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CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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UTILITIES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

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In the Matter of:

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WHITE, James C., Class B Tavern and Tavern Dance renewal
applications for "J & J's Tap" at 1727-33 West Atkinson
Avenue.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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ALD. JAMES WITKOWIAK - Chairman

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Ald. James Bohl, Jr. - Vice Chair

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Ald. Joseph A. Dudzik

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Ald. Robert Puente

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Ald. Willie Wade

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DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES by PANDORA BENDER

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT by KEVIN HULBERT

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LICENSING DIVISION by JAMES COPELAND

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POLICE DEPARTMENT by SERGEANT JOHN HOGAN

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OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY by BRUCE SCHRIMPF

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Proceedings had and testimony given in
the above-entitled matter, before the UTILITIES &
LICENSING COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE, on
the 11th day of May, 2004, reported by Donna
Gulczynski of Milwaukee Reporters Associated, Inc.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (NOTE: All City Personnel Were Sworn Under
3 Oath Prior to These Proceedings.)

4 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: In the 6th District,
5 James C. White, Class B Tavern and Tavern Dance
6 renewal applications for J & J's Tap at 1727-1733 West
7 Atkinson Avenue.

8 MR. COPELAND: Mr. Chair, this item can also
9 be scheduled on June 1st.

10 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Can you state your
11 appearance, please?

12 MR. TORAN: Sure. Attorney James Toran
13 appearing on behalf of James C. White, who appears in
14 person.

15 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Sir, could you
16 raise your right hand and be sworn in.

17 (Whereupon James C. White was sworn under
18 oath.)

19 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: State your name and
20 address for the record, please.

21 MR. WHITE: James C. White, 3618 North 12th
22 Street.

23 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And Alderman McGee is
24 requesting that this matter be held until the next
25 meeting?

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1 ALDERMAN MCGEE: Yes, I am.

2 MR. TORAN: There are at least five citizens
3 who have sat here for four and a half hours. I
4 understand he had some people he said appeared and
5 left. We have people here that appeared and stayed.
6 Why couldn't they be heard today?

7 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Can we take that
8 testimony, and then use it as part of the next
9 hearing?

10 MR. SCHRIMPF: Sure. You have to order a
11 transcript.

12 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: I realize that. How
13 many people are here to testify in this matter? One.
14 Okay. Before you start, can you just raise your right
15 hand and be sworn in, please?

16 (Whereupon Karen Davis was sworn under oath.)

17 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Your name and address
18 for the record, please?

19 MS. DAVIS: Karen Davis, 1731 West Atkinson.

20 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay, Miss Davis, are
21 you in favor of the renewal of this license, or are
22 you opposed to the renewal?

23 MS. DAVIS: I'm in favor.

24 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: In favor. Okay. And
25 how close do you live to this establishment?

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1 MS. DAVIS: I live upstairs, and I've been
2 employed there for the past 20 years.

3 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. And this --
4 You've been an employee there for 20 years.

5 MS. DAVIS: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: How long has Mr. White
7 been the licensee?

8 MS. DAVIS: For about that long.

9 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: For about 20 years?

10 MS. DAVIS: Probably over that.

11 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. And briefly give
12 us some testimony as to why you support the renewal of
13 this application.

14 MS. DAVIS: Well, it's like a family tavern,
15 and everybody gets along and stuff, you know. We
16 don't have -- you know, in the past we probably had a
17 little problems, but now everybody thinks it's nice.

18 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay.

19 MR. TORAN: And what she wanted to --

20 MS. DAVIS: -- say, is that I had -- it
21 might have been in the paper, -- I had got for serving
22 underage, but it's still under appeal because it
23 hasn't been to court yet. And I was suspended from
24 work for two weeks. That's enough. Over all the 20
25 years I never ever had a ticket or anything like that.

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1 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Just hold on a second.
2 Does your client admit to receiving notice that
3 there's a possibility the license could be denied
4 because of the police report and neighborhood
5 objections?

6 MR. TORAN: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Alderman McGee, any
8 questions of this person?

9 ALDERMAN MCGEE: Okay. The question I was
10 going to ask, the person that you served, was that
11 from the incident of 3/31?

12 MS. DAVIS: Yes.

13 ALDERMAN MCGEE: Of this year?

14 MS. DAVIS: Yes.

15 MR. TORAN: And it was an underage police
16 aide?

17 MS. DAVIS: Yes.

18 ALDERMAN MCGEE: In uniform?

19 MS. DAVIS: No, plainclothes.

20 ALDERMAN MCGEE: Plainclothes. Okay.

21 That's all I have to ask.

22 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Questions,
23 comments by committee? Mr. Schrimpf, anything?

24 MR. SCHRIMPF: Well, with the usual warning
25 of one underage.

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1 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you very much.
2 And who else? Raise your right hand, please.
3 (Whereupon Dwight Jones was sworn under
4 oath.)
5 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: State your name and
6 address for the record, please.
7 MR. JONES: Dwight Jones, 3910 North 11th
8 Street.
9 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: 3019 North 11th Street?
10 MR. JONES: 3910 North 11th.
11 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: 3910. Dwight Jones.
12 How close do you live to the premises?
13 MR. JONES: Approximately 13 blocks.
14 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thirteen blocks. And
15 why are you here today?
16 MR. JONES: Well, I'm here in support of the
17 tavern.
18 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. What is your
19 relationship with the applicant or the establishment?
20 MR. JONES: Well, I'm a former employee. I
21 used to do security for him.
22 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. And how long ago
23 did you leave his employ?
24 MR. JONES: Approximately five years.
25 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Five years. And what

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1 do you do now?

2 MR. JONES: Well, right now I'm doing home
3 remodeling.

4 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: I see. And briefly
5 what is your testimony? What would you like to say?

6 MR. JONES: First of all, I wanted to say
7 that I've been here since 1:30, and I feel like if
8 there was any objections as far as the neighbors
9 complaining, that if it was that important, then they
10 should have made an effort to stay, too.

11 Second of all, I just wanted to say that
12 Mr. White -- I feel that he runs a clean business. He
13 does a lot to help with people in the community, and I
14 feel like really they have no reason to -- we really
15 have no reason to be here today.

16 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Thank you.
17 Alderman, any questions of this witness?

18 ALDERMAN MCGEE: No.

19 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Is there anybody
20 else? Any questions? No? Okay. Anyone else wish to
21 testify here on this matter? Sir, raise your right
22 hand, please.

23 (Whereupon Lawrence Herron was sworn under
24 oath.)

25 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Your name and address

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1 for the record, please.
2 MR. HERRON: Lawrence Herron, 1735 West
3 Atkinson, Apartment 2.
4 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: 1735?
5 MR. HERRON: West Atkinson.
6 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: West Atkinson. How
7 close do you live to the premises?
8 MR. HERRON: Above.
9 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: A block?
10 MR. HERRON: Above.
11 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Oh, above. Okay.
12 There's more than one apartment above the --
13 MR. HERRON: Five.
14 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: There's five
15 apartments. Okay. How long have you lived there?
16 MR. HERRON: Twelve years.
17 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Twelve years. Okay.
18 And you've known this gentleman for all 12 years?
19 MR. HERRON: I've known him before I moved
20 there. When I became disabled, he was the one who
21 gave me a place to live.
22 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Do you also work for
23 him?
24 MR. HERRON: Yes.
25 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: You're an employee.

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1 What do you do there?

2 MR. HERRON: Security, and I'm apprentice
3 bartender.

4 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And give us your
5 testimony. Why are you here in support?

6 MR. HERRON: Basically the same thing. I
7 don't understand. The problem on Atkinson is not at
8 J & J Tap, it's across the street. There's a lot of
9 drug activity, and I mean the police are aware of it.
10 They stand out there all the time. There's nobody
11 loitering in front of the tavern. I make sure of
12 that.

13 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Alderman, questions of
14 this witness?

15 ALDERMAN MCGEE: No. I was going to ask
16 what establishment in particular is across the street.

17 MR. HERRON: There's a four-unit apartment
18 building, 1720 and 1730, and it just recently had a
19 homicide in one of them.

20 ALDERMAN MCGEE: I was also going to ask
21 you, how long have you stayed upstairs?

22 MR. HERRON: About 12 years.

23 ALDERMAN MCGEE: Twelve years.

24 MR. HERRON: So I'm really aware of
25 everything that goes on around there.

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1 ALDERMAN MCGEE: Okay. Has anybody ever
2 died in that establishment in the 12 years you've been
3 there?
4 MR. HERRON: No.
5 ALDERMAN MCGEE: Okay. That's all I have to
6 ask.
7 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Questions by committee?
8 Mr. Schrimpf?
9 MR. SCHRIMPF: Nothing.
10 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you very much.
11 Anyone else here to testify? We made it to four.
12 Okay. Please raise your right hand for us.
13 (Whereupon Veronica Stringer was sworn under
14 oath.)
15 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: State your name and
16 address for the record.
17 MS. STRINGER: Veronica Stringer, 2441 North
18 58th.
19 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: S-t-r-i-n-g-e-r?
20 MS. STRINGER: Uh-hmm.
21 MR. SCHRIMPF: Address?
22 MS. STRINGER: 2441 North 58th.
23 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: What is your -- How
24 close do you live to the establishment?
25 MS. STRINGER: I don't live very close, but

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1 I've been patronizing him for probably the last 20
2 years.

3 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Patron, 20 years. Did
4 you ever work for him?

5 MS. STRINGER: I helped out a bit, you know,
6 when he needed it.

7 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. But you're not a
8 regular employee.

9 MS. STRINGER: No.

10 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And what is your
11 testimony? What would you like to tell the committee
12 here today?

13 MS. STRINGER: Like Larry said, the place --
14 That's not the problem with the neighborhood. They
15 have people across the street that stand out there. I
16 left at 2:00 last night, and they were still standing
17 outside. You know, nobody loiters in front of the
18 tavern. It's just the apartment building next door,
19 across the street, and there's a big one on the corner
20 that's closed. They're in front of that building,
21 too. And people just walk up and down the street. I
22 mean women just walk up and down the street at 2:00 in
23 the morning, 3:00 in the morning, like they're not
24 even scared. I mean I would be scared to walk by
25 myself at that time of the morning. It's not the

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1 tavern, it's just the people in the neighborhood.

2 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Alderman, do you have
3 any questions of this witness?

4 ALDERMAN MCGEE: No.

5 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Questions, comments by
6 committee?

7 MR. SCHRIMPF: Mr. Chairman?

8 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Mr. Schrimpf.

9 MR. SCHRIMPF: Miss Stringer, at 2:00 --
10 You're talking about 2:00 this morning?

11 MS. STRINGER: I was in the bar.

12 MR. SCHRIMPF: Okay. Was it raining when
13 these people were walking outside?

14 MS. STRINGER: It had been raining, but it
15 wasn't raining then.

16 MR. SCHRIMPF: Okay. That's all I have.

17 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you. Anyone else
18 here to testify in this matter? I see we're running
19 out of people.

20 We're going to encapsulate this testimony,
21 and Alderman Puente would move to hold this matter at
22 the call of the chair. We will -- I think we have to
23 schedule it for the next meeting, is that correct,
24 which would be June 1st, and then we'll continue.

25 MR. TORAN: At what time?

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1 MR. COPELAND: We haven't got a time yet.
2 You'll be sent a notice and a copy of the transcript.
3 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Motion by Alderman
4 Puente is to hold this matter at the call of the
5 chair. Hearing no objections, so ordered. Thank you.
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2 STATE OF WISCONSIN)

) ss:

3 MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

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6 I, DONNA GULCZYNSKI, of Milwaukee Reporters
7 Associated, Inc., 5120 West Bluemound Road, Milwaukee,
8 Wisconsin, certify that the foregoing transcript,
9 consisting of pages 2 through 13 inclusive, is a
10 full and complete transcript of the proceedings taken
11 in this cause.

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Donna Gulczynski - Court Reporter

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Dated this day of , 2004

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin

