

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

LICENSES COMMITTEE

In the Matter of: RIDGE PLAZA INCORPORATED
Class "A" Liquor and Malt application
for:

GURMEET DHILLON
"RIDGE PLAZA INCORPORATED"
Best Liquor at 551 West Becher Street

Proceedings had and testimony given in
the above-entitled matter before the LICENSES
COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE on the 5th
day of January, 2010.

1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Our final
3 legislative item on the agenda this afternoon is
4 for Gurmeet Dhillon, agent for Ridge Plaza
5 Incorporated, Class "A" Liquor and Malt Application
6 as agent for Ridge Plaza for Best Liquor at 551
7 West Becher Street.

8 MR. KNOELLER: Good afternoon, everybody.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Good afternoon.

10 MR. KNOELLER: My name is Michael
11 Knoeller, K-N-O-E-L-L-E-R, appearing on behalf of
12 Mr. Dhillon. Mr. Dhillon is here in person. And I
13 wonder if there is a little bit of housekeeping I
14 can bring before the committee before we get going
15 here? We received -- there was an original
16 application made on October 9, 2009, and the notice
17 of the hearing was sent and setting the hearing for
18 December 8, 2009. Proper notice of opportunity to
19 object, and so forth, was sent to all neighbors and

20 all parties. And on the notice of public hearing,
21 it said specifically that the neighborhood
22 objections must be made at that time and no letters
23 or petitions can be accepted by the committee
24 unless the provision, person is present, and
25 business competition is not a valid basis for

1 denial. That's on that notice. No objections were
2 made on December 8th, no objectors appeared. And
3 testimony was taken, the committee voted 5 to 0, or
4 6 to 0, in any event, unanimously in favor of
5 granting the application.

6 I believe that all members who are here
7 today were here then, and nobody filed an appeal to
8 that. And the matter came before the Common
9 Council on the 22nd of December, this Item 090832,
10 for granting the license. And the meeting was
11 called to order at 9:17, and then a motion was made
12 by the alderman for the district to amend the
13 motion, and the motion prevailed. No reason was
14 given -- we don't know what the reason was for
15 that. And I'm saying this because I know you're
16 going to ask, "Did you receive notice of the
17 hearing?" and I believe notice of a hearing is
18 notice of how/why a license could be denied.

19 The second notice of a hearing was mailed

20 to Mr. Dhillon setting a hearing for today's date.
21 On that notice, again, it says the reasons for
22 possible dismissal were the same as were on the
23 notice for the 12/8/09 hearing, and that is
24 neighborhood objections, etcetera. I'm sure you
25 know it better than I do. And no one appeared,

1 nobody objected, and there had been no objections
2 at that time at the final hearing.

3 We got a notice, or Mr. Dhillon got a
4 notice on the 23rd of today's date. And I think
5 the Licenses Committee had made a decision on this,
6 and we have no idea what the reason could be for an
7 objection because we received no notice of what the
8 objection could be. We received notice, Aldermen
9 and Alderwoman, of the prior hearing and that these
10 things could be objected to at the prior hearing.

11 Nobody objected to that. But it was the same
12 notice which went out for this hearing as was the
13 hearing previously.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I would be very happy to
15 cut you short, Mr. Knoeller, if I may, and provide
16 you with some enlightenment that you may not be
17 aware of.

18 MR. KNOELLER: I'd appreciate that.

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: My understanding is that

20 this particular location sits in the cusp of two
21 aldermanic districts. The Licenses Division
22 usually will work with the local alderperson in
23 whose district it's located, and that would be
24 Alderman Zielinski in the 14th District. However,
25 Alderman Witkowiak's district is across the street.

1 It is not typically the policy of the Licenses
2 Division to sit there and logistically when the
3 notice goes out and said that there is an
4 aldermanic district for them to set there with a
5 districtwide boundary sheet of every district in
6 the entire city block by block by block to
7 determine and say, "Oh, maybe I ought to notice the
8 other alderman whose district is across the
9 street."

10 In the interim time, Aldermen, we held a
11 hearing where the notice for neighborhood objectors
12 came forward. There were only three individuals
13 here to testify. All three of those individuals
14 were here in favor. As a result of there being no
15 individuals in opposition and there being no police
16 report, there was no means to grant a denial to the
17 application. The committee recommended approval.
18 Subsequent to that time, there were several
19 individuals, both neighborhood group oriented and

20 business association, that may have represented
21 portions or constituencies immediately across the
22 street in the area that were not notified as part
23 of being the local alderperson in the district
24 whose it's located but across the street, who still
25 have a vested interest in this particular license,

1 who gained word of this after the committee hearing
2 but prior to the council meeting. They did send
3 out notice to a bunch of aldermen saying, "Hey, we
4 would like to have the opportunity to do this.
5 There is not a vested property right here. This is
6 a new application." As a result, a request was
7 made and a motion was therefore made at the council
8 meeting to refer this matter back to committee to
9 provide others with opportunity to address concerns
10 that were not provided adequate notice initially
11 because they were, quote/unquote, in the wrong
12 aldermanic district, even if they were in the same
13 neighborhood.

14 That is what it is. There is no vested
15 property rights. Had there been a vested property
16 right, it would have been something very different
17 because you would have had to have had this hearing
18 applied for within a period of time to provide you
19 an opportunity not to have the license unduly

20 delayed. Because there is not the vested property
21 rights, there is the ability, and the will of the
22 council was to support unanimously the decision to
23 refer it back to committee to provide some of those
24 neighbors who had expressed concerns to have the
25 opportunity to address those very same issues that

1 were sent to you in the initial notice. That's why
2 the very same neighborhood objections are there;
3 those have not changed.

4 Whether individuals testified to those
5 matters or not, you know, as you have been before
6 this committee, is up to the ability of those
7 individuals to make the case before us. I'm not
8 going to belabor that point. What is done was done
9 legitimately. And what we are going to do is
10 proceed forward from here now forward, and I'm --
11 if you want to raise an objection, all you've got
12 to do is say, "I raise an objection." I will take
13 it into account in the record, and we will move
14 forward.

15 MR. KNOELLER: Basically -- okay, yes. I
16 --

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Because I don't want to
18 delay any additional time. As you are well aware,
19 I'm certain a number of these people here are in

20 support of your applicant. You're going to delay
21 us here very late into the evening. I don't want
22 us to belabor any point on debate of a bygone
23 issue. So that --

24 MR. KNOELLER: Okay, fine. Let's get
25 going then. We are ready for whatever, because we

1 got the notice that way, and, okay, let's get ready
2 for whatever it may be.

3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Why don't -- do you want
4 to bring your applicant to the table here?

5 MR. KNOELLER: Yes. Mr. Dhillon? Come
6 up here, please.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. I know this
8 is a continuation, but I will still look back
9 through the formality here. I'll ask you for your
10 name and address for the record here, please.

11 MR. DHILLON: My name is Inderjeet S.
12 Dhillon, and --

13 MR. KNOELLER: Can you spell it?

14 MR. DHILLON: I-N-D-E-R-J-E-E-T, initial
15 "S" and the last name is Dhillon, D-H-I-L-L-O-N.

16 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And Gurmeet is also with
17 us here as well, too, then, is that correct? You
18 are also present here with us.

19 MS. DHILLON: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: You are the listed agent
21 owner. You are represented by attorney, which you
22 would not need to be present here, but I will ask
23 you as the agent here, again, if you acknowledge
24 receiving notice of today's meeting with the
25 possibility your application could be denied due to

1 neighborhood objections?

2 MRS. DHILLON: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Ms. Grill, do
4 we have any holds that are still pending?

5 MS. GRILL: The health department has a
6 hold for inspection and submittal of plans.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay, those are still
8 outstanding. There were no police reports. Of
9 those individuals who are present here today, how
10 many -- is there anyone here who does not wish to
11 provide testimony? Is there, are there any
12 individuals who were present here at our last
13 meeting? The three individuals. I will say that
14 the three individuals who were present at our last
15 meeting, your testimony stands. I do not want to
16 hear from you individuals. If I -- if -- this an
17 opportunity for a new hearing. I'm guessing that
18 you're, if you're -- you came in support of the
19 application. We have probably another 30 or so

20 individuals who may provide testimony here. This
21 is a continuation of the hearing and not a
22 duplication of an opportunity to provide testimony.

23 What I will say is, of all those who are
24 here in which to provide testimony, may I see a
25 show of hands of those who are here in opposition

1 to the license? Okay. For those of you who are
2 here in opposition to the license, and for all you
3 who are present here, I'm going to provide -- do we
4 have a -- okay. I'm going to provide two minutes
5 for your testimony.

6 First, we'll take your name and address.
7 We will ask you to provide your testimony within a
8 two-minute timeframe, both in favor and opposition.
9 I will provide additional time if there are
10 questions by committee. But we will ask for you to
11 provide your best argument and to be brief.

12 I will let individuals know, this is not
13 a beauty contest, or it is not a contest of
14 numbers. If you get to the point where, if you are
15 the tenth person to say that, "Our applicants here,
16 Mr. and Mrs. Dhillon, are the nicest people in the
17 world," we will understand, and we will, basically,
18 go on the record and say, "We believe they are the
19 nicest people in the world." The relevance of that

20 is, you substantially agree with the nine previous
21 people here who have said the same exact thing
22 which you wish to say. It would be helpful to the
23 committee's edification and to yours and others who
24 are present for you to say, "My name is so and so,
25 so and so. I live at this address. I agree with

1 the previous person." And then keep it at that if
2 it is redundant testimony.

3 So with that said, the protocol of the
4 committee here is to hear from individuals who are
5 here in opposition first. What we will do is we
6 will get your name and address for the record. At
7 the time, if you have a difficult spelling of your
8 name, please spell your name. I mean, unless your
9 name is as simple as "Smith," and it is
10 "S-M-I-T-H," if there is any question, please take
11 the time to spell that for us.

12 After you provide your name, do not
13 forget your address though. The moment that you do
14 that then we will forward testimony, we will put
15 you on the clock. You will see, with this
16 particular device, a green, yellow and red light.
17 When it hits red, I will ask you to wind up your
18 testimony at that point.

19 One thing I would ask is, we have a

20 number of people who have entered this room here,
21 there was a sign when you did enter this room that
22 said, "Please turn off your cell phones and
23 pagers." Because I'm to ask individuals to do that
24 now, if you have not already done so, to reach in
25 your pocket to ensure. I will let anyone know that

1 if a cell phone does go off after my pointing it
2 out and you having walked passed the sign, if it
3 does go off, I will ask for you to be dismissed
4 from the room, and your testimony, if you have not
5 provided it, will not be allowed. So with that, if
6 you have any question, please reach in the pocket
7 and go ahead and double check. Okay.

8 Any additional questions? With that.
9 Barbara, a regular, so we know you, and we will
10 hear from you. Name and address.

11 MS. NELSON: Barbara Nelson, 102 --

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Oh, I'm sorry. What we
13 will do is anyone who wishes to provide testimony,
14 we will ask you raise your right hand at this
15 point. We will swear you in en masse. Anyone,
16 anyone for or against, hand up in the air. If you
17 do not have your hand raised, you will not provide
18 testimony. Both people who are in support of the
19 license and opposed. If your hand is not up in the

20 air, you will not provide testimony. I don't see
21 anybody over here, so you will all not provide
22 testimony unless your hand is in the air.

23 MS. BLACK: Do you solemnly affirm under
24 the pains and penalties of perjury in the State of
25 Wisconsin the testimony you are about to give is

1 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
2 truth?

3 ALL: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Name and address
5 for the record.

6 MS. NELSON: Barbara Nelson, 1022 West
7 Lincoln Avenue. I have known Dhillon and his wife
8 for many years. They are nice people. However,
9 Dhillon, shame on you. Our neighborhood does not
10 yet need another liquor outlet. You fought hard to
11 have the neighborhood just to allow you to have a
12 24-hour operation. Please, don't press your luck
13 and try and force the liquor license down our
14 throat.

15 I have a City of Milwaukee letter that
16 shows they were denied a license due to
17 oversaturation in '95, and I will say that the
18 argument still applies today. You all have in
19 front of you, I believe, a copy on your computers

20 of the saturation in this area. And Alderman Bohl,
21 tell me if that isn't more than is in your whole
22 district, or close to it? Do you have a copy of
23 this, Alderman Bohl? Or I can pass it out. I have
24 a copy.

25 MR. WITKOWIAK: Mr. Chair.

1 MS. NELSON: I can verify that in the
2 last couple years our neighborhood has had more
3 than our share of drunks plowing into our building.
4 My building was one of them per the photo I'm going
5 to submit into the record. My family has
6 personally, also, has had two drunks plow into our
7 cars that were stopped at stop lights on Lincoln.
8 So as it is, there is just too much liquor flowing
9 on our streets as it is.

10 This property, as you know, is on the
11 border between Aldermanic District 14 of Mr.
12 Zielinski, Alderman Zielinski, and Alderman
13 Witkowiak's district. But Tony, I must tell you,
14 you're running for state public office, and you
15 didn't have --

16 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Barbara, I would ask that
17 we not make additional --

18 MS. NELSON: I must say that I personally
19 was disappointed that Alderman Witkowiak was not

20 advised prior to the last hearing about this. It
21 flew under the radar and it was disappointing to
22 me. I request that you please deny this liquor
23 license based on existing oversaturation of liquor
24 licenses in our district already.

25 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. One moment
2 Alderman Zielinski. I will let you address that.

3 We do have a concentration map that has
4 been provided that is centered based on the
5 location of 551 West Becher Street. It would not
6 have been part of this. Copy has been provided to
7 the attorney for Mr. Dhillon. At this time here,
8 we'll have Alderman Kovac move to make this
9 concentration map, dated December 1, 2009, based on
10 the location of 551 West Becher Street, part of our
11 official record in this proceeding. Are there any
12 objections to that? Hearing none, so ordered.

13 Alderman Zielinski.

14 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Ms. Nelson, how many
15 blocks do you live away from this location?

16 MS. NELSON: I would say about four,
17 four-and-a-half.

18 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Four-and-a-half?

19 MS. NELSON: I live on 10th and Lincoln.

20 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: You're on --

21 MS. NELSON: Two blocks to Becher and

22 then two blocks over on North.

23 MR. DHILLON: That's more than --

24 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Well, I'm very

25 familiar --

1 MS. NELSON: I'm the neighborhood

2 advocate.

3 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Well, I mean the

4 question is, how many blocks -- this is 5th and

5 Becher, you're on 10th and Lincoln. How many

6 blocks would you say that is?

7 MS. NELSON: Isn't that about five, six

8 blocks away?

9 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay. In the

10 closing arguments, I'll add it up. Thank you.

11 That's all.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Are there questions by

13 committee?

14 MS. NELSON: Alderman Bohl, Chairman

15 Bohl.

16 CHAIRMAN BOHL: One moment here. If I

17 just may say to the audience, I have a reputation

18 of not running a circus for a committee. And if

19 individuals want to treat it like a circus, then

20 I'll ask you to leave the room, stay out, okay?

21 This is not an opportunity for applauding, for

22 laughing, for providing additional commentary. If

23 you want to do that, go to the movies.

24 MS. NELSON: May I request this be

25 submitted, Chairman Bohl?

1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: What is it?

2 MS. NELSON: This is my substantiation to
3 the argument that we have enough liquor flowing in
4 our neighborhood as it is, um, a picture --

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Photos?

6 MS. NELSON: This is one photo,
7 repetitive one photo, of a drunk hitting my
8 building. And my building was one of five on the
9 street that got hit.

10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And when did this occur?

11 MS. NELSON: This was a couple years ago.
12 I don't know if I have a date on it, 2008.

13 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Is there a desire by
14 committee to put this into the record?

15 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I don't understand
16 the correlation between a car that smashed into a
17 building and there being too many liquor outlets in
18 the area.

19 MS. NELSON: It just refers to this --

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Well, that's why I --
21 before I even wanted, I wanted to see if there was
22 a --

23 MS. NELSON: That's okay.

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: -- desire to do that.

25 Were there any additional questions for Ms. Nelson

1 from the committee? Mr. Knoeller, were there
2 questions that you have relating to her testimony?

3 MR. KNOELLER: Simply, you indicated that
4 you had cars hitting on Lincoln Avenue, isn't that
5 correct?

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: We didn't take it into
7 the record, so that's -- you're asking questions of
8 an item that isn't in the record, so.

9 MR. KNOELLER: Well, she testified that
10 it was on Lincoln, and Lincoln Avenue.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay.

12 MR. KNOELLER: For what it's worth, these
13 were on Lincoln Avenue. Where on Lincoln Avenue,
14 ma'am?

15 MS. NELSON: 10th and Lincoln.

16 MR. KNOELLER: 10th and Lincoln. Okay.
17 And do you know where Mr. Dhillon's store is?

18 MS. NELSON: I have been there many
19 times.

20 MR. KNOELLER: That's approximately 13

21 blocks away from the business.

22 MS. NELSON: I didn't think it was that

23 far.

24 MR. KNOELLER: Well, 10th is six and

25 three blocks north of that. So I'm -- so, nine

1 blocks.

2 MS. NELSON: Okay, I'll take your word
3 for it. I don't have a map in front of me.

4 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Let's just say it's about
6 a handful plus or minus, okay? I don't -- if
7 anybody else has to do the math and start doing the
8 seven, five, four, six, whoopee, whoopee ding, it's
9 about a handful, okay. Well just cut to the chase
10 of that. Any other questions?

11 MR. KNOELLER: No further questions.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your
13 testimony. Next witness.

14 MR. WHITE: Neil White, W-H-I-T-E.
15 Lincoln Village Business Association, 1133 West
16 Lincoln Avenue. It was called to my attention
17 after the initial license meeting from neighbors
18 along Becher Street in Witkowiak's district that
19 there was a large uproar about this. They had

20 contacted me because I had dealt with similar
21 issues with taverns along Becher Street and the
22 park. I contacted Mr. Witkowiak's office after
23 that to learn the neighbors in his district were
24 not too pleased with this and which leads us to
25 where we are today.

1 Our organization has taken the stand
2 since we began that we will not be in support of
3 liquor licenses in the area unless it's tied to an
4 identity facility. We hold true to that to this
5 point.

6 I would like to submit the listing of the
7 1995 Common Council who denied this exact same
8 location a license due to overconcentration. For
9 the record, if it's not already, I don't know if
10 it's even on the record yet. If it's not part of
11 the record, I'd like to submit that. And I'd also
12 like to point out, in reference to the
13 concentration map, that there is 12 liquor outlets
14 within three blocks. There is not a three, five or
15 handful of blocks; there is 12 liquor outlets in a
16 three-block radius of this location. And many of
17 the neighbors expressed to our office that they
18 don't feel that will improve the quality of life by
19 adding a 13th.

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your

21 brevity, Mr. White.

22 MR. KNOELLER: I haven't seen that.

23 MR. WHITE: I, unfortunately, did not

24 bring copies of that.

25 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Questions by committee
2 first? Alderman Zielinski.

3 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Given that you're
4 the director of the Business Association on Lincoln
5 Avenue and there is a concern about the liquor
6 license establishment, do you ever, in the context
7 of your position, go online and look at the various
8 meetings, like proposal meetings, licensing
9 meetings to see if anything comes to your
10 attention?

11 MR. WHITE: Thank you for pointing that
12 out, Tony. This project is outside of our
13 district. But I was alerted through other people
14 that we extended our services to after the initial
15 liquor license meeting.

16 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Just look at here,
17 it's just the 12th District.

18 MR. WHITE: No, the Lincoln Village Main
19 Street District.

20 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Other questions by

22 committee? All right. Thank you, Mr. White, for

23 your testimony. Are there any questions?

24 MR. KNOELLER: Yes, this other

25 document --

1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Knoeller, what I will
2 say to you is, do not refer to that document until
3 such time -- unless you have an objection for us
4 taking it into consideration. Otherwise, you are
5 making reference to a document that is not part of
6 the record. If it's not part of the record, there
7 is no point in your raising question to it.

8 MR. KNOELLER: Okay. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Do you have an objection
10 here? Are you going to raise any objection to --

11 MR. KNOELLER: My only objection would be
12 that it applies to a different address.

13 MR. WHITE: It is for the 551 Becher.

14 MR. DHILLON: No, it's not the same.

15 MR. KNOELLER: No, it's not. It says
16 it's 575. Okay. This applies to the same -- this
17 applies to 575 West Becher at a Quick Mart.

18 MR. WHITE: Which is part of the same
19 block.

20 MR. KNOELLER: It's part of the same

21 area; not the same block. That's my only

22 objection.

23 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Well, I haven't seen it

24 because you took it from me to provide you an

25 opportunity. So why don't we --

1 MR. KNOELLER: Okay, I'm sorry.

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: No, that's your right to
3 do that. You want to make sure that -- you have a
4 right to take a look at that.

5 Members, this is a, this was a notice
6 that was sent out. It's dated June of 1995, so it
7 is rather aged, but it is a notice. It appears
8 that Mr. Dhillon applied for a liquor license, a
9 Class "A" Malt License here, somewhere in the same
10 block face of where he is applying now. And it was
11 the recommendation of the Common Council in June of
12 1995 to deny that application based on the
13 concentration of alcohol beverage outlets in the
14 area.

15 For what it's worth, is there any desire
16 of the committee to consider this into the record?

17 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I have a question,
18 Mr. Chairman, of the City Attorney.

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski.

20 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Given the fact that
21 it's a licenses denied due to concentration and
22 there is an inability to reapply for a three-year
23 time period, is there any legal basis for this
24 committee to consider something from 1995 for a
25 future position given the changes and other

1 factors?

2 MR. SCHRIMPF: Sure, I think you can
3 consider a great variety of information.
4 Particularly, if the area -- first of all, if it's
5 within the one-square mile, and from what I'm
6 hearing, it probably is. And then the other thing
7 is, if there has been no real change in
8 concentration, even though you normally consider
9 only three years, you can certainly consider
10 something as part of the overall impact on the
11 neighborhood, the number of outlets you already
12 have in the neighborhood as part of it. It's well
13 within your discretion.

14 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman,
15 given the fact that the City Attorney has indicated
16 that this is something that we can take into
17 consideration, I have no problem in terms of making
18 the motion to accept that for our subjective uses.

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: All right, thank you.

20 Motion by Alderman Zielinski is to provide the two
21 pages provided by Mr. White as part of our official
22 record in this proceeding. Are there any
23 objections? Hearing none, so ordered. And Mr.
24 Knoeller, your objection, based on it not being the
25 same location, will be duly noted for the record

1 here.

2 Are there, were there any other questions
3 committee members have of Mr. White? Mr. Knoeller,
4 did you -- other than that objection based on the
5 document here, did you have any other questions for
6 Mr. White?

7 MR. KNOELLER: No, I didn't.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Next witness,
9 please.

10 MS. LACKEY: My name is Jill Florence
11 Lackey, L-A-C-K-E-Y. I am a resident of Lincoln
12 Village at 705 West Lincoln. I'm also the director
13 of Urban Anthropology, Inc., which is the resident
14 association for Lincoln Village Neighborhood.

15 Now, I certainly agree with the
16 information, the testimony that Barb Nelson has
17 given. I certainly agree with the testimony Neil
18 White has given. Ordinarily, what happens in the
19 Lincoln Village Neighborhood is we are asked to

20 hold a neighborhood association meeting when there
21 is a liquor license that is being renewed or is
22 being applied for. And we very much feel very
23 slighted in the fact that we were not asked to hold
24 this particular meeting that normally occurs in the
25 Lincoln Village Neighborhood. And this proposed

1 liquor store is within the Lincoln Village
2 Neighborhood.

3 Now, we have spent the last week on
4 calling our residents, all of whom work days, and
5 we have not had one person that says they're in
6 favor of this at this time.

7 MR. KNOELLER: Object, that's hearsay.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: The last portion of your
9 testimony will be stricken. One individual can
10 only testify to their own opposition.

11 Furthermore --

12 MS. LACKEY: There are some residents
13 that I have --

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I understand, and their
15 testimony will speak for itself.

16 MS. LACKEY: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: The other thing that I
18 will say, and I want to go on the record and say
19 this, again, as well, too, for those of you who may

20 have the opportunity to watch this committee, we
21 start at 8:00 a.m. and we typically will run
22 through to about 8:00 p.m. It's not uncommon for
23 us to go later. We had one evening where we went
24 to 11:00 p.m. For anyone who thinks that this
25 committee just has the ability to -- and boy, it

1 would be a lifesaver for us to have evening
2 meetings; try starting an evening meeting. We
3 start our meetings at 8:00 a.m. Typically, by the
4 time we get to 10:00 a.m., we are already two hours
5 behind. Get to the point where somebody needs to
6 work at 5:00 or 6:00 a.m. the next morning, and say
7 that -- what we would have to do is literally, you
8 take that 10- or 12- or 14-hour span, we would have
9 to meet seven days a week to fit items between 6:00
10 and 9:00, and if we were running to 10:00 or 11:00,
11 people would say, "I've got to get up in the
12 morning. I can't stay. I can't provide testimony
13 for this item at 8:30."

14 There is no perfect ability in the world
15 for this committee to actually fit things as
16 convenient as we would like for individuals. It
17 does become an inconvenience for individuals to
18 provide testimony, but if something is that
19 important to you, you will find the time, or

20 individuals -- if there is enough opposition one
21 way or another, we will get all of the opposition
22 to individuals who have licenses. And that said,
23 period.

24 I will just say that anybody that thinks
25 it is so convenient in the evening, it would be so

1 darn inconvenient for individuals because we would
2 have times and occasions where the testimony would
3 be dragging on to 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning.
4 That's a reality. That is my commentary, not
5 particularly to you necessarily, but in general,
6 because I get tired of hearing that. Because
7 people think it makes so sense and it's so simple;
8 it doesn't.

9 Questions for our witness here? Alderman
10 Zielinski.

11 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Ms. Lackey, were you
12 aware that there was an effort made to have a
13 meeting take place some time within the last week
14 or two?

15 MS. LACKEY: I was not made aware of
16 that, no.

17 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay, then I'll make
18 a reference to that later in the evening to
19 corroborate that, to show there was an effort made.

20 I just wanted to find out --

21 MS. LACKEY: Our office was never

22 contacted.

23 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay, we'll get more

24 detail as time goes on. Okay. You're on 7th and

25 Lincoln, and this is 5th and Becher, right?

1 MS. LACKEY: Yes, that's two-and-a-half
2 blocks from my residence. It's -- the next street
3 north is Grant, the next street is Becher.

4 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: That's two and
5 there's 5th and you're 7th, so --

6 MS. LACKEY: Well,

7 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: So four blocks.

8 MS. LACKEY: Yeah.

9 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay. The reason
10 why, Mr. Chair, if you would just bear with me, my
11 entire history of basing my decisions on licensing
12 is on issues like this. If I have someone living
13 nine, ten blocks away, you know, testifying, and
14 I've got people living a block away, two blocks
15 away in that area, that's something that's a factor
16 amongst other factors that, you know, should be
17 taking into consideration. Thank you very much.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Before we
19 hear from you, I will just list a suggestion to

20 those who are in opposition at this point, and that
21 is my -- if I have been cited for neighborhood
22 objections and there are specific reasons that are
23 listed for neighborhood objections, if you have a
24 history of understanding how this committee works
25 and its ability to take in, you have two minutes.

1 As much as people want to be upset over the fact
2 that you were not adequately noticed at first, the
3 fact is that we did a redo for that opportunity.
4 You're here, go ahead and waste your testimony on
5 venting, "I'm upset that I wasn't noticed." That's
6 not in the notice, and that's not going to be a
7 reason for us objecting to the license. Speak to
8 those issues please, or unfortunately, you will not
9 adequately address the needed means by which this
10 committee can deny a license.

11 I'm just giving you the -- I'm giving you
12 100 percent sound advice in terms of dealing with a
13 license, okay. My issue would be please focus on
14 reasons for opposition and let's not rehash. You
15 got a redo, and literally, the reason was going to
16 keep us here much later tonight, which I'm happy to
17 do, but please, focus your testimony on your
18 reasons for opposition, not on, "We're upset we
19 weren't noticed at first," okay?

20 Next witness, please.

21 MS. MUELLER: My name is Rebecca Mueller,

22 M-U-E-L-L-E-R. I live at 2319 7th Street South,

23 which should be about the same distance away as

24 Jill from the establishment.

25 I'm here because I'm a new resident of

1 the area, but I've become involved with the Urban
2 Anthropology Resident Association. I heard about
3 this hearing, and I was able to attend. Mainly
4 just attending because of the concentration. After
5 I looked at the charts and everything else, it
6 seems like granting more licenses would be kind of
7 moving a step backwards. And I'm a new resident, I
8 want to see the neighborhood go up and up. I plan
9 on being around for awhile. So that's my
10 testimony.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Thank you for
12 your testimony. Are there questions by committee
13 of this witness? Mr. Knoeller, questions?

14 MR. KNOELLER: Yes. All the people
15 objecting here today, are here today, are members
16 of the association, isn't that correct? Is it
17 Lincoln Square Association, is that the --

18 MS. MUELLER: It's Urban Anthropology,
19 which is a nonprofit in the area, and it's the

20 resident association of the neighborhood.

21 MR. KNOELLER: Okay, and all these people

22 who are here today are members of that, are they

23 not?

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I don't know that she

25 knows that, so.

1 MR. KNOELLER: But are these people
2 members of your association, what are here today?

3 MS. MUELLER: It's not my association,
4 but I'm a resident. Therefore, I can be associated
5 with the resident association.

6 MR. KNOELLER: Okay, so you're associated
7 with that, is that correct?

8 MS. MUELLER: Mm mm.

9 MR. KNOELLER: Yes?

10 MS. MUELLER: Yes.

11 MR. KNOELLER: Okay. No more questions.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Thank you for
13 your testimony. Our next witness.

14 MR. JASZEWSKI: My name is Chris
15 Jaszewski, J-A-S-Z-E-W-S-K-I. I live at 2319 South
16 7th Street.

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you, please
18 proceed.

19 MR. JASZEWSKI: I live with my mother who

20 is 83 years old, who is a longstanding resident of
21 the neighborhood. I remember when 6th and Becher
22 used to be Victor's Meat Market. I remember
23 running in the park, Kosciuszco Park, when I was in
24 high school, Bosco High School.

25 The neighborhood has gone downhill.

1 There's too much alcohol. In 1995, there was a
2 killing right across the bar on 8th and Becher. I
3 was there as a witness, not at the time, but at the
4 prayer vigil for the young man who died there.

5 Across the street to the north of this
6 place that now exists there, laundromat, British
7 Petroleum gas station, is a large field that's the
8 garden space for Hmong people who have been there
9 for several years.

10 The saturation of alcohol in the
11 neighborhood around here is giving the image that
12 everybody that lives in the neighborhood is a lush
13 and needs the only thing possible: More liquor. I
14 don't think this is appropriate for the
15 neighborhood. I think we need maybe restaurants
16 that have clientele that may use the local variety
17 of vegetables that are provided by the Hmong people
18 or other ethnic groups.

19 I don't see that the new people that come

20 into the neighborhood need to look at the
21 neighborhood as a downtrodden alcohol-breathing
22 neighborhood. And I'm sorry that Mr. Dhillon's
23 group has not thought about other people and other
24 ways of making money. That's my testimony.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Questions by

1 committee? Mr. Knoeller, questions?

2 MR. KNOELLER: Yes. Do you know the
3 address of that park that you referred to?

4 MR. JASZEWSKI: Kosciuszco Park. It's
5 the entire neighborhood.

6 MR. KNOELLER: Kosciuszco Park, is that
7 --

8 MR. JASZEWSKI: Kosciuszco Park.

9 MR. KNOELLER: Kosciuszco Park. Where is
10 Kosciuszco Park located?

11 MR. JASZEWSKI: Lincoln Avenue.

12 MR. KNOELLER: Where on Lincoln?

13 MR. JASZEWSKI: Becher Street.

14 MR. KNOELLER: Where on Lincoln Avenue?

15 MR. JASZEWSKI: 10th Street to about 5th

16 -- ah, 7th Street. It is a large park, a large
17 part of the neighborhood.

18 MR. KNOELLER: And what part is this
19 Hmong part that you referred to?

20 MR. JASZEWSKI: The Hmong garden is to
21 the north of your buildings on 5th Street.

22 MR. KNOELLER: That's over a block to the
23 north?

24 MR. JASZEWSKI: That is correct.

25 MR. KNOELLER: And how large is the Hmong

1 garden?

2 MR. JASZEWSKI: At least a block long, a
3 block-and-a-half long. It provides a lot of
4 vegetables for a lot of people.

5 MR. KNOELLER: This is not adjacent to
6 Mr. Dhillon's proposed establishment, is it?

7 MR. JASZEWSKI: It's across the street to
8 the north. It's not adjacent.

9 MR. KNOELLER: How far is it?

10 MR. JASZEWSKI: It's about a block away.
11 The point is, there are other people who live in
12 the neighborhood other than people who need
13 alcohol. You need to start thinking about other
14 ways of making money than alcohol. People are
15 dying across the globe because of alcohol. This is
16 not the way to prevent a culture --

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Sir, sir, I think we've
18 granted you your two minutes, please. Questions,
19 additional questions?

20 MR. KNOELLER: No additional questions.

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Thank you for

22 your testimony and time here. Is there anyone here

23 who is in opposition to the license that has not

24 provided testimony yet? Please come forward.

25 MS. WILBRANDT: My name is Lucy

1 Wilbrandt, W-I-L-B-R-A-N-D-T. I live at 1971 South
2 5th Place, a block away. And I just think we have
3 too much liquor stores already. It's making our
4 neighborhood worse. That's it.

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Thank you for
6 your testimony. Any questions by committee? Mr.
7 Knoeller, questions?

8 MR. KNOELLER: No.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Thank you
10 ma'am, for your testimony here today. If we could,
11 if I could ask this of -- was there anyone else who
12 is here in opposition? If I could ask those of you
13 who are here in opposition, if you could relinquish
14 your seats here in the front row and find seats in
15 the gallery if you do wish to stay? I appreciate
16 that, thank you for coming down with your
17 testimony.

18 For those of you who are in support of
19 the license, we will go through the same protocol.

20 What I will ask individuals to do is, if you could
21 start coming forward and take these seats in the
22 front row, that way we can continue in an orderly
23 procession. Otherwise, in the past, what we will
24 do is, we'll have one person who provides
25 testimony, and then we'll get them to walk down and

1 somebody comes from the back row, it takes
2 considerable time. That is, if we could, just
3 continue in an orderly procession when someone does
4 provide their testimony.

5 The same protocol will apply. I would
6 ask that you come forward and provide your name and
7 address for the record. If you physically have
8 difficulty at the standing microphone, you may
9 please take a seat at one of the available chairs
10 that we have before us.

11 The same will apply in terms of two
12 minutes of testimony. If it gets to the point
13 where your testimony is substantially redundant, if
14 it does -- if it's repetitive to those individuals
15 who have spoken before you, I would ask that you
16 provide your name and address, say, "I support the
17 license and agree with the testimony that's already
18 been provided."

19 Sir, you're first here. We'll take your

20 testimony.

21 MR. PATTERSON: Thank you. My name is

22 Rachae Patterson, R-A-C-H-A-E, Patterson,

23 P-A-T-T-E-R-S-O-N. I live at 2038 South 6th

24 Street. I've been a resident for four years, and

25 I'm for it. Because it's very convenient, you

1 know, there is a lot more people in that area alone
2 that's on foot.

3 You know, I want to be somewhere where I
4 can be respected as a customer, a paying customer,
5 than being somewhere else to be disrespected.

6 Where I have to go, I have to go way to Mitchell
7 Street because there is difficulty and because of
8 the altercations I have with La Luna's. You know
9 what I'm saying, being called the "N" word, being
10 disrespected in front of my wife.

11 Now, if I have to go somewhere else and
12 spend my own money because it's disrespectful,
13 disrespect me, I think somewhere closer to where I
14 live at, or with instead of having to go out of my
15 way. You know, and there is a lot more people
16 that's on foot in that area alone than it is,
17 that's people that's coming from Lincoln or coming
18 from Burnham or coming from Rogers or coming from
19 Mitchell. So I go out of my way, you know what I'm

20 saying, to me, you still have to walk.

21 You know, I understand about the alcohol

22 and those who oppose it, you know what I'm saying.

23 I live in the neighborhood. You know, I don't see

24 too much of -- every year on, on Maple you got a

25 shooting, you got killing on Maple, you know. Tell

1 me something about Becher. Tell me something about
2 6th and Becher, 5th and Becher. I have been over
3 there for four years.

4 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chair.

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your
6 testimony. Alderman Zielinski.

7 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: How many blocks away
8 do you live from this establishment?

9 MR. PATTERSON: I live not even a block.

10 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay, less than a
11 block?

12 MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

13 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Other questions by the
15 committee? Sir, just -- and for others'
16 edification, if you could just retain at -- stay at
17 the stand until we just ensure there are no other
18 questions by committee. I think we were done with
19 you, but I just want to -- any other questions by

20 committee? Thank you. Mr. Knoeller, would --

21 MR. KNOELLER: No questions.

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your

23 testimony.

24 MS. BENNETT: My name is Cassandra

25 Bennett, B-E-N-N-E-T-T. I live at 2226 South 6th

1 Street, not even a block-and-a-half away from the
2 establishment.

3 First of all, I'd like to say that I am
4 in the favor of the license. Second of all, Mr.
5 Dhillon isn't running a bar, he is just running an
6 establishment where people are drinking there.
7 There are other people from outside of the area
8 that will be buying liquor from this establishment.

9 I mean, that's all I have to really say
10 is, I'm in agreement with it. It's not the only
11 liquor place there. It's not a bar where we have
12 problems such as, you know, drunk people, or
13 anything like that.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your
15 testimony. Are there questions that committee
16 members have? Any questions, Mr. Knoeller?

17 MR. KNOELLER: No questions, thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your
19 testimony. And if you could, when individuals do

20 provide their testimony, if you could actually find
21 a seat elsewhere. What we want to do is just
22 ensure that there are seats available and we can
23 proceed in an orderly fashion.

24 Good afternoon.

25 MR. DONAVON: Good afternoon. My name is

1 Chad Donavon. I also reside at 2226 South 6th
2 Street, about a block-and-a-half away from Mr.
3 Dhillon's establishment.

4 I agree with Mr. Patterson that it would
5 be a lot more convenient because I also have to go
6 to 9th and Mitchell because when I go to La Luna, I
7 got shook down, like I was stealing. I mean, not
8 only when I go to Mr. Dhillon's establishment do I
9 not feel like a customer, but I feel like I'm part
10 of his family. He comes, he says, "Hello," shakes
11 my hand, asks me how my girlfriend is. That's how
12 my family is. And that, I appreciate, I appreciate
13 a lot.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your
15 testimony. One moment, sir. Questions by
16 committee of this gentleman?

17 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Mr. Chair.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Hamilton.

19 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Are you 21?

20 MR. DONAVON: Yes, sir.

21 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: All right. Just
22 checking.

23 CHAIRMAN BOHL: He was going to ask in
24 dog years here, or --

25 MR. DONAVON: No, sir. I'm 22.

1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your
2 testimony, sir. Were there any other questions
3 that committee members had?

4 Sir.

5 MR. TISLEY: Hi, my name is John Tisley,
6 T-I-S-L-E-Y. I basically, been staying around the
7 area for around, like, six months. You know, I
8 stay exactly five houses away from where this is
9 supposed to --

10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And exactly that address,
11 Mr. Tisley, would be?

12 MR. TISLEY: I'm sorry. 2052 South 5th
13 Place.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you.

15 MR. TISLEY: Yeah, but, you know, at the
16 same time, Mr. and Mrs. Dhillon really respect the
17 people who are supportive to the neighborhood, you
18 know. At the same time, like Patterson said, you
19 know, they do show gratitude to the customers. You

20 know, they don't disrespect anybody. I also agree

21 with the application. That's my testimony.

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Thank you for

23 your testimony. Questions by committee? Mr.

24 Knoeller, any questions?

25 MR. KNOELLER: No, thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you, sir.

2 MR. FLORES: Hi, my name is Juan Flores.

3 I stay at 2172 South 5th Place. That would be
4 exactly one block away. I have been staying there
5 for 12 years, and I haven't had no problem with
6 Dhillon and them. They've been like family, you
7 know, they say, "Hi," they welcome me, whatever.

8 Anybody that's been here objecting this,
9 that's nobody's business, in a block, two blocks
10 away from this place. They are actually not
11 against that, they're against the liquor. So I
12 don't think this liquor is messing up our
13 community; it's the drugs. And I can tell you that
14 from personal experience. So I agree with
15 everything.

16 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your
17 testimony. Questions by committee? No questions.
18 Thank you.

19 Next, and if others who intend to provide

20 testimony could start to filter into some of the
21 empty chairs here in the front row, we appreciate
22 it.

23 Good afternoon, ma'am. Your name and
24 address first.

25 MS. DOYLE: Hello, my name is Sha-Paris

1 Doyle. Do you want me to spell it out?

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: No, but you actually need
3 to get closer to the microphone here. I'm sorry,
4 you do need to spell it out, please.

5 MS. DOYLE: My first name?

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Yes.

7 MS. DOYLE: S-H-A, hyphen, capital
8 P-A-R-I-S, last name Doyle, D-O-Y-L-E, and my
9 address is 2141 South 5th Place.

10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you.

11 MS. DOYLE: I am in favor of the liquor
12 store they are trying to put up. I have no
13 objections. They are very good people. So I agree
14 with everybody out here. And it's not all about
15 the liquor and people trying -- I'm sorry. Yeah, I
16 just agree with them. He made me laugh. I'm
17 sorry.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: We may have a question
19 for you.

20 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chair.

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski.

22 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay. How far away

23 are you from this establishment?

24 MS. DOYLE: Like two houses down.

25 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Two houses away?

1 MS. DOYLE: Yes.

2 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Other questions by
4 committee? Thank you. Thank you for your
5 testimony, and thank you for your nice smile as
6 well.

7 MS. DOYLE: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Next witness.

9 MS. SEBEDRA: Hi, my name is Jeanette
10 Sabedra, S-A-B-E-D-R-A. I'm in favor of the liquor
11 store. Everything that the Dhillons have tried to
12 do in our community has been to help it. It's not
13 so much the alcohol in our neighborhood, it's what
14 the landlords are letting move in that causes the
15 problem. Otherwise, everyone else seems about dead
16 on with how Mr. and Mrs. Dhillon are. They're
17 nice, they treat you like family, and if they can
18 help you out, they'll help you out.

19 So I think that it wouldn't be a burden

20 on the neighborhood. If anything, it would add a
21 couple more jobs for people that live around us.

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you, Ms. Sabedra.

23 I do have a question for you, and that is, your
24 address?

25 MS. SEBEDRA: I'm 2210 South 5th Place.

1 It's about a block and three houses away.

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Are there
3 other questions by committee for this witness?

4 Okay, thank you for your testimony.

5 Good afternoon.

6 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon. My name
7 is Reina Rodriguez. I live right across the street
8 at 2115 South 6th Street, and I've lived there
9 almost 15 years. I've had no trouble. I've seen
10 the family, Dhillon's family, grow up, and they are
11 very careful with who they serve and who they
12 communicate with. And if I see anything that I
13 don't like, I go to them and I tell them how I
14 feel, and they get to it and try to fix whatever it
15 is.

16 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chair.

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Questions? Alderman
18 Zielinski.

19 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I know I have been

20 to your house many times. I've met your family, I
21 know your whole family. I know you've owned your
22 home, lived in your home how many years?

23 MS. RODRIGUEZ: 13, 14 years.

24 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: 13 or 14 years. So
25 you have lived across the street for 13, 14 years,

1 owned the home?

2 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Right.

3 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: You live right
4 across the street?

5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Right.

6 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Say hi to your
7 family.

8 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Other questions by
10 committee? Thank you for your testimony.

11 Mr. Knoeller, I'm not necessarily going
12 to call on you. If you do have any questions of
13 any of the witnesses, please just interrupt.

14 MR. KNOELLER: Right. That's a good way.
15 Thanks.

16 MR. SIDHU: Agya, A-G-Y-A, Sidhu,
17 S-I-D-H-U.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: S-I-D-H-U, Sidhu?

19 MR. SIDHU: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: If you could actually
21 speak up just a little bit, please too, sir? Go
22 ahead.

23 MR. SIDHU: 4570 South 116th Street,
24 Greenfield. Mr. Dhillon has been for 20 years. I
25 think this liquor store is going to be a very good

1 liquor store in the neighborhood. He has the
2 nicest building. There's not a building in the
3 neighborhood even better than this one. But he
4 will provide a lot of pride. That would be a very
5 good, another liquor store and be the competition.
6 This would be very good competition for that.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Questions by
9 committee? Alderman Zielinski.

10 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: No, I'm not even
11 going to try to calculate how many blocks away.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Follow-up question that I
13 have for the applicants here. What is currently --
14 it's currently a vacant parcel here as part of the
15 --

16 MR. KNOELLER: No.

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: -- building that they
18 operate?

19 MR. KNOELLER: It was a building which

20 was put up, and originally there was a laundromat
21 which was to go in there. And the laundromat, I
22 guess, there was some request that perhaps that the
23 laundromat be, or that the building be half
24 laundromat and half sale of liquor.

25 And this is why we were originally -- I

1 wasn't here, but this is why originally this matter
2 came before the committee on December 8th. And I
3 think with this witness, I can determine his -- how
4 he knows Mr. Dhillon, exactly what he does, and to
5 know him, not because he lives and is a friend a
6 long time.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: My other follow-up
8 question has to do with the application here. I
9 mean, is it the intent, based on the request here,
10 to operate this location exclusively as a
11 full-fledged liquor store?

12 MR. KNOELLER: Yes, half -- no, not
13 full-fledged. Full-fledged liquor store in one
14 part and a laundromat is on the other half of the
15 building.

16 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I don't know -- I think
17 that there is a prohibition, is there not, Mr.
18 Schrimpf? With co-mingling alcohol with other
19 types of retail?

20 MR. SCHRIMPF: Yes, that is correct.

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Do you want to --

22 MR. KNOELLER: We'll make -- the whole

23 matter, he says, can easily be a liquor store.

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I mean, as much, as much

25 as sometimes people, in that extensively long rinse

1 cycle, they want to --

2 MR. KNOELLER: But if this is the
3 situation, what has happened here is that the
4 laundromat machines -- I was in there myself, the
5 laundromat machines were almost all out, and it
6 would be -- and he then went to a lot of expense to
7 get laundromat machines and everything like that.
8 But what has happened is, with the laundromat
9 machines being removed, it's very simple to remove
10 them, they can just be carted out or sold, or
11 something like that.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Knoeller, my reason
13 for knowing that is that we've had applicants in
14 the past, for example, we've had a couple of
15 establishments that have been like art studios that
16 have sought to have like wine, to have alcohol
17 licenses to have wine tastings there, and they
18 could not by state law co-mingle until there was a
19 proposed change to co-mingle the sale of alcohol in

20 an establishment that provided other commercial
21 trade?

22 And that -- maybe Mr. Schrimpf, because I
23 don't know where that falls in terms of the
24 statutory ordinances, you can just --

25 MR. SCHRIMPF: It only applies, Mr.

1 Chair, to the Class "Bs."

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: It does only apply to
3 Class "B"?

4 MR. SCHRIMPF: Not Class "A."

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: So the Class "A" could --
6 could a Class "A" co-mingle with the first
7 laundromat?

8 MR. SCHRIMPF: Somewhat incredibly,
9 somewhat incredibly, Mr. Chairman. But I think
10 that is the case. It is found --

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: So that would apply only
12 to a Class "B" license. So as long as someone had
13 a Class "A" and did not allow for the consumption
14 of the alcohol that they may purchase while waiting
15 for the rinse cycle, they could purchase their
16 products and take it along.

17 MR. SCHRIMPF: And the statutory
18 reference, Mr. Chairman, is 125.3023(m) of the
19 statutes, and it only applies to Class "Bs."

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. So they would be
21 allowed then technically. Do you have a question?

22 MR. KNOELLER: My only question was, how
23 do you know Mr. Dhillon, sir? Or how long have you
24 known him?

25 MR. SIDHU: Over 20 years.

1 MR. KNOELLER: Over 20 years. And what
2 business do you have?

3 MR. SIDHU: I have two liquor stores in
4 the City of Greenfield.

5 MR. KNOELLER: The City of Greenfield.
6 And you know what it is to run a proper store and a
7 correct store, isn't that correct?

8 MR. SIDHU: Yes, this would be a very
9 good store. It's very nice, very beautiful, very
10 -- nobody has in the neighborhood, even within
11 probably two miles, a store look like that.

12 MR. KNOELLER: Okay. My other question
13 is, have you ever had an experience with Mr.
14 Dhillon being an employee or working at a liquor
15 store?

16 MR. SIDHU: Yes, I do.

17 MR. KNOELLER: How long is that?

18 MR. SIDHU: Five years.

19 MR. KNOELLER: Okay. Thank you. I have

20 no other questions.

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: By that, did you mean

22 that Mr. Dhillon worked for you?

23 MR. SIDHU: No, he has his own liquor

24 store.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Mr. Dhillon, where

1 has that been?

2 MR. KNOELLER: It was -- there are a
3 number, if I may interject here, there was one in
4 Greenfield, there was one in Brown Deer, and there
5 was one in Muskego.

6 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chair.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Alderman
8 Zielinski.

9 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I would just like to
10 know if there has ever been any disciplinary action
11 against your license in any one of those locations?

12 MR. DHILLON: No, none.

13 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: All right. Thank you.
15 Thank you for your testimony.

16 Next witness, please. And if others who
17 intend to provide additional testimony could come
18 forward here in the front row seat.

19 Sir, your name and address, please.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Reginald S.
21 Williams. I reside at 3450 North 42nd Street,
22 which is the north side. I previously moved from
23 the south side. I stayed at 2670 South 8th Street,
24 which is right off of Cleveland.
25 I've been knowing Dhillon for a very long

1 time. He helped me beyond help and he helped. And
2 him and his wife, all they ever done was been nice
3 to me. And there have been times where I didn't
4 even have gas money to go to work, and Dhillon's
5 wife seen that I was having some problems, and she
6 saw that I was a good customer. She said, "Reggie,
7 why don't you take some credit and pay me when you
8 get paid?" She said, "Can I trust you that you
9 will pay me?" I said, "Yes, you can." So she gave
10 me the money I needed and the gas and cigarettes
11 and whatever I needed for my kids. And this didn't
12 just go on for one, she did this for me every week.
13 Every Monday or Tuesday, I got a full tank of gas,
14 and on that Friday morning, I would pay her and
15 make sure I got paid, and I would fill my vehicle
16 up again.

17 I have done work for Dhillon. He and his
18 family are very nice people. And I'm going to make
19 it short. A lot of people that come into his

20 establishment, they treat them with respect, they
21 ask them, "How can I help you? What can I get for
22 you?" And then, if some individuals out there that
23 don't like his prices, they swear at him, call out
24 a name, call him "sand so and so," "Taliban," you
25 know, that's not right. Everybody -- they have a

1 right to be in this country just as much as we do,
2 you know.

3 So I just want to say they are very good
4 people, and I don't think they should be denied
5 their license for the liquor store. And that's a
6 nice building, and it's a brand new building. I
7 mean, you shouldn't have no code violations or
8 anything else. That's all I have to say.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Thank you for
10 your testimony. Are there any questions committee
11 members have of this witness? All right. Thank
12 you, sir, for your time.

13 Next witness.

14 MR. LAPOINT: My name is Daniel Lapoint,
15 L-A-P-O-I-N-T. I live at 2210 South 5th Place.
16 One block -- well, a block and three houses down
17 from Dhillon's establishment.

18 And I'd rather see a liquor store go in
19 there than a bar because that's where everybody

20 gets in their car driving and gets in a wreck. You
21 go to the liquor store, you buy your liquor, you go
22 home and you sit on your couch and you drink it.
23 You have no problems that way. And I'm for it.

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Thank you for your
25 testimony. Questions by committee? All right.

1 Thank you, sir, for your testimony.

2 Good afternoon, sir. Good evening.

3 MR. LIND: Good evening. My name is
4 Timothy Lind, L-I-N-D. I live at 2118 South 5th
5 Place, just a little bit over a block away.

6 I agree with people before me. I think
7 that he should get the license. I think everybody
8 is better off, and I agree with the person just
9 before me, I would rather not see a bar. It's not
10 the fact that they are getting a license is a
11 problem, it's giving it to people who abuse the
12 right to have alcohol, you know. That's all I have
13 to say.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Lind, if you could
15 just hold on for one moment. Questions by
16 committee? Mr. Knoeller, no questions? Thank you,
17 sir.

18 Were there any others who are here to
19 provide testimony in favor of the license? Okay,

20 last call, any others who have not provided
21 testimony who wish to do so in support of the
22 license?

23 All right. At this time, we will hear
24 from Alderman Witkowiak.

25 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman, members. Much of the testimony you just
2 heard from the supporters is true. Mr. Dhillon is
3 -- he's very well respected by people in the
4 neighborhood. He treats people well when you go
5 into his station. And all that stuff I agree with.

6 The reason that this was sent back to
7 committee and we asked to be heard was because of
8 the concentration issue in the neighborhood. And
9 the people that monitor this in my neighborhood,
10 for whatever reason, weren't noticed. After it was
11 recommended by the committee, because there was no
12 opposition here, it went to council and came back,
13 we went to rule on it.

14 In 1995, when this was heard last and
15 denied for concentration, this was part of the 12th
16 District. And I provided the statistics depicted
17 today with the number of alcohol beverage outlets
18 within a mile. Back in 1995, there were three
19 Class "A" Liquor and Malt on that map. Today there

20 are five. So there is actually two more than there

21 was in 1995.

22 Now, there's been a lot of questions

23 about where, how many blocks away everybody lives.

24 Just for the record, Barbara Nelson lives six

25 blocks away from this place. Now, if you go

1 somewhere between five and six blocks to the
2 southwest of here or two blocks to the north of
3 here, you have a Class "A" Liquor and Malt, both
4 directions. So my question is, do we have to --
5 you put an average on that? Do we have to have a
6 liquor store every three blocks? Do we? Do you
7 want that in your neighborhood? Okay.

8 If for some reason you don't like the
9 establishment that's two blocks to the north or
10 five blocks to the southwest, go one block further
11 to either one of those and you will hit another
12 Class "A" Liquor. So in easy walking distance of
13 this place, there's four Class "A" Liquor and Malt
14 in easy walking distance of this place.

15 We don't want this area to turn into the
16 dumping ground. This is an area that you get a lot
17 people that have worked very, very hard to
18 revitalize.

19 The -- Mr. Dhillon and his family have

20 made a substantial investment there in purchasing
21 the old store, turning it into a gas station,
22 subsequently, building a building to the east. The
23 entire building, by the way, was a laundromat. I
24 think Mr. Dhillon's original plan was that he
25 wanted to put a car wash in there, but there was

1 some opposition from the neighbors for that. The
2 entire building was made into a laundromat. Since
3 that first meeting here, about half of the
4 laundromat equipment has been removed, I think in
5 anticipation of what Mr. Dhillon was going to have.

6 But one more time, may I remind you, two
7 blocks to the north, five blocks to the southwest,
8 don't like those proprietors, go one block further
9 that way, one block further that way. So you have
10 a total of four Class "A" Liquor and Malts in easy
11 walking distance. Do you really want another one?
12 My constituents don't want it.

13 My -- since this matter was made known to
14 the people of the 12th District, which is across
15 the street to the north and across the street to
16 the west, our office has received approximately a
17 dozen contacts on this, all negative. Not a single
18 person -- some of these people here that testified
19 are in the 12th District. They did not call my

20 office and say they were in the neighborhood. So
21 they were invited down here by Mr. Dhillon and his
22 attorney, which is absolutely their right to do
23 that. They have all the right in the world to be
24 here and testify. The people that I heard from in
25 the 12th District say they don't want it. You had

1 credible testimony from these people.

2 And these people that you heard here,
3 yeah, they are part of the association and
4 everything, but they are also residents of the
5 district. They also live there. Jill Lackey lives
6 on 7th and Lincoln. Barbara Nelson lives on 10th.
7 These people actually do live in the neighborhood
8 in walking distance.

9 So I would ask that the -- we don't want
10 to have a liquor store every three blocks. I would
11 ask that the committee recommend denial of this
12 license based on the concentration of the alcohol
13 beverage outlets in the area. Thank you.

14 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chair.

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Questions by
16 committee? Alderman Zielinski.

17 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Alderman Witkowiak,
18 was there an effort underway within the last week
19 or two to try and set up a meeting between Mr.

20 Dhillon and some of the businesses and other people
21 in the area?

22 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: Mr. Dhillon
23 contacted me and asked me for the name of an
24 organization which was opposed to it, which I
25 provided for him.

1 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: But was there any
2 discussion about possibly holding a meeting where
3 he could make his presentation to the interested
4 parties?

5 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: Mr. Dhillon asked
6 for contact information. I gave him the name of
7 the organization. I didn't know anything about a
8 meeting.

9 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Okay, so there was
10 no discussion about setting up, having you set up a
11 meeting with businesses or other people in the area
12 to discuss this license?

13 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: No.

14 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I just wanted to get
15 clarification. That's all I have for you. I have
16 a question later.

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Other questions by
18 committee members? Mr. Knoeller, questions?

19 MR. KNOELLER: Alderman Witkowiak, the

20 liquor store called La Luna is in your business

21 district, aldermanic district, isn't it?

22 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: Correct.

23 MR. KNOELLER: And did you receive

24 communication from La Luna regarding the opening,

25 the possible opening of Mr. Dhillon's business?

1 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: First, I heard from
2 some other people. Subsequently, I did hear from
3 La Luna. Yes,

4 MR. KNOELLER: And they were, that
5 La Luna was one of the stores which objected to
6 this, is that not correct?

7 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: No, they are not
8 here to object.

9 MR. KNOELLER: No, I know. But to you.
10 You mentioned that you had received contact.
11 La Luna was one of the establishments that objected
12 to it, didn't it?

13 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: Yes.

14 MR. KNOELLER: And did they object with
15 it based on competition?

16 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: I -- you know, when
17 one -- when a similar business wants to locate in a
18 neighborhood, I don't take that -- so when another
19 business calls up and says, "Well, we don't want

20 this. We don't want this to happen," I don't put
21 much credibility in that because it's based on
22 competition.

23 MR. KNOELLER: But did they mention that
24 to you?

25 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: No.

1 MR. KNOELLER: They simply objected,
2 nothing more?

3 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: Right. How many
4 liquor stores do we need in the neighborhood? That
5 was the question.

6 MR. KNOELLER: Well, did they mention
7 concentration?

8 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: No.

9 MR. KNOELLER: I have no further
10 questions.

11 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chair.

12 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski.

13 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I have a question of
14 Attorney Schrimpf. When notices get -- or this
15 should actually be directed towards Ms. Grill. Ms.
16 Grill, when notices get sent out within a radius
17 notifying people of a liquor license application,
18 does it go to everybody within a certain radius, or
19 does it only go in that aldermanic district?

20 MS. GRILL: We typically send them out to
21 a radius of 250 feet regardless of the aldermanic
22 district.

23 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: So that means that
24 the 12th Aldermanic District would have received
25 notices in the mail as well?

1 MS. GRILL: If they were living within
2 the 250 feet.

3 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: They are across the
4 street, so they would have gotten this. Okay. I
5 just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Any other questions for
7 Alderman Witkowiak?

8 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I have one last
9 question for Alderman Witkowiak. Alderman
10 Witkowiak, when this was on the agenda for the
11 Licenses Committee, was it just not something you
12 overlooked, you didn't notice?

13 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: I do -- what I
14 typically do is I just pull my items out for the
15 12th District and didn't look at the rest of the,
16 didn't look at the rest of the agenda. So I didn't
17 see it was there.

18 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Thank you. That's
19 all I have.

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Thank you,

21 Alderman Witkowiak.

22 Mr. Knoeller, it's time for you to have

23 your applicants, if they wish, to provide anything

24 else to the committee, and then to provide any

25 additional closing comments.

1 MR. KNOELLER: Dhillon, do you wish to
2 say anything to the committee?

3 MR. DHILLON: Yes. I have my friend, Mr.
4 Jim Witkowiak, he is a very good alderman and I
5 know and respect him. And he also helped me when I
6 was making a gas station, and I never forget all
7 his favor. And I always admire him. He is not
8 only my alderman, he is a very good alderman.

9 And it's -- we have a little bit, I
10 think, misunderstanding. Like he said, the
11 laundromat is supposed to be a car wash. That was
12 the separate building. We have, still, space for
13 the car wash; it's still left. We didn't make the
14 car wash because we didn't have approval. So I
15 thank you for Mr. Witkowiak.

16 And when the first time -- I would just,
17 when we had the first time over here, and not, not
18 only at this time we came over here to buy the
19 license, he has always come when the City -- they

20 mailed the letter to some radius, to the neighbors,
21 and if any neighbors have objections, they can come
22 and testimony themselves, okay. If they have
23 objection, they're realistically objection is
24 really applied to somebody trying to make their
25 living and somebody trying to spend money in that

1 neighborhood, and make that -- it's like old
2 building, and make that establishment look,
3 buildings a little better.

4 And I think -- I will say that some
5 people just came over here to object it. I -- what
6 I feel, realistically, they're, they're object is
7 only they say is the liquor. It's anything is
8 possible in this world if you use or you abuse.
9 It's always bad. If somebody use as liquor as the
10 people, everybody drinking, and I'm drinking, too,
11 I'll be very honest, and if I really, too much
12 drinking, if the doctor got advice something is
13 really over.

14 So it's not the person's fault. You have
15 to have -- get some, otherwise if someone give you
16 some kind of health problems, something.

17 Other thing, when the first time we --
18 December 8th, nobody was here. And at the same
19 time, we have -- I really feeling something to be

20 looking a little bit to justify liquor committee
21 and the city if somebody trying to make -- they're
22 working hard to feed their family, to make living.
23 Property values going really down, and
24 our property tax last two years used to be \$12,000,
25 now they are \$22,000. Where this money going to

1 come from? I have to have -- do something to make
2 and pay off those. I stay in my business and make
3 my living.

4 And after December 8th, when I heard this
5 is everything go, nobody objected. Then I tried to
6 remove all those machines, and the first moving
7 costs, because I don't have those big trucks and
8 lift truck, everybody is a charge. I paid about
9 \$4,900. The cost of just the machine I already
10 moved, some left, because when I heard we have to
11 -- another meeting coming on today, it was all move
12 machine. That was cost \$274,000. Walk-in cooler,
13 I paid \$28,000. Those people are not going to
14 refund my money, and so about the shelving and the
15 countertop and the subflooring and the security
16 system we added on. Because the liquor, we have to
17 have -- keep everything in high secured so nobody
18 has any problems. If anybody has any kind of
19 problem, not like only me, close after 9:00, even

20 when we are running the business, we have to take
21 care of both underage or some other people. And
22 the plumbing and electric and the drywall, all
23 together has come total \$341,700. This is the
24 total lost being you just -- I'm going to be pretty
25 much lost this thing.

1 So I'm just requesting to be -- to
2 justify to, you know, just due favor, to just look
3 at if any person want to make hard work to make
4 their living. And I never in my life have any food
5 stamps, never, ever, any unemployment. We always
6 work, me and my wife, and my kids, they always
7 helping us. That's all I would ask to receive.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you.

10 MR. DHILLON: And I'm not new on this
11 neighborhood. I'm 17 years in this corner. Like
12 when my friend, he said that this used to be
13 Victor's Meat Market, and I run Victor's Market,
14 Meat Market, under same name: Victor's Meat, three
15 years. So we have been over here about 17 years.
16 So that's part of my community. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Questions by committee?

18 ALDERMAN KOVAC: Mr. Chair.

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Kovac.

20 ALDERMAN KOVAC: I just want to make sure

21 I have the timeline right. You bought it 17 years

22 ago on that corner when it was Victor's Meat

23 Market?

24 MR. DHILLON: Yeah.

25 ALDERMAN KOVAC: You ran it for three

1 years as Victor's Meat Market?

2 MR. DHILLON: Victor's Meat Market.

3 ALDERMAN KOVAC: Then what happened?

4 MR. DHILLON: Um, some kind, like a
5 religious, he don't want -- my priest, he came from
6 India, and because we people don't eat beef, you
7 know, and he, when he came in, and plus, we have,
8 you know, go inside the store and we go upstairs,
9 we're living upstairs, 575 West Becher, and when he
10 saw we were selling those, and he said, "This is
11 against your religion. Please don't do it." So
12 then at that time I asked, you know, if I make a
13 gas station. So Mr. Witkowiak, he helped me with
14 that gas station.

15 ALDERMAN KOVAC: So that -- where the gas
16 station is now, is not -- is -- was it where the
17 meat market used to be in the building, you tore
18 the building down? No.

19 MR. KNOELLER: What's happening here, if

20 I may explain, there was a brand new building

21 built --

22 ALDERMAN KOVAC: He built, you built that

23 building?

24 MR. KNOELLER: Yes, he built on, and the

25 gas station and the convenience store, they're

1 still there at 575. This new building is 515.

2 MRS. DHILLON: 551.

3 MR. KNOELLER: 551, I'm sorry, 551.

4 ALDERMAN KOVAC: And when was this built?

5 How long ago was it?

6 MR. DHILLON: It was built three -- this

7 April, it will be three years.

8 ALDERMAN KOVAC: And you live upstairs

9 with your family in the new building?

10 MR. DHILLON: Right.

11 MR. KNOELLER: No, not in the new

12 building.

13 MR. DHILLON: In the convenience store.

14 ALDERMAN KOVAC: Okay, but the new

15 building for three years has been a laundromat, is

16 that right?

17 MRS. DHILLON: Yes.

18 ALDERMAN KOVAC: Was it profitable as a

19 laundromat?

20 MRS. DHILLON: No, completely --

21 MR. DHILLON: Very completely we --

22 ALDERMAN KOVAC: And now you say, since

23 the committee vote, you moved all these machines

24 out already, so now it's empty?

25 MRS. DHILLON: We moved half of it.

1 MR. DHILLON: We moved --

2 ALDERMAN KOVAC: Well, the half because
3 your plan is to have half laundromat and half
4 liquor.

5 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: Mr. Chair.

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Witkowiak.

7 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: Just to -- and I
8 have to say this, Mr. Dhillon and his family do not
9 live upstairs. It's not true. He does not live
10 upstairs.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: No, we have an address in
12 New Berlin as --

13 MRS. DHILLON: No, now we live in New
14 Berlin.

15 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: Mr. Dhillon just
16 said he and his family lived upstairs. They don't
17 live upstairs.

18 MR. DHILLON: No, we used to live
19 upstairs.

20 MRS. DHILLON: We used to live upstairs.

21 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: Used to live

22 upstairs.

23 MR. DHILLON: We lived there five years.

24 ALDERMAN KOVAC: If you still lived

25 there, would you be turning it into a liquor store?

1 MR. DHILLON: No, no, we're not living
2 there now.

3 ALDERMAN KOVAC: But if you did, would
4 you want the liquor store and laundromat?

5 MR. DHILLON: Yeah, I liked to live up
6 there. That's fine. I have no problem to live up
7 there.

8 ALDERMAN KOVAC: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Other questions for this
10 gentleman? Okay. Thank you for your testimony
11 there.

12 Mr. Knoeller, are there any additional
13 closing comments that you wish to make?

14 MR. KNOELLER: Yes, I just want to make
15 some comments to kind of verify what the majority
16 of people have said here.

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Knoeller, I just want
18 to add this to the committee. In addition to those
19 who provided testimony here today, we do have, in

20 addition to that, as a continuation of this
21 hearing, three additional individuals from the
22 neighborhood who provided testimony in support last
23 time as well, too. Just so that's available for
24 the record. Please proceed.

25 MR. KNOELLER: Okay. I'll be as brief as

1 I can here. Mr. Dhillon has been a successful
2 operator of his business, a gas station and the
3 convenience store. And he has, as the one witness
4 said, been an operator of a liquor store. He has
5 experience in Brown Deer, Muskego and in West
6 Allis. And he has been -- lived here for, lived
7 there for approximately 15 years. All indications
8 are that he has a most favorable personality to run
9 a liquor store at that address. He is married, he
10 has two children. And as he testified, the wife
11 and his two adult children sometimes help him run
12 the store.

13 And I don't know what more qualifications
14 a person could want or an association could want,
15 the Lincoln Square Association. Because I know --
16 I'm at 6th and Lincoln. I don't know what greater
17 qualifications a person or a committee could want
18 to have someone run a liquor store at this address.

19 I have known Mr. Dhillon for

20 approximately, I'd say, seven years, and I've never
21 heard of anything, anything outside of this. Where
22 there's been any type of problem with a renewal of
23 a license, or whether -- or even in applying for a
24 license. I guess this is his first application.
25 He only came to me at the end of December.

1 I think that this is the type of person
2 that this community would want running a liquor
3 store at that location. He has proven himself in
4 the past in three different locations. He has
5 proven himself as a good businessman and an honest
6 and respectable businessman at his other location,
7 which is just to the east of this.

8 I think all indications would show that
9 this is just the type of person who you would want
10 running a liquor store in that area. This is
11 something, someone who will solidify that
12 neighborhood, who has gained a rapport with the
13 people of the neighborhood and who will contribute
14 and really improve that neighborhood.

15 I'm right there on 6th and Lincoln. I
16 know the problems, the good parts and the bad
17 parts, and Mr. Dhillon, as far as I'm concerned,
18 and as far as I know, is one of the good parts and
19 something which is going to bring up this

20 neighborhood and make it better for all concerned.

21 There may be some, there may be some

22 organizations who objected here today. Yes, I

23 heard that. But they all belong to the same

24 organization. I imagine that they got together and

25 presented their testimony today or prepared their

1 testimony for today. That's fine. They have a
2 perfect right to do that. But I don't know, they
3 aren't familiar with the daily operation of Mr.
4 Dhillon's convenience store, of his gas station and
5 of his prior experience running a liquor store in
6 that area.

7 The only liquor store which I know was
8 nearby, nearer that area, is in Alderman
9 Witkowiak's district about two blocks to the north,
10 which is this La Luna. Mr. -- Alderman Witkowiak
11 said that he had been contacted or contacted from
12 La Luna. My gut reaction, my gut reaction is that
13 this is where the -- what's being fomented here.
14 This is where the objection is coming from.

15 Thank you. I have no further argument.
16 I just would request that Mr. Dhillon's license be
17 granted here. I think you, in the future, every
18 year when he is going to be coming back, you're
19 going to find that this will be a respectful and a

20 desirable establishment in the area.

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Were there
22 any additional questions that committee members
23 have of Mr. Knoeller? We will lastly hear from
24 Alderman Zielinski.

25 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I'll reserve my

1 comments for my motion.

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. All right. If
3 there are no additional questions, then we are in
4 committee on this matter then.

5 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski.

7 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: This is probably the
8 toughest licensing decision that I have had in my
9 district. But before I go into the analysis of the
10 situation and why it is so difficult, I just have
11 to reiterate, you know, in terms of the process,
12 okay. There has been 20 other applications around
13 my district, and I've got a number of different
14 aldermen all over, and I have never been contacted
15 by one alderman about anything in my district. I
16 look at all applications. We send out notices to
17 all districts, if it's on the board or just
18 enclosed in the 14th District. This business
19 association over here, they have a paid staffer,

20 all I have to do is just look at the application,
21 and they get duly notified about what's going on.
22 What I did when it came to my attention
23 and people were saying that they didn't know about
24 this, we sent it back to committee to afford, you
25 know, people an opportunity to testify. So I think

1 that, you know, in terms of notice and letting
2 people know and providing them with an opportunity
3 to testify, it's been a completely fair, open
4 process system.

5 It's very rare, in fact, I don't even
6 remember when something has come out of committee
7 with a unanimous vote and it's been sent back to
8 committee, okay. So we bent over backwards to make
9 sure there was an ample opportunity for public
10 input in this process.

11 The reason why this is such a struggle
12 for me is that I think the biggest argument and
13 opposition is concentration, okay. That's a
14 legitimate, you know, argument. That's on the one
15 side. On the other side, what I'm looking at is,
16 you know, we've heard a lot of testimony about a
17 lot of liquor license establishments throughout the
18 years, and I can't remember one situation where
19 there has been a point of contention over an

20 applicant where there was not any negative feedback
21 with respect to the operation of that particular
22 business. Not one person who testified here had
23 anything negative to say about the operation of
24 this business. In fact, even the opponents of this
25 testified that this gentleman and his family are

1 completely honorable, and they deal with people
2 with a high level of integrity.

3 On top of that, with all the additional
4 notice, all the opponents are saying, "Oh, there is
5 all this opposition to this." Almost every -- you
6 know, one person lives seven blocks, the other
7 person lives four blocks away. Almost everybody,
8 almost everybody that testified in favor lives in
9 the immediate area. Now, we know in our respective
10 districts, if there is a problem with a particular
11 license application, there is, you know, people in
12 the immediate area that come forth. And we've got
13 people across, you know, across the street. And
14 then, you know, that's just one factor.

15 There's no businesses in the immediate
16 area. So we didn't obviously have any businesses
17 come down here and testify, but that's another, you
18 know, factor to consider.

19 He has a 24-hour operation. No

20 complaints about the 24-hour operation either. He
21 has experience with operating other liquor license
22 establishments. He has never had any disciplinary
23 action with respect to the operation of any one of
24 those three liquor license establishments.

25 So, you know, that's what I'm weighing

1 here. That's what I'm, you know, that's what I
2 have to grapple with here. And to be quite frank,
3 I thought based, you know, based on the hoopla from
4 the e-mails and stuff I got, which we didn't get
5 notice, you know, I thought there would be a lot
6 more people down here in opposition. And
7 certainly, with all the effort and all the
8 organization, with the organization there, they
9 couldn't find more people that lived closer to this
10 establishment to object? That weighs very heavily,
11 you know, on me as well.

12 So, it's -- so based on that, on the
13 testimony, you know, I would move approval. And
14 I'll tell you, I really was not -- I thought there
15 would be a lot more, you know, opposition to this
16 based on the, you know, feedback I got from a
17 couple of the residents or the e-mails, and so
18 forth. And if they would have got more people here
19 that had businesses or residents in the immediate

20 area instead of living seven blocks away and all
21 these other distances away, you know, I would have
22 went the other way. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Motion by
24 Alderman Zielinski is to recommend approval despite
25 the items contained within the notice. Is there

1 any discussion, any additional discussion on the
2 motion?

3 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: On the motion, Alderman
5 Hamilton.

6 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: I just have to add
7 something along the lines of Alderman Zielinski. I
8 wish there was a formula that we could just plug in
9 an address and then plug in all the variables and,
10 you know, do it like an algebra formula, and you
11 could find out whether "X" equals a liquor license
12 or not. And we really don't have that.

13 One of the things that really is swaying
14 me, you know, before there wasn't any opposition,
15 and I guess for us to hear it again and kind of
16 give it a new look --

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I think we have to ban
18 you from the room.

19 ALDERMAN KOVAC: He would probably want

20 that.

21 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: You want to ban me --

22 and the fact that this businessowner didn't wait

23 for a liquor license to try to run his, to try to

24 make his business profitable. He has tried many

25 different businesses already. He made improvements

1 on the property, I mean, and he is continually
2 trying to run a business. Most of the time when
3 you have people who want to open up a liquor store,
4 get a liquor license, they have, you know, they
5 run, apply for a liquor license, they have a
6 rundown business that they are not willing to
7 invest in, they're not investing in the
8 neighborhood, and they are not responsive. They
9 are not doing any of the things that this
10 businessowner is doing, and yet they want the city
11 to grant them a liquor license so that they can
12 improve their business.

13 It seems to me that he -- this wasn't his
14 first option, and he is trying other things, and he
15 wants to have a viable business, and he is not
16 putting all his eggs in this basket. And he is
17 still willing to stay, at least businesswise, in
18 this area and continue to invest in this area. I
19 think that just goes a long way.

20 Even for the organizations that came out
21 in opposition to this, I think that, you know, that
22 they're lucky to have a person like this in the
23 area that they can continue to work with and that
24 will respond to them when they have issues or if
25 they have issues with the business and to be an

1 example for other businesses that's in the area on
2 how to be creative with a business model and be
3 responsive to the people who live in the area. I
4 think they have that in this businessowner.

5 I'm glad to hear that he still has a good
6 relationship with Alderman Witkowiak because, you
7 know, I know it's difficult to represent an area
8 like this that has some challenges, especially when
9 it comes to liquor licenses. But at the same time,
10 you know, there are businessowners who can operate
11 responsibly. And I don't know that there is a bar
12 that would bar any operation of retail substances,
13 you know, without any discussion and without any
14 opportunity of anything new being created in that
15 area.

16 And I think if anyone should be offered
17 an opportunity to, you know, see if they could do a
18 business like this in this area, this is probably
19 the applicant that should be afforded that

20 opportunity.

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your

22 testimony. Any additional discussion?

23 ALDERMAN KOVAC: Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Kovac.

25 ALDERMAN KOVAC: I certainly concur with

1 Alderman Zielinski that this is a really tough one.
2 Of course, it reminds me very much of another
3 really tough vote that we also took twice as a
4 committee a few blocks away, I'll defer to the
5 locals exactly how far AK Blue Bar is from this.
6 It's less than a mile.

7 You know, on the surface, there is a lot
8 of similarities. You've got immediate neighbors
9 for it, you've got larger organized neighborhood
10 group a little more sparsely out, more organized
11 than are against it. I think the two big
12 differences I see are -- there is, as Alderman
13 Zielinski pointed out, there is, there was nobody
14 that said a bad word about this operator, even the
15 opponents. This is strictly concentration. It's
16 not the case of AK, although plenty of people said
17 great things about AK too, but it was divided.

18 It's a new building, and there isn't a
19 liquor store across the street. There is one two

20 blocks away and five blocks away. There is two two
21 blocks away and two five blocks away. And like
22 Alderman Hamilton said, we don't really have a
23 formula. I mean, how much is it too far to expect
24 somebody to walk? How much is convenient? How
25 important is convenience to a neighborhood?

1 Clearly, people have access to a variety
2 of goods. I don't know, they're not losing a
3 laundromat; they are losing half a laundromat. If
4 it was my neighborhood, I would want the laundromat
5 and the liquor store, two of each.

6 This is a difficult decision for me, but
7 I do think that there's a lot of strong -- the fact
8 that it seems unanimous among the people in the
9 block is probably going to sway me. So I need to
10 support the motion.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. I'll --
12 because this is -- I always like to say let your
13 vote speak for your position, but this has been
14 long and contentious. I'll just sort of say, I
15 concur with the remarks of Alderman Kovac in that I
16 think this is one that sort of pits me on the
17 fence. I think that there is a lot of -- that
18 there certainly is a telling argument that's made
19 by Alderman Zielinski in terms of the proximity of

20 those individuals who are present.

21 I want to say one other thing though, and

22 that is when we relate to the concentration map,

23 when I look at this concentration map, I see Aaron

24 Park. I know that a portion on the eastern portion

25 of this one-square-mile radius is the Kinnickinnic

1 River and Parkway and Joseph Kosciuszco Park or
2 Kosciuszco Park in it. I think functionally about
3 at least a good third of this one-square-mile
4 radius is nonresidential parkland and/or industrial
5 in which there would be no either residential or
6 commercial whatsoever. And so you have almost 2/3
7 of a square mile in which you have a total of 44
8 alcohol beverage licenses. The comment was made
9 about whether this is more than my entire
10 aldermanic district. Yeah. I think perhaps
11 geographically, I have the second largest
12 aldermanic district, maybe to the exclusion of
13 Alderman Witkowiak that has Mitchell Field, perhaps
14 the third largest. But I believe I'm in the area
15 of 35 or 36, 34 licenses, somewhere along that line
16 in my aldermanic district, which is huge in
17 comparison to this.

18 I -- it -- the difficulty for me, that
19 strikes me, that we have good individuals. Good

20 individuals who may be good operators in terms of
21 overall cleaning of the neighborhood of litter that
22 may come in front of the store, maybe good
23 operators ensuring that we have individuals who are
24 carded, that those are certainly two important
25 things.

1 To me, if a compelling argument could be
2 made here by the local alderman who has been the
3 one who presented this as opposed to the one who is
4 across the street, I think the committee would buy
5 it; the concentration argument. So I look at the
6 map objectively in that, in that regard, and
7 inasmuch as we have, I think, good solid testimony
8 at least from neighbors on both sides of this
9 argument, that's enough to sway me given the fact
10 that there is such an overlarge concentration.

11 So I'll -- my only comment would be, have
12 the caveat that I -- if the discussion has been
13 made here based on the committee indication, and if
14 that concurs with the council, I will wish you all
15 good due luck and hope that, based on what we hear
16 from both individuals who are both opposed to and
17 in support here at least based on what they're
18 saying here, that this will be treated, in all due
19 respect, it will be operating in a manner that

20 hopefully will not bring you back before us.

21 But with that --

22 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chair.

23 CHAIRMAN BOHL: -- we have a motion,

24 Alderman Zielinski.

25 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Just one final

1 comment about the population density issue that was
2 raised. I used to represent the areas adjoined on
3 the county board. I have been up and down those
4 streets very many times. And I can tell you that
5 while it indicates there is, you know, some
6 parkland not too far away, this is still a densely
7 populated, you know, area. And the radius of 250
8 feet went out to 97, you know, people. I'd like to
9 ask Ms. Grill if she can comment if that's about an
10 average number or low or higher or what?

11 MS. GRILL: Well, the radius, radius will
12 vary from a few people to 800 or 900, but probably
13 average might be around 100 people.

14 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: So this is about the
15 average number of radius. So it's not like there
16 is a lot of vacant lots around here, is that right?

17 MS. GRILL: Yes.

18 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I mean, what I see,

20 ultimately, going to the east is you have the
21 freeway here running north/south and then east of
22 that here. I'm assuming, that you have both the
23 parkway and/or, I see some of the Soo railine, you
24 have some industrial but --

25 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I mean, you know,

1 that's why I went with the radius, because unless
2 you actually walk up and down the streets, you
3 can't get a flavor because the areas where there
4 are populations it's densely populated.

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Oh, certainly. But that
6 said, you're considering that some of that area
7 here is actually omitted and taken off and you have
8 a fair number of homes that are still within the
9 other maybe $2/3$ of that radius. Yeah, certainly,
10 that point is well taken.

11 With that, why don't we call -- the
12 motion is for approval despite items contained
13 within the notice, why don't we --

14 ALDERMAN KOVAC: Mr. Chair, one very
15 quick point. Also speaking of there not being a
16 formula, and what's the radius, I mean --

17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: You're the Harvard math
18 major.

19 ALDERMAN KOVAC: I don't have a formula.

20 I'm saying, you can look at a mile, you can look at
21 a block; both are valid. Like, in this case, you
22 look at a block, it's not concentrated; you look at
23 a mile, it is. And I don't know what the right
24 radius is.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Well, and, you know, that

1 begs another question. I mean, do you include the
2 fact that what I would determine is a short block
3 away, right off of 6th and Becher, there is another
4 Class "A" Malt, at least a store that we indicate
5 here as a Class "A" Malt store, and this would be a
6 liquor malt. You know, the question remains, do
7 you count, when you count apples to apples, do you
8 speak only of Class "A" Liquor stores, Liquor and
9 Malt, do you speak of malt as competition? Do you
10 look of the totality of the overall licenses? I
11 think it's sort of a blend of all those as well,
12 too. You, I think, you first try to look at the
13 Class "A" Liquor and Malt and Class "A" Liquor and
14 Malt, but I don't know that there is a formula, and
15 I don't know that --

16 ALDERMAN KOVAC: There's a Class "A" Malt
17 on 6th and Becher?

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: According to the map that
19 we have here.

20 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: It's a store and a

21 bar.

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: It is, according to this,

23 St. Morelia's Market.

24 MR. KNOELLER: Morelia's, Morelia's.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: 2107 South 6th Street,

1 which would be 6th and Becher, would also have a
2 malt.

3 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Alderman Zielinski.

5 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: I'd like to respond
6 to that. I think each area is different and unique
7 unto its own. That's why we hear from the people
8 impacted in the area and have them decide.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Right. Absolutely, and
10 that's one product versus, you know, that would be
11 a malt-only. That would essentially be beer or
12 whatever beer/malt alternative. It wouldn't allow
13 for wine. It wouldn't allow for other spirits as
14 well, too. Like I said, there's no perfect
15 formula, and you do look at each individual --
16 okay. Why don't we go through a roll call vote?

17 MS. BLACK: Alderman Hamilton.

18 ALDERMAN HAMILTON: Aye.

19 MS. BLACK: Alderman Kovac.

20 ALDERMAN KOVAC: Aye.

21 MS. BLACK: Alderman Zielinski.

22 ALDERMAN ZIELINSKI: Aye.

23 MS. BLACK: Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIRMAN BOHL: That would be a very

25 close no for me, but the motion will prevail on a 3

1 to 1 vote here, so thank you all on both sides for
2 coming out and testifying.

3 MR. KNOELLER: Thank you.

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1 STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS:
2 COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE)

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5 I, KAREN RENEE, Court Reporter and Notary

6 Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, do hereby

7 certify that the above hearing was recorded by me on

8 January 5, 2010, and reduced to writing under my

9 personal direction.

10 I further certify that I am not a

11 relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of

12 the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney

13 or counsel, or financially interested directly or

14 indirectly in this action.

15 In witness whereof I have hereunder set

16 my hand and affixed my seal of office at Milwaukee,

17 Wisconsin, this 13th day of January, 2010.

18

19

20

Notary Public
In and for the State of Wisconsin

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22

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My Commission Expires: March 11, 2012.

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