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CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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LICENSES COMMITTEE

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In the Matter of the Class "B" Tavern
renewal application for:

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STEVE CONZONER
"STEVE-O'S BAR AND GRILL"
9012 W. Silver Spring Drive

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

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

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Proceedings had and testimony given in
the above-entitled matter, before the LICENSES
COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE, on
the 17th day of June, 2008.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

VICE-CHAIRMAN BOHL: Moving on to our 2:30 - - 2:30 p.m. agenda, Steve Conzoner, "Steve-O's of Milwaukee, Inc.", Class "B" Tavern renewal application as agent for "Steve-O's Bar & Grill" at 9012 West Silver Spring Drive. Good afternoon.

ALDERMAN DAVIS: Good afternoon.

CHAIRMAN BOHL: And Alderman Davis.

MR. ARENA: Good afternoon.

CHAIRMAN BOHL: Good afternoon. And the record can reflect that - - that Mr. Conzoner is being represented by Attorney Andy Arena. Mr. Conzoner, Alderman Davis, we'll swear each of you in, swear you both in, if you could raise your right hand, Mr. Conzoner. Thank you.

(Whereupon the Applicant and Alderman were sworn.)

CHAIRMAN BOHL: This - - This item was held one cycle at our last meeting to allow for, I believe, an opportunity of additional dialog, neighborhood-type meeting. I - - I just will ask, again, even though you have acknowledged already, Mr. Conzoner, if you acknowledge receiving notice of today's meeting with the

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1 possibility your application could be denied.
2 There was an attached police report to the
3 materials that should have been sent to you, as
4 well as an assortment of neighborhood objections
5 that should have been outlined on the notice for
6 today's meeting.

7 THE APPLICANT: Yes.

8 MR. ARENA: Yes, he has.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. I - - At
10 this point - - There was a rather - - Just one
11 moment here. There was a rather lengthy police
12 report. Sergeant, it was read into the record
13 last time. We'll just have Alderman Zielinski
14 move to make the entire police report part of our
15 official record in this proceeding. Hearing
16 objections - - no - - no objections to that, so
17 ordered. Mr. Arena?

18 MR. ARENA: I wasn't sure, but I wanted
19 to note in my appearance that Mr. Conzoner now
20 appears with counsel, Andrew Arena, and we're
21 prepared to somewhat proceed today. Although I
22 have not spoken or met with the Alderman. I
23 understand there was a neighborhood meeting, and
24 there was additional neighborhood contact - -
25 contact with neighbors by myself and Mr.

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1 Conzoner. And we have developed a written plan,
2 which I would submit to the committee at this
3 point in time.

4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Do you - - Do you have
5 - - Do you have enough copies for the committee?
6 Has - -

7 THE APPLICANT: Yes, I do.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Has Alderman Davis been
9 given a copy of that, as well, too, here?

10 ALDERMAN DAVIS: No.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Do you have a copy that
12 you can present him, as the Alderman in that
13 area?

14 MR. ARENA: There is a - - There would
15 be enough for him to have a copy, as well.

16 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. That's fine.
17 We'll - - We'll move ahead and, yeah, why don't
18 you - - I think it's important you accept a copy,
19 don't you?

20 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Yes. Yes, Mr.
21 Chairman.

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And - - And Alderman
23 Hamilton would - - would move to - - to accept
24 and - - and make part of our permanent record
25 here, the - - this is a - - a new plan of

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1 operation here, Mr. Arena, is that - -

2 MR. ARENA: That's correct.

3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: With changes or changes
4 to the plan of operation as part of our official
5 record in this proceeding. Hearing no objections
6 to that, so ordered. I'll allow you, while
7 Alderman Davis is perusing this, to take a moment
8 and outline that if you - - if you will.

9 MR. ARENA: Well, it is an outline of a
10 process that did start actually in December. It
11 started in December of '07 as a result of
12 incidents that occurred in the summer of '07. It
13 sort of happened a little bit later due to
14 financing. The first thing that was engaged in
15 was security cameras. I believe he testified
16 concerning that. I - - I did assist him and he
17 brought to me his plan, and I did assist him in
18 further fleshing out issues and assist him in - -
19 in looking at the location and determining things
20 that could help him, and then I did speak with
21 his neighbor - - two of his neighbors, actually,
22 prior to coming here today.

23 I spent some time at the location. I
24 was there on, I believe it was Saturday night for
25 a pretty substantial amount of time to get a

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1 pretty good idea of what the clientele is and
2 what is happening. I did note that there is a
3 rather high tech digital security camera system
4 that records the entire outside in the - - in the
5 back. There's a weird configuration of parking
6 lots here where his parking lot leads into an
7 apartment parking lot. There's a little bit of
8 a, I guess, jog to the left, and there's another
9 parking lot behind an office building and an exit
10 onto a back street. And the camera successfully
11 captures that whole entire back. There were
12 additional halogen lights and stuff so that that
13 area is fairly lit up, and between the trees and
14 the fences that are around the - - next to the
15 apartment building directly behind this location
16 there's a series of maybe four houses to five
17 houses. There's a lot of trees and there's a
18 fence around those yards, and you can't - -
19 There's a really good division there, so you
20 could hear noise, but I don't think that anybody
21 could see anything from that point. But that
22 whole area is now on video.

23 The halogen lights are there. He has
24 bought a metal detector. He has on back order,
25 an identification system. You're probably

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1 familiar with these. They swipe the card. So
2 they verify if the card is valid, and the name of
3 the person, and they also have the capability of
4 keeping on record all the IDs that were swiped.
5 All IDs will be swiped. Additional security will
6 be added from 11 p.m. until closing time. And it
7 his intention to strictly enforce a new age limit
8 of 25 and up. You know, that - - that may help,
9 certainly prevent the potential for future
10 negative actions by patrons.

11 He has a satellite - - satellite
12 jukebox. Person pays for plays, and then they
13 download from the satellite the music. That
14 allows him the capability to lock out certain
15 types of music. Hiphop, rap, heavy metal, all
16 that is locked out. When I was there, it was
17 pretty much older Top 40 music that was being
18 played.

19 An important point, and - - and I put
20 it in bold on the plan, if everybody has it, is
21 that no new patrons will be allowed to enter 30
22 minutes prior to closing. Closing time will be
23 earlier, especially on Fridays and Saturdays.
24 His capacity is 150 people, and that will now be
25 limited to 60 people voluntarily. And there

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1 won't be a situation where lines - - lines will
2 be allowed to develop. When he hits 60, people
3 will simply be turned away, and they will not be
4 allowed entry. He will post signs that warn
5 patrons to behave when they leave and be quiet
6 when they leave. The additional security will
7 patrol the parking lot, and actually, there will
8 be a security man at that back exit onto the back
9 street between the apartment building and the
10 small office building. That was the situation
11 where a van had entered last summer at some
12 point, and somebody, it's believed by my client,
13 that he wasn't - - this person wasn't a patron,
14 but they drove through in a van and discharged a
15 firearm. And I think that that is a - - an
16 incident to be very concerned with. So at that
17 closing time, no new vehicles are going to be
18 allowed to come into the lot. That will be
19 posted with security.

20 And there will be signage that warn
21 people and tell them that they're on video, and
22 there will be full cooperation with the police,
23 and the police will be called. And those people
24 will be prosecuted with the aid of the video.

25 As to item number two, which is really

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1 issues when customers leave, closing earlier will
2 probably assist in getting people to leave. The
3 additional security will assist in that. And
4 there was some issue with a neighbor that
5 testified before you in the last hearing a couple
6 weeks ago, and I was actually present, just
7 happened to be here for another matter. Her name
8 is Barb. I don't recall her last name at this
9 point. I went to her home Sunday. And I've
10 talked to her on the phone. That is the - -
11 Steve will be present. It's his intention to be
12 present at nearly all open hours, and he will be
13 the person that she can go to with issues.
14 Hopefully there aren't any issues. But at - -
15 She had an issue with a gentleman that was here
16 to testify earlier that she didn't feel that when
17 she spoke to him, her complaints were being
18 addressed. But Steve will take responsibility
19 for that himself.

20 As you are aware, he's been at that
21 location for 28 years. Basically for 27 of the
22 28 years he hasn't been before this committee.
23 He's been operating a successful location for the
24 vast majority of that time, and, you know, I
25 guess there were some changes in the

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1 neighborhood. Everybody knows and talks about
2 it. A couple of places in the neighborhood were
3 closed. And sometimes maybe after 28 years or 26
4 years of business he was a little bit complacent
5 and not prepared to have those changes in the
6 neighborhood forced upon him in the way that they
7 were. Certainly he takes it seriously now, and
8 this is his entire livelihood. And he certainly
9 does not want to be pushed out of business in a
10 way that would be very negative, you know, at
11 this point. With that, I will leave it open to
12 questions, and I do apologize to Alderman Davis
13 for not getting this plan to him sooner. It was
14 reviewed and most - - many of the ideas were
15 discussed and implemented with the help of a
16 neighbor. And I look at the - - as this plan,
17 and I've told Steve that this plan is a - - is a
18 contract with himself and the neighborhood, and
19 that's why it's in writing, and it's important
20 for him to review it and understand it and live
21 up to the spirit of it.

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Are there
23 questions by committee at this time of Mr. Arena,
24 the applicant?

25 MR. ARENA: I would indicate that the

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1 neighbor, and I'm sorry, I do forget her last
2 name. She did testify - -

3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Barb Simon.

4 MR. ARENA: Yeah, she put, I guess, a
5 extended porch on the back of her home, which I
6 did see, and it's very nice. My last
7 conversation with her is that she would be
8 supportive of Steve in allowing Steve to remain
9 in operation at the location.

10 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And we, you know, Mr.
12 Arena, I mean, that's - -

13 MR. ARENA: I understand - -

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: There - - We - - See,
15 and that's, you know, that's hearsay in terms of
16 she's not here to provide that, but - - So, I
17 mean, we appreciate your efforts putting this
18 together and at least attempting to reach out to
19 the neighbors. Alderman Davis.

20 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Members of the committee. Mr. Arena, you don't
22 have to apologize. I know that you're a stand-up
23 guy, and you try to represent your clients to the
24 best of your ability. And if I didn't receive
25 the notice, it probably was not any fault of your

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1 own.

2 MR. ARENA: Thank you, Alderman.

3 ALDERMAN DAVIS: And you're welcome.

4 And as I move forward to discuss this matter, I
5 want to thank the committee for actually giving
6 this a second hearing. I know that this has been
7 laborious for you. Alderman Zielinski, at that
8 time, moved that we meet with the neighborhood.
9 I fulfilled my end of the - - the - - my
10 obligation. We did meet at Bryant Elementary
11 School. Marva Herndon, which is the block club
12 captain from Bryant Heights Neighborhood
13 Association, was at that meeting. It was very
14 well attended and over 95 percent of the people
15 that was in that meeting objected to the renewal
16 of this license.

17 UNKNOWN PERSON: I object to that. I
18 was at the meeting. No way. No, we had over 65
19 percent - -

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: We can - - We can hear
21 from you. Just - -

22 ALDERMAN DAVIS: And the block club
23 captain, Marva Herndon, would be able to testify
24 on how many people were actually at that
25 particular meeting. Those who were in support

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1 were patrons of the bar. There probably was one
2 individual who lived in the neighborhood, but the
3 rest of them were actually patrons from the bar,
4 either representing a baseball team that was in
5 the bar, or workers, meaning bartenders or
6 security, that was in favor of the renewal of
7 this license. The overwhelming majority of the
8 neighbors were opposed to it, specifically, a
9 young couple - - I'm going to call them young,
10 but they're well in their 70s and 80s, complained
11 about urination in the backyard.

12 MR. ARENA: I have to object on the
13 grounds of hearsay.

14 ALDERMAN DAVIS: They live directly
15 behind the particular establishment. So, Mr.
16 Chairman and members of the committee, this
17 deliberation, I do appreciate, but any time that
18 you see these egregious acts, that is, within
19 this police report, and at the meeting it was
20 unveiled that this particular applicant has a
21 security person who is not formally trained in
22 security. As a matter of fact, he's not even
23 licensed and bonded.

24 MR. ARENA: I'll object. There's a
25 lack of foundation for that statement.

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1 ALDERMAN DAVIS: And the unfortunate -
2 - And the unfortunate reality is that in this
3 particular plan of operation, he is stating that
4 he's going to add another security guard. But it
5 does not say if this particular security is going
6 to be well-trained and protect the public health,
7 safety and welfare. And for me, that's very
8 important when I have gunshots and fights and - -
9 and all of these other things that are occurring
10 within the police report. There has to be
11 someone who is going to give order. Otherwise,
12 they rely on the Milwaukee Police Department to
13 be their private security, and we have seen it
14 time and time again from calls for services, that
15 the Milwaukee Police Departments spends an
16 inordinate amount of time at bar time directing
17 traffic. And that's a travesty for every
18 neighborhood who really needs police service in
19 their neighborhoods. This is not how we're
20 supposed to use our law enforcement personnel.
21 They're supposed to be out there taking care of
22 the neighborhoods, and also, businesses that tend
23 to respect the sanctity of people who own homes
24 and at two and three o'clock in the morning, not
25 all of this commotion that is caused by the

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1 patrons in which they visit their establishment.
2 So my position has not changed. My position is
3 not to support this renewal of the license. And
4 I would hope that my colleagues, based upon the
5 evidence that you have before you, the police
6 report, will protect the health, safety and
7 welfare of the neighborhood.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you, Alderman
9 Davis. I just will say for the record, that I
10 will ask that the testimony comments that relate
11 to the 70 year old neighbors, specifically the
12 urination matter and - - be stricken from - -
13 from the - - the record. I will - - will
14 certainly add - - ask that the committee also
15 without proof disregard the notion of whether or
16 not the - - the security is bonded and - - and
17 insured. I - - I think - - I think we - - we at
18 least had a grasp of that individual, and we had
19 him before us here, so I think we know where
20 we're at on that.

21 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, if I - -
22 Just one more point.

23 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Sure, Alderman, go
24 ahead.

25 ALDERMAN DAVIS: The reason why I

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1 wanted to make sure that I mentioned that is
2 because Attorney Arena's mentioned that he had a
3 conversation with Ms. Simon. And had she been
4 supportive of this license, she would have put it
5 in writing. I meet with Ms. Simon on a regular
6 basis, and had she felt so strongly to support
7 this license, I'm pretty sure that she would have
8 put something in writing to indicate to the
9 licensing committee. She's very astute about
10 the procedure here down at the Licensing
11 Committee.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you, Alderman.
13 And - - And I know that it would be hearsay, but
14 I've known her long enough, as well, too. You
15 having inherited that area from me four years
16 ago, to know that if that were the case, I could
17 probably hear from Marva Herndon, who would be
18 able to tell me whether or not that were the
19 case, as well, too, and I certainly know Marva
20 long - - long enough and trust Marva that - -
21 that she could be able to - - to say that, even
22 if it would be hearsay.

23 What I want to say at this time is - -
24 is it is - - It's not my hope to open up brand
25 new testimony here. I think that we had an

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1 opportunity first time around to do that. What I
2 - - What I will do, Mr. Arena, and - - and that
3 kind of goes both ways, is, you know, we heard
4 the police report last time. We did have several
5 witnesses that spoke on both sides last time. If
6 there - - If in terms of the meeting, I have no
7 objection to hearing individuals who want to come
8 forward and testify specific to the meeting, and,
9 you know, to something that may have been spoken
10 to here or regarding the number of individuals
11 who were present, so on and so forth. I have no
12 objection to somebody with some level of brevity
13 saying that I support the license and believe
14 that, you know, changes are good. If we get into
15 extensive testimony and open it up on both sides,
16 I'm going to have some concerns about that.
17 Because, otherwise, I think we leave ourselves
18 open-ended every time to constantly redoing, and
19 we get to the point where it becomes a race to
20 see who gets more people and counting names and
21 numbers, and how quantity - - And I think that
22 the testimony speaks for itself, so.

23 MR. ARENA: If I could just speak to
24 that briefly.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Sure.

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1 MR. ARENA: I wasn't expecting any
2 witnesses here today. I didn't subpoena anybody,
3 and I didn't ask anybody to be here. But if
4 people have statements to make concerning the
5 neighborhood meeting, which I was not at. I
6 wasn't retained yet at that point.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Yes.

8 MR. ARENA: That it - - I think that
9 they can testify as to what their impressions
10 were.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Sure. I don't have a
12 problem - -

13 MR. ARENA: Not the specifics of what
14 people said.

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I don't have a problem
16 with that.

17 MR. ARENA: Otherwise, we're going to
18 turn into this person said that - -

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Right.

20 MR. ARENA: - - and they're not here to
21 say whether they did or not, you know, it's - -

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Correct.

23 MR. ARENA: - - a nightmare.

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: If there - - If there
25 are any individuals who are present who wish to

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1 provide additional testimony, as I said, specific
2 to what may have transpired additional to the
3 meeting, if you - - I will only allow you to come
4 forward if your hand is raised in the air at this
5 point. If your hand is not raised in the air,
6 and I'll - - And I'll say this for the record.
7 Don't not raise your hand and then want to come
8 up later on. So if you're - - If you don't keep
9 your hand up to the air, and then you try to show
10 up later because you change your mind, I'm not
11 going to allow you to do that, so. If you could,
12 please - - Madame Clerk, swear them in, please.

13 (Whereupon the witnesses were sworn.)

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And it is always the
15 - - the practice of the committee in its rules
16 and regulations to call individuals who are
17 objecting to the license first. So if there is
18 an objector? Hi, Marva, how are you?

19 THE WITNESS: Fine. And you?

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Doing well, thank you.
21 Do you want to just, again, identify yourself for
22 the record.

23 THE WITNESS: My name is Marva Herndon.
24 I'm the President of the Bryant Heights
25 Neighborhood Association, and I appeared before

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1 you in the last meeting. I did call the meeting,
2 as you had instructed. It was held on June 5th,
3 and it was well attended by people that had never
4 attended our meetings prior to this.

5 We've met with Steve for the past year.
6 This was not a recent meeting with him. We've
7 been meeting with him off and on regarding the
8 problems at the bar. So the meeting was well
9 received, and the majority of the people were
10 against the licensing being renewed. What they
11 did indicate was they didn't want him to be
12 necessarily put out of business, but he had not
13 cooperated throughout the year with all the
14 requests. So they wanted some level of recourse
15 if his license were not renewed, but maybe a
16 penalty, they wanted a stiff penalty. And then
17 they wanted information as to if he were
18 continued to operate, they wanted to know what
19 the recourse would be, because what happened last
20 year was the license was renewed, and then
21 immediately within a week the problems started.
22 So if that were to happen again, they'd like to
23 know from you what can be done on a more
24 immediate basis than waiting one year.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Marva, the - - I guess

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1 the answer to that is we have the ability to
2 renew, to suspend from ten to 90 days, to non-
3 renew.

4 THE WITNESS: Um-hnh.

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: If in the event that
6 there is only a suspension or a renewal that's
7 meted out and there are problems that - - that
8 occur after that fact, there is the ability to
9 - - to seek a revocation hearing prior to the
10 normal annual cycle.

11 THE WITNESS: Okay. They're definitely
12 against the business being operated as it was in
13 the past. The majority concluded that.

14 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chair.

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski.

16 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I just have a few
17 questions relating to getting a little bit more
18 clarity on what transpired at - - at the meeting.
19 I know that when you testified, there was some
20 other people here that testified very
21 passionately about their concerns with respect to
22 this particular establishment. In your opinion,
23 based upon what has been presented to us, plan of
24 operation for Steve-O's, does this, in your
25 opinion, address all the concerns you have to the

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1 point where you feel comfortable with them moving
2 forward with the license?

3 THE WITNESS: No, I haven't seen it.
4 Your instructions were for it to be presented to
5 us at the meeting. This was only created, I
6 would guess, within the last few days.

7 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay. Then going
8 - - Forget about this plan of action which we
9 have received then. Based upon your perspective
10 or perception of what transpired at the meeting,
11 did it appear as though that what the - - the
12 owner of the establishment was proposing met with
13 the approval of the people - - of the majority of
14 the people that were in attendance? Did they
15 feel, in other words, that that would
16 satisfactorily address the concerns that they
17 have?

18 THE WITNESS: No.

19 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay.

20 THE WITNESS: It wasn't presented to
21 them. It was just conversation back and forth.
22 A blame game. And actually, it was the gentleman
23 that testified here last time, who is not here
24 today, who did the majority of the talking. And
25 the neighbors did take offense to that.

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1 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Um-hnh. The - -
2 The neighbors took offense to what again?

3 THE WITNESS: There's a security guard
4 that testified here in the last meeting, did the
5 majority of the talking for Steve at our meeting
6 on June 5th. And the neighbors took offense to
7 that, because they wanted to hear what Steve's
8 plans were.

9 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Right.

10 THE WITNESS: Directly from him.

11 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Right. And that
12 didn't happen.

13 THE WITNESS: No.

14 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Well, I can tell
15 you, I'm the one that made the motion last time
16 to send this back, you know, for a neighborhood
17 meeting. And I felt that the intent and the
18 desire of that motion to work out an equitable
19 agreement has not been reached, so I plan on
20 moving for non-renewal at the appropriate time.
21 I will not do it at this time, because I want to
22 afford my colleagues the opportunity for input.
23 But based on the information I have so far, I'm
24 definitely planning on not supporting renewal for
25 this license. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you, Alderman.

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Other questions by committee of this witness?

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ALDERMAN KOVAC: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Kovac.

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ALDERMAN KOVAC: So I think you said

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earlier was that you didn't want things to

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continue as before, and you were concerned that

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last year right after the renewal is when the

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trouble happened.

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THE WITNESS: Right.

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ALDERMAN KOVAC: And my memory from

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some of that testimony was that July and August

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were the hottest months. So my question to you

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is, well, for you personally and your sense to

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the neighborhood given what the options we have,

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which are non-renewal or suspension up to 90

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days, with - - with a large suspension where they

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would not be able to then have these problems

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immediately reappear, and there would be time for

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them to get the plan in place, how would you

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think that would be received in the neighborhood?

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THE WITNESS: Some of the neighbors

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expressed a desire or said they would be willing

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to go along with the long suspension. Others

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said they wanted it not to be renewed. So it was

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1 a mixture there.

2 ALDERMAN KOVAC: How do you feel?

3 THE WITNESS: In my opinion, I don't
4 live that close to the bar. So I have no direct
5 knowledge of what goes on there.

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Other questions
7 by committee? Mr. Arena?

8 MR. ARENA: I have no questions.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. All right.
10 If we could hear from the others, and - - and we
11 have a couple seats. If you could come forward
12 here right now, please, all of you, if you could,
13 please. We can have two take seats. We have - -
14 One can perhaps - - If you wish to do that.
15 Otherwise, you can take a seat. Go ahead. Sir,
16 standing, we'll start with you first. Name and
17 address for the record, please, first.

18 THE WITNESS: My name is Jerry Volkman.
19 I live at 5651 North 86th Street. In fact, Marva
20 and I have the same house number. We share the
21 same mailman, so we slip our mail back and forth.
22 I am a patron of Steve-O's. I was at the
23 neighborhood meeting at Bryant School. Had I
24 known there - - the first meeting was called, I
25 probably could have made that, too, but I - - I

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1 didn't know about it until after, so I'm not
2 going to make - - I did not get the impression at
3 that Bryant meeting that 95 percent of the people
4 were against Steve staying in business. So I - -
5 I would take issue with Alderman Davis on that.
6 There was not no 95 percent, because - -

7 ALDERMAN DAVIS: It was - -
8 THE WITNESS: - - we were - - we were
9 there and we weren't against it. I've been in
10 that bar. It's clean. I've never seen any
11 trouble in there. I even helped with this
12 gentleman here, when Steve started to address any
13 problems the neighborhood had, he was the one
14 that installed all the security cameras. And
15 after we got that all done, which you don't have
16 on record, Steve insisted on one more camera that
17 would take care of the parking lot next - - next
18 to his place, where there is a - - a restaurant
19 and a - - a tax place and a barbershop and that.
20 And the police department, at least on two
21 occasions, has used his cameras for trouble they
22 had over there.

23 Steve runs a - - a very good ship. I -
24 - I go there. It's close to home. I'm - - I'm
25 within walking distance. I'm a block farther

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1 than Marva is. I don't have - - If I want to
2 have a beer and watch the ball games and stuff on
3 there. And I've never seen any trouble. In
4 fact, when they say about the loud music, that's
5 got to be late, late on Saturday night or
6 something, because it's usually - - the jukebox
7 usually isn't on. The ball games are on. And I
8 - - I really take exception to the people that
9 don't even go into a place, don't - - I mean, the
10 neighbors can close him down by - - by their
11 complaints, but the shootings and that are not of
12 his doing. They had a shooting across for
13 Magnolia's. They had a shooting - - They shot a
14 young man right on 91st and Silver Spring waiting
15 for a bus that had nothing to do with anybody.
16 They had a domestic quarrel. There's loud music
17 coming out of the tattoo place, which is on 91st,
18 which is perpendicular to Steve's parking lot.
19 This is a - - a well-run establishment. They - -
20 Like I said, he - - he does what he can for
21 everybody, and I have never known there to be any
22 trouble there. So I am full in favor of him
23 staying there. I - - I don't want to see more
24 businesses go out of - - I don't want to see any
25 more establishments go out of business. Now

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1 we're losing Silverbirds. So, I mean, we're
2 losing everything that's comfortable in our
3 neighborhood for us to attend, and - - and I
4 don't - - I don't think that's the right - -
5 right approach to this. 90 day suspension, put
6 everybody - - all of those guys out of work and
7 stuff like that, you might as well close him down
8 permanent. And - - And the 95 percent is way,
9 way, way, way high, because I would have said, if
10 it was a split group at Bryant, that would have
11 been at best. But I - - I wish they - - they
12 would know more about the man and how clean and
13 how well that place is run before they closed him
14 down. Thank you for your time.

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Volkman. Questions
16 by committee.

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you. I'm sorry.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: No questions by
19 committee. Briefly, Mr. Arena. I gave him a lot
20 of latitude in making his response.

21 MR. ARENA: I have just one brief
22 question. At night - - How far do you live from
23 the place?

24 THE WITNESS: Five - - Five blocks.
25 And a half a block, you know, so Silver Spring.

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1 MR. ARENA: Do you hear noise coming
2 from his parking lot late at night that you - -
3 THE WITNESS: No, no. I've heard
4 gunshots. I will not - - Alderman Bohl is from
5 that neighborhood. He - - He used to be our
6 alderman. We have heard gunshots. You hear them
7 in the background and stuff like that. But that
8 is not in his establishment, and he's done
9 everything he can. He's even changed the age
10 group that goes in there. I - - I had my young
11 daughter. I have an adopted daughter. I had her
12 in there for a soda. I feel perfectly
13 comfortable in there. And I would hate to sit
14 there and - - and see another business go under.
15 We've lost too many in our neighborhood. This -
16 - If this wasn't well run, I'd back Marva on
17 this, because she's our friend. But I - - I
18 don't back them on this one - - one ounce. I
19 think Steve runs a good ship.

20 MR. ARENA: Are you awake and aware of
21 what's going on at, say, two o'clock, 2:30 on
22 Saturday?

23 THE WITNESS: I have two small kids,
24 and I'm a - - I'm a early riser, and I'm - - and
25 I'm up late. I don't sleep a lot. But, yes, I

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1 - - And I've been in there. I've been in there
2 myself and had a cocktail or a beer and watched
3 the game. And I - - And I - - I frequent the
4 neighborhood. I use everything in there, from
5 the Pick 'N Save to the restaurants to
6 everything. I - - We need those in there. We
7 don't need more Bonanzas and that and everything
8 struggling to keep their head above water. The
9 more businesses you close down, the worse the
10 neighborhoods get. And this is just a - - of
11 late that we've had this influx of gunshots and
12 stuff. But we can't blame it all on the people
13 that own the businesses.

14 MR. ARENA: How late are you typically
15 in the location?

16 THE WITNESS: I'd say the latest I've
17 been in there at any time would have been one
18 o'clock. That would have been my absolute
19 latest. I - -

20 MR. ARENA: One o'clock a.m.?

21 THE WITNESS: A.m., yeah, I - - I'm an
22 umpire. I run a Menomonee Falls softball
23 program, and if I umpire a couple, three games, I
24 stop and have a couple of beers or something like
25 that, and then I go home. And I'm within walking

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1 distance, which I've done already. I don't - - I
2 have no drunk driving charges, and I have no
3 intent of getting any. I call, if I feel like
4 I've had four or five beers, my wife and my
5 daughter will come. My daughter lives in the
6 other half of my townhouse. I own two homes in
7 the neighborhood. I've always lived in - - right
8 up in the northwest area. I'm 68 years old.
9 I've retired. And I work with this gentleman
10 here as a second, when he does his camera
11 business. And of all the areas we go into, I'll
12 tell you something. You could put Steve-O's at
13 the top as far as the best compared to some of
14 the other places that we have to - - that we put
15 up cameras and go into, so I am totally against
16 anybody restricting this man's right to continue
17 in business.

18 MR. ARENA: Okay. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you, Mr. Volkman.

20 THE WITNESS: Long-winded.

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Name and address for
22 the record, please.

23 THE WITNESS: Scott Radtke. I live out
24 in Colgate.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay.

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1 THE WITNESS: I own my own surveillance
2 business. And in the last year I've - - I've had
3 Steve as a client. And when we first - -

4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Radtke, what I want
5 to - - What I want to say is I gave Mr. Volkman a
6 lot of latitude knowing we had a meeting already
7 on this. I'm going to ask for testimony specific
8 to the meeting here or anything that is new and
9 substantial in terms of plan of operation.

10 Otherwise - - Otherwise, we might as well hold it
11 and then allow him, allow Bryant Heights to bring
12 another 40 people. That's my ruling, and my
13 ruling stands. Okay. So - -

14 THE WITNESS: That's fine. I - - All -
15 - All I wanted to say was that over the last six
16 months he's spent several thousand dollars to put
17 the best cameras and DVR in his - - in his
18 operation, and he also put a camera that wasn't
19 needed facing east on - - from his establishment,
20 and it wasn't needed for his operation. And he's
21 watched several businesses. He's helped several
22 businesses east of him, protect their businesses.
23 So I'm just - - He didn't have to do that. It
24 was at his expense. I even said why are we doing
25 this, and he said, because we - - we owe it to

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1 the neighborhood to watch these businesses, and -
2 - and he has the financial situation that he
3 could do it. And over the last three months,
4 we've had several instances that - - that have
5 happened that I've met with the police, and we've
6 downloaded disks for situations that didn't even
7 have - - didn't even have anything to do with
8 him, and so my point and the only thing I'm going
9 to say is that he's for the neighborhood, and
10 he's doing the best that he can as far as
11 protecting his business and the - - the block.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Questions
13 by committee of this witness? No? Alderman
14 Davis, anything?

15 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Just - - Just
16 understand that there are some folks who live in
17 this neighborhood that's well over, you know, 60,
18 70, 80 years old. And that's who I represent
19 today, is those who may not want to take the
20 time, or those who feel that they've entrusted me
21 to represent them. And that's the reason why I'm
22 taking the position that I am, because I talk to
23 them on a regular basis.

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I understand. I just
25 want to see if you had any questions for this

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1 gentleman here at this time.

2 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Other than - - So you
3 did have a financial interest in the - - the
4 establishment, Steve-O's bar. Correct?

5 THE WITNESS: A financial interest?

6 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Yeah.

7 THE WITNESS: I knew Steve-O on a
8 personal basis, but he contracted me to put
9 cameras in his business.

10 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Okay. All right.
11 Thank you, sir.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you.

13 THE WITNESS: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Sir, name and address.

15 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Eric Yeager.
16 3635 North 92nd Street. I'm a friend of Steve-
17 O's. He also sponsors two of my softball teams.
18 And it is important what I've seen in this
19 neighborhood. I was born and raised on 91st and
20 Concordia. I've lived here most of my life.
21 Once again, I bought this house in 1999. I work
22 at H&R Scrap Metal. I - - I have - - We have
23 five children and 15 grandchildren, half of them
24 which live in the neighborhood, in the 2nd
25 Aldermanic District.

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1 The problems that I noted at the town
2 hall meeting that I was at, the people at the
3 meeting, the concerns weren't so much for the
4 actions at the bar. Their concerns were for the
5 entire neighborhood in general. And I work in
6 the neighborhood all day long every day. I help
7 out people with their shopping carts. Public
8 urination, I see during the day when the bar
9 isn't even open from people that have other
10 problems, other than trying to find a safe,
11 controlled environment to spend their evenings.
12 And I have a lot of young guys on the softball
13 team with their families. They - - They attend
14 the games. The kids go with a couple of the
15 moms. The other moms come to the game after - -
16 come to the bar after the ball games. It's a
17 safe environment. Steve-O's always run a good
18 safe environment. I've been there until closing
19 time. Yes, I've hung out with the hiphop crowd
20 in there. I'm familiar with the neighborhood.
21 I've never felt unsafe there. We've never been
22 harassed there. And he runs a tight ship. His
23 security guards, and at times he has had two of
24 them there at night. There's been no problems
25 inside the bar any time I was there. I would

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1 just like to see instead of closing doors, we
2 need to open more doors and have more controlled
3 environments for these young people to go to, and
4 then, we can have the safer streets. We can't
5 allow the kids to be continuing to party in the
6 alleys and the garages and homes that don't have
7 the proper bathrooms and the facilities to handle
8 these parties in the neighborhood. We need to
9 open more establishments that are regulated by
10 our community and - - and - - and monitored by
11 caring owners like Steve-O. He's been there 28
12 years. He's never had a problem up until last
13 year. Yes, things changed quickly. And he's - -
14 he's adapting to those changes. And I have no
15 fear of going there, and my grandchildren and - -
16 and my - - my kids, we all live in the
17 neighborhood.

18 We got to work together, and that's all
19 I can say is - - is that - - that jobs are
20 important, and - - and I feel that he's followed
21 through with what the community at the town hall
22 meeting wanted. And was that some answers and
23 - - and to move forward to show that he's ready
24 and willing to roll with the changes. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Questions

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1 by committee? Mr. Yeager.
2 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chairman.
3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski.
4 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: How far do you
5 live from the bar?
6 THE WITNESS: I live at 3635 North
7 92nd, which is 92nd and Lisbon.
8 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: So how far away is
9 that?
10 THE WITNESS: That's probably - -
11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Several miles.
12 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Several miles?
13 THE WITNESS: Yeah, a few miles, yes,
14 sir.
15 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I guess that ties
16 in with - - with your earlier statement about the
17 meeting and the concerns of the people at the
18 meeting, was - - were the neighborhood. When
19 there's - - there's clear documentation for the
20 public record at our last meeting, we had
21 numerous people that lived in the direct vicinity
22 of the bar that expressed to us the concern about
23 the bar itself and the problems that have been
24 caused as a result or problems that are emanating
25 from that particular bar. So that's - -

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1 THE WITNESS: And these issues were
2 addressed at the town hall meeting. And I
3 believe that Alderman Davis' take on it was way
4 out of whack, because we - - He said we should
5 all re - - remain anonymous, remain our anonymity
6 at the meeting, so it was - - it wasn't really
7 addressed, but I - - I would say that's wrong.
8 Most of the gray haired people and older folks in
9 that neighborhood were not there to try and get
10 Steve-O closed down. They were there to get
11 information and to see what improvements this guy
12 was going to make. Otherwise, we'd have a - - a
13 handful of signatures or a petition or something
14 with this, and not hearsay. Thank you.

15 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Other
17 questions by committee? Anything from - -

18 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: I just want to - -
19 Mr. Chair.

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Hamilton.

21 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: If - - If he had a
22 stack of petitions, we wouldn't be able to accept
23 that. That would be considered hearsay, too.

24 THE WITNESS: Okay.

25 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: So the best that we

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1 can do is to get testimony about the meeting,
2 which is what we - - what we have. So I don't -
3 - I don't want you to think that something is
4 missing from - - from the meeting. But it seems
5 to me that, though, that the people who lived
6 around the area are the ones who are experiencing
7 this problem. And I don't think we've heard any
8 testimony that kind of - -

9 THE WITNESS: Excuse me.

10 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: - - that goes
11 against that.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: If you may, Mr. Yeager,
13 let him finish here.

14 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

15 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: I just wanted to
16 make that comment.

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you. And - - And
18 after the meeting, and - - and which I attended,
19 this Barb lady and a couple others came directly
20 to Steve-O outside of the place and - - and said,
21 Steve-O, our intentions were not to shut you down
22 or to cause you problems. Our intentions were to
23 get you to move forward and make it a safer
24 establishment. And - - And I heard her say that
25 directly to Steve-O, and - - and - - and once

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1 again, you get into hearsay things. But I'm - -
2 I'm getting different takes from what I spoke
3 with the people at the meeting, and after the
4 meeting, that they wanted changes to be made.
5 They don't want to see the guy go out of
6 business. That's what she said direct - -
7 directly to him.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Any
9 retorts, questions, in the form of questions, the
10 testimony? You'll - - You'll both be given an
11 opportunity to - - to make final addresses.
12 Questions related to his testimony?

13 ALDERMAN DAVIS: No, I just want to
14 clarify a point that he made - -

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Go ahead, Alderman
16 Davis.

17 ALDERMAN DAVIS: - - about the meeting.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Um-hnh.

19 ALDERMAN DAVIS: And that - - that
20 clarification was, is that when I - - I indicated
21 to the residents at that meeting that I would
22 represent them and I would oppose the license,
23 and if there was anyone in said meeting that
24 wanted me to do otherwise, to contact my office
25 or see me after the meeting, and I will report to

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1 you that no one has contacted me. So I just want
2 - - So I just wanted to make sure that that was
3 on the record.

4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you.

5 MR. ARENA: Well, it would appear that
6 that last statement is being objected to, and
7 this is - - we're talking about what went on at
8 this meeting and the credibility behind it, so I
9 would ask that if these gentlemen don't agree
10 with that statement, that they be allowed to
11 testify to it.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: We have two of you
13 here. Do you recall?

14 THE WITNESS: I would have called if
15 that's what he wanted.

16 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Volkman, we - - we
17 first off need to get you on the record here.
18 Recollection?

19 THE WITNESS: The - - The recollection
20 that I have of that was that we needed to attend
21 the meeting if we were in favor of Steve-O
22 remaining open. And that's what I did. I
23 attended the meeting. I voiced my opinion, and
24 the people heard it, and - - and he - - Alderman
25 Davis basically ignored anybody that was in favor

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1 of Steve-O remaining in business. And instead of
2 making positive changes so that this man can
3 continue his business, he was more steadfast to
4 close the guy down, other than - - other than to
5 work with him and make it work, and - - And let
6 this man continue on his career.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Yeager, I
8 understand you are in support. Mr. Volkman - -

9 MR. ARENA: May I ask him one question?

10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: One - - No. Hold on.

11 MR. ARENA: I don't think he addressed
12 it directly.

13 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Hold on. I'll just ask
14 this much. Yes or no, did you hear specifically
15 Alderman Davis make that comment about contacting
16 him further? Yes or no.

17 THE WITNESS: Definitely not.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Mr. Volkman, no.
19 Mr. Yeager? Yes or no, without - -

20 THE WITNESS: No, sir.

21 THE WITNESS: I - - I would have - -
22 That's why I'm here. We took time off from the
23 job. We came here because - -

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Right.

25 THE WITNESS: - - we thought this was

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1 - - is what we were supposed to do.

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: All right. That - -
3 That - - I mean, that's all I wanted. Does that
4 answer you sufficiently?

5 MR. ARENA: That was my question.

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. At this point
7 here are there questions by committee?
8 Otherwise, I'm going to call this - - this
9 closed. Ms. Herndon, did - - did you just want
10 to provide some brief follow-up?

11 THE WITNESS: I didn't want to get into
12 the he said/she said. But both Alderman Davis
13 and I were asking for people's opinions there.
14 And we did ask them to contact Alderman Davis'
15 office. And as you know, I'm one that passes out
16 flyers with contact information and all of that.
17 And if they were in favor or against and weren't
18 able to be here, they were to do that. I had no
19 contacts. And I don't know if anyone contacted
20 Alderman Davis' office or not. He's saying they
21 did not. We had every opportunity, and he did
22 say it.

23 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay.

24 THE WITNESS: And they did talk with
25 him after the meeting. People talked to him

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1 after the meeting, and again, they want something
2 done.

3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Thank you. Any
4 last minute questions by committee?

5 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Mr. Chair, I do - -
6 I got some - - Sorry.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Go ahead, Alderman
8 Hamilton.

9 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Just real quick.
10 Why wasn't this presented to the neighbors at the
11 neighborhood meeting? This in this - - in this
12 form.

13 THE APPLICANT: It was, but in a rough
14 form. It wasn't finalized yet.

15 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Okay. So it wasn't
16 like this, but you talked about it.

17 THE APPLICANT: Yes.

18 ALDERWOMAN COGGS: Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderwoman Coggs.

20 ALDERWOMAN COGGS: Since the meeting,
21 has this been distributed to neighbors.

22 THE APPLICANT: Distributed to where?

23 ALDERWOMAN COGGS: Since the meeting,
24 has this been distributed, the plan of operation
25 then distributed to neighbors?

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1 THE APPLICANT: I went over a rough
2 outline at the meeting. No, it wasn't
3 distributed. No. It wasn't printed.
4 MR. ARENA: That was discussed with the
5 neighbors directly behind the location.
6 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Mr. Chairman.
7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Davis.
8 ALDERMAN DAVIS: There are some things
9 in this plan of operation that was not discussed
10 at the meeting. I just have to be - - I just got
11 to be forthright and let - - let folks know, you
12 know, that I haven't seen this plan of
13 operations, and there are some things that's in
14 this plan that was not discussed with neighbors
15 at the meeting. Specifically, I would want to
16 draw your attention to locking out the forms of
17 hiphop and heavy metal on the - - on the jukebox.
18 That was not discussed.
19 THE APPLICANT: That was in place.
20 ALDERMAN DAVIS: It was not discussed
21 at the meeting. That's my testimony. I did not
22 hear talk about locking out the jukebox from
23 hiphop. And those who know applications know
24 that this particular applicant does not have
25 hiphop checked on his license, I've checked with

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1 the Licensing Division, I think. And if I'm
2 wrong, I would like clarification from the
3 Licensing Division.

4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: No more testimony. I
5 - - I've been overly patient. I'll assure you
6 that. And if you sit in my seat here from eight
7 a.m. on, you would be there much so, as well,
8 too.

9 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski.

11 ALDERMAN HARMON: I - - I believe at
12 the previous meeting you mentioned that you - -
13 that you don't play hiphop music.

14 THE APPLICANT: It had been locked out
15 right after I put the system in.

16 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: So the gentlemen
17 with the number 13 on his shirt, he testified
18 earlier that he was there with the hiphop crowd.

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Basically
20 that's my lingo of saying the younger - - the
21 younger folks that come to the bars late at
22 night, and I feel completely safe there. It was
23 not a term of music. It was a term of people.
24 Just they - - Everybody gets along there.
25 There's - -

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1 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: All right. Thank
2 you.

3 MR. ARENA: Did you hear hiphop music
4 when you were there?

5 THE WITNESS: No, sir.

6 MR. ARENA: Do you know what hiphop is?

7 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Do you know what
8 hiphop is?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Any other questions by
11 committee? Mr. Arena, final closing here.

12 MR. ARENA: Let me be brief. And I am
13 at somewhat of a disadvantage because I did get
14 involved late. But I will tell you that I
15 believe Steve is sincere in making the changes,
16 and I had somewhat to do with adding some things
17 to this list of items. I did have contact with
18 at least two neighbors directly behind the
19 location. They were accepting of these. Many of
20 their ideas are in what is now written.

21 As to whatever happened at the
22 neighborhood meeting and whether or not people
23 were told to call because they were against or in
24 favor or told to call just because they were
25 against, I find that to be without credibility.

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1 The Alderman - - Alderman Davis basically says
2 that he - - he had overwhelming concerns and
3 issues that people wanted the place closed. I
4 find that to be incredible. He says there's a
5 lack of contact, but then Ms. Herndon testifies
6 that people were told if they were in support or
7 against. So that lack of contact that he had, we
8 don't know. That silence doesn't mean anything.
9 That silence doesn't mean people were for or
10 against.

11 You have to look at a bunch of
12 different factors here. As an aside, I mean,
13 this guy's been in business for 28 years. I
14 think that one of the witnesses here very aptly
15 put it. We can't keep closing good businesses in
16 the City of Milwaukee. Were there some problems?
17 Yes. Is he addressing those problems? Yes.
18 He's never been before this committee. He hasn't
19 been here year in and year out for years at a
20 time. This is a guy that was, you know, a
21 Vietnam veteran. Served his country. Was
22 injured in Vietnam. Came back. Worked as a
23 manager in an establishment. Eventually scraped
24 together the money to buy his own establishment.
25 He's been there since 1982.

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THE APPLICANT: '80.
MR. ARENA: 1980. My - - My point on this is, we can close everything down. If we close it down, in my opinion what will happen is unlicensed partying going on, and I think it's going on already, where the shootings will be out of control. Secondly, if we close every place down because there's some noise, and granted the noise is not appropriate and he's going to address that, we're going to end up in a situation that's not going to be any better for society as a whole. Close it down. The newspaper headlines aren't going to change tomorrow. Give him an opportunity to structure and educate and allow good people to be patrons, and deal with the bad people. You know, this idea of videotaping and the recording of the IDs on the ID machine, deters a lot of things. When people know they're on video, they're not going to misbehave. When they know that their name's been swiped in a machine and somebody will be able to determine who they were based on them using their ID to get in because that information is recorded, a lot of bad behavior is going to be deterred. At this point after being in business

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1 for 28 years it's kind of, you know, a terrible
2 thing that he has to employ this, these - - these
3 types of expenses to buy this equipment to do it.
4 But that's the nature of the beast, and
5 I think that the - - the neighborhood's better
6 off served having somebody in there who is
7 experiencing this and reacting to it instead of
8 somebody coming in and maybe getting a license
9 there or somewhere down the street and not really
10 having an adequate amount of experience in
11 attempting to operate a place. It seems to me
12 that the City should want longstanding people
13 that have had a license for 28 years with a
14 liquor license. He understands what that
15 involves, and that's why this has been put into
16 writing. I apologize for it being late. He's
17 caught off guard by all of this. This other
18 individual that's been talked about that was
19 talking at the meeting, and I think he testified
20 here, he's out of the picture. So, you know,
21 obviously the committee has the power to do many
22 things here, and looking at the record the way I
23 look at it, I don't even see this as a suspension
24 case. And I certainly don't see it as a 90 day
25 suspension case. He's never been suspended

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1 before in 28 years. Think of that. What
2 precedent are we setting? If we start giving 90
3 day suspensions and putting people out of
4 business after 28 years, how are we going to
5 attract people to come to Milwaukee and open a
6 business? We're not going to do it. Put a lock
7 around the City and close it. That's what you're
8 going to do.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Alderman
10 Davis, anything else?

11 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Yeah. Entrepreneurism
12 is well and alive here in the City of Milwaukee.
13 So if this establishment closed down, I - - I
14 disagree that all of a sudden, you know, people
15 are going to start partying in basements.
16 There's going to be a young entrepreneur who is
17 going to come to Alderman Davis and says, hey,
18 man, I want to open up. Or a young lady who is
19 going to open - - say that I want to open up a
20 liquor establishment. They're going to submit a
21 plan of operation and they're going to open the
22 business back up. That's just a reality. And
23 it's nothing, you know, nothing personal against
24 Steve. It's just that, you know, there's some
25 problems up at this location. And the problems

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1 are starting to perpetuate where it's affecting
2 people who are in the neighborhood. And when he
3 says that, you know, it's incredible that people
4 were at this public meeting, you know, being
5 opposed, you need to see the demographics of the
6 people who own homes up in that area who have
7 been in the area for well over 30, 40 years.
8 Those are the folks who - - who really are the
9 - - the cornerstones of what the City of
10 Milwaukee is all about.

11 THE WITNESS: Like myself, right, Mr.
12 Davis?

13 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Yeah, like you.
14 There's no doubt about - - I mean, there's other
15 folks like you up in the neighborhood, too. And
16 they live right behind it. And they've been very
17 fair, and they've been very patient with this
18 liquor establishment. And one thing that, you
19 know, there's youth and the elderly that I have
20 close in my heart. And regardless of what
21 anybody says at this table who thinks my
22 credibility is shot, those folks who - - who know
23 me, who I represent, know that I'm going to try
24 to represent them to the best of my ability. So
25 I don't want to seem arrogant, but, you know, it

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1 really doesn't matter.

2 The last thing I will say is that, you
3 know, there's been recent testimony, prior
4 testimony on this issue, so when counsel says
5 that there has been no objection, it is because
6 he was not at the last hearing when he heard
7 substantial objections from neighbors in the
8 area. And that has to be taken into
9 consideration, and I am hoping that this
10 committee will take that into consideration.

11 The last thing is, you know - - You
12 know, I've been very patient with business
13 establishments in the 2nd District, and the
14 reason why I'm patient about that is that
15 sometimes you have to wait in order for you to
16 get a good business in your neighborhood. I have
17 establishments like Jame's Supper Club, and I
18 have the - - the Turner's Establishment that's on
19 Fond du Lac Avenue. I don't get a peep out of
20 those liquor establishments. They come here.
21 They don't have to show up because they don't
22 have any items before - - on their police report,
23 because they know how to run an establishment.
24 And they don't cut corners. So that's the issue
25 today is that the unfortunate reality is that

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1 just as we have a new owner for the Silver Bird
2 Mall and the bowling alley, that we will have
3 neighborhood meetings, a very significant
4 development, and I have waited and waited for
5 this to occur. And because of my patience and
6 because of me representing that area, we're going
7 to see significant development. And I will
8 continue to do the same thing with these liquor
9 establishments. It's imperative that we have to
10 have these type of, you know, good owners who are
11 - - who are going to continue to - - to protect
12 the safety of the neighborhood, you know, because
13 just as, you know, I appreciate your service,
14 Steve, as far as the military is concerned. But,
15 you know, I - - I've got an electrician who lives
16 in that area for over 30 years, and everybody
17 know I come from the building trades. And this
18 guy has bought his home, paid off his home, and
19 he can't, you know, because it's very - - He
20 hears the gunshots that's coming from this
21 establishment. So I'm very - - I'm very
22 cognitive of what's going on in the neighborhood,
23 and I would hope that the committee would not
24 renew this license.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Thank you.

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1 We're in committee.

2 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chair.

3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski.

4 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Earlier counsel
5 said that we can't keep closing good businesses.
6 I'm not aware of any good business that - - that
7 we've closed on the - - on the Council here, so
8 that's kind of confusing to me. But - - But
9 anyway, at the last meeting I was prepared to - -
10 to move non-renewal, but in order, based on the
11 testimony - - I mean, there was some very
12 powerful, powerful testimony. One lady, in
13 particular, referenced the fact that she spent
14 approximately 30,000 dollars for a sunroom that
15 she can no longer use. She cannot use her own
16 sunroom, and she was in - - in tears. There is a
17 - - a plethora of testimony about similar
18 experiences that people have had with respect to
19 this particular bar. But in order to try and be
20 as fair as possible to see if there's some way we
21 can work this out, I made the motion to - - to
22 hold this matter so that we can have an
23 opportunity for the owner to - - to meet with the
24 neighborhood and see if there could be a - - a
25 plan of operation that the neighborhood could

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1 support. I don't see - - That was an
2 opportunity. That was an opportunity, and it was
3 a lost opportunity because I do not see any plan
4 of operation that has the stamp of approval from
5 that - - from that neighborhood. I appreciate
6 the fact he had several people come and testify
7 on his behalf, one being his contractor, the guy
8 who had a contract to install thousands of
9 dollars worth of - - of cameras. Another
10 gentleman has a baseball team that is sponsored
11 by him, but he lives, who knows how many miles
12 away. We had firsthand and direct testimony from
13 people who live in the immediate area with their
14 particular problems with respect to this
15 particular establishment. And like I said, at
16 that time I was poised to support non-renewal and
17 to make that motion. And in light of everything
18 and, you know, that's been said at the previous
19 meeting and the police report, I'm going to move
20 non-renewal of this license. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And that would be based
22 on both the police report and neighborhood
23 objection?

24 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Police report and
25 the - - and the neighborhood testimony.

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1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: The motion by Alderman
2 Zielinski is for - - for non-renewal of the - -
3 non-renewal of the Tavern Dance license based on
4 the neighborhood testimony, as well as matters
5 contained in the police report. Is there
6 discussion on that motion?
7 I - - I'll just say briefly I - - I
8 will not support the motion. That, however, I
9 will - - I will say even if it meant the end of -
10 - of the - - the bar, I would support nothing
11 less than a 90 day suspension. And I don't know
12 where it will go. The one thing that I will say
13 is - - is that this bar had operated for a great
14 amount of time, I believe with limited or no
15 problems. I - - I don't necessarily subscribe to
16 - - to the - - the - - the belief that others may
17 hold around here about progressive discipline. I
18 think there are times when a cancer spreads so
19 bad that you fall of the cliff. And I'll tell
20 you this much, in the last year there obviously
21 was a change where I think matters changed and
22 changed dramatically. Whether or not as part of
23 last - - last month's testimony it had anything
24 to do with - - with some of the closings that had
25 occurred with some of the other establishments,

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1 I'm not certain. But I think clearly there were
2 some changes in which a cognizant decision was
3 perhaps made to - - to try to lure new patrons to
4 bring additional revenues in. You know, it will
5 come back to bite you. That being said, if - -
6 if there some of the changes being made here, I
7 think that one has to recognize the tremendous
8 police report that you got in the last year, and
9 the neighborhood testimony, and that's why I
10 would only support a 90 day suspension, based on
11 that, with the changes intact. But we'll see
12 where that goes.

13 Motion again by Alderman Zielinski is
14 for - - for denial of the license based on the
15 police report and neighborhood objections. Any
16 other discussion on the motion? Are there any
17 objections to that motion, other than my own?

18 ALDERWOMAN COGGS: Objection.

19 ALDERMAN KOVAC: I object.

20 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Objection.

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. That - - If - -
22 If I'm not correct, that would be three
23 objections to the motion.

24 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Four.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Is that - - Four

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1 objections?

2 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Four.

3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. The motion fails
4 on a four - one vote. We are still in committee.
5 Is there a motion?

6 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Mr. Chair.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Hamilton?

8 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: I would move for
9 the - - for the 90 day suspension. And - - Well,
10 we've deliberated on this a lot, so there's not a
11 whole lot of comments to make about it. But I -
12 - I do feel one of the - - the biggest problems
13 that I've had today, you know, is the minimizing
14 of the problem. And I think the neighbors who
15 actually live around this facility, they - - they
16 were pretty clear about their frustration with
17 the activity, you know, that - - And so to have
18 people come at - - at this committee hearing and
19 - - and minimize that, I think is - - is a bit of
20 a - - is a bit of a distraction.

21 I don't think that committee has in any
22 way belittled Steve-O's contribution and his
23 commitment to running the business and his
24 ability to do so, his past work. But I think - -
25 I think Alderman Zielinski and the Chair, I think

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1 you're right. There are some times when things -
2 - when things just go overboard. And so I'm
3 making the motion for a 90 day suspension,
4 because, you know, I think at - - at the very - -
5 at the very least, 90 days is - - is what we
6 should - - what we should look at for the types
7 of things that's in the police report, and the
8 testimony given by - - by the neighbors.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman, can I just,
10 just a friendly amendment here, request that all
11 the items in the plan of operations be applied to
12 the - - to the license and - - and be held
13 against the license, as well, too?

14 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. So the - - the
16 motion by Alderman Hamilton is for - - to
17 recommend approval of the renewal of the license
18 with the issuance of a 90 day suspension based on
19 matters contained in the police report, as well
20 as neighborhood objections, and also, to - - also
21 to require that all provisions that are - - been
22 submitted as part of the plan of operations for
23 Steve-O's be put into place, into practice. Is
24 there any discussion on that motion?

25 ALDERMAN KOVAC: Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: On the motion, Alderman
2 Kovac?

3 ALDERMAN KOVAC: This is a difficult
4 decision. I'm going to support this motion. I
5 think there's been a lot of compelling testimony.
6 I'm going to be very brief here, because it's
7 been a long day. But I - - Especially the
8 testimony we received today and at the last
9 meeting, and the testimony from Steve-O himself
10 and from representatives. Things really have - -
11 And the police report. Something's happened in
12 the last year. And I think if he hadn't operated
13 this bar for 28 years, Alderman Zielinski's
14 motion might have passed. I think there's a
15 sense that you got caught behind the eight ball,
16 and there's a - - there's a sense that you and
17 your - - your longtime patrons deserve a second
18 chance. But it's really only a second chance,
19 and the effect you're having on the neighborhood
20 is stark, and - - and so, I - - Even - - Even
21 now, even after the - - the holds, things are
22 still kind of moving too slow. And when you're
23 dealing with the kind of crimes and the kind of
24 activity you're talking about, you can't afford
25 to be too slow on this stuff. So I hope - - I

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1 hope this is - - I hope this ends up working out
2 for everybody, the neighborhood and the bar. I
3 hope this 90 days is productive in some way.

4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Again,
5 motion by Alderman Hamilton is for a 90 day - -
6 approval of the renewal of the license with a 90
7 day suspension, and also, to reflect changes in
8 the submitted plan of operation. Are there any
9 objections to that motion? Hearing none, so
10 ordered. Mr. Schrimpf.

11 MR. SCHRIMPF: Mr. Areana, the
12 committee is going to be doing findings of fact
13 and conclusions of law recommending renewal of
14 this license with a 90 day suspension. Mr.
15 Arena, you will, of course, will receive a copy
16 of that, as well as Mr. Conzoner. If you would
17 desire to file written objections, they must be
18 filed by the close of business, June 26th, 2008
19 in the City Clerk's office of this building. If
20 you file written objections, then you will also
21 have the opportunity to appear before the
22 Milwaukee Common Council when it meets on this
23 matter on July 1st, 2008 at approximately nine
24 a.m. in the Council chambers of this building.
25 You know, of course, where those are. And will

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1 you accept service on behalf of Mr. Conzoner?

2 MR. ARENA: Yes, I will. And I'd ask

3 for your guidance, Attorney Schrimpf, on, I

4 believe, this license expires on June 30th of

5 '08. So I presume he'd be expected to be closed

6 at midnight on June 30th.

7 MR. SCHRIMPF: Midnight on June the

8 30th. That is correct.

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STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)
MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

I, JEAN M. BARINA, of Milwaukee Reporters
Associated, Inc., 5124 West Blue Mound Road,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208, certify that the foregoing
proceedings is a full and complete transcript of
Steve-O's Bar & Grill taken in the Licenses Committee
Hearing proceedings.

JEAN M. BARINA
Court Reporter

Dated this day of June, 2008.

