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CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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LICENSES COMMITTEE

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

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OLAYINKA M. GEORGE

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"INFINITY LOUNGE"

5318 W. CENTER STREET

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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ALD. JAMES BOHL - Chair

ALD. MILELE COGGS, - Vice-Chairman

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ALD. ASHANTI HAMILTON

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ALD. T. ANTHONY ZIELINSKI

ALD. NIK KOVAC

14

LICENSING DIVISION by REBECCA GRILL

POLICE DEPARTMENT by SEARGENT CHET ULICKEY

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OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY by ATTORNEY BRUCE SCHRIMPF

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Proceedings had and testimony given in

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the above-entitled matter, before the LICENSES

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COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE, on

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the 11th day of May, 2009.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN BOHL: Moving on to the 10th District. We have Olayinka George, Class "B" Tavern and Tavern Dance renewal applications for "Infinity Lounge" at 5318 West Center Street. Good morning to all of you here, and we have a couple of attorneys here, so we'll just ask that you state your appearances, please. Start with you.

MR. BOBBIT: I'm Attorney Vincent Bobbit. I'm here on behalf of Mr. Olayinka George and the Infinity Lounge.

CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. Mr. Pederson, if you want to just - -

MR. PEDERSON: Good morning. I'm Robin Pederson, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Milwaukee. I am representing the Chief of Police.

CHAIRMAN BOHL: Is - - Is there an understanding - - I just want to also just ask here, that this matter would be held after we provided - - Is that - - Is there a desire here?

MR. WEILAND: Yeah, there is a desire from the Alderman's office to - - to hold the matter to the next cycle. And mainly due two

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1 factors, family medical issue and then, also, the
2 fact that there is just a recent police report, I
3 believe, and Alderman Murphy would like a chance
4 to run it by neighbors.

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. This - - This
6 item is not scheduled to expire here before our
7 - - end of our next cycle. Is that - - Ms.
8 Grill?

9 MR. GRILL: That's correct. It expires
10 on June 23rd. If it's scheduled on June 1st or
11 they - - around that area, it would go to the
12 common Council meeting on June 16th, so it would
13 be considered within time.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Do you understand that
15 here, Mr. Bobbit? Is that - -

16 MR. BOBBIT: Yes. I would object to
17 being withheld. I mean, we're here prepared
18 today. And I will tell you that we have several
19 neighbors that are here - -

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: No. What I - - What I
21 - - What I would do is we would provide - - we
22 would receive all testimony of individuals who
23 are here. But hold the matter to the next cycle
24 before making a final determination on that.

25 MR. BOBBIT: Well, I would still object

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1 to that. I mean, we're prepared to go today. I
2 - - I don't know what incident they're referring
3 to. I have not, you know, been apprised of that.
4 So I am ready to proceed today on what has been
5 provided to Mr. George.

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. All right.
7 We'll - - We'll proceed forward here, and we'll
8 allow the committee to make that determination
9 here as - - as we proceed forward here. Why
10 don't we - - Why don't we just - - We'll have to
11 swear in here, Mr. Weiland, Alderman's Assistant,
12 as well as you, Mr. George, if you could raise
13 your right hands, please.

14 (Whereupon those present were sworn.)

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And, Mr. George, your
16 name and address for the record, please.

17 THE APPLICANT: My name is Olayinka
18 George. O-L-A-Y-I-N-K-A, last name is George.
19 5318 West Center Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
20 53210.

21 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. And I'll
22 ask you if at this time you acknowledge receiving
23 notice of today's meeting with the possibility
24 that your application could be denied. You
25 should have received an attached police report,

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1 as part of your notice, as well as have a outline
2 of possible neighborhood objections on the cover
3 sheet of that notice.

4 THE APPLICANT: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you. This is a
6 - - a renewal here. What I want to do here is
7 before we even begin. We have this cited for
8 neighborhood objections. If I could see both,
9 either those who are here in support or in
10 opposition, a show of hands of any individuals to
11 testify on this matter. Individuals present to
12 testify. Okay. Right now I'm going to just see,
13 if you keep your hands up. I see one, two,
14 three, four, five, six. Okay, six individuals
15 who are present. We will swear in those six
16 individuals, and only those whose hands are up
17 and - - and sworn in, we will take your
18 testimony.

19 (Whereupon the witnesses were sworn.)

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: What I'm going to do
21 here before we hear from the police report, we're
22 going to take a - - a brief two minute recess
23 here, and then we'll - - we'll proceed with the
24 police report and the remainder of our hearing
25 here. We'll be in recess for the next two

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1 minutes.

2 (Whereupon a recess was taken.)

3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: This is a resumption of
4 the - - the hearing on Olayinka George for
5 Infinity Lounge. What we'll do here, and - - and
6 if there's - - there's been a request, have you
7 been apprised, Mr. Bobbit, of - - of the primary
8 reason for the request for adjournment here?

9 MR. BOBBIT: Yes, and I think the
10 request is a legitimate one.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. What I would do
12 is in working with you here, rather than hear the
13 police report at this time, and - - and what
14 we'll do is if there are any individuals who are
15 here in favor of the license who wish to provide
16 their testimony, we'll hear from those
17 individuals who are here to provide testimony if
18 they are unable to come back at our next cycle.
19 I understand you are not available the first - -
20 We - - We did need at the request here of the
21 License Division a second meeting in that cycle,
22 and so, it looks as though we will be scheduling
23 a second meeting on the 3rd of June. And what we
24 could do is just schedule yours for the - - the
25 latter morning hours of - - of June 3rd, if

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1 that's - -

2 MR. BOBBIT: That would be fine,
3 Alderman Bohl. One thing I would like to
4 address, though, is that we are prepared to
5 address the items that are - - we were given
6 notice of, and, in fact, we do have one witness
7 that's going to testify, and that's to the
8 disposition of the loud music.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay.

10 MR. BOBBIT: And the other point I want
11 to make is item number 20, that would be alluded
12 to, was brought up at the last hearing date, and
13 that was part of the discipline that was taken
14 against him last year.

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Right. There was only
16 a couple of items on the police report, if you
17 included the one item at that time.

18 MR. BOBBIT: I just wanted to let you
19 know that - -

20 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And if - - And if
21 reading that in, because it is the police report
22 is shorter this year here, that's fine. We can
23 just read it in. Sergeant, why don't you just
24 read the police report, please?

25 SERGEANT ULICKEY: Actually, we have

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1 nothing new except for the - - the item - -

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: The item from the

3 previous year with - -

4 SERGEANT ULICKEY: - - we talked about.

5 MR. BOBBIT: So that would be

6 restricted then, when we came back to that item

7 that's not reported, to us right now at this

8 point?

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Well, no. What happens

10 is any time in terms of a notice, it would be

11 what you are adequately noticed for.

12 MR. BOBBIT: Yes, I understand that.

13 Okay. I understand.

14 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Sergeant, you want to

15 just go ahead and read the police report, please?

16 SERGEANT ULICKEY: Well, there's

17 actually nothing new.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I know. You have the

19 guilty finding here. You just want to read, and

20 just indicate that the disposition is guilty,

21 based on that item of last year, please.

22 SERGEANT ULICKEY: As - - As indicated,

23 incident number 18 was a noise nuisance citation.

24 There was a finding of guilt on 8/30 of '07, and

25 there was a fine of 237 dollars.

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1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. And that - -
2 that actually relates to an incident in 2007, but
3 it had not gone before the - - the Municipal
4 Court, so we did not have a adjudication prior to
5 this last cycle year.

6 SERGEANT ULICKEY: That's correct.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: All right. At this
8 point, if there are individuals who are here to
9 testify, are there any of the individuals here
10 who are here to testify in opposition to the
11 license? Okay. Mr. Bobbit, if you just want to
12 have any - - any of the individuals who are here
13 to testify, if they are unable to make the other
14 hearing, if they wish to provide testimony now,
15 we'll accept it.

16 MR. BOBBIT: Yes, I will call Lonnie
17 Lathan, will be the first witness.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And if - - and if we
19 could, if you have individuals, I'd like to at
20 least move this forward, if you could actually
21 call the next person, so we just at least have
22 them in the seat. So if there's another to
23 provide testimony - -

24 MR. BOBBIT: Janice Wilson.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. All right. Mr.

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1 Lathan, you've been sworn in already here.

2 THE WITNESS: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN BOHL: I'll need your name and
4 your address for the record. If you could turn
5 the microphone and pull it a little closer to
6 you, I'd appreciate it.

7 THE WITNESS: My name is Lonnie Lathan.
8 I reside at 5307 West Center. I've been residing
9 there for 18 years as a business owner.

10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay.

11 THE WITNESS: I have no problems with
12 the bar to continue being open. Been no problem
13 for me, the community over there as far as I
14 know.

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And what business do
16 you operate?

17 THE WITNESS: I have a beauty supply,
18 One Stop Beauty Supply at 5307 West Center.

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. All right. And
20 your hours of operation are roughly?

21 THE WITNESS: From ten to eight.

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Ten to eight, okay.

23 Thank you. Are there questions committee members
24 have of this witness?

25 MR. SCHRIMPF: Mr. Chairman, just so

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1 that we're clear. That's ten a.m. to eight p.m.?

2 THE WITNESS: Correct.

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

5 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you, sir. All
6 right. And if you could, relinquish, see if
7 there's somebody else who wanted to provide
8 testimony.

9 MR. BOBBIT: Kenneth Downey.

10 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Ma'am, while - -
11 while he's coming up, if you could provide your
12 name and your address for our record, please.

13 THE WITNESS: Janice Wilson. I stay at
14 2720 North 54th, directly behind the bar.

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And your testimony,
16 ma'am.

17 THE WITNESS: And only thing I have to
18 say is I've been at the address for ten years,
19 and I've never had a problem with Mr. George. I
20 never had a problem with his clients. I never
21 had a problem, period, with him.

22 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Have you - -
23 Have you been a customer of Mr. George's?

24 THE WITNESS: No, just a neighbor.

25 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. And - - And you

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1 have some - - Obvious - - I'm going to guess that
2 you have some type of relationship that you knew
3 of today's hearing.

4 THE WITNESS: Well, I stay right
5 directly behind the bar, so by me staying behind
6 the bar, you know, I'm - - I'm right there on
7 him. So when this bar is open, I don't hear
8 anything, you know, especially at night by my
9 doors and my, you know, everything is right
10 there. I don't hear anything.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: No, what I - - What I
12 meant to say was I understand it has not been a
13 problem. There obviously was something that
14 drove you, and I don't mean literally like a car,
15 that drove you to actually get up today and
16 decide to come to this hearing, other than the
17 fact that Mr. George - -

18 THE WITNESS: No, I - - I - -

19 CHAIRMAN BOHL: - - is - - you have a
20 bar for a neighbor that isn't a problem. And - -
21 And most people, I wouldn't necessarily go out of
22 my way, I wouldn't be there to oppose a license,
23 but if it's not a problem, I would just not
24 necessarily say, hey, well, they've never been a
25 problem, therefore, I'm going to get up today,

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1 spend hours of my schedule and wait to provide
2 testimony. I'm just wondering if there is some -
3 - something that's driven you to show up today.
4 THE WITNESS: Well, no, I - - I talked
5 to him and his wife a lot of times, and - -
6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: So you just - - You
7 know him on a friendly basis.
8 THE WITNESS: Right.
9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: He's - - He's been a
10 good business neighbor and he's never been a
11 problem.
12 THE WITNESS: Right. Right.
13 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. That's - -
14 That's an answer. That's what I wanted to get
15 at.
16 MR. SCHRIMPF: Mr. Chairman.
17 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Mr. Schrimpf.
18 MR. SCHRIMPF: Is Mr. George your
19 landlord?
20 THE WITNESS: Me?
21 MR. SCHRIMPF: Yes.
22 THE WITNESS: No.
23 MR. SCHRIMPF: Oh, okay.
24 THE WITNESS: I'm a homeowner.
25 MR. SCHRIMPF: Okay. You - - All

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1 right.

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Any other questions by
3 committee? All right. Thank you, Ms. Wilson,
4 for - - for coming today.

5 MR. BOBBIT: Ronald Downey.

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And, sir, if you'd pull
7 the microphone closer, and you give us your name
8 and your address.

9 THE WITNESS: Hi. My name is Kenneth
10 Downey, D-O-W-N-E-Y. My address is 2647 North
11 54th Street. It's about approximately a block
12 away from the bar. I never had any problems with
13 any noise around the neighborhood. I'm also a
14 customer of the bar, so I go there about maybe
15 one time a week. And I just have never had any
16 problems with any disruptions in the neighborhood
17 or any noise or anything.

18 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Very good.
19 Thank you. Questions committee members have of
20 this witness? And, Mr. Weiland, if there are any
21 questions, please just - - that you have for any
22 of the individuals who testified, please just let
23 me know here.

24 MR. WEILAND: Yeah, I think the
25 relationship to the - - the bar owner, I think is

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1 the main one that we'd like to get across.

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: All right. Very good.

3 And a customer, and a neighbor has been
4 sufficiently displayed here. All right. Thank
5 you, sir, for your testimony here.

6 MR. BOBBIT: Rhonda Holmes.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Sir, your name and your
8 address here for the record, please.

9 THE WITNESS: My name is Ronald Downey.
10 I reside at 2805 North 44th Street. I'm the DJ
11 at the bar. I've been the DJ there for - - for
12 almost since the inception of the bar. I DJ on
13 Thursdays. I DJ one night a week, sometimes on
14 Saturdays, if it's a special event. I haven't
15 had - - I play rhythm and blues, some R&B music,
16 sometimes Top 40 if we get requests for it. It's
17 not a lot of dancing. It's more like a social
18 thing. I'm saying that since - - since I've been
19 there so long, I've seen people grow from all the
20 dancing, and they're getting older now, so not
21 too much dancing no more. So they just kind of
22 like socialize and hang out. But it's not - - I
23 don't know. In the past it was a lot - - a lot
24 of activity, but nothing now. A lot of times we
25 close before even 1:30 now, so. So it's pretty

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1 mellow. As far as the volume of the music goes,
2 if I get out of line with the music, Mr. George
3 lets me know very sternly. So I - - I try to
4 keep that down, because I don't want to hear his
5 mouth. But I try to keep things in line. You
6 know what I'm saying? Try to - - Try to get the
7 people to respect the neighbors, when we do leave
8 the building, and, is there any questions?

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Okay. Thank you.
10 Alderman, questions by committee?

11 MR. BOBBIT: Alderman Bohl, I do have
12 one question.

13 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Sure.

14 MR. BOBBIT: Mr. Downey, you were not
15 DJ on February 23rd, 2007, which was cited for a
16 noise nuisance.

17 THE WITNESS: No, that was not me. It
18 was a - - It was a third DJ that - - another
19 house DJ that's there, and that wasn't me.

20 MR. BOBBIT: And you've never been
21 cited for playing loud music at the
22 establishment.

23 THE WITNESS: No, not myself, no.

24 MR. BOBBIT: Thank you. That was the
25 only question I had for you.

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1 CHAIRMAN BOHL: As a follow-up, is the
2 other DJ still one that is employed by you, Mr.
3 George?

4 THE APPLICANT: No, he's no more
5 working.

6 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And - - And not at all?

7 THE APPLICANT: Not now. He is not
8 here anymore.

9 CHAIRMAN BOHL: All right. Thank you.
10 Thank you, for your testimony here.

11 MR. BOBBIT: Jacqueline Brazil.

12 THE WITNESS: Rhonda Holmes. 5314 West
13 Center Street. I'm a customer, and I don't have
14 any problems with Mr. George.

15 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you for your
16 brevity on that. I don't know that it will
17 elicit any questions from - - for that. Okay.

18 MR. BOBBIT: I just have one question.
19 Ms. Holmes, what is the relationship to your
20 residence to the Infinity Lounge?

21 THE WITNESS: I stay right across the
22 street.

23 MR. BOBBIT: So you're directly across
24 the street.

25 THE WITNESS: Right.

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1 MR. BOBBIT: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BOHL: Any other individuals
3 who are here? Sworn in?

4 MR. BOBBIT: I will tell you that woman
5 I called, Alderman Bohl, has a exam at MATC, so
6 she may have left.

7 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And, Mr. Bobbit, if she
8 is able to make our next hearing, certainly she
9 is welcome to come and provide testimony there.

10 MR. BOBBIT: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BOHL: All right. Is it my
12 understanding then here, that - - that the - - we
13 can move forward here with the request to hold
14 the matter then?

15 MR. BOBBIT: Yeah, that's fine.

16 CHAIRMAN BOHL: And then we'll - -
17 we'll have the License Division work with you
18 then on the scheduling. It's toward the latter
19 part then on the - - on the 3rd. And we
20 appreciate your accommodation here of that, Mr.
21 George and Mr. Bobbit. With that, Alderwoman
22 Coggs would move to hold this matter at the Call
23 of the Chair, and hearing no objections to that,
24 so ordered.

25 MR. BOBBIT: Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BOHL: Thank you.
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STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)
MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

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

JEAN M. BARINA
Court Reporter

Dated this day of May, 2009.

