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- Licenses Committee

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MILELE A. COGGS
ALDERWOMAN, 6TH DISTRICT

MEMBER

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- Library Board
- Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation Board
- Special Joint Committee on the Redevelopment of Abandoned and Foreclosed Homes
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Wisconsin Center District Board

June 25, 2021

To the Honorable, the Common Council

Honorable Members:

Common Council File Number 201705 contains the following recommendations:

Renewal, with a ten (10) day suspension, based on the police report and aldermanic testimony of the Hotel/Motel license for Prabhu Kasthurirangaian for the premises located at 1716 w Layton Ave. ("Travelodge Milwaukee") in the 13th aldermanic district.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Milele A. Coggs".

Milele Coggs, Chair
Licenses Committee

cc: All Council Members
File 201705



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Date: June 24, 2021

To: All Members of the Milwaukee Common Council

From: Licenses Committee

Re: Report of the Renewal Application of Prabhu Kasthurirangaian, Agent for Silver Lining Health Center, LLC for a Hotel/Motel License located at 1716 West Layton Avenue in the City and County of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (“Travelodge Milwaukee”).

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Prabhu Kasthurirangaian (hereinafter the “Licensee”) is the holder of Hotel/Motel license for the Hotel/Motel located at 1716 West Layton Avenue in the City and County of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (“Travelodge Milwaukee”). Said license expires at midnight on July 27, 2021.
2. An application to renew said license was filed with the Office of the City Clerk on May 3, 2021.
3. Pursuant to Chapter 85 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances and Chapter 125 of the Wisconsin Statutes, this matter was referred to Milwaukee Police Department for investigation. On May 3, 2021, the Milwaukee Police Department responded with a report that could form the basis for nonrenewal of said license.
4. On June 7, 2021 the City Clerk provided timely notice to the Licensee pursuant to Chapters 85 and 275 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances of the neighborhood objections. The matter was scheduled for a hearing on the objections on June 22, 2021, commencing at approximately 9:05 a.m. in Room 301B of the third floor of City Hall. At that date and time, the Licensee appeared at the hearing, and admitted receipt of the notice of hearing.
5. Based upon the sworn testimony heard and the evidence received at the hearing, the Committee finds the following:
 - A. On March 8, 2020 at 08:26 p.m., Milwaukee Police conducted a license premise check at 1716 West Layton Avenue to see if the tavern at the establishment was in compliance with Emergency Order #5 (inside Executive Order #72). Upon entering the tavern, officers observed two patrons sitting at the bar and one of the subjects had a drink. Officers informed the bartender that per the Governor, people were not allowed to be inside any establishment that serves food or drink. The bartender was



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under the impression that people could have a drink at the bar when they were waiting for their food. The officers went over Executive Order #72 (Emergency Order #5) and the bartender understood the order and made sure they are immediately followed by asking both patrons to leave. The bartender was extremely cooperative in the past and was again during this encounter. The bartender was given a copy of Emergency Order #5 and the premise check was ended.

- B. On June 25, 2020 at 9:01 p.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to a reckless use of a weapon complaint at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue. Investigation determined that the assignment was a sick/injured complaint, that occurred in the parking lot of the business. Officer spoke with victim who stated that she was leaning on her boyfriend's vehicle and lost her balance after the car was in motion. When the boyfriend left the location he unintentionally ran over her arm causing the victim pain. The victim was conveyed to St Luke's hospital for medical treatment. Officers spoke with the on duty manager at the hotel who stated that he just started his shift and did not see the incident. The manger was advised by the prior manger about the incident. The business was cooperative with the investigation
- C. On July 20, 2020 at 12:12 a.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to a trouble with subject complaint at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue. Upon arrival officers spoke with the caller, a juvenile who stated that the issue was resolved. The caller did state that he did not agree with the way he was treated by the security, because he said a racial slur. Officers spoke with the on duty manager who stated that the hotel resolved the issue with juvenile and his mother, and that security did not use a racial slur. The manager stated that he was going to allow both subjects to stay the night but then have both subjects leave in the morning.
- D. On July 21, 2020 at 1:58 a.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to a theft complaint at Travel Lodge located at 1716 West Layton Avenue. The caller stated that an unknown female that he had invited to his room on several occasions stole his phone and disappeared. The caller could not give officers any relevant information on the female. Officers spoke with the front desk employee who stated that the caller has been inviting the female over most of his 30-day stay at the hotel. The employee believes that the caller had been doing drugs in his room, and that he will be evicted after today's events. Officers were not allowed in the room by the caller. The business was cooperative with officers regarding the investigation.
- E. On August 27, 2020 at 5:56 p.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to an injured/sick complaint at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue. Officers met bell #445 with the caller in room #232 regarding. The caller stated that he was intoxicated and feeling depressed. The caller stated that he wanted to go to the hospital. The caller was conveyed by bell ambulance and police services were not needed.
- F. On September 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. community officers from District 6 conducted a Safety and Security meeting at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue.



The officers were met by two managers of the business that did a walkthrough of the location. Discussed at the meeting were the hours of the onsite restaurant, the amount of security cameras, and the use of private security. Concerns covered were the amount of sick/injured calls regarding over dose complaints. The management stated that any information regarding drug or prostitute use would get a renter band from the hotel. The renter would be placed on a do not rent list. Management told officers the hotel policy is to check ids, and vehicles associated with the renter. Officers were shown the current renter form with the required information. The management expressed that a main issue has been from long term stay renters. To help resolve those issues the hotel has only rented rooms on a day to day basis. Officers observed that some of the connecting buildings of the hotel are still under construction. This concluded the meeting.

- G. On October 9, 2020 at 3:24 p.m. community officers from District 6 conducted a meeting at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue, regarding an incident that occurred on October 7, 2020. Officers spoke with the onsite managers regarding the incident in which drugs were located in the rented room. The managers were then given a Notice of Public Nuisance Drug Letter, and explained the contents of the letter. Management explained that the subject related to the complaint appeared to be under the influence of a drug when using the in-lobby ATM. The manager on duty that day then put the renter on the Do Not Rent List. The management then showed officers the computer with the renter's information. Next to the information there was the letters DNR, and a brief comment regarding. This allows staff to be aware if a customer is on the Do Not Rent List, and not to rent any rooms to said person.
- H. On December 1, 2020 at 9:15 p.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to a fight complaint at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue. Officers spoke to the front desk who stated that renters in room 103 have been arguing all day and staff could not make contact with the renters. Officers spoke with subjects and they were advised to keep the noise down or they would be asked to leave the location. The hotel staff was cooperative and no violations were observed.
- I. On December 11, 2020 at 8:08 p.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to a threat complaint at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue. Officers spoke with the caller who stated that he wanted to turn himself in on his warrant. The subject did have a valid warrant, a search incident to arrest revealed that the subject had items that appeared to be narcotics. The items were tested positive for methamphetamine and fentanyl. The subject was conveyed to District #6 to be processed.
- J. On December 13, 2020 at 4:03 p.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to a child neglect complaint at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue. Officers spoke with the manager on scene who stated that a 6-year old child came to the front desk and stated that she got locked out of the room. The manager asked the child where are your parents, the child replied that they were not there. The manager then called the police regarding. Investigation revealed that the child was left in the care of a 16-year old and that the parent now at the location did not neglect the child.

- K. On December 16, 2020 at approximately 9:51 p.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to a battery complaint at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue. Officers spoke with the caller who stated that she met the suspect through Facebook, and had been talking to him for a while. The suspect took the caller to the outside of location and wanted to pay her for intercourse. The victim refused to go to the room and the suspect became angry striking the suspect in her arm pushing her out of his vehicle. The suspect left the location with some items belonging to the victim. Officers spoke with the front desk and were able to obtain the suspects information. The victim had minor pain and injures from the incident. The victim was then conveyed home and given officers information along with a PV-17 form.
- L. On January 4, 2021 at 8:45 p.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to a sick/injured complaint at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue. Officers located a subject lying on the floor of the lobby of the hotel. Investigation determined that the subject is staying in room # 116 and became intoxicated at the bar attached to the hotel. Officers located the subject's live in friend with same address and phone, in the room. The friend stated that he would care for the subject's wellbeing. The hotel staff was cooperative and no violations were observed.
- M. On January 12, 2021 at 9:01 p.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to a trouble with subject complaint at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue. The caller indicated that the subject was in room #106, causing a disturbance and stealing items. The subjects inside the room refused police services. The business was cooperative with the investigation and no violations were observed.
- N. On January 19, 2021 at 5:02 p.m. community officers from District 6 conducted a meeting at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue. Officers spoke with the manager, James Perry and conducted a walkthrough of the hotel. Officers observed multiple exit/entrance doors, which were not secured due to faulty door brackets on the first floor. Mr. Perry stated to officers that new door brackets were ordered and hoped to have the brackets installed within the week or so. Mr. Perry stated that the hotel does have security at the location Monday-Thursday 10 p.m. – 6 a.m., and are looking for a coverage Friday-Sunday for the same time frame. The third building of the location is still currently being renovated and should be completed within approximately two weeks. The third building is intended to be used for extended stay customers. Officers discussed dispatched calls from October 22, 2020 to January 19, 2021. The dispatched calls were 48 calls for service with 28 of those calls being dispatched assignments. Mr. Perry stated to officers that the business tries to handle all matters in house before altering the police. Mr. Perry stated to officers that the business had had serval issues of domestic violence, and changed policy that both parties of the room have to leave the establishment. This policy is to deter a return of potential problems. Officers observed security cameras operational at the time of the meeting. Mr. Perry was advised, officers would have quarterly meetings with business and discuss any issues regarding.

- O. On January 20, 2021 at 5:50 p.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to a threat complaint at Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue. Officers responded to room 107, and could not make contact with the complainant. There was no answer at the door or answer on multiple call backs to the caller. No Violations were observed by officers while they were on scene.
- P. On February 9, 2021 at 8:57 p.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue for a Trouble with Subject. The caller stated they were in room #106 and an unknown subject was pounding on the door. On arrival no one was located in the hall near Room 106, and the occupants stated they did not call police. Management was notified and cooperative.
- Q. On February 19, 2021 at 10:06 p.m., Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue for a Welfare Check. The caller stated a friend of his that was staying at the hotel contacted him and was having a mental health crisis. On arrival police made contact with the subject, who was intoxicated and denied needing any assistance. The subject did not have any injuries and appeared to be in good health.
- R. On February 21, 2021, at 2:40 p.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue for a Burglary Investigation. On arrival it was determined a suspect grabbed a key card from the neck of a housekeeper, entered the victim's room and stole items worth approximately \$3,100. Management and employees were cooperative with the investigation.
- S. On March 3, 2021 at 5:23 a.m., Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue for a Sick and Injured Call. On arrival the caller declined any medical attention or police service and stated they had called for private transportation. The security officer at the hotel was cooperative and stated they would check on the guest periodically until the private transportation came.
- T. On March 4, 2021 at 8:26 p.m., Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue for a Trouble with Subject in Room 218. On arrival officers did not hear any movement in the room, or signs of any guests in the room. Officers knocked several times; however, there was no answer at the door. The hotel clerk was notified and cooperative with police.
- U. On March 13, 2021 at 12:55am, Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue, for a Trouble with Subject. Investigation revealed there were two guests that were loitering on the property after checking out. The guests were gone on Police arrival. Management was cooperative with Police.
- V. On March 15, 2021 at 6:05 p.m., Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue for a Missing Check. On arrival it was determined the missing check was not at the hotel. Later in the day officers conducted follow up at the hotel and were able to locate the missing check in a hotel room. Management cooperated with the investigation.

- W. On March 19, 2021 at 3:16 a.m., Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue for a Battery complaint. Officers were advised there was an individual bleeding from the nose, kicking the door to a room and blood all over the hallway. The employee stated the individual was yelling and threatening guests, causing them to fear for their safety. The individual was located and arrested.
- X. On March 19, 2021 at 5:12 a.m., Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue for a Battery complaint. The employee/caller stated a known suspect came to the location and cut both rear tires of her vehicle two days ago, and again on March 19, 2021. Investigation revealed the employees' statements were contradictory to the previous report filed and the video surveillance. She was provided with information on a restraining order.
- Y. On March 23, 2021 at 11:16 p.m., Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue for a Trouble with Subject. On arrival the caller stated the subject left and police were no longer needed.
- Z. On March 28, 2021 at 1:53 p.m., Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue for a Dead on Entry. Officers were met by MFD and investigation did not indicate any foul play was involved. It was determined this was a probable drug overdose.
- AA. On March 28, 2021 at 8:43 p.m., Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue for a Threat complaint. On arrival officers were advised by the manager they wanted a hotel guest removed from the premise due to being loud and using profanities. The guest was located and removed from the establishment.
- BB. On April 19, 2021 at 8:12 p.m., Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue for a threat complaint. Officer spoke with on duty manager who refused to give two ex-employees their paychecks. The manger stated that the ex-employees were terminated for stealing from the business. The ex-employees were informed that the incident was a civil matter. The two ex-employees agreed to leave the location after being advised.
- CC. On April 20, 2021 at 12:06 a.m., Milwaukee Police were dispatched to Travel Lodge, located at 1716 West Layton Avenue, for a threat complaint. Officers spoke with the manger on duty who stated that a subject was in the lobby screaming. Prior to officers' arrival the manger can be heard on a recorded 911 line making threats to the subject. The manager was uncooperative with officers initially refusing to provide pertain information. The manger did provide her information and was informed that she could be cited for disorderly conduct do to the threats she made to the subject on a recorded 911 line. The subject was not on scene upon police arrival.

DD. The Licensee stated that there were some issues last year with the weekly rentals and they stopped the rentals in August of 2020. He added that in September of 2020 they remodeled the back building and finished in March of 2021 at a cost of half of a million dollars. He stated that they do not allow stays longer than 29 days, and people are required to check out and cannot return for a full day. He added that some guest(s) return, but many of them do not. He stated that the hotel business has been struggling because there have not been a lot of travelers. He added that they had issues in March and met with MPD to develop and abatement plan. He stated that MPD was in favor of the proposed and implemented changes they have made. He added that they are in the process of remodeling the two front buildings at a cost of an additional half of a million dollars. He stated that they have 24 cameras at the premises are adding 8 more, in addition to the 12 cameras at the restaurant. He added that they are adding more fencing and redoing the parking lot. He stated that they do have in-house security living on site, but only on a temporary basis. He added that they also have an open door policy with MPD and the goal is not to serve local populations. He stated that when he took over the hotel was in rough shape and it is much better now. He added that they do not condone criminal behavior.

Individual also present:

EE. Alderman Spiker stated there were quite a few issues last year and they were attributed to the extended stay guests; and that once the weekly rental rate went away so would the majority of the problems. He added that the hotel has had problems for years, but they have improved under the Licensee. He stated that the problems are still severe as indicated by #12, 15, 17, 27, 29, and 34 on the police report all involving drugs, including an overdose death. He added that MPD has served drug letters twice in the last year. He stated that there are also issues with prostitution and disorderly conduct indicated in the police report. He added that the abatement plan is a plus and it could deal with some of the problems if implemented correctly. He stated that there should be professional, outside security company. He added that some of the problems are more extensive than last year, which could be attributable to COVID. He recommends a 10-day suspension given that people died at the property and drugs are on ongoing issue. He added that it will give the Licensee time to implement the abatement plan.

FF. Alderman Kovac moved approval with a 10-day suspension based on the police report and aldermanic testimony. (Prevailed 4-0-1, Ald. Coggs abstaining)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Committee has jurisdiction to hold hearings and provided Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and a Recommendation to the full Common Council pursuant to Chapters 85 and 275 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances.
2. Based upon the above facts found, the Committee concludes that the Licensee, Prabhu Kasthurirangaian who holds a Hotel/Motel License for the premises located 1716 West Layton Avenue in the City and County of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (“Travelodge Milwaukee”) has not met the criteria of Chapters 85 and 275 of the Milwaukee Code of

Ordinances, to renew the Hotel/Motel License without undergoing a ten (10) day suspension. The Committee finds the police report and aldermanic testimony as stated above to be true as stated above.

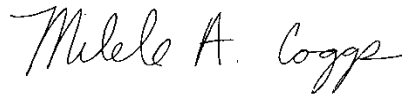
3. In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Milwaukee, it is the recommendation of the Licenses Committee that the full Common Council of the City of Milwaukee should exercise its judgment to not renew the Hotel/Motel License held by Prabhu Kasthurirangaian for the premises located at 1716 West Layton Avenue (“Travelodge Milwaukee”) without undergoing a ten (10) day suspension. The Committee based its recommendation on the police report and Aldermanic testimony.

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law stated above, the Committee, by a vote of **four (4) ayes, zero (0) noes and one (1) abstaining** recommends that the Hotel/Motel license of Prabhu Kasthurirangaian for the premises located 1716 West Layton Avenue in the City and County of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (“Travelodge Milwaukee”) be renewed, with a ten (10) day suspension based on the police report and aldermanic testimony.

The suspension is in effect between 12:01 a.m. on September 25, 2021 until 11:59 p.m. on October 4, 2021.

Dated and signed at Milwaukee, Wisconsin this 25th day of June, 2021.



MILELE A. COGGS
Chair, Licenses Committee

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