

(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, February 1, 2016 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by the Chair.

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

Absent: Council Minority Leader Michael W. Favicchio

Also Present: Jeffrey Barone, Director of Constituent Affairs
Captain Russell Henry, Police Department
Deputy Chief, Stephen MacIntosh, Fire Department
Christopher Rawson, 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:

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

Manhattan Gold Buyers (Cont. from 11/2/2016)
Pawnbroker-Continued for Show Cause

166 Atwood Ave.

Councilman Farina stated that this establishment is out of business and this item should be removed from the agenda.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to remove this item from the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Mardi Gras – (Cont. from 1/4/2016 –no one appeared)

1500 Oaklawn Ave.

Chair stated that the applicant’s attorney has requested a continuance.

This item was continued.

WASTE HAULER – New (Tabled 11/2/15 and 12/7/15 – Cont. per applicant from 1/4/2016)
Waste Water Services 1997 Bedford St

Greg Vielt appeared to speak. No one appeared to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to approve this license application. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT – INDOOR – NEW (Tabled 1/4/2016)
McKenna’s Pub 641 Atwood Ave.

No one appeared to speak.

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

V. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARINGS (Including Ordinances)

None.

VI. NEW LICENSE APPLICATIONS:

VICTUALLING LICENSE – NEW
Little Caesar’s 763 Reservoir Ave.

Adam Kurniawa appeared to speak and stated hours of operation to be 11 AM to 10 PM Sundays thru Thursdays and 11 AM to 11 PM Fridays and Saturdays. 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.

Bestway 280 Atwood Ave.

Mary Javaia appeared to speak and stated hours of operation to be 6 Am to 10 PM and 7 AM to 10 PM weekends. No one appeared to oppose.

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

BODY WORKS ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE – NEW

Repose, Inc. - owner Gina Ruggieri

694 Park Ave.

BODY WORKS PERSONNEL LICENSE – NEW

Marena Cruz - Repose, Inc.

694 Park Ave.

Alexis Cucianatta - Repose, Inc.

694 Park Ave.

Sonia Wilcox - Repose, Inc.

694 Park Ave.

Jerilda Velazquez - Repose, Inc.

694 Park Ave.

Leona Ramos - Repose, Inc.

694 Park Ave.

Justina Hartsfield - Repose, Inc.

694 Park Ave.

Briana Rego - Repose, Inc.

694 Park Ave.

Brian Goldberg, Esq. appeared to represent all the applicants for Repose, Inc.

Gina Ruggieri appeared to speak.

Captain Henry appeared to speak and stated that all the applications were reviewed by the Police Department and he has questions regarding employment of Ms. Ruggieri. Captain Henry asked Ms. Ruggieri where she was employed prior to her applying for this business. Ms. Ruggieri stated that she was self-employed. Captain Henry asked if she was employed by Simple Serenity Spa in Pawtucket. She stated she was the owner. Captain Henry stated that for the record this spa was advertising for sexual activity, on Backpage and Craig's list; it was shut down by the Pawtucket Police and it was advertised under sexual activity in the Providence Journal on June 10, 2015.

Councilman Botts asked Ms. Ruggieri how many of all these applicants worked at this spa. Ms. Ruggieri stated that pretty much all of them. She also stated that as to the advertising on the internet, any channel of advertising is a good channel; she didn't promote that. It was very low cost. Councilman Botts asked Ms. Ruggieri if she was aware of a site called Spahunters. Ms. Ruggieri stated she had never advertised on that site. Councilman Botts asked if she wanted to think about that answer.

Chairman Santamaria had the witness sworn in by the stenographer.

Councilman Botts stated he had a post dated November 2014 from her at Simple Serenity. Councilman Botts stated he also had other reviews of her Pawtucket spa on "rubmat.com". Ms. Ruggieri responded that she had never officially advertised on those sites they are just review boards for clients who come in. She stated that she was on there because she was being linked to a very unsavory spa in Central Falls and wanted to clear that up. Councilman Botts said that from the reviews, the conversation could quickly go from PG-13 in R, X-rated, but there are children present in the Chambers. He then asked if she was ever involved in a business, a spa in East Greenwich. Ms. Ruggieri stated, yes and she left due to complicated pregnancy and she left the business in the hands of her niece and another person, who ran this business illegally and ended up being closed down by the Police. Councilman Botts stated that on April 16th four police detectives went in as customers and were offered sex for \$60 cash, so that in basically less than a month they converted it and you have no knowledge. Councilman Botts questioned Ms. Ruggieri why she would apply in Cranston for a business when we have an ordinance that mirrors the one in Pawtucket. Attorney Goldberg stated that the reason Ms. Ruggieri left Pawtucket was because that business was not granted a Variance. As to the East Greenwich issue, there were no charges brought against Ms. Ruggieri. Councilman Botts stated that this spa is proposed in his Ward and he is opposed to the granting of this license and hoped that the Committee would consider the applicant's history with the different establishments that she's run.

Solicitor Rawson referred to Ms. Ruggieri's application to where it refers to employment for last five years and questioned why the two spas in East Greenwich and Pawtucket are not listed. Ms. Ruggieri stated that as far as East Greenwich, she was self-employed and she did not work for someone else. He stated that the application was not fully completed. She indicated that she is currently enrolled in massage therapy school.

Captain Henry asked Ms. Ruggieri if she ever worked for Simplicity in Central Falls. Ms. Ruggieri stated yes, in 2011, for a short period of time. Captain Henry indicated that this is also not listed on her application. He noted that Simplicity was another spa that was shut down for illegal sexual activity. He stated to Ms. Ruggieri that her application also asked if she was every charged or convicted for criminal offense. He indicated that she had four convictions and arrested ten times in the State of Rhode Island. These charges were all left off the application. He stated she was convicted August 6, 2008 for disorderly conduct and received a six month suspended sentence, six month probation., she was convicted on December 18, 2006 for possession of a controlled substance and received a 2 year suspended sentence, two years' probation and substance abuse counselling. She was convicted of violation of probation on a simple assault disorderly conduct charge. She received a six month suspended jail sentence under probation. She was convicted of crank or obscene phone calls in January 2007 and received one year suspended, one year probation. None of these were listed on her application, and she has had contact with fifteen other police departments in the State.

Council Vice-President Santamaria asked Ms. Ruggieri if she is operating now. Ms. Ruggieri stated that they are open for sunless spray tanning and retain sales, but not for body works.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to deny the all the above-listed license applications.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Farina stated that he made the motion to deny because of incomplete application. If applicant would like to resubmit a complete application, it will be placed on the agenda again for consideration.

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

VII. TRAFFIC ENGINEER:

No business.

VIII. SHOW CAUSE:

Cranston Liquors (Cont. from 1/4/16 per appl.)

1219 Cranston St.

Joseph Manera, Esq., appeared to represent applicant. Mr. Patel also appeared to speak.

Captain Henry gave report of various issues with this establishment. He stated that there have been complaints of loitering in front of store, trash, beer bottles in front of business that abuts this business and parking problems.

Maria Moretti, owner of Arlington Auto Body, appeared to speak and stated that there is no parking and people park on her property. She questioned what grandfather right means. Cranston Liquors has no handicapped parking. She has had damage to some of the vehicles on her property. Patrons of Cranston Liquors park on both sides of Puritan Ave., which has caused many accidents.

Attorney Manera stated that his client has had no problems since he has been in business at this location. There are other businesses in near his client's business besides Arlington Auto and none of them have any problems with this client's business.

Council Vice-President Santamaria addressed Attorney Manera and stated that his client does have a parking problem. He asked Mr. Patel if he has ever had to call the Police to ask a patron to leave his store. Mr. Patel stated, yes, if someone goes into the store drunk and is refused to be served or will not leave his store, he will call the Police. He will be willing to put signs outside his store if the City allows indicating "no loitering" or "no littering".

Council President Lanni stated that he has been at this business because of complaints and he has seen beer bottles and condoms on the property. He also indicated that there is a RIPTA bus stop between this property and Arlington Auto. He feels people go into the store to buy alcohol and drink while waiting for the bus and then trash the bottle. He asked that Mr. Patel pay more attention to not just the inside of the store, but what goes on outside of the store. He asked that the two businesses try to work together.

Council Majority Leader Archetto stated that he also has been by this store and he also has seen loitering and littering outside this store. We need to address these problems and the owner should be and needs to be more vigilant.

Councilman Paplauskas stated that the windows of this store have a lot of signage. He suggested some of the signs be removed so the applicant can see what is going on outside.

Attorney Manera stated that he went into the City Clerk's Office last week to view his client's file and there was not file, there is no Police report or no narrative. He spoke to Captain Carnevale on Friday and was made aware of the issues. He met with his client on Saturday and explained to him that he has to work with the neighbors and he agreed that he will be more diligent and police the property.

Council Vice-President Santamaria stated that he would like the business owner to go out at least once a day to police the property. He indicated to the property owner that he is responsible for the outside of the property.

Councilman Aceto stated that he has been at this business and has seen bottles on the property. This is not a pub, it is a liquor store. What concerns him is how these issues can be solved.

Council President Lanni stated that he believes it may be the people who are waiting for the RIPTA bus and drinking the beer while waiting for the bus. He suggested possibly requesting the bus stop be moved.

Mr. Patel stated that he has cameras and he is always watching the camera while he is in the store, but if he does not see people drinking beer outside, there is nothing he can do.

Council Vice-President Santamaria stated that this Committee will issue a stern warning with no penalty with a review in three months and applicant be more diligent on what is going on on the property and call the Police and if there is a problem. He also asked that the Police Department increase patrol in this area.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to have a three month review and increase patrol and area cleaned up daily. Motion passed unanimously.

CLASS D CLUB ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE – Late Renewal
RI Ceilhide Club 50 America Street

No one appeared.

This item will be continued.

CLASS BV ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE – Late Renewal
Welbi Genao, d/b/a Blend Café 745 Reservoir Ave.

Welbi Genao appeared to speak.

Chair asked why applicant did not file renewal application prior to the December deadline. He stressed to the applicant he needs to renew every year in time for the December 1st deadline.

Heidi Garcia appeared to speak and stated that unfortunately, they did not have the \$2,000 for the license early enough in time.

WASTE HAULER LICENSE – violation 1/5/16 and 1/12/16
Republic Services 1080 Airport Rd., Fall River

Ron Ceara appeared to speak and stated that he received a letter regarding servicing the City before 7 AM. Once this letter was received, the driver was notified of this. There were two incidents of service times that were violated. This has been addressed and all the routes servicing all commercial customers in Cranston will be after 7 AM.

Councilman Paplauskas stated that he had a few incidents where dumpsters were picked up at 4:05 AM and it sounded like a bomb went off. During one of these incidents, he followed the truck to Brutopia Pub on Atwood Ave. and he asked the driver if he was aware of an Ordinance on the books as to the time and the driver answered “yes”, so it was not a new driver. He indicated to the driver that he is a Council member and the driver responded “I guess we need to leave Cranston”. This is what upset him.

On motion by Council Vice-President Santamaria, seconded by Councilman Farina, it was voted to fine this business \$200 to be paid within 15 days to the City Clerk.

Under Discussion:

Mr. Ceara stated that there is no excuse for the actions of the company. Copies of the Ordinance have been given to the drivers. There is no financial gain for picking up dumpsters during the early hours. The only issue is some customers' dumpsters are blocked, but they can work with the owners to have the cars moved.

Roll call was taken on motion to fine this business \$200 to be paid within 15 days to the City Clerk and motion passed unanimously.

IX. POLICE DEPARTMENT:

No business.

X. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

No business.

USED CAR LICENSE – RENEWALS (RATIFY THE ACTION)

Mega Wheels 2015-16 license 1568 Broad St.

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

USED CAR LICENSE – RENEWAL

<i>Mega Wheels 2016-17 license</i>	1568 Broad St.
<i>Autosport Sales & Collision</i>	640 Atwood Ave.
<i>BC Auto Sales</i>	1473 Elmwood Ave.
<i>Cranston Auto Sales</i>	19 Elena St.
<i>Zink's Auto Sales</i>	550 Atwood Ave.
<i>Ranaldi Motors</i>	598 Atwood Ave.
<i>Tasca Automotive</i>	1300 Pontiac Ave.
<i>Sam's Auto Group Annex</i>	886 Cranston St.
<i>Sam's Auto Group</i>	936 Cranston St.
<i>The Car Lot</i>	441 Dyer Ave.
<i>First Choice Auto Sales</i>	1586 Broad St.
<i>Caravan Auto</i>	1185 Cranston St.
<i>Russo's Auto Sales</i>	519 Dyer Ave.
<i>CAR-MAX</i>	Bald Hill Road
<i>Auto Mart</i>	1108 Park Ave.

XI. LICENSE RENEWALS: (Cont.)

USED CAR LICENSE – RENEWAL (Cont.)

<i>Josy Auto Repair</i>	1640 Elmwood Ave.
<i>American Auto Sales & Auto Body, Inc.</i>	448 Dyer Ave.
<i>Hillside Auto Sales</i>	44 Gansett Ave.

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

VICTUALLING LICENSE – RENEWAL

<i>Miss Cranston Diner</i>	1150 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Qdoba Mexican Grille</i>	4000 Chapel View
<i>Shaw's</i>	8 Chapel View Blvd.
<i>Edgewood Cheese Shop</i>	1828 Broad St.
<i>Café International</i>	675 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Project Lean Nation</i>	800 Oaklawn Ave.

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

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE – RENEWAL

<i>Mulligan's Island</i>	1000 New London Ave.
<i>Chelo's</i>	1275 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Basta On Broad</i>	2195 Broad St.
<i>Lang's Bowlarama</i>	225 Niantic Ave.

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

HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE – RENEWALS

<i>Chinese Amer. Mini Market</i>	834 Park Ave.
<i>LaFrontera Market</i>	1522 Broad St.
<i>Quick Mart</i>	164 Park Ave.
<i>National Pet</i>	726 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Expo Nails</i>	800 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>BD Mart</i>	1356 Cranston St.
<i>Milk N More</i>	1232 Park Ave.

XI. LICENSE RENEWALS: (Cont.)

HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE – RENEWALS (Cont.)

<i>Twin Pine Farms</i>	1850 Phenix Ave.
<i>Oaklawn Liquors</i>	985 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Phred's Drug</i>	1300 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Garden Hills Fruit & Deli</i>	763 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Lucky Mart</i>	880 Oaklawn Ave.
<i>Hanna Good d/b/a Mirae Market</i>	602 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Elamani Enterprises</i>	951 Pontiac Ave.
<i>Sweenor's Chocolates</i>	43 Hillside Road
<i>The Pool Source</i>	40 Freeway Drive
<i>The Loft</i>	83 Hillside Road
<i>Ann Taylor</i>	59 Hillside Road
<i>Morin's Liquors</i>	1621 Elmwood Ave.
<i>Rossi Tree Farm</i>	1936 Phenix Ave.
<i>7- Eleven</i>	535 Reservoir Ave.
<i>Omaha Steaks</i>	1000 Chapel View

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

XII. MONTHLY SCHEDULES:

GUAYACAN LOUNGE – LIST OF EVENTS JAN – MARCH 2016 [\[click to view\]](#)
(Submitted in Jan.)

No action needed.

848 PARK THEATRE – LIST OF EVENTS JAN – APRIL 2016 [\[click to view\]](#)
(Submitted in Jan.)

No action needed.

LEGENDS PUB & GRUB – per establishment nothing scheduled (see email)
[\[click to view\]](#) *(Submitted in Jan.)*

No action needed.

RHODES ON THE PAWTUXET – LIST FOR JANUARY 2016- MAY 2016
Actual number of attendees for 2015 (page 3 under subtotals) [\[click to view\]](#)
(Submitted in Jan.)

No action needed.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- ***Policy and procedures for late alcohol renewals***

City Clerk stated liquor establishments whose license cannot be issued by December 1st, the State deadline, are allowed to remain open as a restaurant but they are instructed they have to remove and secure all liquor from the service area. This is so they can continue to operate as we don't want to hurt small businesses. A list of businesses who cannot sell liquors is sent to the Police Department for enforcement.

There are a number of areas where there are no State guidelines or regulations. Such as how long to hold an approved license before a business is ready to open. The procedure has been that we do not require renewal until it's been issued. Also how to handle late renewals after December 1st. They have been handled as renewal rather than processing as a new application. She is asking if the Committee wants to establish a policy and procedure in these areas.

Council Majority Leader Archetto left meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Chair asked if it would help if someone does not renew, they be made to reapply as a new applicant. City Clerk stated that you can do that, but she is not sure what that would accomplish.

Council President Lanni stated that as to making the business apply as a new, it may take up to two months for them to obtain their license and this will hurt the business.

Chair asked for a continuance on this matter for more discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni

Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees