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CITY OF MILWAUKEE  
LICENSES COMMITTEE HEARING

In the Matter of:  
OUTER LIMITS  
1535 West Becher Street                      12th District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ALD. JAMES WITKOWIAK - Chairman  
ALD. JAMES BOHL, JR. - Vice Chairman  
ALD. JOSEPH A. DUDZIK  
ALD. ROBERT PUENTE  
ALD. WILLIE WADE

POLICE DEPARTMENT by SERGEANT CHET ULICKEY  
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE by BRUCE SCHRIMPF

Proceedings had and testimony given in the  
above-entitled matter before the UTILITIES &  
LICENSING COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE on the  
24th day of January, 2006, before Terese M. Schiebenes  
of Milwaukee Reporters Associated, Inc.

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PROCEEDINGS

(All City Personnel were previously affirmed.)

CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And in the 12 District, Stephanie Torres, Class B Tavern renewal application for the Outer Limits at 1535 West Becher Street. Good afternoon.

MS. TORRES: Good afternoon.

(STEPHANIE J. TORRES was duly affirmed.)

CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Name and address for the record, please.

MS. TORRES: Stephanie Torres. My business address is 1535 West Becher Street.

CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And Stephanie, do you admit to receiving notice in the mail there's a possibility your application could be denied because of items contained in the police report and neighborhood objections to littering, loitering, loud music, noise, late night disturbances, parking and traffic problems, fights, gunshots, shootings, presence of underage persons, public urination, and criminal activity and conduct which is detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the neighborhood?

MS. TORRES: Yes, I have received that notice.

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1 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Health Department?  
2 MR. ZEMKE: Health has no objection.  
3 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Neighborhood Services?  
4 MR. KAUFMAN: No objection.

5 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Sergeant Ulickey?  
6 SGT. ULICKEY: On 10/23 of '05, 8:25 p.m.,  
7 Milwaukee police officers were dispatched to a  
8 shooting at 1550 West Becher. Victim suffered a  
9 gunshot wound to the upper left leg, causing his  
10 death. Investigation showed that the victim was in  
11 the Outer Limits tavern, 1535 West Becher, playing  
12 pool. Later outside the tavern, patrons heard a  
13 gunshot, and the victim was laying on the sidewalk.

14 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Is that an accurate  
15 description of what transpired?

16 MS. TORRES: Yes, it is.

17 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Questions by members of  
18 the committee?

19 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Mr. Chair. In the  
20 statement you just heard, it said later outside the  
21 tavern the patron heard a gunshot and the victim was  
22 laying on the sidewalk. How much later was that, do  
23 you know? Were you there that evening?

24 MS. TORRES: I was there that evening, yes,  
25 I was. The pool leagues had ended at about 7:45.

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1 Everybody that was playing in the pool leagues had  
2 left the establishment, they were gone at least a half  
3 an hour or more. I had no indications of any  
4 confrontations or conflicts that would have led to the  
5 incident that happened.

6 After the incident, I closed my bar for  
7 seven days after. I talked with the police, I gave  
8 any information that I could give them to help in  
9 their investigation. There wasn't pretty much  
10 anything that I knew. Like I said, he had left, he  
11 was gone, and heard the gun shot.

12 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Did you know the victim?

13 MS. TORRES: He was a patron at my bar, and  
14 he was on my pool team, and he didn't come to my bar  
15 but maybe three times a week. He was a nice person,  
16 he never caused me any problem. He came in there, he  
17 played pool. I would have never had any indication  
18 that there was any problems that would have led to  
19 something like this happening.

20 ALDERMAN PUENTE: So there was no  
21 altercation prior to this incident?

22 MS. TORRES: No, nothing.

23 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Sergeant, do you know,  
24 was this the result of a robbery or --

25 SGT. ULICKEY: What I read to you is what I

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1 know. I would have to obtain the entire report.

2 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Do you know in working  
3 with the police if there was a robbery?

4 MS. TORRES: I'm not sure either. I have  
5 been in contact with them to find out what's been  
6 going on, and they just told me it's still under  
7 investigation, so I really can't answer that question  
8 either. But I do have a witness that was there that  
9 day with me that left my establishment after the pool  
10 leagues, 15 minutes after the pool leagues ended, and  
11 there was nobody outside. There was no warning to  
12 something like this happening.

13 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Did you see this victim  
14 leave your bar that night?

15 MS. TORRES: No, I did not.

16 ALDERMAN PUENTE: So you don't know what  
17 time he left after the pool leagues?

18 MS. TORRES: No. I just know that the pool  
19 leagues ended. I had two teams there. I was in my  
20 office. I came out of my office, and I made the  
21 comment well, where did everybody go, because  
22 everybody left, the pool leagues ended. Everybody was  
23 happy, they were oh, we won, and everybody shook  
24 hands, good game. I went into my office, I came out,  
25 everybody was gone.

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1                   And one of my patrons was still there and  
2 said I'm going to finish this and I'm going to go  
3 home. She was there 10, 15 minutes. She left, and  
4 there was nobody outside.

5                   ALDERMAN PUENTE: So you came out of your  
6 office, you said 15 minutes after the pool league  
7 ended?

8                   MS. TORRES: About 15 minutes, I want to say  
9 15 minutes.

10                  ALDERMAN PUENTE: And you could say he was  
11 not in there at that time?

12                  MS. TORRES: I can say he was not there.  
13 There was only like four people left in there, and one  
14 of them was my bartender. One of the witnesses I have  
15 here today. There was only a few people left in there.

16                  ALDERMAN PUENTE: And you said the pool  
17 league ended at approximately 7:30?

18                  MS. TORRES: I want to say 7:30, I want to  
19 say 7:30.

20                  MR. SCHRIMPF: Mr. Chairman. I just want to  
21 nail down for the record, is there any indication that  
22 the assailant in this case had been a customer of the  
23 place?

24                  MS. TORRES: No, not at all, not at all.

25                  MR. SCHRIMPF: That's all I have.

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1                   CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And this is noticed for  
2 neighborhood objections. I would like to see a show  
3 of hands, anyone in the room here to testify in  
4 opposition to the renewal to the license at 1535 West  
5 Becher Street? Is there anyone in the room here to  
6 speak in opposition to the renewal of the license at  
7 1535 West Becher Street, show of hands. Let the  
8 record show that no one acknowledges that question.

9                   ALDERMAN PUENTE: One more question, Mr.  
10 Chair, please. How long have you been the operator of  
11 the Outer Limits?

12                   MS. TORRES: I just opened February 22nd of  
13 2005. And I had no police contact up until that  
14 incident happened, I didn't have any problems at my  
15 premises. I'm there every day, I'm watching  
16 everything all the time. It's not the greatest of  
17 neighborhoods, so I do like to watch what's going on.  
18 Since that happened, I have made sure that the outside  
19 of my premises is lit up. I have working surveillance  
20 inside now, and I do intend on investing in outside  
21 surveillance as soon as I'm able to.

22                   ALDERMAN PUENTE: Financially?

23                   MS. TORRES: Financially. That's my -- I  
24 would have it already if I would be able to.

25                   ALDERMAN PUENTE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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1                   CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: I have a few questions.  
2 Are you aware of any drug dealing that takes place  
3 inside or near your tavern?

4                   MS. TORRES: I am not.

5                   ALDERMAN PUENTE: Remember you're under  
6 oath.

7                   MS. TORRES: I know. I want to say one  
8 thing, that I did suspect somebody of selling illegal  
9 narcotics in my premises, and I did ask them to leave.  
10 I kicked them out. I wasn't sure if they were doing  
11 it or not. But the next day I got a chair through my  
12 window. And I will be honest, I will do it again  
13 because no, I don't condone that kind of activity  
14 going on in my premises. I don't do it, so I wouldn't  
15 expect anybody else to do it.

16                   CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Are you generally there  
17 at closing time?

18                   MS. TORRES: I'm there every day, I'm there  
19 at closing time every day.

20                   CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Are you aware of any  
21 noise that occurs outside of the place at closing  
22 time, such as like wild parties, yelling, screaming?

23                   MS. TORRES: No wild parties. I will say  
24 that people in the bar -- And I have tactics to deal  
25 with those, also. At the end of the night, they want



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1 to leave, and they want to stand at the bar, where are  
2 we going now, where are we going to eat, you know,  
3 they stand out in front of the bar. I have security  
4 now. I go outside, and I do tell them please move  
5 along, respect my neighbors. I know that I don't want  
6 to disturb my neighbors, so I do go outside and move  
7 them along as fast as possible and tell them to keep  
8 it down, and I do my best at controlling that. And I  
9 am there every day. I'm available to my neighbors.  
10 If they have any problems or issues, I'm always  
11 available.

12 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Just FYI, our office  
13 has received a significant number of complaints about  
14 the goings on there besides the shooting, the noise  
15 that occurs, alleged drug dealing, so on and so forth.  
16 Unfortunately for this committee, fortunately for you,  
17 none of those people showed up in person to testify.  
18 I understand that from talking to some of these  
19 constituents that they're afraid of retaliation, and  
20 perhaps that's the reason that they're not here. But  
21 I'm just letting you know that.

22 I can testify that I received the  
23 complaints, I guess I can't testify much to the body  
24 of the complaints because that may be hearsay. Just  
25 so you know, I'm extremely concerned, and you're on

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1 the radar screen.

2 MS. TORRES: Okay. I would like to make a  
3 comment that I myself have problems with dealings of  
4 my own neighbors of things that they do, which I have  
5 myself initiated police contact, and I'm pretty much  
6 told that I can't do anything about it. Sometimes I  
7 think that things that are going on near me with some  
8 of my neighbors is being associated with myself, and I  
9 try to watch for that. I initiated police contact.

10 Ever since the shooting, I do have a beat  
11 cop in the neighborhood, which I feel has been  
12 wonderful, I really like that he's around, and he  
13 stops in my premises on a frequent basis. I have  
14 police coming in, which I never really did before. I  
15 have a lot of police contact now, which they pretty  
16 much just stop in, not because they were called there,  
17 to see what's going on. We haven't received any  
18 citations. My customers have been carded.

19 I try to run a legitimate clean place. I  
20 have a mixed crowd. I don't discriminate against  
21 anybody, and if I did notice somebody was doing  
22 something possibly they should not be doing on my  
23 premises, they are asked to leave. I have rules on my  
24 door, I have a security guy, and I'm watching all the  
25 time.

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1                   CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Any other  
2 questions by member of the committee? Anything  
3 further to say?

4                   MS. TORRES: I have people to speak on my  
5 behalf, if you'd like to hear.

6                   CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: How many people are  
7 here in support?

8                   MS. TORRES: Three, I have three people with  
9 me.

10                  CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Would you please come  
11 up, identify yourself, and give us a brief statement.

12                  (Whereupon, all speakers were duly  
13 affirmed.)

14                  CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Your name and address  
15 for record?

16                  MS. PAST: My name is Susan Past, and my  
17 address is West 159 North 8978 Patin Drive, Menomonee  
18 Falls, Wisconsin.

19                  CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: So you're not her next  
20 door neighbor?

21                  MS. PAST: I am not her next door neighbor,  
22 but I go into the bar. I've been there on several  
23 occasions. I'm 54 years old. I've been there during  
24 the day, early evening, and I've been there when the  
25 bar is closed at night. She goes out with her

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1 security, asks for patrons to leave quickly and  
2 quietly as possible to respect her neighbors. What  
3 she's telling you is the truth.

4 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you. Any  
5 questions of this witness? Thank you. Next, ma'am.

6 MS THOM: Jessica Thom. I'm a bartender at  
7 the bar. My address is 2851 North Booth Street.

8 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And your testimony is?

9 MS. THOM: If we ever see anything that  
10 would even be close to a problem, it's stopped before  
11 anything happens. We make sure everyone's out by bar  
12 close, before bar close so that when they are outside  
13 that we get them out of there before there's any  
14 problems.

15 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Any questions of this  
16 witness? Thank you. Sir.

17 MR. CORDERO: My name is Horacio Cordero, my  
18 address is 2112 South 15th Place, on 15th and Becher.

19 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: What is your testimony?

20 MR. CORDERO: That I live right next door,  
21 and I have -- I don't even hear the music. I work  
22 first shift. I don't hear no noise outside during bar  
23 closing time. I go there frequently and never had no  
24 problems there, come in and out, walk home.

25 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Any questions by

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1 members of the committee? Do you have anything  
2 further to say before we --

3 MS. TORRES: No. Just that I worked hard to  
4 keep this a legitimate business, and I deserve my  
5 license.

6 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: This matter is in  
7 committee.

8 ALDERMAN BOHL: Mr. Chair.

9 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Alderman Bohl.

10 ALDERMAN BOHL: I would move approval of the  
11 renewal of the application with a 10-day suspension,  
12 based on matters contained in the police report.

13 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Motion by Alderman  
14 Bohl is to recommend approval of the renewal of  
15 this application with a 10-day suspension, based on  
16 items contained in the police report. Any discussion  
17 on that motion? Are there any objections to that  
18 motion?

19 ALDERMAN WADE: I'll object.

20 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: I'll object, also.

21 ALDERMAN PUENTE: I'll object, also.

22 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Three objections. The  
23 motion fails. The matter is still in committee. This  
24 matter's in committee.

25 VICE-CHAIRMAN WADE: Alderman Witkowiak.

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ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: Mr. Chairman, I would  
2 move to recommend the renewal of this license with a  
3 30-day suspension, based on items contained in the  
4 police report.

5

VICE-CHAIRMAN WADE: The motion is before  
6 us. Are there any comments or concerns with the  
7 motion? Are there any objections to the motion?

8

ALDERMAN PUENTE: I'll object.

9

VICE-CHAIRMAN WADE: Hearing one objection,  
10 the motion carries.

11

MR. SCHRIMPF: Ms. Torres, the committee is  
12 going to be doing findings of fact and conclusions of  
13 law recommending renewal of your Class B tavern  
14 license with a 30-day suspension. You will receive a  
15 copy of that recommendation. You will have an  
16 opportunity to submit written objections to that  
17 recommendation as well as to appear before the  
18 Milwaukee Common Council when it meets on this matter,  
19 which will be at approximately 9:00 a.m. on February  
20 7th, 2006 in the Common Council Chambers of this  
21 building, same floor but the opposite end. Do you  
22 understand all that?

23

MS. TORRES: Yes, I do.

24

MR. SCHRIMPF: Thank you.

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