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 2 CITY OF MILWAUKEE  
 3 LICENSES COMMITTEE  
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 5 In the Matter of the Class "A" LIQUOR & MALT  
 6 Application as agent for:  
 7 "STARK FOOD MARKET"  
 8 CHARNJIT KAUR  
 9 1301 West Atkinson Avenue  
 10 \*\*\*\*\*  
 11 COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
 12 ALD. JAMES WITKOWIAK, Chair.  
 13 ALD. JAMES BOHL - Vice Chair  
 14 ALD. ROBERT PUENTE  
 15 ALD. JOSEPH DUDZIK  
 16 ALD. WILLIE WADE  
 17 LICENSING DIVISION by REBECCA GRILL  
 18 POLICE DEPARTMENT by P.O. CHET ULICKEY  
 19 OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY by ATTORNEY BRUCE SCHRAMPF  
 20 Proceedings had and testimony given in  
 21 the above-entitled matter, before the LICENSES  
 22 COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE, on  
 the 13th day of February, 2007.  
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 1 could be denied because of items contained on the  
 2 police report and neighborhood objections to  
 3 loitering, littering, prostitution, drug and  
 4 criminal activity, trespassing, public  
 5 intoxication, and conduct which is detrimental to  
 6 the health, safety and welfare of the  
 7 neighborhood? Did you receive such a notice?  
 8 THE APPLICANT: Yes.  
 9 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you. Health  
 10 Department?  
 11 HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Health Department  
 12 has no objection.  
 13 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Neighborhood  
 14 Services.  
 15 DNS: No objections.  
 16 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Sergeant, could we  
 17 hear the police report, please?  
 18 SERGEANT ULICKEY: On 1/8 of '05 at  
 19 5:32 p.m. police officers conducted a license  
 20 premise check at Stark Food Market, 1301 West  
 21 Atkinson. They observed a video recording  
 22 machine, attached to the security camera for  
 23 recording, not working and no tape in the  
 24 machine. Also observed there were numerous snack  
 25 items for individual sale that were not meant for

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 1 P R O C E E D I N G S  
 2 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: In the Sixth  
 3 District, Charnjit Kaur, Class "A" Liquor & Malt  
 4 application for "Stark Food Market" at 1301 West  
 5 Atkinson.  
 6 Good morning.  
 7 MR. LERNER: Good morning, Maistelman &  
 8 Associates, Attorney Matthew D. Lerner appears on  
 9 behalf of the applicant, who appears in person,  
 10 as well.  
 11 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And could you - -  
 12 Could you raise your right hands, both of you,  
 13 and we'll swear you in?  
 14 (Whereupon those present were sworn.)  
 15 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And, ma'am, your  
 16 name and address. Pull that microphone towards  
 17 yourself, so we can - -  
 18 THE APPLICANT: It's Charnjit Kaur, and  
 19 address 1301 West Atkinson from Stark Food  
 20 Market. Charnjit, last name, Kaur. Address - -  
 21 address is 1301 W. Atkinson.  
 22 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Alderman McGee  
 23 also appears in this matter. Good morning.  
 24 Do you admit to receiving a notice in  
 25 the mail there's a possibility your application

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 1 individual sale. Licensee was issued citations  
 2 for packaged foods - - packaged food items to be  
 3 marked and convenience store regulations as they  
 4 relate to security cameras. She was found guilty  
 5 on both. Received a 313 dollar fine on the first  
 6 item, and a suspended second - - sentence on the  
 7 second.  
 8 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Do you have any  
 9 questions about the police report?  
 10 MR. LERNER: No questions.  
 11 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Have those - -  
 12 Have - - Have these problems been addressed?  
 13 MR. LERNER: Yes.  
 14 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: So you walk in the  
 15 store at any time now and - - and the camera is  
 16 operating properly and - -  
 17 THE APPLICANT: Yes.  
 18 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. And you  
 19 don't have individual items for sale that are not  
 20 meant to be sold that way?  
 21 THE APPLICANT: No, sir.  
 22 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Can I see a  
 23 show of hands? Is there anyone here to testify  
 24 relative to 1301 West Atkinson? Anyone in the  
 25 audience here to testify relative to 1301 West

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1 Atkinson? Could you come forward, please. We'll  
2 -- We'll need your testimony. You -- You,  
3 also, if you could. Sir. Just come sit up in  
4 the front row, because we'll call on you for a  
5 minute. It's just the two of you. Is there  
6 anyone else here to testify? One more time. Is  
7 there anyone else here to testify? Okay. All  
8 come to the front row, please.

9 Now everyone that's going to testify in  
10 this, please raise your right hands. Raise your  
11 right hands. I'm going to swear you all in at  
12 the same time.

13 (Whereupon those witnesses present were  
14 sworn.)

15 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: I want to ask all  
16 of you that are here to testify, is there anyone  
17 here to testify in opposition? Is there anybody  
18 that is opposed to this license being renewed?  
19 Who is here to testify in favor of this license?  
20 Okay. Then what I just want is just briefly, I  
21 want your name and address for the record, and  
22 then a short statement, each one of you, please.

23 THE WITNESS: Good morning to the  
24 committee. My name is Ron Love. I live at 3935  
25 North 15th Street. And I'm just going to give a

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1 there's not a big gang or crowd of riff-raff, or  
2 whatever, hanging out.

3 And finally, the -- the laundromat,  
4 there's a -- this is a much needed commodity in  
5 the neighborhood in the sense that the closest  
6 laundromats from the area would be like maybe 4th  
7 and Keefe, and maybe another one on 27th and  
8 Capitol. Neither would be in walking distance,  
9 you know, and this -- this will serve a lot of  
10 people. Also, there's going to be a security  
11 guard for the new complex, you know. So I think  
12 it's just a big improvement for the area, a big  
13 improvement for the neighborhood, and I support  
14 it.

15 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: All right. If I  
16 could just ask you a question. Is this -- Is  
17 there a new building going up here? Is that what  
18 it is?

19 THE WITNESS: It's going to be --  
20 Yeah. A small mall, yeah.

21 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And this -- This  
22 was an existing business in an old building that  
23 was -- that was there.

24 THE WITNESS: There were vacant  
25 buildings there, you know, and she tore them down

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1 real short testimony relating to this license for  
2 the new food store, or the new food mall and  
3 complex going up on 13th and Atkinson. And  
4 there's going to be that this is more than just a  
5 -- like a liquor license. This is going to be a  
6 laundromat. We're going to have a dry-cleaners  
7 in that block. And we're going to have three  
8 brand new shops, you know, for entrepreneurs to  
9 operate businesses out of. And that's good for  
10 the area, you know, it's -- it's not only  
11 stabilizing the area, but it's improving that  
12 area. And it needs it bad.

13 What I know personally about Charnjit  
14 Kaur is that Starks Foods never quit that area,  
15 even when it got a little bad, all right. As a  
16 matter of fact, even when it got to the point  
17 that all the other businesses shut down, both  
18 sides of Atkinson, they stuck it out. And I  
19 think they're dedicated to the neighborhood.  
20 They're dedicated to the people in that area, and  
21 they've always treated people that I've seen with  
22 a lot of respect when they come to that store. I  
23 think that's why they're so well liked in the  
24 area. You don't have a lot of hassles outside  
25 the store. You know, you can walk in there, and

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1 and she's building up.

2 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Thank you.  
3 Any questions of this witness? No. Thank you,  
4 Ron. Next person, please, to testify. Just come  
5 -- Yeah, if you want, you can just go to that  
6 standing microphone there. Just give your name  
7 and address and a short statement. We'll be glad  
8 to put you on TV.

9 THE WITNESS: Hello. I'm Terrance Lee.  
10 I'm a resident at 3624 North 13th Street. I'm --  
11 -- The person right there, every time I go to her  
12 store she show me respect. You know what I'm  
13 saying? Kind, kind to everyone. You know what  
14 I'm saying? Everyone in the neighborhood like  
15 and respect her. I'm -- Up to me -- But I  
16 think, you know what I'm saying, she should keep  
17 it. You know what I'm saying?

18 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Thank you,  
19 Terrance. Next person, please.

20 THE WITNESS: My name is Charles  
21 Harley. 1235 West Atkinson. I've been buying  
22 food from there for the last seven, eight years,  
23 and I do stand approval of her license and this  
24 building going up. I approve for her very much.

25 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you,

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1 Charles. Next person to testify, please.  
2 THE WITNESS: My name is GERALYN  
3 Wilder, 3419 North - - North 15th. And I've been  
4 going to the store about two, three years. She  
5 has the coldest beer in the neighborhood.

6 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: We'll all be  
7 shopping there in August. Thank you for your  
8 testimony.

9 THE WITNESS: Hi. My name is Melinda  
10 Tubbs. I stay at 1235 West Atkinson. I've been  
11 there almost 20 some years. We had a grocery  
12 store once upon a time across from them. I do  
13 approve.

14 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Thank you  
15 very much.

16 THE WITNESS: My name is - - My name is  
17 George R. Johnson. I stay at 1235 West Atkinson.  
18 As far as the store being given a license, I  
19 approve of it. I think that the new complex  
20 that's going to be built is going to be a great  
21 asset to the community, as far as, you know,  
22 giving things that are needed as far as jobs, as  
23 far as the services that are going to be offered.  
24 So as far as I'm concerned, it should be  
25 approved. Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you, George.  
2 Next person.

3 THE WITNESS: My name is Kenneth  
4 McDaniel, 3905 North 13th. I've been going to  
5 Stark's for years. I never had a problem with  
6 her, and I approve of her license.

7 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you,  
8 Kenneth. Okay. Anyone further? I want to thank  
9 you all for coming down. I appreciate your  
10 testimony. Alderman McGee?

11 ALDERMAN MCGEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair  
12 and committee members. Good morning. It's a  
13 pretty early morning for testimony, and you have  
14 to give credit to the individuals who came from  
15 the neighborhood who really care about this store  
16 apparently, because it's hard to get people to  
17 come down when the hearing is at one in the  
18 afternoon.

19 But I - - I definitely - - You won't  
20 hear from me often actually supporting a new  
21 license, but in this case this is a rare instance  
22 where the business owner has actually stayed in  
23 the neighborhood and, also, has given to the  
24 community in reference to not exploiting, you  
25 know, the issues in the community with the

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1 drinking and the - - and the different drug  
2 addictions that - - that plague our community.  
3 We're in the area where, you know, this was noted  
4 for certain negative behaviors.

5 This is approximately a two million  
6 dollar development that's going up in the middle  
7 of the central city, which you hardly see that,  
8 and you all have been around for quite awhile.  
9 You don't hear about a lot of developments that  
10 did require City assistance, and yet, I have to,  
11 you know, take my hat off to Ms. Kaur in  
12 reference to her commitment to the neighborhood.  
13 And not only will there be jobs created, I'm  
14 thinking there will be 20 jobs created, but there  
15 also - - We had a business proposal contest which  
16 is, you know, unprecedented, and I challenge all  
17 you aldermen to hold those who are interested in  
18 developing in the community that you serve to the  
19 challenge of - - of having a possible business  
20 proposal contest where, you know, residents in  
21 the neighborhood can also be empowered and not  
22 just work for someone, but also, build wealth of  
23 their own in the neighborhood. And so we had a  
24 business proposal contest, and there are 50  
25 entries, and the winner actually is going to be

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1 announced next week. And if - - And they were  
2 the top three for, I think, it's 800 square feet  
3 of space, 800 to 1,000 square feet of space where  
4 the winner would actually - - will win a year of  
5 free rent, and also with no utilities, and also,  
6 40,000 dollars from the local Business  
7 Improvement District of technical assistance.

8 So the winner actually ended up being a  
9 young lady that is going to - - She's going to  
10 operate a temporary business service, temporary  
11 job placement service. And the other top two  
12 were, one was a diab - - diabetic clinic, and  
13 it was a - - a franchise, actually, that sold  
14 diab - - diabetic products. And then a third  
15 person was - - in the top three was a computer  
16 repair shop. So I - - I think the person that  
17 had the temporary job placement agency had more  
18 upside and also potential.

19 So that's - - That's just one of the  
20 aspects of - - of what is being brought to the  
21 table in this new development. Then, also,  
22 there's a substantial amount of minority  
23 contractors working on the project, actually  
24 general contractors, a minority person, which is  
25 very rare in the City. So I have to, you know,

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1 give hats-off to Ms. Kaur and her ability to be a  
 2 stakeholder and give back to the community that  
 3 she's serving. So I - - I would definitely  
 4 approve of - - of her expansion. It's going to  
 5 be a two phase project from what I gather, and  
 6 her store is going to be expanded to - - to  
 7 bigger than what it is now in the second phase.  
 8 And that's what this license would be - - this  
 9 license application would be approving, the  
 10 second phase of the project.  
 11 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you,  
 12 Alderman. Any questions by members of the  
 13 committee? Any comments from the applicant?  
 14 MR. LERNER: No comments.  
 15 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Matter is  
 16 in committee.  
 17 ALDERMAN DUDZIK: Move approval.  
 18 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Motion by Alderman  
 19 Dudzik is to recommend approval, despite items  
 20 contained on the notice. Are there any  
 21 objections to that motion? Hearing none, so  
 22 ordered. Good luck with everything and thank you  
 23 for your commitment and your investment.  
 24 ALDERMAN WADE: Mr. Chair. Excuse me.  
 25 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Alderman Wade.

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 3 STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 4 )  
 5 MILWAUKEE COUNTY )  
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 7 I, JEAN M. BARINA, of Milwaukee Reporters  
 8 Associated, Inc., 5124 West Blue Mound Road,  
 9 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208, certify that the foregoing  
 10 proceedings is a full and complete transcript of  
 11 "Stark Food Market" taken in the foregoing  
 12 proceedings.  
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JEAN M. BARINA  
 Court Reporter

Dated this        day of February, 2010.

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1 ALDERMAN WADE: Thank you. I just  
 2 wanted to congratulate you, because when I first  
 3 got elected, you and I worked together a lot on  
 4 this project. And you - - you stuck in there  
 5 through a lot of turmoil. So I just want to  
 6 congratulate you for - - for persevering and - -  
 7 and finally getting to the point where you could  
 8 get what you know is needed in your neighborhood.  
 9 THE APPLICANT: Thank you very much.  
 10 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you.  
 11 \* \* \* \*