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CITY OF MILWAUKEE  
UTILITIES & LICENSING HEARING

In the Matter of:  
HIDEAWAY  
9000 W. Kaul Avenue - 2nd Aldermanic District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

LICENSE DIVISION - JIM COPELAND

Proceedings had and testimony given in the  
above-entitled matter before the UTILITIES &  
LICENSING COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE on the  
22nd day of June, 2004, before Terese M. Schiebenes of  
Milwaukee Reporters Associated, Inc.

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PROCEEDINGS

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CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: In the 2nd District,  
Binyoti F. Amungwafor, Class B Tavern and Tavern Dance  
applications for Hideaway at 9000 West Kaul Avenue.

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Good morning.

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MR. AMUNGWAFOR: Good morning, sir.

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CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: How are you today?

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Could you raise your right hand and be sworn in,  
please.

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(Whereupon, BINYOTI F. AMUNGWAFOR was duly  
affirmed.)

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CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Could you state your  
name and address for the record, please.

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MR. AMUNGWAFOR: My name is Binyoti, my last  
name is Amungwafor.

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CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Your address?

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MR. AMUNGWAFOR: My business the address or  
home address?

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CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Why don't you give us  
your home address.

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MR. AMUNGWAFOR: 10949 West Appleton Avenue,  
Pewaukee, Wisconsin, 53225.

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CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you. Do you  
admit to receiving a notice that there's a possibility  
that your application could be denied because of

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1 neighborhood objections to a tavern dance license  
2 which will lead to increased automobile traffic,  
3 parking problems, loitering, littering, noisy patrons  
4 at closing time, and conduct which is detrimental to  
5 the health, safety, and welfare of the neighborhood?

6 MR. AMUNGWAFOR: I do, sir.

7 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you. And do you  
8 want to give us a brief explanation of why you're  
9 applying for the license this morning.

10 MR. AMUNGWAFOR: Yes, yes. I recently  
11 bought this tavern, and this tavern has a track record  
12 of having not been suspended any license for any  
13 license renewal. When I bought this tavern, I was  
14 looking for a way just to make a change as to the  
15 existing license to give my crowd, which is an older  
16 crowd, just the ability to listen to music inside the  
17 tavern, they could stand up to dance without fear of  
18 violating the law that I didn't acquire any tavern  
19 dance, and I just found that it's a little bit  
20 difficult, but I am only looking at a track record of  
21 this tavern. The capacity of the tavern is 80 people.

22 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: 80?

23 MR. AMUNGWAFOR: Yes. And I'm not looking  
24 to change the capacity. And based on the track  
25 record, there's no problem with the tavern license or

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1 anything, and even the former owner's license has  
2 recently been renewed. And when I went into this  
3 plan -- this is the location here, this is the tavern  
4 here. It sits on Highway 145. Here, this is on the  
5 other side of Highway 145, and here is an empty lot,  
6 which is the highway corridor as you get from the ramp  
7 as you move from 91st before you access the ramp.

8 Now, the nearest residence -- this is the  
9 nearest residence on this side, and this is the  
10 nearest on this side, and then this is the nearest on  
11 this side. When you look at this location, I feel  
12 like I really had no problem, I wasn't looking for any  
13 problem, and I'm just so surprised when I called the  
14 liquor telling me of this, and basically I am trying  
15 to explain to this committee that I am not going to --  
16 I am not going to change this capacity, and I'm not  
17 going to play rap, hip-hop or anything that would try  
18 to jeopardize my license. I just wanted to give my  
19 older customers just a way when they're at the tavern  
20 to listen to any music they get up and dance, and  
21 that's all I was looking for.

22 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Mr. Amungwafor,  
23 how long have you had this license as a tavern?

24 MR. AMUNGWAFOR: I just recently bought the  
25 tavern. We closed on the tavern on the 27th of May.

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1                   CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And has it been  
2 existing?

3                   MR. AMUNGWAFOR: Yes. It's been existing  
4 for over 30 years, and it has no problem of the  
5 license being suspended or the license being renewed.  
6 And two days ago the incident when I was talking with  
7 the previous owner of this license, this license has  
8 been renewed because she had to turn in the license  
9 three months before it expires at the end of this  
10 month.

11                   ALDERMAN PUENTE: Is this it the old Red's  
12 Hideaway?

13                   MR. AMUNGWAFOR: Yes.

14                   ALDERMAN PUENTE: Thank you.

15                   CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Alderman Bohl.

16                   ALDERMAN BOHL: Mr. Amungwafor, are you  
17 aware that the previous establishment did not have a  
18 dance club license?

19                   MR. AMUNGWAFOR: I am aware of that, sir,  
20 and I explained to you I was just looking for a way to  
21 give my existing just a flavor, just an extra flavor  
22 of getting of the dance if there's music inside the  
23 club.

24                   ALDERMAN BOHL: I spoke with you briefly  
25 because you called me on this. I think you were

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1 mistaken and thought it was in my aldermanic district,  
2 and I directed you to Alderman Davis. Has there been  
3 any neighborhood meeting that's been held? Have you  
4 met with any neighbors? No one from the area?

5 MR. AMUNGWAFOR: Well, I am surprised as to  
6 this denial because most of the people inside the  
7 tavern, they will tell me because they know that the  
8 tavern is old and it needs a new hall for over 30  
9 years, and I have not listened to anybody calling to  
10 complain to me, but when I look at the place just to  
11 see whether there was something wrong, all it was just  
12 because the former owner didn't --

13 ALDERMAN BOHL: Was there any opportunity to  
14 meet with any neighbors, because I know just south of  
15 there, there's a very active neighborhood association  
16 called Bryant Heights. Was there any attempt to meet  
17 with those neighbors? I'm wondering if they were  
18 apprised of this.

19 Mr. Chairman, what I'm getting at is I don't  
20 know where the neighborhood objections come from, but  
21 I also know there's a very active group that's not too  
22 far away from here.

23 And the other thing is that I just will say  
24 off the bat, this is across the street from my  
25 aldermanic district. I don't support new tavern dance

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1 licenses coming in where they don't exist. We don't  
2 have the benefit to hear from the 2nd Aldermanic  
3 District in terms of even providing this committee  
4 with any input, and I would be very, very hesitant to  
5 move approval of a tavern dance license without any  
6 additional input, without knowing those particular  
7 concerns, knowing it's across the street from my  
8 aldermanic district.

9 I know what he's saying, that it is so  
10 removed, and maybe that changes down the line, but I'm  
11 just not going to support something when I've got  
12 constituents that are in a little subdivision right  
13 down Fond du Lac Avenue a short ways from there with  
14 no track record, based on the fact that the previous  
15 establishment was just a corner bar. Maybe Mr.  
16 Amungwafor could work with Alderman Davis and work to  
17 get party permits or something. We can hear from  
18 Alderman Davis as to his input before the Council  
19 meeting, but I just don't support a tavern dance  
20 application at this point. Maybe instrumental music,  
21 if he wants to amend it.

22 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Are there any other  
23 questions, comments by committee?

24 ALDERMAN DUDZIK: Mr. Chair. I think in the  
25 past what's frequently occurred is that an individual

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1 comes in and gets a tavern license and after a year or  
2 so of working with the local alderman is then brought  
3 back with the idea of having a tavern dance  
4 application. I think that's a wise path to follow.  
5 It gives you an opportunity to gauge the neighborhood,  
6 and it gives the alderman an opportunity to gauge you  
7 and the neighborhood as to whether a tavern dance  
8 application would be acceptable at that location, and  
9 although Alderman Davis isn't here, I think that that  
10 would be a prudent path for this committee to take.

11 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Would you be willing to  
12 amend your application based on what Alderman Dudzik  
13 said? In other words, what he's saying is that it  
14 appears that the committee would have a favorable  
15 recommendation on the Class B tavern license alone,  
16 and then you could work with the local alderman and  
17 put some time in there, and then come back at some  
18 point in the future and apply for the tavern dance.  
19 Would you be amenable to that?

20 MR. AMUNGWAFOR: Well, I would be amenable  
21 because I have no choice because this would -- I  
22 would be more than receptive.

23 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: By the way, thank you  
24 for making that map. That's important that people  
25 talk about this stuff. For me to see a picture is



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1 very good. Have a chair so yo can speak into the  
2 microphone.

3 MR. AMUNGWAFOR: I will be very receptive to  
4 amend the application and to get the tavern be  
5 licensed and work with the alderman because the very  
6 day that I met with him, that was the very day where  
7 -- I met with him around 4:30. That's Alderman  
8 Davis. Because when I started this tavern, I started  
9 in November of 2003 trying to get the budget, and at  
10 that time, Alderman Davis was very supportive of what  
11 idea I had, and his main concern was this business  
12 here, the owner wanted to buy this, and then he was  
13 afraid that they were going to extend this to this  
14 road, so he was very happy when I told that I was  
15 going to acquire the property.

16 This is an empty lot here, which is part of  
17 this, and then this is an empty lot, and I have enough  
18 parking that I didn't foresee having a problem, but I  
19 would just be very happy to amend the application and  
20 get going.

21 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Thank you. I'd  
22 like to entertain a motion just to hold this matter at  
23 the call of the chair. We're getting some input from  
24 the alderman's office in the very near future, so if  
25 that's okay with you, we want to hold this matter.

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1 Just have a seat over there, and we'll hear a couple  
2 other matters, then we'll bring you up to the table  
3 again. Is that okay? Might save you an extra trip  
4 down here.

5 MR. AMUNGWAFOR: Thank you, sir.

6 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Alderman Dudzik moves  
7 to hold this matter at the call of the chair.  
8 Hearing no objections to that, so ordered

9 (Break.)

10 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Back in the 2nd  
11 District, Alderman Dudzik moves to reconsider the  
12 matter of Binyoti Amungwafor, Class B Tavern and  
13 Tavern Dance applications for the Hideaway at 9000  
14 West Kaul Avenue. Thank you. And Erlisa, would you  
15 care to share some comments from the alderman's office  
16 with us.

17 ALDERMANIC ASSISTANT: Yes. Alderman Davis  
18 has met with Mr. Binyoti, and he approves of his  
19 tavern license, but he does not approve of a tavern  
20 and dance license.

21 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Sir, do you understand  
22 you could ask us if we'll accept an amended  
23 application, which would be the Class B tavern license  
24 without the tavern dance, and then what you could do  
25 is you could open up and then start working with the

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1 alderman's office and perhaps apply for the tavern  
2 dance license at some point in the future?

3 MR. AMUNGWAFOR: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Are you amenable to  
5 that?

6 MR. AMUNGWAFOR: I am. I wanted to ask  
7 about instrumental music he talked about, but I don't  
8 know what that means.

9 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Basically, if what I  
10 think is going to happen happens, this committee will  
11 probably recommend that the Class B tavern license be  
12 approved without the tavern dance, and then you just  
13 have to work on that, work with the alderman's office,  
14 work with the neighbors, whatever. We'll see you at  
15 some point in future, you come and apply for that, and  
16 perhaps it would be granted at that time. This matter  
17 is in committee.

18 ALDERMAN BOHL: Mr. Chairman. I don't know  
19 -- I know that the applicant had just inquired about  
20 an instrumental music license, and I don't know  
21 whether there's any input from the alderman's office  
22 on that matter. That would allow for music to be  
23 played in the background without anybody dancing.

24 ALDERMANIC ASSISTANT: Not at this time, no.

25 MR. COPELAND: I was going to suggest that

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1 he talk to the alderman.

2 ALDERMAN BOHL: I'm fine with that.

3 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: This matter is in  
4 committee.

5 ALDERMAN BOHL: I would move approval of the  
6 Class B tavern application solely.

7 ALDERMAN WADE: Mr. Chair, I would like to  
8 abstain from this vote.

9 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you, Alderman  
10 Wade. The motion by Alderman Bohl is to recommend  
11 approval of the Class B tavern license only at the  
12 premises at 9000 West Kaul Avenue. This would be an  
13 amended application removing the tavern dance portion  
14 of the application. Are there any objections to that  
15 motion? Hearing none, so ordered

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