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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  
Amusement (Cabaret/Nite Club)  
application for:

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TARA ALI  
FUZION CAFE & LOUNGE  
524 South 2nd Street

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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ALD. JAMES WITKOWIAK - Chair  
ALD. JAMES BOHL, JR., - Vice-Chairman  
ALD. TERRY WITKOWSKI  
ALD. ROBERT PUENTE  
ALD. WILLIE WADE

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LICENSING DIVISION by REBECCA BARRON  
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES by TOM WESSEL  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT by PAUL ZEMKE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT by SEARGENT CHET ULICKEY  
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY by ATTORNEY BRUCE SCHRIMPF

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Proceedings had and testimony given in  
the above-entitled matter, before the LICENSES  
COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE, on  
the 26th day of July, 2007.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Next item in the  
3 12th District, Tara Ali, agent for "Fuzion Cafe &  
4 Lounge, Inc.", Class "B" Tavern and Tavern  
5 Amusement (Cabaret/Nite Club) applications for  
6 the "Fuzion Cafe & Lounge" at 524 South 2nd  
7 Street.

8 Mr. Chairman, I would move that we hold  
9 this matter at the Call of the Chair. There's  
10 been some - - Oh, do we have some people here to  
11 testify? Okay. All right. After we hear the  
12 testimony, I will move that we hold this matter  
13 at the Call of the Chair. And the reason I'm  
14 doing that is we've had a - - I've had a  
15 considerable amount now of - - of concerned phone  
16 calls in the last couple days, where people are  
17 concerned about the activity there. So, I said I  
18 would - - I would move to hold it. But, okay,  
19 would you come to the table, please?

20 ALDERMAN BOHL: Mr. Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Alderman Bohl.

22 ALDERMAN BOHL: Do you want to just  
23 read the neighborhood objection for the record.  
24 I know that the applicant isn't here, but that  
25 way it would give the committee parameters and at

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1 least establish on the record what the parameters  
2 of the objections it leads to.

3 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. There's a  
4 possibility the application could be denied  
5 because of neighborhood objections to loitering,  
6 littering, loud music, noise, parking, traffic  
7 problems, fights, trespassing, disorderly  
8 patrons, public urination and conduct which is  
9 detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of  
10 the neighborhood. That is what is written in the  
11 notice.

12 Could you both raise your right hands?  
13 We'll swear you in.

14 (Whereupon the witnesses were sworn.)

15 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay. Who wants  
16 to go first? Name and address for the record,  
17 please.

18 THE WITNESS: My name is Patricia  
19 Koehn, K-O-E-H-N, 640 South 3rd Street.

20 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Okay.

21 THE WITNESS: I have been a resident  
22 since 1994. And as a matter of public record,  
23 there have been numerous residents from around  
24 the City that have already complained to this  
25 committee about dance clubs and taverns. And

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1 they've requested for revocation of license. My  
2 husband and I, and many neighbors on the block  
3 were not notified about this matter coming up  
4 today. The neighbors that were notified had a  
5 two day notice, and the only reason I found out  
6 is that my mailman told me. And that's - -  
7 That's the 524 South 2nd business that wants to  
8 get a license for dance and liquor.

9 This is not a sufficient amount of time  
10 for other residents to request from their  
11 employers, time off, or make other types of  
12 arrangements to attend this hearing. Our  
13 neighborhood objects to any additional noise  
14 nuisances. We have over 12 bars and other  
15 entertainment venues in the area right now. We  
16 also have two liquor stores, one at the Walker's  
17 Point Mobile, which services a full liquor  
18 selection and beer. And the next one is at  
19 Citgo, for beer only. It's on 1st Street.

20 With a police shortage, calls for  
21 nuisance, car break-ins, disorderly conduct of  
22 patrons coming back into our neighborhood to  
23 retrieve their vehicles, prevents - - presents  
24 problems that the stakeholders, and I want to  
25 reiterate that, stakeholders of this neighborhood

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1 have had to put up with. When these people are  
2 intoxicated, there is little regard for people  
3 who live in these homes. Adding to - - Adding  
4 another - - Adding a dance club with liquor  
5 served to this area will only compound the  
6 problems we are forced to tolerate, because our  
7 calls concerning noise, disorderly people, minor  
8 crime are of a low priority with the police  
9 department.

10 I don't feel that we can take the word  
11 of people who are not stakeholders, who want to  
12 make a profit and don't have to live in our  
13 neighborhood. Until current issues of traffic,  
14 parking, noise, petty crime are resolved, it  
15 doesn't make any sense to allow another license  
16 for alcohol to be granted. And I'm going to  
17 leave the rest for my neighbor to speak on.  
18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Patty, thank you  
20 very much.

21 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: And just - - And  
23 just for your information, the - - We have - -  
24 We've standardized these mailings for residences  
25 because - - Before - - Before it kind of wasn't

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1 fair, because the aldermen could say go this far,  
2 go that far, and all over the City we had  
3 different stuff going on. So we standardized at  
4 250 feet, which ends about five feet before your  
5 house.

6 THE WITNESS: I know.

7 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Because your  
8 neighbor got a card in the mail, and you didn't.  
9 So - - But that's why - - It's this 250 foot  
10 thing to standardize it.

11 THE WITNESS: Well, five feet's not  
12 going to make much difference.

13 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: I know. I know.  
14 I know. Your - -

15 THE WITNESS: But we're having a - -

16 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Your testimony is  
17 just fine. I just wanted you to know why you  
18 didn't get a card, though.

19 THE WITNESS: Alderman, we are having  
20 real issues with parking down in our area.

21 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Oh, I know.

22 THE WITNESS: And at 2:30 in the  
23 morning I don't need any more people screaming  
24 and hootin' and hollering underneath my bedroom  
25 window. You open the window and you ask these

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1 people nicely. They're intoxicated. They don't  
2 - - They don't respond, you know, rationally to  
3 you. They - - They swear at you. They curse at  
4 you. They call you names, and - - and actually,  
5 you're putting yourself up for a situation where  
6 they could retaliate.

7 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Right.

8 THE WITNESS: And I - - You know, I - -  
9 I hate this. I mean, I put a lot of money into  
10 my home. I have an 1863 Italian home that a past  
11 alderman bought that was on reno - - that was  
12 going to be demolished. And I'm very proud of  
13 that house. And I've done a lot of work on that  
14 home, and landscaping, and - - and created an  
15 ecosystem to attract more migratory birds that  
16 travel the lake side. I mean, we're very, very  
17 concerned about bringing animals back into our  
18 City. And, you know, it's fine up until Friday  
19 and Saturday night, and it's just brace yourself  
20 for all - - all hell to come flying at us, okay.  
21 I - - I don't enjoy Friday and Saturday night. I  
22 got - - And thank God, I got central air. I shut  
23 the windows, and I turn the central air on. But  
24 there's a lot of people who don't have the, you  
25 know, the cooling system I have, and they've got

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1 to live with these windows open. I don't know  
2 how they get any sleep. So that's all I'm going  
3 to say, because I'll get emotional about this.  
4 And Jim knows me. Okay.  
5 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you. And  
6 your testimony, please?  
7 SERGEANT ULICKEY: Mr. Chair.  
8 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Go ahead,  
9 Sergeant.  
10 SERGEANT ULICKEY: If I could, please.  
11 You had mentioned they were selling beer at a  
12 Citgo station.  
13 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Yes.  
14 SERGEANT ULICKEY: Which Citgo station  
15 is that?  
16 THE WITNESS: The Citgo, I believe the  
17 Citgo at - - by the Rockwell International.  
18 Rockwell - - Allen Bradley has been bought by  
19 Rockwell, okay, and there's a Citgo on 1st Street  
20 there.  
21 SERGEANT ULICKEY: On 1st Street?  
22 THE WITNESS: Right, and I - - I - -  
23 SERGEANT ULICKEY: Just north of there?  
24 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.  
25 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: They shouldn't be.



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1 THE WITNESS: I - - Okay. I've seen  
2 beer coming out of there.  
3 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: No. No, that's  
4 the - -  
5 THE WITNESS: Maybe I'm wrong.  
6 SERGEANT ULICKEY: I'll have somebody  
7 look into that.  
8 THE WITNESS: Maybe I'm wrong.  
9 But I - -  
10 SERGEANT ULICKEY: Well, if - -  
11 THE WITNESS: I thought I saw beer in  
12 the cases there.  
13 SERGEANT ULICKEY: If you are, that's  
14 fine. If you're not, then we'll take care of it.  
15 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry if I'm wrong.  
16 SERGEANT ULICKEY: Thank you.  
17 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: That's how we get  
18 some of our information. Name and address for  
19 the record, and your testimony, please.  
20 THE WITNESS: Good afternoon, Mr.  
21 Chair, members of the committee, thanks for your  
22 perseverance. My name is Julie Coffman. I'm a  
23 homeowner at 602 South 3rd Street. I'm a  
24 business owner at 255 West Bruce Street, and I'm  
25 also a property owner at 538 South 2nd Street. I

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1 have a significant vested interest in the  
2 neighborhood. I - - I have a planned four  
3 million dollar development two doors down from  
4 this proposed establishment.

5 I feel extremely disadvantaged, because  
6 I do not know anything about the proposed  
7 establishment, except that they seek a liquor  
8 license, or the license proposed. So I'd like to  
9 withhold some of my testimony. I'm going to be  
10 willing to come back and re-testify, because I  
11 need to understand better what is truly planned.  
12 They describe it as a cafe, I think. So I have  
13 the impression, perhaps, it could be - - I just  
14 don't know. And we live in a neighborhood where  
15 there is a significant amount of bars, and some  
16 are good neighbors and many are not. So I want  
17 to withhold judgment before I understand the  
18 information. But I would - - You know, without  
19 being totally redundant, I guess while I'm here I  
20 will do the extended version of my testimony  
21 that's personal.

22 I imagine you hear the same stuff about  
23 bars over and over from neighborhoods. Mine is  
24 very personal. As a business owner, I own a  
25 construction company, I'm interested in diversity

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1 of economic development in the neighborhood, and  
2 much more than the Third Ward. We have an  
3 extreme concentration of bars on that strip. And  
4 in order to have a healthy City I would like to  
5 see us consider limiting the concentration and -  
6 - and encouraging economic diversity on that  
7 street. If it continues to be all bars, it will  
8 be difficult for me to keep my business in that  
9 neighborhood because it doesn't foster that  
10 economic diversity successfully.

11 I do have issues about parking, and  
12 noise, but I'd like to focus on the personal  
13 victimization of crime as a result of bar  
14 activity. We have had our landscape destroyed by  
15 a drunk woman who traveled through our new  
16 landscape, tore up all the plants, and then  
17 passed out in our yard. Cost us a significant  
18 amount of money. We have had a car broken into  
19 adjacent to our house that was not our house.  
20 But as a result of that, the victim of the crime  
21 caught the perpetrator. He proceeded to escape  
22 the scene and break into our basement, turn - -  
23 turning on our alarm. Cops came into our house.  
24 They drew their weapons and told me to take cover  
25 with my ten month old son. Within the last two

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1 months bar activity generating off of 5th Street,  
2 which because of Milwaukee Tech, is essentially  
3 an open corridor to our house, has resulted in  
4 two shootings at bar time. We are in the direct  
5 line of path of those bullets being shot.  
6 Response time to these incidents is sometimes  
7 fast when it involves the bullets, and I'm  
8 appreciative to the police for that. But I  
9 prefer not to have - - to have called 9-1-1 ten  
10 times this summer. So, the crime - - and the  
11 crime issue related to bar activity is very real  
12 and very tangible to me, and I'm committed in a  
13 significant way to the neighborhood.

14 The noise issues are also very  
15 significant. So just in terms of not knowing  
16 about this business, I can't speak much more  
17 about it. I guess I'd be concerned that it does  
18 not - - It - - These are experienced operators, I  
19 would hope. I would hope that they would have a  
20 commitment to sharing the neighborhood with other  
21 uses, including residential uses and being  
22 vigilant about noise and parking if they do  
23 intend to operate until bar time. But I'll  
24 withhold an objection until I hear more.

25 CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Mr. Chairman, at

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1       this time I would move to hold this matter at the  
2       Call of the Chair until the meeting in September  
3       11. I - - And I think, also, in this case, as in  
4       the last case, I will ask the applicant if they  
5       would be willing to host a meeting actually at  
6       the place, and then, you all get invited and come  
7       down there and say what do you plan to do? Where  
8       are you putting this and that? And work out - -  
9       So that we can all understand what it is exactly  
10      she wants to do over there, and then we can form  
11      our opinions and make our decisions based on  
12      that.

13               VICE-CHAIRMAN BOHL: The - - The motion  
14      by Alderman Witkowiak is to hold this matter at  
15      the Call of the Chair. Are there any objections  
16      to that motion? Hearing - - Hearing none, so  
17      ordered.

18               CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: Thank you for  
19      coming down. We appreciate your testimony. Your  
20      house is just - - is absolutely beautiful. For  
21      those of you who haven't seen it where they - -  
22      they took down the old Tech, where they raised  
23      the old Tech school, it's the new house  
24      immediately east of there on the - - on the  
25      corner. It's just a absolutely gorgeous place.

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1                   And - - And Patty's house, for those of  
2 you who are wondering who the former alderman  
3 was, that was Betty Voss.

4                   THE WITNESS: Betty Voss.

5                   CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: So now we're all  
6 dating ourselves again, right? Like, everybody  
7 remember Betty Voss.

8                   THE WITNESS: Great lady.

9                   CHAIRMAN WITKOWIAK: She was a great  
10 lady, yeah.

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STATE OF WISCONSIN )

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MILWAUKEE COUNTY )

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I, JEAN M. BARINA, of Milwaukee Reporters  
Associated, Inc., 5124 West Blue Mound Road,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208, certify that the foregoing  
proceedings was transcribed under my direction for the  
license of FUSION CAFE & LOUNGE, that came before the  
Licenses Committee.

JEAN M. BARINA  
Court Reporter

Dated this            day of August 2007.

