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CITY OF MILWAUKEE
UTILITIES & LICENSING HEARING

In the Matter of:
205 East North Avenue - 6th District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

LICENSE DIVISION by REBECCA BARRON
ALDERMAN MICHAEL McGEE, JR. - 6th District

Proceedings had and testimony given in the
above-entitled matter before the UTILITIES &
LICENSING COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE on the
July 12th, 2005, before Terese M. Schiebenes of
Milwaukee Reporters Associated, Inc.

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PROCEEDINGS

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(All City Personnel were duly affirmed)

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CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: In the 6th District,
Anzell Bratcher, Agent for ABC Liquors #2,
Incorporated, Class A Liquor and Malt Application for
ABC Liquors #2 at 205 East North Avenue.

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MS. BARRON: Mr. Chairman, the applicant
withdrew his application late yesterday afternoon. We
attempted to contact any neighbors to advise them.

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CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Are there any people
here to testify on this matter, it would be 205 East
North Avenue? Do you understand that the application
has been withdrawn?

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ALDERMAN McGEE: I just had a question as to
when would this license be renewed or when does it
expire?

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MS. BARRON: The current license?

18

ALDERMAN McGEE: Yes.

19

CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Can I see a show of
hands, once again, who's here to testify on 205 East
North Avenue. Could you come forth. Even though the
application has been withdrawn, we'd like to get your
testimony on the record, because that application
could be resubmitted at some point in the near future.
Could you both raise your right hands and be sworn in,

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1 please.

2 (Whereupon, speakers were duly affirmed.)

3 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Sir, your name and
4 address for the record first.

5 MR. WOGSLAND: Stuart Wogsland, 2133 North
6 Hubbard Street.

7 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And how far away do you
8 live from this location?

9 MR. WOGSLAND: About a block-and-a-half, if
10 that.

11 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Your testimony?

12 MR. WOGSLAND: I've lived in the
13 neighborhood now for the last two-and-a-half years,
14 and I'm coming from Shorewood that has been a little
15 bit different, but Brewer's Hill has been an up and
16 coming area, and that would be a wonderful area to
17 actually live and actually own a duplex in that area.
18 Unfortunately, with ABC Liquor we've noticed a lot of
19 prostitution problems in front of there, drug
20 activity, and crime there. We understand the man
21 needs to make a living by having a business there, but
22 in that community it doesn't seem to fit.

23 In addition to that, St. Marcus also opened
24 up a school, a choice school, right across the street
25 from there. I don't think that's socially responsible

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1 on their part to possibly have a liquor store that
2 near to where our children are growing up.

3 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you. Stuart, so
4 the place currently has a license, they currently sell
5 alcohol?

6 MR. WOGSLAND: Correct. I've actually been
7 in there, too. It looks like it caters to -- it's all
8 bulletproof glass in there, a steel door basically to
9 pass through your alcohol, and I don't know if that's
10 what we really want in our neighborhood, but I
11 understand the safety of their employees.

12 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: So this would be a new
13 application taking over an existing location?

14 MS. BARRON: That's correct. And the
15 existing license expires on April 19th, 2006.

16 MR. WOGSLAND: Another thing we have noticed
17 there is multiple loitering during after-school hours,
18 weekends, that type of stuff. There is a rooming
19 house, also, upstairs there where I believe a gentleman
20 that owns the business actually does rent out rooms up
21 there. We don't know if that's part of the problem
22 with the clientele, but it's something that -- I
23 don't like getting approached at 6:00 in the morning
24 by a prostitute by a business asking if I'm looking
25 for something or at 1:00 in the morning basically when

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1 I'm coming home from a friend's house. I've called
2 the police department numerous times when I've seen
3 that type of stuff, and that's why we're here.

4 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you very much.
5 Any questions of this witness? Okay, sir. Your name
6 and address for the record?

7 MR. ROFFERS: Larry Roffers, 2023 North
8 Palmer. I live about two-and-a-half blocks from the
9 liquor store.

10 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And your testimony?

11 MR. ROFFERS: It is a problem area. A lot
12 of North Avenue towards Holton is a bad area, but the
13 liquor store tends to draw prostitutes regularly, and
14 it's every day. There's drug dealings going on, and
15 there's drug people staggering to and from the store,
16 urinating in the bushes behind the store. It's just
17 not a good thing.

18 I don't object to the liquor store. If it
19 was a decent liquor store, I would patronize it, but
20 he's not responsible for what's going on outside of
21 his store, and I think he needs to be --

22 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you. Questions
23 by members of the committee? Sir, your name and
24 addresses for the record, please?

25 MR. PAYNE: Alexander Payne, 2333 North

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1 Palmer. I've been living there since 1980.

2 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: How far away are you
3 from this location?

4 MR. PAYNE: Half a block.

5 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: What is your testimony,
6 Alexander?

7 MR. PAYNE: I don't have no complaint
8 against the liquor store. The previous owner before
9 he owned it, I had no problem with him either.

10 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Any questions by
11 members of the committee? Is there anyone else in the
12 room here to testify to 205 East North Avenue?
13 Well, the application has been officially withdrawn,
14 but we appreciate you coming down, we appreciate your
15 testimony. The application could be resubmitted
16 tomorrow, so we want to let you know that your
17 testimony is part of the record in this hearing, and
18 we will keep it for future reference. Alderman McGee,
19 any comments?

20 ALDERMAN MCGEE: I definitely want to say
21 that this location has become a problem in the
22 neighborhood for certain people who live in the
23 neighborhood. There have been some town hall
24 meetings at the church nearby, and the owner
25 apparently is looking forward to selling this

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1 location, and I think the attraction or the attractive
2 part of the negotiations must be that the potential
3 buyer would look into having a liquor store at the
4 location. And I know there's a potential applicant on
5 the horizon, and that potential applicant is going to
6 have to meet with the neighborhood and find out what's
7 really best for that neighborhood and look into the
8 concerns of neighborhood.

9 One thing I am go going to do is refer the
10 rooming house that's upstairs to the City Attorney's
11 Office to see if there can be an investigation as to
12 is this an illegal entity that's operating upstairs
13 from the tavern.

14 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Good idea. Thank you,
15 Alderman McGee. Thank you for your testimony. We
16 appreciate you appearing here today.

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