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CITY OF MILWAUKEE

UTILITIES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

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In the Matter of:

THOMAS, Ice J., Class "B" Tavern application for  
"Grown Folks" at 7200 West Fond du Lac Avenue.

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ald. James Bohl, Jr. - Vice Chairman

Ald. Joseph A. Dudzik

Ald. Robert Puente

Ald. Willie Wade

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES by PANDORA BENDER

HEALTH DEPARTMENT by OSCAR BOND

LICENSING DIVISION by REBECCA BARRON

POLICE DEPARTMENT by SERGEANT JOHN HOGAN

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY by EDWARD EHRLICH

Proceedings had and testimony given in  
the above-entitled matter, before the UTILITIES &  
LICENSING COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE, on  
the 21st day of January, 2005, reported by Donna  
Gulczynski of Milwaukee Reporters Associated, Inc.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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

VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Moving on to the 10:00 agenda, we have Ice Thomas, Class B Tavern application for Grown Folks at 7200 West Fond du Lac Avenue in the 2nd District. Good morning to you.

MR. THOMAS: Good morning.

MR. SCHIRO: Good morning.

VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Thomas, I presume?

MR. THOMAS: Yes.

VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. And you're here represented by?

MR. SCHIRO: John Schiro, S-c-h-i-r-o. There are two other people who could possibly give testimony, and I have them near the front.

VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: We'll get to them in one moment. What I'll do is is ask Alderman Davis, the applicant, and any others who intend to testify in this matter, -- Can I see a show of hands? So we do have a number of individuals. This is cited for neighborhood objections. We'll ask anybody who wishes to testify in this matter, raise your right hand please, and we'll swear you all in en masse.

(Whereupon all witnesses were sworn under

1 oath.)

2 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: And for Mr. Thomas, I  
3 need to ask you if you acknowledge receiving notice of  
4 today's meeting with the possibility that your  
5 application could be denied.

6 It is cited for a matter contained in the  
7 police report, as well as a neighborhood objection to  
8 loitering, littering, noisy patrons, traffic and  
9 parking problems, devaluation of the property in the  
10 area, concentration of alcohol beverage outlets in the  
11 area, and conduct detrimental to the health, safety  
12 and welfare of the neighborhood.

13 MR. THOMAS: Yes.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Going  
15 around the horn, Health Department?

16 MR. BOND: Health Department needs entry for  
17 inspection.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Neighborhood Services?

19 MS. BENDER: Hold for occupancy and orders.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: You'll have to rectify  
21 those issues if you are approved, Mr. Thomas.  
22 Sergeant Hogan?

23 SERGEANT HOGAN: Just one item. On January  
24 the 12th, officers went to the location regarding some  
25 information received that stripper parties were being

1 held there. The officers found no indication that  
2 that had been taking place, found no indication that  
3 the premises had been open for business recently, but  
4 the concern was that the individual that they did talk  
5 to made some statements indicating that perhaps this  
6 is a partnership rather than a sole proprietorship,  
7 and I'll let the counselor take it from there.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Counsel, do you have  
9 any comments or questions related to the police  
10 report? Anything that you can clarify for the  
11 committee at this point?

12 MR. SCHIRO: Your Honor, Mr. Vice Chair.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: I prefer Mr. Chair when  
14 I'm sitting in this seat, but --

15 MR. SCHIRO: The business will actually be  
16 run by Mr. Thomas as well as Cornell Stallworth, who  
17 is referenced in the police report. Mr. Stallworth  
18 is here. He's seated in the front. They have --  
19 Quite frankly, they signed the lease. Did you both  
20 sign the lease?

21 MR. STALLWORTH: Yes.

22 MR. SCHIRO: Yeah, they both signed the  
23 lease. I was not involved in the application, so I  
24 wasn't aware they had one name.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Is this an application

1 as a sole proprietorship? Because if it's a partner-  
2 ship, it should be coming before us as a partnership.

3 MS. BARRON: We have it as an individual  
4 sole proprietorship.

5 MR. SCHIRO: Well, because I came on board  
6 late, it is not clear to me -- You know, they're kind  
7 of working on this informally. Other than the fact  
8 that they're both on the lease, okay, the business is  
9 going to be in Mr. Thomas's name. But quite frankly,  
10 that's a little bit separate from the fact that they  
11 are both financially obligated on the lease. So, I'm  
12 not certain how they have structured it because they  
13 didn't see me until there became some concerns.

14 I think that the business is going to be  
15 owned by Mr. Thomas, but I think there's some  
16 financial obligations, and they have not worked out  
17 any kind of a partnership agreement or have nothing in  
18 writing, quite frankly, on how they're doing that.  
19 That's something I'll need to explore at some point.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Well, one of the other  
21 reasons why that may be of a concern here before us is  
22 that if there is indeed some type of partnership in  
23 terms of the ownership structure of this facility,  
24 both gentlemen would have to come forward in terms of  
25 providing fingerprints to the police department, would

1 have to have a background check, and if that indeed  
2 was not done, we have an incomplete police report.

3 SERGEANT HOGAN: I, in fact, did look into  
4 Mr. Stallworth's background, and it's rather benign.  
5 I doubt that it would prevent the committee from  
6 approving the license. However, it sounds to me like  
7 it's a partnership in that Mr. Stallworth may have  
8 some financial interest in the operation. To that  
9 effect, I think the application is not correct, and  
10 that it does need to be filed as a partnership.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: And there may be a  
12 problem with us hearing an application where it's not  
13 a proper application. We cannot take -- or bring this  
14 forward and render a decision on an application that  
15 may be problematic in terms of what is indeed before  
16 us.

17 Alderman Davis, do you have any thoughts on  
18 this? I'm assuming that -- Of any of the individuals  
19 who are here to testify in this matter, are there  
20 residents who are here in objection to this license?  
21 One, two, three, four.

22 Alderman Davis, let me just ask Mr. Schiro,  
23 if you want to take a brief moment, we can take the  
24 next matter on our license agenda. If you want to  
25 talk with your client and just see what his intentions

1           may be in terms of wanting to change this and bring  
2           this back forward as a partnership application. It  
3           sounds like that may be more appropriate. And  
4           otherwise there may be some real obstacles.

5                        What I would like to do if nothing else,  
6           though, is hear from the residents who are present.  
7           We could take their testimony, and you could cross-  
8           examine them, because -- I don't know if they're  
9           objecting to this application, or -- If nothing else  
10          is potentially going to change, other than it being a  
11          partnership application, I would hate to have them  
12          already waited and have to bring them back. We could  
13          take their testimony, you could cross-examine them, we  
14          could hold the matter, have the transcripts, and then  
15          revisit it when you do have the proper partnership  
16          application. I mean does that sound acceptable here  
17          at this point?

18                       MR. SCHIRO: Yeah, I agree. The neighbors  
19          that are here should be allowed to be heard now. They  
20          shouldn't have to come back because of a snafu in the  
21          application.

22                       VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Do you want to take a  
23          moment and talk with your client?

24                       MR. SCHIRO: Sure.

25                       VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman, is it

1 appropriate that we just hold this until we get  
2 through the next item, just allow a brief moment?  
3 And I promise you we will hear from your constituents  
4 as soon as we get done with the next item.

5 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Well, you know, they've  
6 been sitting here for some time, Mr. Chair, and I know  
7 that some of them -- We had a community meeting last  
8 night, and they indicated to me how important this  
9 issue was, and I know that some of them have taken off  
10 of work, and they're -- they've come down here with a  
11 financial hardship, so I mean it -- I will, you know,  
12 adhere to what the committee will rule.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: What we'll do is --

14 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Please take into  
15 consideration the constituents who have made sure  
16 that they came down here to testify on behalf of  
17 their community.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: What I'd like to do,  
19 then, rather than take the next item up, we're just  
20 going to take a couple minute recess, and I'll allow  
21 you to speak. We'll take your matter up immediately  
22 afterwards, and that way we can hear from the  
23 neighbors. So we're going to take a brief five-minute  
24 recess.

25 (Recess held.)



1                   VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: We are back in session.  
2                   It is five minutes to 11:00. We have the single  
3                   tavern application of Ice Thomas here before us.  
4                   Mr. Schiro, did you have an opportunity to talk with  
5                   Mr. Thomas and how you want to proceed here?

6                   MR. SCHIRO: I did, Mr. Chairman. It does  
7                   appear that this is going to be a partnership. It  
8                   would be my hope that we could have the committee  
9                   consider the application, and in the event the  
10                  committee would determine that an approval would be  
11                  appropriate, they could go down and amend the  
12                  application right afterwards.

13                  VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Well, unfortunately we  
14                  can't do that because it wasn't properly licensed as  
15                  that, too, and it has to go through the proper  
16                  notification as a new application. All applications  
17                  must be on hand because -- For what period of time?

18                  MS. BARRON: Well, for 14 days with no lease  
19                  objection.

20                  VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: And that would be a new  
21                  application, because we can't summarily just change it  
22                  midstream here. So that's the problem.

23                  What we'll still do is still proceed ahead.  
24                  We'll allow Mr. Thomas and Mr. Stallworth then to go  
25                  in afterwards, and they can immediately, after we're

1 done here, provide the application. I think you have  
2 no objection here at this time to hearing from the  
3 neighbors, and then you can also provide the cross  
4 testimony if that's sufficient.

5 MR. SCHIRO: I have no objection. That's  
6 okay.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. At this point,  
8 Mr. Schiro, what I think would be more appropriate  
9 is, -- unless you deem otherwise, because we will have  
10 the applicant or applicants back at another time, --  
11 they can address the concerns over -- or you can  
12 respond to the concerns over the police report item  
13 at that time, if that's okay.

14 MR. SCHIRO: I agree.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: At this point, Alderman  
16 Davis, before we hear from the residents, is there  
17 anything you want to add at this time?

18 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman  
19 and committee members, a little data. We had two  
20 community meetings on this particular location.  
21 One meeting was on November 24th, the day before  
22 Thanksgiving, with 23 people showing up at that  
23 meeting. And the other meeting was last night,  
24 January 20th, and 17 members of the community showed  
25 up. We also did a postcard survey. With that

1 postcard survey, with the addresses, we had four  
2 residents who approved, 31 residents who opposed.  
3 There were letters in opposition to -- The number of  
4 addresses that did not have any addresses, there were  
5 one to approve and four to oppose. And at this time,  
6 if I may, I'd like to submit this to the committee, if  
7 in fact for verification.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman, why don't we  
9 hold on to that, and I don't feel comfortable because  
10 of the fact that those individuals aren't here. If  
11 Alderman Witkowiak wants to take a different ruling,  
12 we're going to rehear that matter. We've got your  
13 testimony for what it is, and certainly no one is  
14 going to question the credibility of your meetings nor  
15 the veracity of individuals that you represent.

16 I just have a question for you, Alderman  
17 Davis. Was the applicant present at either at one of  
18 those meetings?

19 ALDERMAN DAVIS: The applicant was present  
20 at the November 24th meeting, and part of my testimony  
21 will be based upon what he indicated to the community  
22 on November 24th, when there were 23 residents from  
23 the Wellington Park Neighborhood Association who were  
24 in attendance. There was some specific questions that  
25 was asked of the applicants at that time. They

1 indicated to the residents that Mr. Thomas was going  
2 to be the sole proprietor of this establishment, and  
3 Mr. Stallworth was in attendance and indicated that he  
4 would just be helping out at the location. After  
5 finding out that --

6 MR. SCHIRO: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

7 ALDERMAN DAVIS: And public testimony  
8 will -- Or the residents will testify on that meeting,  
9 also, and I was present at that meeting.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Schiro?

11 MR. SCHIRO: I think the question was  
12 fairly simple, and the answer is we were not notified.  
13 Despite my call to the alderman about the meeting, and  
14 despite the fact that the owners and my clients have  
15 asked to meet with the alderman, we were specifically  
16 not told about the meeting last night. That's the  
17 answer to your question, and I guess I would object to  
18 the alderman continuously providing what he wants to  
19 be testimony, which we really should hold till the  
20 next hearing.

21 I don't have an objection to accommodating  
22 the citizens, but I do object to the alderman  
23 advocating whatever agenda he has today and then doing  
24 it again next time, particularly since some of the  
25 information that he has, he has refused, and told me

1 he would refuse to give to me until he testified  
2 today.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: And I appreciate that,  
4 and it will be duly noted, Mr. Schiro. What I will  
5 say is I just wanted to see if the alderman had any  
6 groundwork to lay before hearing the testimony, and I  
7 think that we gathered he had a couple meetings, and  
8 that's how the residents were made aware of that.

9 MR. SCHIRO: Thank you.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Alderman Davis,  
11 is that sufficient before we go to the residential  
12 testimony here at this time?

13 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Mr. Chair, may I just give  
14 you some more information on that particular meeting?

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Sure.

16 ALDERMAN DAVIS: There was some concerns  
17 about parking in this area. There have been residents  
18 in that area who have lived in that immediate area for  
19 over 30 years prior to the establishment. There were  
20 concerns with parking transitioning into the  
21 residential community.

22 On the maps that we have submitted, there is  
23 a layout of the establishment and also the adjacent  
24 liquor establishment next to it, and what that is  
25 going to depict is how close the residential community

1 is to this particular establishment. And you'll hear  
2 public testimony on how there have been problems with  
3 parking and also traffic patterns within this area.

4 I'm glad that the counsel revealed that he  
5 did approach me, and he approached me in a very  
6 hostile manner before this particular meeting, and I  
7 told him that I was a public official representing my  
8 community, and I was going to give public testimony to  
9 the committee. As you know, Mr. Chairman, and all of  
10 my colleagues, I try to operate above board, and I'm  
11 not going to be pressured, and I'm not going to be --

12 MR. SCHIRO: Mr. Chair.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: One second.

14 ALDERMAN DAVIS: I'm not going to be  
15 pressured, and I'm not going to be intimidated to give  
16 a statement when I'm coming before a committee, which  
17 is a quasi-judicial body. If, in fact, he wants me to  
18 give a statement, then I want a city attorney present  
19 so we do not skew the information that he may try to  
20 deem to use against my constituents.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay.

22 MR. SCHIRO: I would just ask --

23 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Schiro.

24 MR. SCHIRO: If we're going to continue on  
25 this line, then I'm going to object to even listening to

1 the citizens today. I really am trying to accommodate  
2 them, but I don't think this is fair to my clients.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: I will concur here  
4 that what we'll do is we'll move on to the citizen  
5 testimony and leave it there.

6 ALDERMAN DAVIS: That's fine.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Davis, if  
8 it's reasonable to you, I would prefer not to visit  
9 the concentration map at this time and allow you  
10 the opportunity to submit that when we have the  
11 partnership application before us, and then Mr. Schiro  
12 or the applicants can provide any questions they have  
13 related to that material at that time. So what we'll  
14 do is give it back to you. We won't have it entered  
15 in the record. We'll allow you to have an opportunity  
16 to do that. Mr. Schiro, it's a public document. You  
17 can request a copy of that.

18 What we can do at this time here, -- unless  
19 it is not accommodating, and you have a difficulty and  
20 would like to be seated, -- if you are okay with  
21 standing and providing your testimony, what we'd like  
22 to do is get the neighbors to come forward one by one.  
23 You can take the microphone that's here standing. We  
24 need to hear from you your name and your address for  
25 the record. You've all indicated objections. If you

1 could, then, provide your reason or rationale to your  
2 objecting to the license at this location. So one by  
3 one, if you could have each of the residents come  
4 forward here. Good morning to you. Ma'am, if you  
5 could give us your name and address for the record,  
6 please.

7 MS. BOULTON: My name is Cassandra Boulton.  
8 I live at 5111 North 58th Street.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: And I'm sorry. Your  
10 last name was Boulton?

11 MS. BOULTON: Boulton.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: B-o-l-t-o-n?

13 MS. BOULTON: B-o-u-l-t-o-n.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Thank you.

15 Miss Boulton, you were previously sworn?

16 MS. BOULTON: Yes.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Please proceed.

18 MS. BOULTON: I'm opposed to a new  
19 establishment coming into the community as it is now  
20 because I think the community has been very lenient in  
21 allowing establishments to come in as it is, but right  
22 now we have too many taverns, liquor stores, and that  
23 sort. Due to the uprise of violence and traffic and  
24 nuisance within the area, and noise, we do not want  
25 another tavern side by side. We just do not want it.



1 We think that we have enough within the community, and  
2 we just don't want.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Miss Boulton, how far  
4 do you live from the proposed location?

5 MS. BOULTON: Five blocks.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Five blocks. Are there  
7 other questions by committee of Miss Boulton at this  
8 time? Mr. Schiro, is there anything?

9 MR. SCHIRO: No. Thank you, ma'am.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your  
11 time. Next, please. Good morning, sir.

12 MR. RAUCH: I'm not a speaker.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Your name?

14 MR. RAUCH: Ronald Rauch, R-a-u-c-h.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: And Mr. Rauch, your  
16 address, please?

17 MR. RAUCH: 4938 North 74th Street.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Please proceed.

19 MR. RAUCH: Okay. I object to this because  
20 the previous bars they had in there, they brought cars  
21 into the neighborhood, and we've had problems with  
22 them, so we actually don't need another tavern in our  
23 area. We've had too many problems in the past, and we  
24 don't like that.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Rauch, how long

1 have you lived at your address here?

2 MR. RAUCH: Over 30 years.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: And how far would you  
4 say it is from the license location?

5 MR. RAUCH: It's probably about five, six  
6 blocks. Depends on how you want to count it, because  
7 some of the blocks are angle streets.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Angle streets.

9 MR. RAUCH: Yeah.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Now, what type of  
11 establishments were at this license location in the  
12 past?

13 MR. RAUCH: They had trouble with -- I don't  
14 know what the name was. I'm a block captain. In  
15 fact, my wife and I are in charge of the Block Watch  
16 Association, so I get a lot of information from the  
17 block captains, from the neighbors that are on that  
18 street, and I wish most of them were going to show up,  
19 or they said they were going to, but in the past we've  
20 had too many problems.

21 Cars are parked on Medford, and they block  
22 other cars from parking. Even the residents can't  
23 even park in front of their house. And when they quit  
24 the bar at night, they come down and throw bottles  
25 around and cans and other debris. So we don't need

1 another bar. Since that one's been closed down now or  
2 shut down, we've had less problems.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Now, there's more than  
4 one tavern in this immediate vicinity; is that  
5 correct?

6 MR. RAUCH: There's one right next door, I  
7 believe it is. Or two doors down.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: In terms of the  
9 problems, do you have certainty that the problems  
10 originated from this location, or is it a compilation  
11 of the taverns?

12 MR. RAUCH: It could be, but since this  
13 one's been gone, we've got less problems.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Questions?

15 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Mr. Chair.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Puente.

17 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Again, what was in this  
18 location before it closed? Was it another tavern?

19 MR. RAUCH: It was another bar, yes.

20 ALDERMAN PUENTE: And how long was that bar  
21 there?

22 MR. RAUCH: I couldn't tell you.

23 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Approximately more than a  
24 year, less than a year?

25 MR. RAUCH: Yeah.

1 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Maybe two?

2 MR. RAUCH: Two, three years, and a bar  
3 before that, so it's been a bar most of the time. And  
4 we've always had problems since we've had it there.  
5 There's no bar there, and now they want to open up  
6 another bar, so we want to see if we can eliminate --  
7 We don't want any more problems.

8 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Thank you, sir.

9 ALDERMAN WADE: Mr. Chair?

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Wade.

11 ALDERMAN WADE: Sir, I just want to be clear  
12 on this. You have an objection to any bar being in  
13 that location, or this particular bar?

14 MR. RAUCH: Any bar. We don't need any more  
15 bars in there, in our area. We have enough.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Rauch, just a  
17 follow-up. How long has it been in your estimation  
18 since the most recent bar has been closed?

19 MR. RAUCH: I couldn't tell you truthfully.  
20 We have another member here that lives closer, and  
21 they kind of watch.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: I mean has it been  
23 months, or do you think it's been over a year, or can  
24 you even give us a ballpark?

25 MR. RAUCH: I couldn't tell you, but a

1 couple months, I believe.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Miss Barron, do you  
3 have an indication?

4 MS. BARRON: The last license that was  
5 issued expired December 15th, 2003.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: So it's been a little  
7 over a year is what you're saying.

8 ALDERMAN WADE: Mr. Chair.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Wade.

10 ALDERMAN WADE: Just one more question for  
11 you, sir. During your 25, 30 years in this area, have  
12 you experienced more problems from certain  
13 establishments and less from others, or have you  
14 always had a consistent problem with establishments in  
15 that area?

16 MR. RAUCH: We've had mostly problems in  
17 that area because they come from Fond du Lac. There's  
18 hardly any places to park on Fond du Lac, and if they  
19 do, they block traffic. So they come over on Medford  
20 and Ludington, and the neighbors can't even park in  
21 front of their houses.

22 And then when they come out of the bar, then  
23 they leave bottles laying all over on other people's  
24 yards, and they came through the yards, -- this is  
25 previous, -- and they have even urinated in some of

1 the yards or on trees right there.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: So this has been  
3 consistent throughout the whole time, regardless of  
4 what establishment was in this location.

5 MR. RAUCH: Yeah.

6 ALDERMAN WADE: So no peak, no valley. This  
7 is consistently just what happened.

8 MR. RAUCH: Yeah. Mostly we rely on --  
9 Mostly we want to eliminate the traffic, the parking,  
10 and the noise at the end. And I mean we, as a block  
11 watch, we kind of watch that.

12 We had a beer depot there that was up for  
13 grabs -- well, somebody else bought it, and we went  
14 through the whole neighborhood to see if any of the  
15 neighbors would object. We had a couple objections,  
16 but it was mostly because of who they were, all right?  
17 And we just told them we have to give them a chance,  
18 and they're doing good. He got the pornography books  
19 off the shelves, and he's doing good. And we got  
20 block captains and other neighbors watching, and if he  
21 starts dealing with drugs or anything, he's out of  
22 there.

23 ALDERMAN WADE: Well, I appreciate you  
24 coming down here and providing testimony and doing  
25 your job as the block captain.

1 MR. RAUCH: Okay.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Hold on one second.  
3 Miss Bender, do you have any indication as to what  
4 the most recent capacity was at that location?

5 MS. BENDER: 150.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: I'm sorry, 150?

7 MS. BENDER: 150.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: And other questions of  
9 Mr. Rauch?

10 ALDERMAN DUDZIK: Mr. Chair.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Dudzik.

12 ALDERMAN DUDZIK: Sir, did your block watch  
13 group hold a meeting on this topic?

14 MR. RAUCH: Yes. Alderman Davis brought it  
15 up because he brought stuff around, and we've had  
16 cards that we're doing to really find out about this  
17 place for a license, and we when we found that out, --

18 ALDERMAN DUDZIK: I understand that. What  
19 I'm trying to get at is whether you are authorized by  
20 your block watch association to speak on their behalf  
21 against this particular location.

22 MR. RAUCH: No, I'm just down here just  
23 because of that.

24 ALDERMAN DUDZIK: Thank you.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Other questions by

1 committee? Mr. Schiro, any questions?

2 MR. SCHIRO: Just a couple quick ones.

3 Sir, there's apparently a strip club next door to this  
4 location; is that right?

5 MR. RAUCH: There used to be a strip club,  
6 yeah, it got through.

7 MR. SCHIRO: I mean there is --

8 MR. RAUCH: I think so, yeah.

9 MR. SCHIRO: And there's a parking lot  
10 attached to this location; is that right? Are you  
11 aware of that?

12 MR. RAUCH: I don't go over that way because  
13 there's always big problems over that way. I'm six  
14 blocks away, so it doesn't bother me that much, but  
15 since we're the head of the block watch, we hear all  
16 these other people complaining. That's why we got  
17 other people down here that are closer.

18 MR. SCHIRO: So your concerns are what  
19 people told you, not what you know.

20 MR. RAUCH: Well, when you go down there at  
21 night, there are cars parked there on Medford and  
22 Ludington.

23 MR. SCHIRO: But you don't know whether  
24 those people are going to the strip club or someplace  
25 else, correct?



1 MR. RAUCH: We don't know, no.

2 MR. SCHIRO: Thank you. Appreciate you  
3 coming down.

4 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Mr. Chairman?

5 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Davis.

6 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Stargazer's is not a strip  
7 club, and I think the Licensing Division will make  
8 sure that they do hold a cabaret license, but we went  
9 through this before when they got their license  
10 renewed, so counsel needs to make sure that he doesn't  
11 mislead other constituents who may be watching the  
12 Utilities and Licenses Committee. We do not have a  
13 strip club in the 2nd Aldermanic District in that  
14 location.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: I think there may have  
16 been one in the past that went through a new licensing  
17 and holds a cabaret and tavern dance, but may not be a  
18 formal gentleman's club or strip club.

19 MR. SCHIRO: I just looked at the sign.  
20 I've never been in there.

21 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Mr. Chair.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Puente.

23 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Real quick. This  
24 location, is this abutting the freeway?

25 MR. RAUCH: Yeah.

1 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Yeah. Okay.

2 MR. RAUCH: And Fond du Lac is --

3 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Where's the residential --

4 MR. RAUCH: It's right across the road.

5 Actually it's Fond du Lac, and our area --

6 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Because everything on the  
7 north side, from what I remember, is industrial.

8 MR. RAUCH: It would be on the west side of  
9 the expressway. Fond du Lac runs actually parallel,  
10 and --

11 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Parallel to the express-  
12 way, right.

13 MR. RAUCH: And that's where they are.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: I think that these  
15 residents are from an area that runs between 76th --  
16 east of 76th up to --

17 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Well, they already  
18 testified four or five blocks.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: It abuts Fond du Lac  
20 there.

21 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Okay. Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: No other questions by  
23 committee? Thank you. Sir, we'll take you next.  
24 Again, your name and address for the record, please.

25 MR. STOFLET: Lester Stoflet, 7140 West

1 Medford.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Stoflet, if you  
3 could please spell your last name.

4 MR. STOFLET: S-t-o-f-l-e-t.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Please proceed.

6 MR. STOFLET: I live on 7140 West Medford.  
7 I oppose this because we have too many taverns in the  
8 area, liquor stores. Gas stations are selling liquor  
9 or beer or whatever. We feel we don't need any more  
10 of that in that neighborhood.

11 The parking, we have people parking in front  
12 of our house in summertime late at night after bars  
13 close. You got the noise from the people leaving  
14 these bars. Since the last one closed up now, the  
15 place that they are looking to take over, our noise in  
16 the area has subsided at least half of what it used to  
17 be. We ain't finding any more bottles on our lawn.  
18 We even had people laying on our lawn at 3:00 in the  
19 morning, and we don't want it no more.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Stoflet, same  
21 question I asked the previous neighbor, and that is  
22 how close in proximity you are to this location.

23 MR. STOFLET: Probably less than a half a  
24 block.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: So you're very close.

1 And the other question is, you're indicating that  
2 since this -- or are you or are you not indicating  
3 that since this place has been closed, that is when  
4 you've seen a substantial reduction of problems.

5 MR. STOFLET: Yes, since it's been closed.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Questions by committee?

7 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Mr. Chair.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Puente.

9 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Do you recall what was in  
10 there prior, the name of the establishment?

11 MR. STOFLET: T.R. Saloon, I believe it was.  
12 I don't drink, so I don't go in those places.

13 ALDERMAN PUENTE: No, no. Just seeing you  
14 live so close, if you could recall the --

15 MR. STOFLET: Yeah, I believe it was T.R.  
16 Saloon.

17 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Do you remember what it  
18 was before that?

19 MR. STOFLET: Like biker people.

20 ALDERMAN PUENTE: All right. Thank you.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Other questions by  
22 committee? Mr. Schiro, anything from you?

23 MR. SCHIRO: You indicated that when it was  
24 T.R. Saloon, it was kind of a biker bar?

25 MR. STOFLET: Yes.

1 MR. SCHIRO: So you saw a lot of motor-  
2 cycles?

3 MR. STOFLET: Yes.

4 MR. SCHIRO: And obviously they're loud.

5 MR. STOFLET: Well, yeah.

6 MR. SCHIRO: So perhaps if we didn't have  
7 that kind of an establishment, maybe it would be less  
8 noisy.

9 MR. STOFLET: Well, it could be, you know.

10 MR. SCHIRO: Alderman Puente was asking a  
11 question earlier, and that whole east side of the  
12 street, that's all business, correct?

13 MR. STOFLET: Yeah. There are apartment  
14 buildings in there, too. If you go farther to the  
15 east, --

16 MR. SCHIRO: How far east?

17 MR. STOFLET: Oh, about a block. You have  
18 an apartment building there, and you've got a daycare  
19 center in there,

20 MR. SCHIRO: Well, if you went a block north  
21 or south, you'd run into that off-ramp on the freeway;  
22 is that right?

23 MR. STOFLET: To the north.

24 MR. SCHIRO: To the north, I mean.

25 MR. STOFLET: You'd run into the off-ramp,

1           yeah.  But there is -- I believe there is residents  
2           upstairs from this bar that they're just building a --  
3           that they want to take over.  There's two apartments  
4           upstairs there.

5                       MR. SCHIRO:  Right.

6                       MR. STOFLET:  And there are other businesses  
7           across the street and homes, so --

8                       MR. SCHIRO:  You haven't heard any concerns  
9           from the people living upstairs above the bar, though.

10                      MR. STOFLET:  No.

11                      MR. SCHIRO:  Are there other liquor stores  
12           on that street?

13                      MR. STOFLET:  Not right there, no.

14                      MR. SCHIRO:  How close is the nearest liquor  
15           store?

16                      MR. STOFLET:  Probably about five blocks.

17                      MR. SCHIRO:  And the nearest tavern, other  
18           than -- what's it called, Stargazer's?

19                      MR. STOFLET:  Besides Stargazer's, there's  
20           one right just by Villard and Fond du Lac.

21                      MR. SCHIRO:  Villard and Fond du Lac?

22                      MR. STOFLET:  Right.  Which is about a block  
23           and a half from this place.

24                      MR. SCHIRO:  All right.  Any others in the  
25           area?

1 MR. STOFLET: Yes. If you go south towards  
2 Hampton, you've got three that are about a block  
3 and a half south of Hampton, and on 76th and Hampton,  
4 there's Diamond's.

5 MR. SCHIRO: You would oppose any of those  
6 places that have liquor licenses, do you agree?

7 MR. STOFLET: If it comes down to it, if  
8 they come up for renewal, yes, I will oppose some of  
9 them. Not all.

10 MR. SCHIRO: So your opposition has nothing  
11 to do with these two gentlemen.

12 MR. STOFLET: No, no.

13 MR. SCHIRO: All right. Thank you for  
14 coming down.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Any other  
16 questions by committee? Mr. Stoflet, thank you. We  
17 have one other objector. Ma'am? Good morning to you.

18 MS. KITCHENAKOW-STOFLET: Good morning.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Your name and address  
20 for the record, please?

21 MS. KITCHENAKOW-STOFLET: Carol Kitchenakow-  
22 Stoflet.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. We've got Carol  
24 and Stoflet, but you're going to have to spell the  
25 rest of it.

1 MS. KITCHENAKOW-STOFLET:

2 K-i-t-c-h-e-n-a-k-o-w. 7140 West Medford Avenue.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Please  
4 proceed.

5 MS. KITCHENAKOW-STOFLET: Okay. I object to  
6 another tavern in the area for the same reasons that  
7 my husband did. It's because of the traffic, the  
8 noise, the people laying on our lawns in the summer-  
9 time, and the children running around, you know,  
10 during the day when there's people there. There's  
11 kids and the traffic is flying by. Paper, garbage.  
12 And since that tavern has closed down, we have not had  
13 no problems.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Anything else  
15 you want to add?

16 MS. KITCHENAKOW-STOFLET: That's about all.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Questions by committee?  
18 Mr. Schiro?

19 MR. SCHIRO: No thank you.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. I'm going to  
21 do my best with this. Thank you, Miss Kitchenakow-  
22 Stoflet.

23 MS. KITCHENAKOW-STOFLET: Thank you.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Schiro, did you  
25 have someone here other than the applicants to testify



1 on behalf of -- I do want afford you the same  
2 opportunity if there's somebody who may not be able to  
3 come back.

4 MR. SCHIRO: You know, I'm going to impose  
5 upon him and ask him to come back because some of his  
6 testimony will relate to the alderman's testimony.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: That's fine. Any  
8 other questions by committee at this time? Other  
9 than that, we'll ensure that a copy of the transcript  
10 will be provided to the alderman, including a copy to  
11 Mr. Schiro.

12 Mr. Schiro, if you could provide a copy  
13 of your business card here, and we will reschedule  
14 as soon as we can reasonably accommodate your  
15 clarification and the status of partnership.

16 So with that, Alderman Wade would move to  
17 hold this matter to the call of the chair, and hearing  
18 no objections to that, so ordered.

19 MR. SCHIRO: Thank you.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you, Mr. Schiro,  
21 and we appreciate your accommodation for the neighbors  
22 here.

23 \* \* \*

24

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STATE OF WISCONSIN) )  
MILWAUKEE COUNTY ) ) SS:

I, DONNA GULCZYNSKI, of Milwaukee Reporters Associated, Inc., 5120 West Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, certify that the foregoing transcript, consisting of pages 2 through 33, inclusive, is a full and complete transcript of the proceedings taken in this cause.

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Donna Gulczynski - Court Reporter

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin