

SPECIAL SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

Special meeting of the Safety Services and Licenses Committee was held on Monday, April 13, 2009 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr., Chair
Council Vice-President Terence Livingston, Vice-Chair
Councilman Paul H. Archetto
Councilman Robert J. Pelletier
Councilwoman Michelle Bergin-Andrews (appeared at 6:15 PM)
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro

Also Present: Major Ronald Blackmar, Police Department
Chief James Gumbley, Fire Department
Chris Rawson, Assistant City Solicitor
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

II. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Aceto, 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. SHOW CAUSE HEARING

Powers Pub (Continuation)

2190 Broad St.

Jennifer Powers and Andrew DeFelippo, owners of business, appeared to speak. Ms. DeFelippo read a statement addressing the complaints of the neighbors and presented this statement for the record.

Chris Farns, 167 Ocean Ave., appeared to speak and stated that he works at this establishment as a doorman. In the four months he has been working in this business, he has not seen any trouble and has not asked one patron to leave. He feels these complaints have nothing to do with the business, but are sexually oriented.

Richard T. Bray, Sr., Ward 1 District 1 Committeeman, appeared to speak and stated that at the request of Council Vice-President Livingston, he has gone to this establishment a few times and has not seen any problems come out of this business.

John Migliaccio, Arnold Ave., appeared to speak and stated that Powers Pub, in his opinion, has been an addition to the community.

Major Blackmar presented a package of reports made to the Police Department of complaints, mainly noise. He stated that a neighbor provided him with a video of an incident, which concerned him, since it showed a patron outside heavily intoxicated arguing and the Police never received a phone call from the business owner. This concerns him. It seems like the biggest complaint with this business is the noise.

Council Vice-President Livingston stated that it was previously discussed that applicant would be willing to remedy the noise issue. He asked applicant if she has done anything to remedy the noise. Ms. Powers stated that they have been in contact with an architect to have a double door installed and also looking at possibly having soundproof material installed. The complaints he has heard from the neighbors is noise and patrons urinating outside. He does not believe it has to do with sexual orientation.

Councilman Pelletier stated that after the last meeting, he was concerned about the neighbors' complaints and he was at the business this Saturday night to see what the neighbors have been complaining about and he did not see the noise or unruly patrons. Inside, it was a little loud, which might have to be addressed. Both parties need to come to some sort of an agreement and work out the issues.

Chair asked how long this takes to disperse the patrons when the business closes. Mr. Farns stated that generally, he gets them out by 1:00 AM. Most of them do start leaving by 12:30 A.M. Last call is 12:45 A.M.

Melissa and Donald Centracchio, 9 Druie Rd., Warwick, owners of 27 Aborn St., appeared to speak. Mr. Centracchio stated that this is no issue of sexual orientation. He has tenants who are threatening to move out because of this business. Mrs. Centracchio stated that she grew up in this area and never has there been such a problem. She was never notified when this business applied for a liquor license or she would have attended the meeting to oppose to it. This is a small bar with a capacity of 48 and there is one bathroom, hence urinating outside. Soundproofing is not going to help the problems.

Council Vice-President Livingston asked what the capacity is at this business. Chief Gumbley stated 48. Council Vice-President Livingston asked if anyone from the Fire Department has gone to this business for overflow. Chief Gumbley stated, no.

Councilwoman Bergin-Andrews asked how many complaints there have been. Chief Gumbley stated one.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Vice-President Livingston, it was voted to have Police detail for the next two weeks on Friday and Saturday to assess how much noise there is there and what the situation is there and have the Major report back at the next meeting and the owners are to come back with plans for double door and soundproofing, if they have one. Roll call was taken and motion passed on a vote of 5-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Santamaria, Archetto, Councilwoman Bergin-Andrews, Council Vice-President Livingston and Council President Lanni -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Pelletier -1.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees