandez to rent the whole building so all the cars will be in the building.

Mr. Natale stated that weekends is where there is most activity that brings in vehicles from 555 Cranston St. to East Josephine St. from Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Mr. Rocha stated that as to illicit activity, there is 24-hour surveillance and they can provide proof that this is not true.

City Clerk indicated that the Used Car License was initially continued. She stated she had checked with the Court and the matter was continued and the pretrial is scheduled for June

Solicitor Kirshenbaum suggested having this item on the agenda month to month.

X. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

No business.

X. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Pro Tool & Pro Equipment Rental
Storage of assorted fluids

10 Amflex Drive

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Aceto,, it was voted to approve this application. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. LICENSE RENEWALS:

AUTO REPAIR LICENSE – RENEWALS

<i>Chestnut Hill Truck & Auto</i>	21 Calef St
<i>Cranston Auto Ignition</i>	1152 Park Ave
<i>Knightsville Super Service</i>	1487 Park Ave
<i>Josy Auto Repair</i>	1640 Elmwood Ave
<i>Interstate Auto Repair</i>	1163 Cranston St
<i>Intown Auto Sales & Service</i>	11 East Josephine St
<i>Clarks Auto Sales</i>	364 Wellington Ave
<i>Cranston Collision Center</i>	30 Walnut Grove Ave
<i>D & M Tyre Sales Inc</i>	50 Liberia St
<i>Columbus Service</i>	298 Montgomery Ave
<i>Edgewood Service</i>	1647 Broad St
<i>American Performance Petroleum</i>	964 Cranston St
<i>Airport Auto Radiator</i>	598 Atwood Ave
<i>Pawtuxet Sunoco</i>	2175 Broad St
<i>Andy's East Coast Speed</i>	1528 Elmwood Ave
<i>Elmwood Auto Service</i>	71 Glen Road
<i>Central Truck Service</i>	131 Fletcher Ave
<i>Pontiac Service</i>	734 Pontiac Ave
<i>The Car Lot</i>	441 Dyer Ave
<i>Autosport Sales & Collision</i>	640 Atwood Ave
<i>Midas</i>	525 Reservoir Ave
<i>Conti's Service</i>	226 Warwick Ave
<i>Distinctive Auto Body</i>	164 Fountain Ave
<i>Phoenix Truck</i>	225 Macklin St
<i>East Side Collision Center</i>	2050 Plainfield Pike
<i>PD Autobody</i>	598 Atwood Ave
<i>Autopaint RI</i>	47 Stamp Farm Rd

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to vote on all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to approve all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

HOLIDAY SALES –RENEWAL

<i>Oaklawn Liquors</i>	985 Oaklawn Ave
<i>Dollar Tree # 5804</i>	1285 Reservoir Ave
<i>Dollar Tree # 1599</i>	1400 Oaklawn Ave
<i>Dollar Tree #1794</i>	252 Garfield Ave

HOLIDAY SALES –RENEWAL (Cont.)

Dollar Tree # 4792

Below Cost

Tedeschi's Greehouses

Sonya's

CVS # 212

CVS # 2021

CVS # 469

CVS # 1414

CVS # 5868

Rite Aid #6595

Rite Aid #10254

Rite Aid # 10261

Rite Aid #10262

Blooming Mad

1776 Plainfield Pike
480 Atwood Ave
47 Church St
766 Oaklawn Ave
681 Reservoir Ave
205 Atwood Ave
188 Pontiac Ave
1195 Oaklawn Ave
1776 Broad St
1011 Cranston St
570 Pontiac Ave
548 Dyer Ave
250 Atwood Ave
1745 Broad St

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to vote on all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to approve all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS IN A TEMPORARY STRUCTURE – RENEWAL

Pawtuxet Village Farmers Market – for May – Oct

Cranston Portuguese Club

Annual festival June 26, 27, & 28

@ Rhodes
20 Second Ave

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to vote on all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

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

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT – RENEWAL

Cranston Portuguese Club

Annual Festival June 26, 27 & 28

20 Second Ave

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to approve the above license renewal application. Motion passed unanimously.

PEDDLER'S LICENSE – RENEWAL

Josefina's Ice Cream – David Morales
Benji's Ice Cream – Pedro Cordero
Benji's Ice Cream – Bartolome Serevino
New England Lemonade- 2 trucks
Palagi's Ice Cream – Alexander Arteaga

710 Ocean St
189 Smith St
470 Manton Ave
174 Oaklawn Bch Av
55 Bacon St

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to vote on all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to approve all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

PARADE LICENSE – RENEWAL

Gaspee Days Committee – 6/13/2015
St Mark's Church – 6/7/2015

Pilgrim Station
9 Garden Court

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to vote on all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to approve all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

ROAD RACE LICENSE – RENEWAL

Gaspee Days Committee – 6/13/2015

Pilgrim Station

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

USED CAR LICENSE – RENEWAL

Clarks Auto Sales

364 Wellington Ave

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

VICTUALLING LICENSE – RENEWAL

Sonia's
Little Caesars

816 Park Ave
763 Reservoir Ave

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Minority Leader Favicchio, it was voted to vote on all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Minority Leader Favicchio, it was voted to approve all the above-listed license renewal applications as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE LICENSE – RENEWAL

Lawrence Pezza - # 450

336 Comstock Pkwy

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

XII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

SECONDHAND PAWN SHOP LICENSE

Cranston Gold N More

703 Park Ave

Ratification of Approval on May 4, 2015

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to approve the above license renewal application.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Farina stated that the owner of Cranston Gold N More on Park Ave. and the owner of Manhattan Gold Buyers was convicted of receiving stolen property. If that is the case, he would like to have a Show Cause hearing. He would like the Police Department to check into this. This applicant has a pawn shop license and they would be in violation of our Ordinance.

Council President Lanni stated that Cranston Gold N More on Park Ave. applied for a renewal of this license and was approved. The owner was charged in receiving stolen goods. He worked with the Police Department in the investigation because he did not know they were stolen goods. The renewal of the license was approved on the recommendation of the Police Colonel and he has no issues with this business.

City Clerk stated that there may have been some misunderstanding and that Manhattan Gold, Atwood Avenue was continued due to a supposed investigation by the Police Department.

XIII. MONTHLY SCHEDULES:

GUAYACAN LOUNGE – LIST OF EVENTS FOR June, July and August 2015

[\[click to view\]](#)

848 PARK THEATRE – list of few events scheduled for May - November 2015 – will submit changes as they schedule new events [\[click to view\]](#)

LEGENDS PUB & GRUB – LIST OF EVENTS FOR May – August 2015

[\[click to view\]](#)

***RHODES ON THE PAWTUXET – LIST FOR JANUARY – MAY 2015 (SUBMITTED)
IN JANUARY***

Actual Number of Attendees for Actual Number of Attendees for 2014

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to approve all the above list of events. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees