

00001

1

2

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

3

LICENSES COMMITTEE

4

* * * * *

5

In the Matter of the Class "B" Tavern and Tavern
Amusement (Cabaret/Nite Club)
renewal applications for:

7

ERETTA A. HONEY
"STARGAZERS"
7158 W. Fond du Lac

8

9

* * * * *

10

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

11

ALD. JAMES BOHL - Chair
ALD. MILELE COGGS, - Vice-Chairman
ALD. ASHANTI HAMILTON
ALD. T. ANTHONY ZIELINSKI
ALD. NIK KOVAC

12

13

14

LICENSING DIVISION by REBECCA GRILL
POLICE DEPARTMENT by SEARGENT CHET ULICKEY
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY by ATTORNEY BRUCE SCHRIMPF

15

16

17

18

Proceedings had and testimony given in
the above-entitled matter, before the LICENSES
COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE, on
the 6th day of May, 2008.

19

20

21

22

00002

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN BOHL: On the - - In the 11:15 a.m. agenda, Eretta Honey, Agent for "Stargazers, LLC", Class "B" Tavern and Tavern Amusement Cabaret/Nite Club renewal application for "Stargazers" at 7158 West Fond du Lac Avenue. Good afternoon here.

THE APPLICANT: Should the witnesses come up, as well?

CHAIRMAN BOHL: You know what? If - - If they're in support, we will - - we'll ask for that here in a moment. Okay. If - - If we could have you raise your right hand and swear you in, sir? You are here in support. We'll - - We'll do that as well, too. You know what? Is - - Are there others here to testify on the matter here regarding Stargazers in the audience? One, two, three, four. Whoever is here to testify in this matter, we're just going to swear you all in right now, including neighbors, or supporters or opponents. So everyone who intends to testify, please raise your right hand. Okay.

(Whereupon those testifying were sworn.)

CHAIRMAN BOHL: And, sir, you are?

00003

1 THE WITNESS: Danelle Wright.
2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And your reason for
3 testifying?
4 THE WITNESS: Security.
5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: You are security.
6 Okay. Ms. Honey, if you could provide your name
7 and your address, just for the record, please.
8 THE APPLICANT: Eretta Honey, 8990
9 North 95th Street C, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. And I'll
11 ask if you acknowledge receiving notice of
12 today's meeting with the possibility your
13 application could be denied. It is cited for
14 items contained in the attached police report, as
15 well as a variety of neighborhood objections that
16 should have been outlined in your notice.
17 THE APPLICANT: I did.
18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. This is a
19 renewal. Ms. Grill, we don't have any
20 objections, do we?
21 MS. GRILL: No, we do not.
22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Sergeant, the
23 police report, please.
24 SERGEANT ULICKEY: On 6/26 of '07 at
25 1:46 a.m. Milwaukee Police were dispatched to

00004

1 7158 West Fond du Lac for a shots fired
2 complaint. Officers spoke to two employees
3 identified as Anthony and Aubrey Jordan, who both
4 stated they heard several gunshots in the area,
5 but did not observe who fired the shots. Both
6 stated - - Excuse me - - They believed the shots
7 were not related to the club. Officers did find
8 casings approx - - approximately 50 yards north
9 of the club.

10 On 10/28 of '07 Milwaukee Police were
11 dispatched to 7158 West Fond du lac Avenue for an
12 armed robbery complaint. Officers spoke to the
13 victim identified as Ashley Medley, who stated
14 she was a dancer for Stargazers and as she walked
15 to her auto she was robbed at gunpoint by an
16 unknown male. The suspect obtained her property
17 and fled the scene.

18 On 3/12 of '08 at 2:12 a.m. Milwaukee
19 Police Department was sent to Stargazers at 7158
20 West Fond du Lac Avenue to check for a shooting
21 scene. Shorewood Police Department was at 1800
22 East Capitol Drive with a shooting victim who was
23 driven to this location from Stargazers. The
24 investigation revealed that two separate fights
25 broke out inside Stargazers. The fights

00005

1 continued in the parking lot at which time the
2 victim received three gunshot wounds to the head
3 causing his death.

4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Sergeant, did we have -
5 - Was this the location where there was some
6 questions regarding an earlier shooting incident
7 that - -

8 MR. SCHRIMPF: Um-hnh.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Did we ever - - Did we
10 ever get an outcome of that investigation?

11 MR. SCHRIMPF: If - - If I may for
12 the - -

13 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Schrimpf.

14 MR. SCHRIMPF: Yeah, for the committee.
15 I don't know if that matter was ever resolved.
16 For the committee's edification, there was a
17 neighbor who appeared at the renewal hearing last
18 year who was a property owner. She brought in a
19 model car that had been damaged, she believed, by
20 a bullet coming from the parking lot at
21 Stargazers. This matter went from committee back
22 to - - or to the Council, Council back to the
23 committee, further hearings were held, and the -
24 - it was just plain inconclusive as to whether or
25 not that incident was related to the operation of

00006

1 Stargazers, and I don't know if Sergeant Ulickey
2 has any more information on that one.

3 SERGEANT ULICKEY: I think Attorney
4 Schrimpf stated it very well.

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Thank you. This
6 is something that would be new to the committee
7 members, but it was outstanding here last time.
8 Alderman Zielinski would at this time move to
9 make the entire police report part of our
10 permanent record in this hearing, and hearing no
11 objections to that, so ordered.

12 Ms. Honey, any questions or - - or
13 comments you have relating to matters that were
14 read into the police report by the Sergeant?

15 THE APPLICANT: Yes, sir. Well, on - -
16 on the first one about the shots fired and the
17 bullets found 50 yards away. Ever since the - -
18 the club was opened next door, every time
19 something happens, it comes back to Stargazers.
20 I went back and got four years of CAD reports,
21 and the reports, and I have them here, show that
22 there are things going on next door, including a
23 stabbing inside of the Stage, that were calls for
24 there to be things going on that are not related
25 to Stargazers.

00007

1 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Mr. Chairman. I don't
2 know if I can object, but the Stage's license is
3 not before this committee.

4 THE APPLICANT: I have the CAD reports.

5 ALDERMAN DAVIS: I mean, I'm interested
6 in what's happening at Stargazers.

7 THE APPLICANT: Excuse me. Excuse me.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Just, Alderman - -

9 THE APPLICANT: With all due respect.

10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: We'll give her - -

11 We'll - - I appreciate that. We'll - - We'll
12 give her a little latitude here, but - -

13 THE APPLICANT: I'm just trying to show
14 that every time something happens in the area,
15 it's not related to Stargazers. I have tapes of
16 an incident where the owner of the Stage and her
17 husband beat a guy to unconscious right out in
18 front. Now I - - I really believe in my heart
19 that one day he's going to come back and do
20 something. For all I know that was him coming
21 back firing shots that night. We have that on
22 video. We have fights next door on video. But
23 it seems like every time something happens,
24 people think Stargazers is to blame.

25 As far as the last shooting goes, the -

00008

1 - there was no fight that broke out in the bar,
2 according to that. The police have the video,
3 and the - - the gentleman that was killed and the
4 gentleman that they believe shot him. And you
5 can speak to Detective Peterson. The video shows
6 that they walked out of the bar laughing and
7 talking together like they didn't have a care in
8 the world. I have a letter from the gentleman's
9 family who was killed stating that the two of
10 them had had an ongoing problem over a girlfriend
11 for two years, and that the gentleman that had
12 been killed had been shot at twice before, and he
13 had been beat in December of the following year.
14 This is from family members of the - - of the
15 gentleman who was killed. And they're stating
16 that they don't believe the Stargazers should be
17 held responsible, because this was a ongoing
18 situation, and wherever they met, these two were
19 going to end this problem.

20 The - - The problem is preventing what
21 you can't predict. They did not fight. They did
22 not fight. You can speak to Detective Peterson.
23 He was just down speaking to Detective Peterson
24 and viewing the videotape. They didn't fight in
25 the bar. There was another incident, that at

00009

1 first the police thought the two were related,
2 but they've since found out that those two
3 incidents were not related.

4 We scan all the IDs that come in. We
5 - - We videotape, although depending on what
6 happens today, I'll update to a digital system.
7 We wand down everyone who comes in. Right now,
8 we use a Breathalyzer only on the employees to
9 make sure that those who shouldn't be drinking
10 aren't drinking. But maybe, depending on what
11 happens today, the - - the public should be wand
12 down, I mean, breathalized anyone that's over a
13 certain limit just not allowed in. I'd like to -
14 - to get to do random auto searches, but I don't
15 know if that's legal. I know I've heard it
16 spoken about, but I don't know if that will ever
17 be okayed. The only other thing I guess I could
18 do is buy a camera for the telephone pole that's
19 - - I mean, the light pole that's outside that
20 would tape the parking lot. No weapon has made
21 it into Stargazers. I could understand if my
22 security wasn't doing their job and a weapon made
23 it into the club and someone were hurt. But the
24 incidents that have happened have only happened
25 outside.

00010

1 As far as the young lady who said she
2 was robbed, security walks all the girls to their
3 cars, puts them in their cars. This particular
4 night they walked her to her car, put her in her
5 car. When they went to walk the other - - some
6 other - - other ladies out, she got out of her
7 car. I fired her immediately, because she had
8 broken the rules. The rules is you walk to your
9 car, you get in your car, and you leave. She got
10 out of her car. She said this happened. I don't
11 know. There were other people on the lot that
12 night. She didn't - - Security was on the lot.
13 She didn't go to security and say I've just been
14 robbed. She went to a gentleman that she said
15 was her brother-in-law. And she should have - -
16 She should have gone to - - Number one, she
17 should have left. But when she didn't, she
18 should have went to security and informed them of
19 - - of what had happened.

20 And I - - I - - I have - - I have so
21 much to say that I just don't know where to
22 start, because we've - - we've - - we've done
23 everything right as far as we can see. Like I
24 said, no weapon has ever made it inside of the
25 club. The violence is not in the club. The

00011

1 incidents that happen happened outside the club.
2 And I - - I - - I'm 53 years old. I - - I'm not
3 trying to start over. I have two kids in
4 college. I have a 13 year old. I'm not trying
5 to jeopardize my livelihood, my - - my future. I
6 am too old to start over anyway. I'm - - I'm not
7 stupid. I'm trying to do everything right. My
8 security tries to do everything right. I have
9 people depending on the business. I have people
10 depending on me. And all I want to do is do - -
11 do what's right. I understand the concern of the
12 neighborhood, but we're just not responsible for
13 everything that's going on there.

14 I also did a compass on the area.
15 There are other incidents of gunfire, and I have
16 all these documents. There are lots of incidents
17 - - Well, I shouldn't say "lots," but there are
18 other incidents of gunfire. A lot of the people
19 - - And - - And I know they probably believe that
20 every time they hear something it's coming from
21 over here. But it's not. There are only a
22 couple houses around that could really say if
23 there were an incident, they were in jeopardy.
24 One is Mr. Hovan, whose wife brought in the car.
25 Another one is across the street, but he is - -

00012

1 he's never com - - complained to us about
2 anything. As a matter of fact, the night where
3 the - - the gun - - the - - the gun, the bullets
4 were found 50 yards away, he slept right through
5 it. He - - The police went and talked to him.
6 He said he hadn't heard anything. And it's like
7 we're in a Catch-22. If you - - If you feel that
8 there's something - -

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Miss - - Ms. Honey, if
10 I may. Pardon me. I'm - - It was your
11 opportunity to respond to police reports.
12 Normally I give you another opportunity to
13 address - -

14 THE APPLICANT: Oh, I'm sorry.

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I mean, you're - -
16 you're - - I don't mind.

17 THE APPLICANT: I'm sorry.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: But I just want to let
19 you know, you got six bullets in the gun, and
20 you're shooting all six right now. I just wanted
21 to allow you to address that, I know that you
22 have an opportunity to provide a closing and
23 other options. I've been giving you a lot of
24 latitude.

25 THE APPLICANT: I'm sorry.

00013

1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: No. And I understand
2 your - - your concerns here. I just - - I wanted
3 - - Were there other specific questions or
4 comments you had relating to the police report?
5 And I know that your latitude is going beyond
6 that, but I - - That was my question. Questions
7 or comments relating to the police report,
8 specific to the police report, not necessarily
9 general things, and I - - and we're scooching a
10 little bit into that, so.

11 THE APPLICANT: Okay.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I want to try to rein
13 that in.

14 THE APPLICANT: I - - I apologize. I
15 don't - - on - - on that. Well, as far as the
16 last shooting.

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: It's understandable. I
18 just - - You - - You will be given - - And you
19 will be given an opportunity to provide
20 additional time to addressing those things. As
21 you've already done. But I - - I just want you
22 to know that.

23 THE APPLICANT: Well, as far as the
24 last shooting, I just wanted to let you know
25 about the letter from the family. As far as the

00014

1 other gunshots, I just wanted to say that it may
2 not - - may or may not have had anything to do
3 with - - with the club. The guys didn't think
4 so. But we called, but it's almost like you're
5 afraid to call. Because if you call, and it has
6 nothing to do with you, then you get something on
7 your - - on your file like that, and - - Alderman
8 Davis had told me one time that I just didn't
9 care. So we're trying to do what's right, but
10 then it comes back to haunt us. I guess that's
11 all that I have at the time.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And - - And I - - I
13 appreciate your comments relating to the - - the
14 letter. I think, you know, you've been before us
15 and know that unless those individuals who are -
16 - who are here - -

17 THE APPLICANT: I was hoping they would
18 come.

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: - - that - - that would
20 be hearsay evidence, and - - and we cannot accept
21 a letter on behalf of someone else. But we do
22 appreciate your comments in that regard.

23 ALDERMAN KOVAC: Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Questions on the police
25 report or relating to testimony here, Alderman

00015

1 Kovac?

2 ALDERMAN KOVAC: Yes, specific to the
3 police report and the issue of that letter. I
4 just wanted - - We can't, unless that person is
5 here to testify, we can't consider it. I wonder
6 if Sergeant Ulickey can comment on whether or not
7 that could be consistent with the police report
8 from that - - that night.

9 SERGEANT ULICKEY: The summation that I
10 read is based on a PA-33 that was filed by the
11 officers. I did have a - - a chance to - - to
12 look at the report very briefly. There's a very
13 and - - and extensive investigation. There's
14 over 100 supplementary reports that were filed
15 with this. And I do recall re - - reviewing the
16 fact that the fights inside were witnessed by the
17 security guards and told to police. In - - In
18 answer to Ms. Honey's statement regarding calling
19 and having these, what are - - what may be
20 perceived as negative connotations on your police
21 report, the committee does know what's negative
22 and what's positive. Now, you - - you've
23 listened to a lot of burglaries being talked
24 about. You've listened to a lot of armed
25 robberies being talked about. That doesn't

00016

1 necessarily impact negatively. It's an incident
2 that occurs, and the officers are supposed to
3 file those reports, and the officers are filing
4 those reports. So the committee is very astute
5 in what they consider and what they don't
6 consider. Even just because something is on
7 there doesn't mean it impacts negatively. A
8 homicide, well, that's up to their discretion,
9 however.

10 THE APPLICANT: I understand that.

11 SERGEANT ULICKEY: I hope I answered
12 your question.

13 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Other questions by
14 committee at this time? Okay. We did - - We did
15 swear in a number of witnesses. I'm going to ask
16 that individuals, unless they are unable to do
17 so, and that means physically unable. If you are
18 physically unable, you may take a seat.
19 Otherwise, I'm going to ask that you come up and
20 use the stand to my right, to your left, provide
21 your name and address for the record, and any
22 pertinent testimony. We're going to start with
23 those individuals who are here to object to the
24 license. And if you are not speaking and - - and
25 you are here, I would ask that you take a seat in

00017

1 the front so that we can proceed in an orderly
2 fashion. So the first individual who is here to
3 object, if you could please take the stand here,
4 and then - - Yes, sir, please. And then you're
5 here to object also, sir. We'll shuffle you in.
6 Thank you.

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Your name and your
9 address, please.

10 THE WITNESS: My name is Leon Steinle.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And could you spell
12 your name, please?

13 THE WITNESS: S-T-E-I-N-L-E.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Mr.

15 Steinle, please - - And your address.

16 THE WITNESS: I live at 6959 West Fond
17 du Lac Avenue.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And - -

19 THE WITNESS: And I object to this.

20 I'm shocked that this place is still open.

21 There's a bunch of cowboys up there, and somebody

22 is going to get killed again. It's the clientele

23 that's there. I'm not saying it's the

24 establishment. But it's the clientele that

25 brings in the people. And it's dangerous up

00018

1 there. When it's closed, it's quiet. When it's
2 open, there's shootings every night. I'm an ex-
3 Korean Vet, and I'll tell you, there's a lot of
4 high caliber shots fired around that bar. And
5 somebody else is going to get killed around
6 there.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Steinle, one of the
8 questions that will be raised here is, is your
9 ability to differentiate gunshots that are coming
10 from the location of - - of - - of this premises
11 versus others that may be in the general area.
12 Could you - -

13 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: - - at least provide
15 some insight to us, how you are determining that
16 it's coming from the prox - - the approximate
17 location of this place?

18 THE WITNESS: I've - - I've seen the
19 cars speeding by. The drive-by shooting.

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: From - - From this
21 location going to or leaving - -

22 THE WITNESS: From this location, yes,
23 sir.

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. And how many
25 times would you say that you've seen something

00019

1 along those lines?

2 THE WITNESS: About three.

3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Three times? And - -

4 And when would - -

5 THE WITNESS: And there's been a couple
6 killings there. And reported shootings. So I
7 believe that it's unsafe for the area.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Thank you for
9 - - for your testimony here.

10 MR. SCHRIMPF: Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Just - - Mr. Schrimpf,
12 let me just see, questions by committee? Mr.
13 Steinle, if you hold on one second, there may be
14 some additional questions. Questions by
15 committee first.

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Schrimpf.

18 MR. SCHRIMPF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 The three times that you have seen cars speeding
20 by this location, were they within the last
21 license year?

22 THE WITNESS: I beg your pardon?

23 MR. SCHRIMPF: The times that you have
24 seen cars speeding by this location, has that
25 been in the last license year?

00020

1 THE WITNESS: It's - - Oh, hard to say.
2 Because my memory doesn't serve me like it - -
3 like I would like it to, but - -
4 MR. SCHRIMPF: Has it been since 2007?
5 THE WITNESS: Oh, yes. Yes. It's been
6 in the last year, and there's been too many
7 incidents in the last year.
8 MR. SCHRIMPF: Now, if you're in your
9 house, are you able to see this bar?
10 THE WITNESS: Yes.
11 MR. SCHRIMPF: Okay.
12 THE WITNESS: I walk - - If I walk out
13 on the front porch, yes.
14 MR. SCHRIMPF: Okay. And do you do
15 that when you hear the noises and the
16 disturbances?
17 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
18 MR. SCHRIMPF: And are you able to
19 determine if they are coming from the parking lot
20 of Stargazers or the other place that Ms. Honey
21 referred to?
22 THE WITNESS: Yes.
23 MR. SCHRIMPF: And where are they
24 coming from?
25 THE WITNESS: They're coming from the

00021

1

Stargazer bar.

2

MR. SCHRIMPF: Have you heard shootings
from the parking lot of Stargazers?

3

4

THE WITNESS: I have been walking down
the street with my dog and seen it.

5

6

MR. SCHRIMPF: And these were patrons
of Stargazers?

7

8

THE WITNESS: Yes.

9

10

MR. SCHRIMPF: And they were engaging
in gunfire?

11

12

THE WITNESS: Yes.

13

MR. SCHRIMPF: How many times have you
seen that?

14

THE WITNESS: At least twice.

15

16

MR. SCHRIMPF: And that - - Was that
since 2007?

17

18

THE WITNESS: Yes. 2007, but I'm
surprised it's still open. I'm shocked.

19

20

MR. SCHRIMPF: That's all I have, Mr.
Chairman.

21

22

CHAIRMAN BOHL: Other questions by
committee? Ms. Honey?

23

24

THE WITNESS: And I'd like to go on the
record and talk to Alderman Davis.

25

CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. That can be done

00022

1 on another occasion, but - - or - - or maybe
2 later or after this here. Ms. Honey, any
3 questions for Mr. Steinle?

4 THE APPLICANT: By the time you get - -

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: No, no. Questions. Do
6 you have a question? Okay.

7 THE APPLICANT: Yes, it's a question.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Otherwise, you'll be
9 provided an opportunity - -

10 THE APPLICANT: You say you have to
11 come to your porch. By the time you get from
12 wherever you are to your porch, I'm sure if the
13 car is speeding by, it's already gone. How can
14 you say that it was from Stargazers, and how can
15 you determine my customers from the customers
16 next door, to even say where they came from. You
17 can't possibly have seen them come out of the
18 bar?

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Now you're providing
20 commentary.

21 THE APPLICANT: I'm sorry.

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: We'll let him answer
23 the question.

24 THE WITNESS: Because - -

25 THE APPLICANT: I'm sorry.

00023

1 THE WITNESS: - - the bar next door, I
2 visit. And it's a mix, from 20s, early 20s to
3 80s, people that visit that bar. And I - - It's
4 a family bar. But this establishment is not a
5 family bar that she's running.

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: But her question
7 specifically, Mr. Steinle, is, is how - - So what
8 your - - what your response is because you're
9 saying the clientele is different?

10 THE WITNESS: Correct.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Now - - And your
12 earlier testimony, is it that you're indicating
13 that - - She's saying how is it that you make it
14 out to the porch to determine, to differentiate
15 that the shootings are coming from her premises.

16 THE WITNESS: I have seen the cars
17 driving out of there - - that area, and drive
18 down the street and shoot.

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Now, is this when you
20 were outside prior to the shootings, or is this
21 that you hear the shootings in the house and run
22 outside and see them.

23 THE WITNESS: Both.

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Both.

25 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Mr. Chairman.

00024

1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Davis.

2 ALDERMAN DAVIS: I think information
3 that is very relevant is that Ms. Honey does not
4 allow the establishment next door, which is the
5 Stage, none of her customers to park in her
6 parking lot. So if Mr. Steinle has noticed cars
7 coming out of her parking lot, they would have to
8 be patrons of Stargazers, because there is an
9 agreement, and she does not allow anyone in that
10 establishment to park in her parking lot.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I recall those comments
12 made at one of the previous hearings here. Other
13 - - Other questions?

14 THE APPLICANT: We're closed on Friday.
15 They use that parking lot all the time on
16 Fridays. And also, they try to use it - - Any
17 other time they do use it, but we have to go over
18 and ask them to move, because she told me that
19 Alderman Davis told her to have me cited for
20 harassment for coming over there asking her to
21 have her customers leave. So her customers still
22 use the parking.

23 THE WITNESS: That is not true.

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: All right. You know
25 what? Now we're - - we're going to rein it in

00025

1 here.

2 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Mr. Chairman. And

3 what I'll - -

4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman.

5 ALDERMAN DAVIS: What I'll do is - -

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Davis, I'm
7 going to provide you a short latitude here, okay?

8 ALDERMAN DAVIS: I'm just asking that,
9 you know, I'm not going to be - - I'm not going
10 to sit before this committee and be badgered by
11 someone who is giving hearsay on someone else's
12 comment on what I've said.

13 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Right.

14 ALDERMAN DAVIS: And - - And - - And I
15 would just hope that the committee would, if
16 they're interested in making sure that if that's
17 something that I said, that I'm here to answer
18 for myself, but I'm - - I'm taking exceptions to
19 one who says this is what I said to someone else.

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And I - - And I know
21 Alderman Davis as a man of integrity, so if he
22 raises exception, he's got good reason to do so.
23 Thank you, Mr. Steinle, for your testimony. Sir,
24 we'll take you next.

25 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

00026

1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. And then
2 others who are here to testify, because I believe
3 two are - - were in objection. If you just want
4 to start filtering into the front row, we'll - -
5 we'll move to supporters then. Sir, your name
6 and your address for the record, please.

7 THE WITNESS: My name is Don Braun.
8 Braun is B-R-A-U-N, like Ryan Braun. My address
9 is 7027 West Fond du Lac Avenue.

10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And - -

11 THE WITNESS: 53218.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Your
13 testimony, Mr. Braun.

14 THE WITNESS: Pardon?

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Your testimony, please.

16 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I've heard several
17 gunshots. And generally when I do, I take a
18 walk, and on two separate occasions I have found
19 casings of nine millimeters and one 40 caliber in
20 the parking lot there.

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And where is "there,"
22 because there's - -

23 THE WITNESS: At Stargazers' parking
24 lot.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay.

00027

1 THE WITNESS: I walk over the next
2 morning. Sometimes you see them on the road. I
3 won't say - - I won't say that those are from
4 there. But I do have two dogs, and the youngest
5 one likes to get up at two o'clock in the
6 morning. And so, I will let her out. And, yeah,
7 I can see the parking lot very clear from my
8 frontyard, and there is a lot of fast moving cars
9 when they come out. I have called the police
10 department on one occasion, because a woman was
11 standing out in the middle of the road,
12 screaming, and there were two guys trying to get
13 her to settle down. I was on the phone with 9-1-
14 1, and they walked her back into the building.
15 That was two years ago. So they did not respond
16 to that.

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And for committee's
18 edification, that would have been an item that
19 would have been previously heard, and we will not
20 consider as part of - -

21 THE WITNESS: Okay. Sorry about that.

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: We're - - We're more
23 focused on the last year, since - -

24 THE WITNESS: Last year, okay.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: - - since last May up

00028

1 until today, so.

2 THE WITNESS: After the last shooting
3 in March, I do have the cell phone number to
4 Captain of District 7, so that I can contact him
5 anytime I hear a shooting out there, so that's up
6 to them to determine where it comes from. I have
7 not called since March, so, that's it.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: You have not called
9 since March.

10 THE WITNESS: No.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Just in the last two
12 months. Thank you for your testimony here.
13 Questions by committee?

14 MR. SCHRIMPF: Mr. Chairman?

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Schrimpf.

16 MR. SCHRIMPF: Thank you. When you say
17 "last March," are you referring to March 12th of
18 this year?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

20 MR. SCHRIMPF: Thank you. That's all I
21 have.

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Any other questions by
23 - - by committee? Ms. Honey, any questions of
24 Mr. Braun?

25 THE APPLICANT: No, sir.

00029

1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your
2 testimony, sir. Okay. Now we'll be happy to
3 hear from supporters here. Will - - Mr. Wright,
4 we'll get to you here first, and then we'll take
5 this gentleman. Go ahead.

6 THE WITNESS: Okay.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: If you want to, again,
8 identify yourself for the record, and your
9 address, please.

10 THE WITNESS: My name is Danele Wright.
11 My address is 5437 North 91st.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay.

13 THE WITNESS: Okay. First off,
14 regarding the shooting incident, March. The
15 victim, the shooter, never fought in the club. I
16 witnessed the whole scene. I've been interviewed
17 by the police several times. There was a
18 argument between the guys. They voluntarily
19 left. There was no fight, so, therefore, no one
20 was even put out. There wasn't even a major
21 argument. It was a disruption, they realized
22 they ran into each other. They looked at me and
23 told me, we're going to leave because we don't
24 even want it to be a problem. I went over with
25 Detective Peterson on the tape several times.

00030

1 When they walked out the door, they was laughing.
2 There was no fight in the parking lot. I was
3 standing at the front door.

4 Regarding that issue, it was another
5 fight in the club later on that night. The whole
6 incident involving the shooting, the guys never
7 did fight inside the club. That's been my
8 testimony to the police on several incidents.

9 As far as the parking, I'm also in the
10 parking lot on a nightly basis. My car actually
11 sits down on Fond du lac, because sometimes I sit
12 in the car to watch the parking lot for break-ins
13 and stuff like that. This Stage do us our
14 parking, regularly. They use our parking for
15 exiting, entrance - - and for entry. When it
16 comes to the noise that's in the police report,
17 and that was one of the complaints, I witnessed
18 their cars, the hot rod, the motorcycles, that
19 they illegally park on the sidewalk. I got
20 pictures right here of it. They race the cars up
21 and down. We get blamed for it. They park
22 motorcycles on the sidewalk. We get blamed for
23 it.

24 The shootings that I'm hearing today
25 are all the time happening. I don't understand

00031

1 how I'm standing in the parking lot or sitting in
2 the parking lot or security's walking through the
3 parking lot on a regular basis, and I'm not
4 witnessing all of this. And I'm just standing a
5 week ago in the parking lot with Ms. Eretta. We
6 standing at the - - We wasn't even opened yet.
7 You hear shots being fired. We standing on a
8 empty lot with our establishment closed. About a
9 block away in their neighborhood. Every time it
10 happens though we get blamed for it.

11 We trying to run a business. I
12 understand we never let a gun in. We do a full
13 pat and a metal wand search. A gun has never
14 made it in. A knife has never made it in, a
15 razor, any of that. We don't have those kind of
16 incidents. We running a business where we employ
17 single moms, women going to college. We have 12
18 security on staff, two bartenders. All these
19 people depending on this establishment for their
20 living. And it seem like every time something
21 happens in the neighborhood, we're to blame.
22 When I - - in all actuality, we're not actually
23 responsible for everything that's going on. I
24 can't speak on the shooting before that, because
25 I wasn't there at the time. But since I've been

00032

1 there, I know they're - - They was just stating
2 that there's high caliber shots being fired off
3 on a daily basis. I'm in the parking lot on a
4 daily basis. It's not happening. I cooperate
5 with the police in any situation, and if you
6 check the police report, I'm the one calling 9-1-
7 1. So it's not that we're not even calling.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you, Mr. Wright.
9 Questions by committee at this time? Alderman
10 Davis, anything? Okay. Thank you. Sir?

11 THE WITNESS: My name is Anthony
12 Jordan. I stay at 5256 North 36. I'm also
13 employed at Stargazers.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay.

15 THE WITNESS: The comments that I have
16 are this gentleman says that - - I'm not sure of
17 your name. What's your name?

18 THE WITNESS: Steinle.

19 THE WITNESS: There was a comment that
20 was made about the shootings that go on. And
21 there has been times when we've stood out there,
22 and we've heard shootings right behind that next
23 block. You know, we've seen police come through
24 there, you know, but everyone accuses us of
25 always having all of these shootings, and it

00033

1 don't go on.

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay.

3 THE WITNESS: I mean, I'm asking if any
4 of you all would like to just come and step in,
5 stay a day, hang out. You will see it's really
6 not that type of place at all. We get accused
7 for so much stuff that go on there, and, I mean,
8 there's an incident where at the Stage, they
9 jumped on a gentleman right across the street.
10 We had to call the police. We never got a
11 response. But we're the ones that's always
12 getting blamed for everything that goes on there.
13 And we have never, not once has there been a gun
14 brought in. There has never been any type of
15 incident where anyone has got hurt, like that in
16 the inside of the club where someone has actually
17 got in with this.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you, Mr. Jordan.
19 Questions by committee at this time? Mr.
20 Steinle, I - - I will accept, you have to know
21 that we're intelligent enough to differentiate
22 those things and not have to worry about that.
23 Okay. No questions by committee? Thank you.
24 Other individuals here to testify? Any other one
25 - - Any - - Anybody else here to testify? Going

00034

1 once, going twice, sold. Okay. Alderman Davis.
2 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
3 Members of the committee. First of all, I want
4 to thank my constituents for coming out and
5 showing the guts, in a dangerous situation. And,
6 you know, I'm appalled about hearing these things
7 about, you know, they're getting blamed for this
8 and getting blamed for that. We didn't have
9 homicides at this location. We didn't have young
10 African-American males lose their life. And if
11 she wants to talk - - Let me retract that. If we
12 want to talk about how critical this is, then
13 talk to the family members of the people who lost
14 their children at this location. Because I hear
15 from them. And I hear how disgusted they are
16 that young black men have to lose their lives on
17 the streets of these cities of Milwaukee because
18 someone's not willing to take responsibility.
19 When is it going to end? When is it going to
20 end, when we take responsibility for this? Tired
21 of going to funerals for these young guys. And
22 then all of a sudden you come here, it's a liquor
23 establishment, and they say we didn't have
24 nothing to do with it. Oh, it's across the
25 street. Oh, it's because they had a bad life.

00035

1 No, it's your responsibility. If you're serving
2 liquor and if they in your establishment, it's
3 your responsibility. I argued this time and time
4 again at this location. Suspensions. I done had
5 neighbors call me and said I'm not coming down
6 there, because I don't want my house shot up.
7 When do we - - When - - When does this end?

8 I'm asking the committee not to renew
9 this. And I'm not going to get - - You know, I'm
10 not going to get it, because I'll say the wrong
11 thing here, and I don't want to say the wrong
12 thing. I don't want this to be litigated in
13 court. I'm telling you I'm passionate about
14 this, and I'm hoping the Council will take the
15 action which we need. Take the license away from
16 this establishment.

17 THE WITNESS: Here, here.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Ms. Honey, I got a
19 follow-up question for you. And - - And, you
20 know, I - - When there's been the shootings here,
21 including one of the ones recently, the
22 allegations that I see in the paper and/or the
23 news is this is a strip club, a gentlemen's club.
24 Now, what I will note is that you don't have a
25 license for being a strip club, although I don't

00036

1 know if you technically are cutting it close in
2 whatever way of saying that you have a
3 application for a dancing by performer, where you
4 have ladies dancing on stage to music. How much
5 latitude you get in terms of what skin you have
6 and what clothing you have, what you are going to
7 deem a costume, would you - - the ladies dancing
8 on stage to music, are you - - are you what would
9 traditionally be viewed as a strip club?

10 THE APPLICANT: No. I follow - - A few
11 years ago I went to Alderman Davis and I
12 explained to him just exactly how I wanted to run
13 the business. Alderman Davis called me back and
14 he told me to put on the - - And I do have a tape
15 of the conversation. He called me back and told
16 me to fill it out as ladies dancing on stage. I
17 followed the laws of Milwaukee County that says
18 exactly what you're supposed to do. The cleavage
19 of the buttocks has to be covered, and the girls
20 do not take off their tops.

21 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, I'm
22 going to object to that one, too. You know,
23 because what she's saying is, is that I condone
24 the type of behavior that's happening in her
25 establishment.

00037

1 THE APPLICANT: No. No. I'm just - -
2 ALDERMAN DAVIS: She specifically said
3 that she - - You know, Mr. Chairman, I'm - - I'm
4 respectfully asking that when my name is used,
5 and if she can't - - if she can't substantiate it
6 - -

7 THE APPLICANT: I have a tape.
8 ALDERMAN DAVIS: - - then she should
9 not use my name in this public - -

10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Well - -
11 ALDERMAN DAVIS: - - in this public
12 forum, because what she's doing is she's
13 slandering my name.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And - - And - -
15 THE APPLICANT: I have the tape, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN BOHL: That - - We don't have
17 that before us here. So I'll just - - I'll ask
18 in terms of responding, your response is, is no,
19 that you are - - are not providing. Are these
20 - - Are these girls walking up and down the stage
21 getting tips from gentlemen?

22 THE APPLICANT: Yes.
23 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And - - And the tips

24 are not going in a jar. Is that correct?
25 THE APPLICANT: No.

00038

1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: You make up your mind
2 for what it is, I'm - - Ms. Honey, this is an
3 opportunity now to provide a closing statement,
4 and you can expound on some of the things that
5 you - - you addressed earlier. What I'll ask you
6 to do is, is not get to the point where it's
7 repetitious. I mean, we've heard from you
8 multiple times, and from both of your witnesses
9 about saying that some of the occurrences are
10 going on next door. The shootings are going on
11 broadly. I mean, I - - I will ask you to try to
12 keep it in within a reasonable summary here.
13 Thank you.

14 THE APPLICANT: I don't - - I - - I
15 don't know what else to say. Alderman Davis it
16 seems to me is trying to make me look like a
17 uncaring person who has no morals.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Ma'am, and I just will
19 - - And I'm not trying to - - to - - to discredit
20 what you're saying here. He didn't say that. So
21 I just - - Please.

22 THE APPLICANT: Well, I'm - - I'm sorry
23 then. Maybe I took it wrong. I apologize. I am
24 - - I am trying to run a good business. I'm
25 employing people that need to work. No more

00039

1 people need to be out of a job. I, just as well
2 as others, do community work. I - - I'm not the
3 person that the City is seeing right now. It - -
4 It seems that I'm being made to look like - - I'm
5 running a good business. Things that are
6 happening are beyond my control. If I thought I
7 could control what's going on, if I thought
8 closing the bar would stop the violence, I would
9 close the bar on my own. I wouldn't have to be
10 closed down. But I know in my heart that we do
11 all we can. I know in my heart that we are not
12 the cause of what happened outside. I know the
13 family does not hold me responsible for this last
14 shooting. I know that for a fact. Like I said,
15 you all can't take the letter, but I know it.
16 And whatever happens today, there's going to be a
17 lot of people that don't agree one way or the
18 other. My guys have done all they could. I
19 couldn't ask them to do any more. But like I
20 said, if - - if I thought closing the bar would
21 stop the - - the violence, or stop to having to
22 go to funerals where there are young African-
23 Americans or whatever, I would close it on my
24 own.

25

Because quite frankly, I have a

00040

1 ministry that has been registered with the State
2 for over four years. So I do other kind of work.
3 I have a family member who counsels victims of
4 homicides.

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Ms. Honey, I don't - -
6 I'm not dis - -

7 THE APPLICANT: I'm sorry.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I'm not disputing that
9 - - that - - And that you're a good person or
10 anything else.

11 THE APPLICANT: If there were anything
12 I could do, I - - I would. If - - If I thought
13 closing, I'd close. All I can say is we done all
14 we could, and I hope and I pray that you all
15 understand that they don't need to lose their
16 jobs. And if putting a camera on a pole outside
17 will help, I'll do that. Whatever you suggest.
18 I just hope and pray that you will see that
19 there's just got to be another way.

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Thank you.
21 We're in committee.

22 ALDERWOMAN COGGS: Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderwoman Coggs.

24 ALDERWOMAN COGGS: Ms. Honey, have you
25 met with the neighbors?

00041

1 THE APPLICANT: There was a time a
2 couple years ago where if you would have had
3 asked - - And Alderman Bohl probably knows this,
4 too, because I have been before the Council
5 before. But there was a time when the neighbors
6 came in here and they constantly said, even from
7 the church in the area, we have no problem with
8 Stargazers. We don't want the other bar open.
9 But as soon as that bar opened, everything
10 changed. Everything.

11 ALDERWOMAN COGGS: So is that a yes or
12 no?

13 THE APPLICANT: Yes. Yes, in the past,
14 I have. Not lately, no. Some of them, but not
15 to the extent that I had before the Stage opened.
16 Before the Stage opened, you could be saying they
17 had no problem with me.

18 ALDERWOMAN COGGS: Follow-up question.

19 THE APPLICANT: And I've been there ten
20 years.

21 ALDERWOMAN COGGS: Follow-up question.
22 Since the shooting, have you adjusted security in
23 any way?

24 THE APPLICANT: The business has
25 dropped in half, but I've kept security where it

00042

1 is. Money is really down, but I won't compromise
2 on security. I have at least five security there
3 at all times. I'm looking to upgrade to a high
4 level digital camera system, and like I said,
5 I'll put - - I'll - - I'll - - I'll foot the bill
6 to put one of those big cameras on the pole
7 outside that - - like the DOT has, if that's what
8 it takes to show that it's - - it's not us.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Questions answered?
10 Okay.

11 ALDERMAN DAVIS: I know you're in
12 committee, Mr. Chairman, but - -

13 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I - - I really want to
14 be in committee, because I'm the only person who
15 hasn't gotten to a lunch, or actually gone to the
16 bathroom and now six hours here, so. I - - I
17 literally am in committee here, so.

18 ALDERMAN DAVIS: But can I raise a
19 question, has this license establishment ever
20 been suspended before?

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Yes, it has. I believe
22 our records indicates that it was renewed with a
23 30 day suspension in 2006, and that is the
24 suspension. We are in committee.

25 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chair.

00043

1

CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski.

2

ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Based on - - Well,
3 first off, I'll have to say that you seem really
4 sincere. But, you know, based on, you know, the
5 testimony of the neighborhood, based upon the
6 police report, you know, and the testimony,
7 there's some very egregious violations that have
8 occurred. And this is not just the first time
9 that this has occurred, as was mentioned just a
10 few moments ago. There was a 30 day suspension a
11 couple years ago. So based on that, I would move
12 for nonrenewal.

13

CHAIRMAN BOHL: The motion by Alderman
14 Zielinski is to recommend nonrenewal of the
15 licenses based on neighborhood testimony, as well
16 as matters contained in the police report,
17 Alderman Zielinski?

18

ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Correct.

19

CHAIRMAN BOHL: Is there any discussion
20 on the motion? Are there any objections to the
21 motion? Hearing none, so ordered.

22

MR. SCHRIMPF: Ms. Honey, the committee
23 is going to be doing findings of fact and
24 conclusions of law, recommending nonrenewal of
25 this license. You will receive a copy of those.

00044

1 You will have an opportunity to submit written
2 objections to that recommendation. And if you do
3 so, you must do it by the close of business, May
4 15th, 2008. That's 4:45 p.m. In the City
5 Clerk's office of this building. That's Room
6 205. If you submit written objections, then you
7 will also have the opportunity to appear before
8 the Milwaukee Common Council when it considers
9 this matter on May 20th, 2008 in the Common
10 Council Chambers of this building at
11 approximately nine a.m. So you have to get your
12 findings in by the close of business, May 15th,
13 2008 in Room 205, and then you'll have an
14 opportunity to appear before the Council at about
15 nine a.m. on May 20th, 2008. Understand all
16 that?

17 THE APPLICANT: Yes, I do.

18 MR. SCHRIMPF: Do we have your correct
19 address as?

20 THE APPLICANT: Yes, you do. 8990
21 North 95th C.

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: We confirmed that.

23 MR. SCHRIMPF: Okay. Good. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you.

25 THE APPLICANT: Thank you. Have a

00045

1 blessed day.

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Likewise.

3 * * * * *

00046

1

2

3 STATE OF WISCONSIN)

4)

5 MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

6

7

8 I, JEAN M. BARINA, of Milwaukee Reporters
9 Associated, Inc., 5124 West Blue Mound Road,
10 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208, certify that the foregoing
11 proceedings is a full and complete transcript of the
12 "STARGAZERS" taken in the foregoing proceedings.

12

13

14

15

16

17

JEAN M. BARINA
Court Reporter

18

19

20

21 Dated this day of July, 2008.

22

