

(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 5, 2025 in the Cranston High School East Auditorium, 899 Park Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by the Chair.

II. ROLL CALL BY THE CLERK:

Present: Councilwoman Bridget R. Graziano
Councilman Andy Andujar
Councilman Frank J. Ritz, Jr.
Council Vice-President Daniel Wall, Vice-Chair
Councilwoman Kristen E. Haroian, Chair
Council President Jessica M. Marino, Ex-Officio

Absent: Councilman Michael A. Traficante

Also Present: Christopher E. Buonanno
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Stephen Angell, City Council Legal Counsel
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the minutes of the April 7, 2025 Regular meeting.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2025 regular meetings and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Approval of minutes of the April 17, 2025 Special meeting***

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2025 special meetings and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Armand Niquette, Fire Marshall for the City of Cranston, appeared to speak and stated that there are a few businesses present this evening that he has been working with to get their licenses squared away and if there are any questions, he will be available to answer them. As to the Auto Repair, before they used to do it all on paper, so the Committee never saw the final outcome until they were ready to pass. This year it is different, it is all computerized so once they start their permitting process, their licenses are due in July. They start early just in case there is something that they have to get corrected. You will see them all once they pull them and we do them throughout the week. Some of those are already done. They just wait for a few things maybe to correct. This is why it looks like a big list, but it is not. We are working on it and if there are any questions, they know to call. He just wanted to explain to the Committee why you are seeing a lumpsum of them now. It is just because they are all starting to come in right now. They are really not that far behind.

Franklin Paulino, Director of Economic Development, appeared to speak and stated that he is working with a few businesses that are on the agenda. If the Committee has any questions, he will be happy to answer them.

Zachary Reay, 449 Pontiac Ave., appeared to speak regarding the license applications for Laham Cranston, Inc. d/b/a El Laham Restaurant and stated that there has been some discussion with some neighbors regarding potentially the liquor license not being put up tonight. If that is the case, then he would like to see where that goes.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. EXPANSION OF HOURS LICENSE

1. Phoenix Restaurant and Lounge located at 961 Dyer Ave.

Original Hours: Tues-Thurs 4pm-9pm, Fri-Sat 4pm-1am, Sun 10am-4pm

Requested Hours: Monday-Sunday 9am-1am

Alexandria Molina appeared to speak and stated that she is requesting more hours to hopefully be open for lunch and chance to possibly stay open later for things like private events.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve this license application. Motion passed unanimously.

B. EXPANSION OF PREMISE LICENSE

1. Caffe Knightville, LLC d/b/a Bar Lazio located at 1669 Cranston St.

Expanding liquor service to outdoor patio

Christopher Maselli, Esq., 1052 North Main St., Providence, appeared to represent the applicant and stated that when his client purchased the building he made extensive renovations. The owner of 1663 Cranston St. offered his building for sale and his client purchased it and also the parking lot at the corner was also acquired by his client. They did not take up any parking spaces and they have worked with the Traffic Engineer and Building Inspections Office. They

tore down a broken down wall and a chain link fence that looked ugly and they put up some nice retaining walls and are going to put some cement on the bottom for the patio. They are also going to be putting some plantings as well once the patio is done.

Councilman Andujar stated that he visited this business a few times and is glad they will be doing some green space there and he will be in support of this.

Franklin Paulino, Director of Economic Development, appeared to speak and stated that his Office has been assisting this business for quite a while and on behalf of the Administration, they have a positive recommendation for this business.

Councilwoman Graziano stated that she thinks this is a great expansion and loves an outdoor patio. As a Wetland Scientist, she would love to see the outdoor green space with actual like pervious pavers or something that handles stormwater instead of just putting down more cement. This is sort of a plug to get businesses to understand that every piece of imperious surface you put down on the property drains off somewhere into catch basins.

Councilman Buonanno stated that he has been an unofficial Knightsville resident his entire life and the amount of improvement over what was there and now is just infinite. This location is fitting there wonderfully with the revitalization of Knightsville. The space they are looking to utilize is a very small area. He encouraged the Committee to vote in favor of this.

Council President Marino wished the applicant luck. This establishment is great and she had the pleasure of visiting there and this will be an enhancement. She will be in support of this this evening.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve this license application. Motion passed unanimously.

C. NEW CLASS BV LIQUOR LICENSE

1. ***Equis Restaurant & Lounge, LLC*** located at 355 Dyer Ave.; Peter Petrarca, Esq.
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11am-1am

OVER CAP AND REQUIRES FULL COUNCIL APPROVAL

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Division of Taxation Letter of Good Standing

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to take the agenda out of order and take the Victualling, Liquor and Entertainment License applications all together. Motion passed unanimously.

Peter Petracca, Esq., 330 Silver Spring St., Providence, appeared to represent the applicant and stated that this is going to be a restaurant with a Spanish flare. His client is looking to have Entertainment, the reason is he is applying for Entertainment now is because he envisions into the future having potentially private parties at this location. He has spoken to Councilman Andujar about some issues with the neighborhood and there is hesitancy. His understanding is there are questions about litter and trash around the area. They are going to

have someone walk the area at night to make sure there is no litter around the surrounding area his client controls. They are not looking to have a nightclub. To have music in the building, they can use a DJ list or a pod. He does have two caveats he would like to present to the Committee: 1) they do not have a letter of good standing. They are waiting for Division of Taxation to issue a business license. Application is in; 2) the Department of Health, he applied for but he stopped because the application indicates, although it is not true, that you need a license number from the City to apply. He corrected that today and his client is going to fix that tomorrow. They are hoping to have both of those done by the second meeting, the end of the month, because this is over the cap.

Chair asked if there is a safety plan in place for this business. She had some phone calls today with concerns of the past business at this location. Attorney Petracca stated that he will double check. He believes there is and if there is not, he will draft it.

Councilman Andujar stated that in speaking to the residents abutting the area, one of the main concerns was if there was a party, close the doors. He also asked that applicant paint over the former name and does not get blamed for other businesses. He thanked Mr. Paulino for helping the business. He recommended a 60 day review to see how the applicant does and if the Committee needs to change anything. He also asked Attorney Petracca to remind his client that to have a liquor license in Cranston is a privilege and not something that is taken for granted.

Attorney Petracca stated that he thinks he is going to have Mr. Casale down there and look at the way the doors open and potentially put some foam at the front of the door so if the door does open, it will kick the sound back into the building rather than out of the building.

Councilman Andujar recommended restricting the hours to 12 for the first 60 days and then review it and see how the applicant does and how the neighbors respond.

Attorney Angell recommended that if you are going to grant the license as requested and then review in 60 days for status as opposed to restricting the hours.

Councilman Buonanno stated that this location was problematic in the past. He asked Attorney Petracca if his client has any association outside of the sale of the building or sale of the business with the previous owners that had so many problems. Attorney Petracca stated that he does not believe so. The owner of the building right now is his uncle and the uncle has no connection and neither does his client to the previous owner.

Chair stated that the Police Department did have a lot of concerns with the hours and the new business and she asked that this applicant be courteous to the neighbors and make sure there are no incidents.

Attorney Petracca asked who should get the safety plan. Chair stated that it was the Police that requested it and should be submitted to them.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve the Liquor License for this business subject to receipt of Certificate of Good Standing. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Andujar, seconded by Council President Marino, it was voted to approve the Entertainment license for this business. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve the Victualling license for this business subject to receipt of Health Department license. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. SHOW CAUSE

None

VII. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

A. HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE *(Cont'd from 02/03/2025 & 3/3/25)*

1. *Atwood Greenhouses* located at 700 Atwood Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sun 8am-6pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

- RI Retail Sales permit
- 2024-2025 license also still pending in clerks office (waiting for retail sales permit)

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

Franklin Paulino, Director of Economic Development, appeared to speak and stated that Michael Macera, the applicant, could not be present this evening, but he emailed him the permit that was missing and also the accountant sent him the form for the Division of Taxation for the permit. He sent this to him at approximately 3 pm today. Chair asked Clerk if this was received today. Clerk stated that they have to upload those documents onto the portal and she checked this afternoon and did not see any attachments.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Ritz, it was voted to ***continue this license application*** for reason that this business has been open without the proper licenses.

Under Discussion:

Chair stated that this is concerning because they have been operating without a State Retail License and they were open the holiday weekend.

Councilwoman Graziano stated that she would like applicant to be present at the next meeting. This is the third time this has been continued and they have been operating without a license.

On motion by Council President Marino, seconded by Council Vice-President Wall, it was voted to send a letter to the business signed by the Chair of this Committee asking applicant to appear at the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

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

2. ***Pet Supplies Plus #9005*** located at 171 Sockanosset Cross Rd.
Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-9pm, Sun 10am-6pm

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve this license application. Motion passed unanimously.

B. INDOOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE *(Cont'd from 3/3/25)*

1. ***Laham Cranston, Inc. d/b/a El Laham Restaurant*** located at 91 Rolfe Sq.
Entertainment Hours: Occasional Singers; no set schedule

***Received request from Atty McHugh to cont to June 2, 2025 hearing**

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to take the agenda out of order and take the Indoor Entertainment, Class BV Liquor License and Victualling License applications all together. Motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Thomas McHugh appeared to speak and represent the applicants and stated that there was a miscommunication between himself and his clients. They do wish to be heard on the Entertainment License as well as the Victualling and they would like to continue just the Liquor License at this point.

Chair stated that most of the entire Council has a lot of concerns. She is not sure who owns this business, if someone is living inside of this business. To her knowledge, they have not gotten a fire inspection and the two gentlemen present have come before the Committee twice and she has stated that they are operating without a fire inspection. She asked if the business is operating now under the old Victualling License or how are they operating now?

Attorney McHugh stated that his clients do not own this business at this point. He can't speak as to how this business is operating. At this point, they have an asset purchase in place to purchase the restaurant. They also have a purchase and sales agreement in place to purchase the real estate.

Chair stated that she was advised by the Solicitor at the last meeting that no license can be issued if they are not the owner of the business. She asked if that is correct.

Hanna Kosseifi appeared to speak and stated that they do not want to apply for liquor license at this time. They want to prove themselves to the neighbors first. They want to take over the place, show the improvements and show everything that they are going to do to the restaurant and then talk to the neighbors before reapplying for any liquor license.

Solicitor stated that there are still a lot of uncertainties surrounding the exact nature of what is being requested. This is a true asset purchase agreement. This probably should be a transfer as opposed to a new license. If there is going to be some transfers of assets such as equipment, it seems to him that it is more in the nature of a transfer. The issue of whether or not they are the owners, State Law does allow, as long as you have a signed lease, that that is a sufficient ownership interest or at least a sufficient intention that you are going to occupy the premises and that would satisfy the requirement for a BV License, but they are indicating that they are not seeking the BV License tonight. He is not aware that the same rule would apply to the Entertainment License and the Victualling License whether or not the lease itself would be sufficient to establish an ownership or possessory interest. That would justify issuing those licenses. There still seems to be a great deal of uncertainty. It is in the purview of the Committee of how it wishes to proceed. He does not see the harm in continuing this especially since there has been no closing. He has no anecdotal evidence that the former owners are still occupying this building and some of it is disturbing. We are receiving anecdotal evidence that the owner might be living there. This is no fault of these applicants.

Chair stated that she is a big supporter of businesses, but she receives 10-15 emails a week from residents. She stated to the applicants that if they have a community meeting, she will be there to support them. She asked for a continuance of all three licenses

Attorney McHugh stated that the reason that they have not taken over the restaurant itself is because they can't open. His clients would be in agreement of approving the Victualling License subject to the remaining Department of Health concerns. Chair stated that she is not willing to do this this evening, but can ask for a vote. She does not mind having a special Safety Services meeting if the Department of Health inspection goes through, but right now she is not comfortable doing that.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to **continue all three license applications**.
Under Discussion:

Councilwoman Graziano questioned the Solicitor if this should be a transfer and if they are no longer pursuing the Liquor License, should they rescind that application? Solicitor asked Attorney McHugh to clarify that.

Attorney McHugh stated that at this point, his clients want to continue the BV Liquor License so his clients can address the issues.

Solicitor stated that as to the transfer portion of the question, he would have to see what documents are in play here. He has not seen the purchase and sales agreement, he does not know the terms, whether it is a true asset purchase and sales agreement.

Attorney McHugh stated that his clients would be in agreement of approving the Victualling License subject to the remaining Department of Health concerns.

Chair stated that she is not willing to do this this evening, but can ask for a vote. She does not mind having a special Safety Services meeting if the Department of Health inspection goes through, but right now she is not comfortable doing that.

Sharba Kosseifi stated that they have had discussions many times with the neighbors. What they want to do is have the neighbors see them work. They sent an email to the neighbors saying that they will come back for the liquor license. If he signs tomorrow on the property, how is he going to operate? The Committee is trying to shut him down. They are just not being fair at all. The minute he buys the property and takes over, no one is staying in that place, no one is going to sleep there. They have multiple businesses. He does not know why the Committee is going after them for no reason. This is ridiculous.

Solicitor stated that no one is denying them anything, all the Committee is saying is when you own it, then come before the Committee. This Committee will make special arrangements, as they have done for others, if sale goes through before the next meeting. You are coming before this Committee when you do not own the business or the property, you do not have three quarter of the requirements you are supposed to have and you are accusing this Committee of singling you out, that simply is not true. You are being treated the same way as everyone else has been treated. This is a very business friendly City. They want you to succeed, but there are neighbors there that have concerns and there have been a lot of problems, not your fault, but they can't close their eyes and pretend it did not happen either.

Councilman Andjuar stated that he understands the frustration. He thinks that what needs to be done is establish a timeline. The applicants need to have an open meeting at the restaurant to show the neighbors what they are doing so everyone can see what they are going to do and show them their plan.

Hanna Kosseifi stated that they did reach out to the neighbors and was hard to get everyone together so they asked him to send an email and thinks everyone took it pleasantly.

Council Vice-President Wall stated to the applicants that if they do have a community meeting, they should invite Councilwoman Haroian from the area who is in touch with the neighbors.

Armand Niquette, Fire Marshall for the City of Cranston, appeared to speak and addressed the issue of fire inspection and stated that he has not dealt with these gentlemen because they do not own the building. The last time he was in the restaurant, it was good. Just the whole building he has not been able to get into. He is sure he will be able to work with the new owners once they take over.

Council Vice-President Wall stated to the applicants that before they come back before the Committee, they have the items in line so the Committee can act on them, but this is not productive right now. He will support the motion to continue and he thinks the Committee is trying to be very supportive. This is a business friendly Committee.

Council President Marino stated that she supports everything her colleague stated this evening and also supports Chairwoman Haroian who is also Council Person for the area and doing her job as Chair of this Committee. She indicated to Attorney McHugh that in her five years on the Council, the only thing she has seen treated differently is the behavior of his clients this evening to this body. You do not interrupt the Chair and what is being asked this evening is not anything foreign. It is their responsibility and this Committee has been more than patient and if they appear before this Committee again, her colleagues can all do what they want, but she will vote to deny. She does not ever want to see that again.

Councilman Buonanno stated that he has been Chair of many meetings in his life and respect is a two way street. He advised the applicants to let their attorney speak next time. He stated that Councilman Andujar echoed this evening what he stated last month. He suggested that the applicants go to the neighbors and have a meeting. He received correspondence from the neighbors that said they were less than impressed. Also, he had stated last month that if they were going to come on a property that has had issues, they would have to do a little bit of extra work and get all their ducks in a row in order to prove to the Committee that they are serious and ready to go and be respectful of the process. As a licensed real estate agent in the State, if he has a client and they want to sell a building, he lets the buyer in the building. The Fire Marshall wants to go in the building, and if he wants to sell that building, he would advise his client to 'let them look'. So, it is on that seller to allow whatever needs to happen for you to buy the building. The fact that it has not happened yet over three months, it is unacceptable. He encouraged the Committee to vote to continue and that the applicants should be thankful for not voting to deny. If he had a vote on this Committee, he would vote to deny because this is ridiculous.

Roll call was taken on motion to continue all three license applications and motion passed unanimously.

C. NEW CLASS BV LIQUOR LICENSE *(Cont'd from 3/3/25)*

1. **Laham Cranston, Inc. d/b/a El Laham Restaurant** located at 91 Rolfe Sq.; Hanna Kosseifi
Hours: Mon-Sat 12pm-1am

OVER CAP AND REQUIRES FULL COUNCIL APPROVAL

***Received request from Atty McHugh to cont to June 2, 2025 hearing**

Discussed and voted on with the Class BV Liquor License application earlier in the meeting.

D. VICTUALING LICENSE- NEW *(Cont'd from 3/3/25)*

1. **Angkor Boba Café** located at 743 Reservoir Ave.
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10am-7:30pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

- RI Dept of Health License
- Certificate of Occupancy (per zoning certificate)

No one from the establishment appeared to speak.

Franklin Paulino, Director of Economic Development, appeared to speak and stated that

he has been working with this business. The business owner is still working with the Building Inspections Department and asked for a continuance.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted **to continue this license application**. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Laham Cranston, Inc. d/b/a El Laham Restaurant** located at 91 Rolfe Sq.
Hours Mon-Sat 12pm-1am
Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk
 - RI Dept of Health License

Discussed and voted on with the Class BV Liquor License application earlier in the meeting.

3. **Seven Stars Bakery** located at 1740 Broad St.; Tracy Daugherty
Hours: Mon-Sun 6:30am-6pm
Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk
 - RI Dept of Health License
 - Certificate of Occupancy

Franklin Paulino, Director of Economic Development, appeared to speak and stated that he has been working with this business for the last two months. They have met all the requirements. Today they received their Temporary Certificate of Occupancy and they have uploaded the document on the portal.

Karen Norijian, Director of Retail, appeared to speak and stated that the Health approval was received Friday and CO today and they uploaded them today at 4 p.m.

Solicitor stated that the applicant has produced copies of those documents and he will hand them to the Clerk and asked for a motion to accept them into the record.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Graziano, it was voted to accept documents provided by Solicitor from the applicant into the record. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve this license application. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

A. HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE

1. **Autozone Parts, Inc. d/b/a Autozone #5132** located at 777 Cranston St.
Hours: Sun-Sat 8am-9pm

No one from the establishment appeared to speak.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve this license application. Motion passed unanimously.

B. INDOOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE

1. ***Equis Restaurant & Lounge, LLC*** located at 355 Dyer Ave.; Peter Petrarca, Esq.
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11am-1am

Discussed and voted on with the Class BV Liquor License application earlier in the meeting.

C. VICTUALING LICENSE

1. ***401 WingZ, Inc.*** located at 800 Oaklawn Ave. Suite C3; Kenneth Gouchie
Hours: Sunday-Saturday 11am-9pm

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve this license application.

Under Discussion:

Kenneth Gouchie appeared to speak,

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve this license application. Motion passed unanimously.

2. ***Equis Restaurant & Lounge, LLC*** located at 355 Dyer Ave.; Peter Petrarca, Esq.
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11am-1am

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

- **RI Dept of Health License**

Discussed and voted on with the Class BV Liquor License application earlier in the meeting.

3. ***Olneyville Opco, LLC d/b/a Olneyville New York System*** located at 1012 Reservoir Ave.
Matthew Lyons, Esq.
Hours: Mon-Sat 11am-11pm; Sun 11am-8pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

- **RI Dept of Health License**

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve this license application subject to receipt of Health Department Certificate.

Under Discussion:

Matthew Lyons, Esq., appeared to represent the applicant and stated that they do not have a date for the Health Department inspections, but all the paperwork has been submitted.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion passed unanimously.

4. ***Sav Store 280, LLC*** located at 280 Atwood Ave.; Aditya Dhandhanian

Hours: Mon-Sun 6am-11pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

- RI Dept of Health License

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve this license application.

Under Discussion:

Chair asked applicant if the Health Department inspection has been scheduled.

Aditya Dhandhanian appeared to speak and stated that the closing will be occurring soon. He does not have the inspection scheduled yet. They have submitted the paperwork and is expecting that he will hear back as soon as this week or sometime early next week.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion passed unanimously.

D. MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT (*Votes may be taken to ratify the action*)

1. Alison's Wonderland, LLC- MFE 1370

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Council President Marino, it was voted to ratify the action. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Slater Perk Café- MFE- 1257

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to ratify the action. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. LICENSE RENEWALS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

A. AUTO BODY LICENSE

1. American Auto Body & Collision located at 1006 Cranston St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

2. Arlington Auto Body located at 1211 Cranston St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

3. Autosport Sales & Collision, Inc. located at 640 Atwood Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm

4. Centry Auto Body located at 510 Atwood Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

5. Fletcher Auto Body located at 162 Fletcher Ave.

Hours: 162 Fletcher Ave.

6. JELP Holdings, LLC d/b/a Delta Auto Body located at 1398 Park Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sat 8am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-State Auto Body License

7. Mike's Collision located at 222 Warwick Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

8. Passport Autobody, Inc. located at 55 Budlong Rd.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

9. Ultra Motor Car, Inc. d/b/a Fleet Auto Body located at 446 Dyer Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

10. Ultra Motor Car, Inc. d/b/a Gershkoff Auto Body located at 1085 Cranston St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Ritz, it was voted to take all the above license renewals as a block except for #6. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Council President Marino, it was voted to approve all the above license renewals as a block except for #6. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council President Marino, seconded by Council Vice-President Wall, it was voted to **continue #6**. Motion passed unanimously.

B. AUTO REPAIR LICENSE (*Vote to be taken*)

1. Airport Auto Radiator, Inc. d/b/a Ranaldi Motors located at 598 Atwood Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

2. American Auto Body & Collision located at 1006 Cranston St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

3. American Performance Petroleum located at 964 Cranston St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

4. Arlington Auto Body located at 1211 Cranston St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

5. Autosport Sales & Collision, Inc. located at 640 Atwood Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

6. Bless Auto Repair, LLC located at 11 East Josephine St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 8am-2pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

7. Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC d/b/a Firestone located at 721 Reservoir Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-7pm, Sat 7am-6pm, Sun 9am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

8. CB Truck Tire Service located at 71 Glen Rd.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-3pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

9. **Clarks Auto Repair** located at 364 Wellington Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-6pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

-2024-2025 license still pending; need fire inspection

10. **Conti's Service** located at 226 Warwick Ave.

Hours: Mon-Thurs 5:30am-4pm, Fri 5:30am-2pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

11. **Cranston Auto Ignition** located at 1152 Park Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

12. **D&M Tyre Sales, Inc.** located at 50 Libera St.

Hours: Mon-Sat 7:30am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

13. **Ercilios Electro Auto** located at 173 Niantic Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-6pm, Sat 8:30am-12pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

14. **Fletcher Auto Body** located at 162 Fletcher Ave.

Hours: 162 Fletcher Ave.

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

15. **Interstate Auto Repair** located at 1163 Cranston St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-1:30pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

16. **Interstate Repair Service** located at 1400 Cranston St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

17. **JELP Holdings, LLC d/b/a Delta Auto Body** located at 1398 Park Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sat 8am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

18. **Knightsville Service Center** located at 1487 Park Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sat 8am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

19. **Midas Auto Service** located at 525 Reservoir Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:30pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

20. **Mike's Collision** located at 222 Warwick Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

21. **Miracle Auto Sales** located at 580 Reservoir Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

22. **Oaklawn Auto Service** located at 975 Oaklawn Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sat 6am-11pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

23. **Passport Automotive Group, Inc.** located at 85 Budlong Rd.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

24. **Pontiac Service Center** located at 734 Pontiac Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm; Sat 8am-2pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

25. **Power Products** located at 1 Southern Industrial Dr.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

26. **Safeway Oil Change & Automotive Services** located at 380 Atwood Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

27. **Tasca Automotive Group, LLC** located at 1300 Pontiac Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sun 7am-9pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

28. **Tony's Auto Clinic** located at 1769 Cranston St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

29. **Ultra Motor Car, Inc. d/b/a Fleet Auto Body** located at 446 Dyer Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

30. **Ultra Motor Car, Inc. d/b/a Gershkoff Auto Body** located at 1085 Cranston St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

31. **Volare Motors, LLC** located at 1003 Park Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

32. **Woodward's Auto Spring Shop, Inc.** located at 8 Cutting Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-12pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Fire Inspection

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Council President Marino, it was voted to take all the above license renewals as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair asked for explanation since all these license applications need fire inspection. Suggested that they all be continued as a block.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Council President Marino, it was voted to **continue all the above license renewals** as a block.

Under Discussion:

Armand Niquette, Fire Marshall for the City of Cranston, appeared to speak and stated as of now, 46 automotive licenses are in and the Committee will be seeing blocks of them coming in with the inspections done. We have gone through probably a third of them at least already, and they may be minor things that they need to correct, such as needing fire extinguishers inspected, but they will not sign off on it until they get them done. Once they get done, you will be seeing more blocks come in that do not need it. The licenses are due July 1st and they are just getting the renewal in early incase they have corrections they need to make.

Roll call was taken on motion to continue all the above license renewal applications as a block and motion passed unanimously.

C. HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE (*Vote to be taken*)

1. **Aaron's** located at 460 Reservoir Ave.

Hours: Mon-Thurs 10am-7pm, Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am-6pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-2024-2025 license has not been issued; never received RI Retail Sales Permit

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to deny this license renewals application. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair asked for letter to go out to the business advising them of the denial and reason for it.

2. **Francesca's Collections, Inc.** located at 37 Hillside Rd.

Hours: Mon-Sun 10am-8pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-Clearance on City Taxes

-2024-2025 license has not been issued; never received RI Retail Sales Permit

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to deny this license renewals application. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3. *Plaza Liquors, Inc d/b/a Plaza Liquors*** located at 212 Garfield Ave.
Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-10pm, Sun 10am-6pm

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve this license renewals application. Motion passed unanimously.

- 4. *Rhode Island Wine & Spirits, Inc. d/b/a Heritage Liquor Superstore*** located at 529 Reservoir Ave.
Hours: Sunday 10am-6pm, Mon-Sat 9am-10pm

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve this license renewals application. Motion passed unanimously.

D. USED AUTO DEALER LICENSE

- 1. *Airport Auto Radiator, Inc. d/b/a Ranaldi Motors*** located at 598 Atwood Ave.
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

- 2. *American Auto Body & Auto Sales*** located at 448 Dyer Ave.
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

- 3. *American Auto Body & Collision*** located at 1006 Cranston St.
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

- 4. *Auto Mart, Inc.*** located at 1108 Park Ave.
Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-3pm

- 5. *Autosport Sales & Collision, Inc.*** located at 640 Atwood Ave.
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm

- 6. *Cranston Auto Ignition*** located at 1152 Park Ave.
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-RI DMV Used Auto Dealer License

- 7. *Interstate Repair Service*** located at 1400 Cranston St.
Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-RI DMV Used Auto Dealer License

- 8. *JELP Holdings, LLC d/b/a Delta Auto Body*** located at 1398 Park Ave.
Hours: Mon-Sat 8am-5pm

Outstanding items required prior to issuance of license by City Clerk

-RI DMV Used Auto Dealer License

- 9. *Miracle Auto Sales*** located at 580 Reservoir Ave.
Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

- 10. *Moretti's Auto Sales*** located at 510 Atwood Ave.
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

- 11. *Passport Automotive Group, Inc.*** located at 85 Budlong Rd.
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

- 12. *R&A Auto Sales, LLC*** located at 1171-1173 Park Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-3pm

13. Tasca Automotive Group, LLC located at 1300 Pontiac Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sun 7am-9pm

14. Ultra Motor Car, Inc. d/b/a Gershkoff Auto Sales located at 1085 Cranston St.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

15. Volare Motors, LLC located at 1003 Park Ave.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Council President Marino, it was voted to take all the above license renewals as a block except for #6, 7 & 8. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Council President Marino, it was voted to approve all the above license renewals as a block except for #6, 7 & 8. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to **continue #6, 7 & 8**. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair asked that letter be sent to the three businesses that were continued indicating that their license application was continued and if they do not comply, a Cease and Desist will be issued.

A. MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT (*Votes may be taken to ratify the action*)

1. Angkor Boba Tea House- MFE1003

2. Atomic Blonde Ice Cream- MFE 553

3. Cigar World- MFE 1248

4. Griddle Me This- MFE 1238

5. Maria Maria Coffee Bar- MFE 1152

6. Sweet Smokin' Pits BBQ d/b/a Full House Q Barbeque- MFE 1009

7. The Burrito Bowl, LLC- MFE 663

8. Yapa, LLC d/b/a Tolia Food Truck- MFE 116

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to take all the above license renewals as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Council President Marino, it was voted to ratify all the above license renewals as a block. Motion passed unanimously.

X. MONTHLY SCHEDULES (*Votes may be taken to enter lists of events in to record*)

A. RHODES ON THE PAWTUXET

B. PARK THEATRE

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Graziano, it was voted to accept into the record the lists of events for the above two establishments. Motion passed unanimously.

C. CRANSTON STADIUM *(no schedule received at time of posting)*

No action needed.

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

A. DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITATION PERMIT

1. Bryce Nicoll with Aptive Environmental
2. Alyssa Stone with Aptive Environmental
3. Annalee Magelsen with Aptive Environmental
4. Brodie Downing with Aptive Environmental
5. Eliot Watkin with Aptive Environmental
6. Ethan Glass with Aptive Environmental
7. Ethan Pribyl with Aptive Environmental
8. Jeremiah Thomas with Aptive Environmental
9. Logan Cole with Aptive Environmental
10. Logan Taylor with Aptive Environmental
11. Mesa Brooksby with Aptive Environmental
12. Albert Warzocha with Aptive Environmental
13. Nicholas Hansen with Aptive Environmental
14. Slade Bowen with Aptive Environmental
15. Tevita Taukeiaho with Aptive Environmental
16. Tyson Mcomber with Aptive Environmental
17. Joshua Miles with Aptive Environmental
18. Sydnee Hansen with Aptive Environmental
19. Roxanne Davis with Aptive Environmental
20. Ashton Hollister with Aptive Environmental
21. Canon Jenson with Aptive Environmental

No action needed.

XII. LICENSES APPROVED “SUBJECT TO”/NOT YET ISSUED

Chair stated that it is concerning to her that some of these businesses are operating without a fire inspection and have been quite some time without City taxes, fees and retail permits. Cease and Desist was delivered to one of them in December. She asked Solicitor for guidance on this.

Solicitor stated that as he stated on many prior occasions over the years, it is all well and good to take votes and to issue licenses subject to, but it is another thing to enforce the action. Our Ordinances do not contain any type of strong enforcement authority. What we have done in the past in egregious cases is go to Superior Court because as of right now, that is the only effective alternative that is open to us. There is State Statutory Law which specifically is designed to assist the Cities and Towns in enforcing their licensing and their Zoning Laws, but you have to invoke the jurisdiction of the Superior Court and that is not a small task and it is

because we do not have an effective enforcement mechanism under our Ordinances. The decision making is above his pay grade and above his authority. He would have to receive the authority to go to Court and take further actions.

Councilwoman Graziano stated that one of these businesses is in her Ward and is closed, Rainbow Water.

Chair asked how a business comes off this list if they are no longer in business. Clerk stated that there are times when a business will notify the Office that they are no longer in business. Most of the time, we do not know until someone brings it to our attention.

Chair stated that she knows of two businesses herself and another Council Member, actually went to eat there recently and did not know they were still on this list. Should letters be sent to them again? They have been notified numerous times. Solicitor stated that that is a hard question to answer. As he stated, if it is an egregious case, we can take further action. The problem is there are many and we need a comprehensive approach. Just to approach one or two of them is not going to get the job done. He can send more Cease and Desist letters, but they ignore them.

Chair stated that she met with Solicitor Millea last Monday to ask for help with Ordinances so we have something in place for businesses operating without a license. She was hoping he reached out to Solicitor Verdecchia and that something is in the plans.

Attorney Angell stated that this is not unique to Cranston in terms of the enforcement issue. We need a local enforcement mechanism as Solicitor Verdecchia stated that draws upon State Law but empowers local enforcement. Without that, you do not have, as a Committee, an efficient way to root out those who are either out of business or out of compliance. It is a rather extensive list. The Administration has to come up with an approach to this that empowers this Committee or some other arm of the City to clean up this list in a cost effective way.

Franklin Paulino, Director of Economic Development, appeared to speak and stated that his department knows a lot of these businesses. He is more than willing to go out and talk to those businesses to get them update. He can work with the Business Clerk to make sure that those businesses are complying and his department is there to help. Solicitor Verdecchia stated that this is certainly appreciated, but from a legal standpoint, unfortunately, we do not have a position of Compliance Officer, so Franklin would not have the authority to tell people that they need to comply or else they are going to be shut down. As Director of Economic Development, he can certainly remind people, but that is as far as it can go. He can't act as a Code Enforcement person or even a Compliance Officer. A friendly reminder is probably about all he can do and he does not know how effective that would be.

Council President Marino suggested that Mr. Paulino go through this list and see who is actually in business and who is not in business and that might remove some of these from this list.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees \