

1 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

2 CITY OF PROVIDENCE

3 BOARD OF LICENSES

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6 *****
7 PROCEEDINGS AT HEARING *
8 IN RE: PASHA LOUNGE *
9 *
10 d/b/a PASHA HOOKAH BAR *
11 *****

12

13 DATE: June 8, 2015
14 TIME: 1:00 p.m.
15 PLACE: Providence City Hall
16 Room 112
17 Providence, Rhode Island

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19

20 BEFORE: Juan Pichardo Chairman/Secretary
21 Johanna Harris
22 Luis Peralta

23

24

25 APPEARANCES:

26

27 FOR THE BOARD.....LOUIS DESIMONE, ESQUIRE
28 FOR THE CITY.....MARIO MARTONE, ESQUIRE

29

30 ALSO PRESENT:

31

32 Serena Conley, Administrator
33 Sergeant David Tejada, Providence Police

34

35 MERANDI COURT REPORTING
36 48 Hurlburt Avenue
37 Johnston, RI 02919
38 (401) 441-2576

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40 MERANDI COURT REPORTING
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(HEARING OPENED AT 1:00 P.M.)

MR. PICHARDO: Good afternoon.

Board of Licenses hearing for June 8th, 2015, for today's docket, we have two items, one for discussion only to hear from the community; the second is executive session. Alcoholic Beverages Class BV (Full-Liquor - Food), Food Dispenser, Holiday Sales, Valet Parking. Pasha Lounge, Inc., d/b/a Pasha Hookah Bar, 840 Allens Avenue. As you are aware, we wanted to have the opportunity to hear from the community. Since the last hearing, the case was dismissed from this Board but we wanted to have the opportunity to give the community members who live in the immediate area to come in and at least make their disclaimer or complaints in reference to Pasha Lounge. I also wanted to remind everyone that due to the investigation and, also, the findings, it was declared that, pretty much, that Pasha did not have anything to do with the matter -- the shooting that took place that ended with a young man being shot and killed on Allens Avenue. With that said, it doesn't mean the act

1 didn't take place and it impacted many in the
2 community and, therefore, this is the reason why we
3 chose to hear from the community. Would you like to
4 say anything?

5 MR. MARTONE: No. As far as the
6 dismissal went for that particular incident, there
7 simply was not the evidence to link the incident
8 with the club. That does not mean that there are
9 not other issues and I think that's why this
10 particular discussion was called.

11 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you. Is
12 there anyone in the audience that would like to come
13 up first? And I see the Providence Police. Do you
14 want to wait or --

15 SERGEANT TEJADA: Yeah, we were
16 going to wait.

17 MR. LUTZ: My name is Randy Lutz.
18 I lived at 63 Carolina and I now live at 100
19 Carolina. If you put that on a map, I moved in next
20 door to the bar in the last week and a half or so.
21 I think that it's asinine that we're even sitting
22 here right now. It's about six months ago when
23 somebody sprayed an Uzi up and down three blocks of
24 that neighborhood; three blocks, and you didn't shut

1 them down then. You have shut down bars I worked at
2 for kids drinking three months short of their 21
3 year-old birthday but an Uzi getting sprayed three
4 blocks up and down a neighborhood and that's fine.
5 It boggles my mind that we're even here a second
6 time. We had neighbors watching the gunman run past
7 the last time. We had a neighbor with a video. Did
8 the police ever come and get those things? No, not
9 once. I have told at least three cops and they just
10 shrugged it off, oh, whatever. It boggles my mind.
11 And between now and the last shooting, they were
12 required to have the detail once for a couple of
13 nights while they were open in the interim when the
14 state overruled you guys, essentially. I don't
15 understand why a cop hasn't been around since. Are
16 we at a point in this city where a bar has to pay
17 the police department to protect a neighborhood?
18 What the hell's wrong with that. Excuse my
19 language, but really. There have been two shootings
20 in this bar in the past eight months. Explain to me
21 why there are not two cops sitting across in that
22 parking lot every night regardless of a detail or
23 not. Is it not our taxes that pay you guys to
24 protect our neighborhood. The fact that I have to

1 take off of work to come down here and point out
2 this incredibly obvious problem, it boggles my mind.
3 We elected you guys for this because we have jobs
4 and can't take two hours out of our day to point out
5 the obvious. That bar is a magnet for trouble. It
6 brings a crowd that doesn't live in that
7 neighborhood. This is different. I lived on Doyle
8 Avenue and there were shootings over there and you
9 didn't see me here saying to shut down McDonald's or
10 Whole Foods or something like that, no, because the
11 shootings over there were related to a crowd that
12 lived in that neighborhood. This is not a crowd
13 that lives in our neighborhood. They come --
14 there's a reason that the streets are lined with
15 cars at night, because they're coming here from
16 another part of town, whether or not you can say
17 yes, we have these guys fighting inside the bar,
18 whether or not you can say yes, we have the shooter
19 on video inside the bar. It doesn't take a whole
20 lot of common sense to figure out that this bar
21 attracts a problem crowd to a neighborhood that is
22 filled with children, filled with children. We
23 have, just at 100 Carolina, we have two kids on the
24 first floor, three kids on the second floor and two

1 on the third.

2 MR. TORAZ: I can give you these
3 pictures and you can see the parking from the houses
4 if you want to share that.

5 MR. LUTZ: That's my neighborhood.
6 Right behind there -- these gangs are spraying ooze
7 and shot a girl once in the leg.

8 MR. PICHARDO: Let me ask you, and
9 I get your point in terms of what happened; the
10 concerns in the community, you mentioned an Uzi.
11 That's something perhaps the police can talk a
12 little bit about and, certainly, how that is tied to
13 Pasha. I want to direct your statements in
14 reference to the quality of life and also Pasha or
15 in the establishment, so if you can talk briefly
16 about that.

17 MR. LUTZ: 63 Carolina, where I
18 lived, again, in the past week and a half since we
19 moved to 100 Carolina, which is right down the
20 street, again, it's in this picture, it's like a
21 block down. We regularly had customers of Pasha
22 coming down the street, hanging out after hours,
23 1:30, 2:00 at night. I spoke to the owners of Pasha
24 and they claimed, no, that's not from our bar. He

1 said it's the other bar, which fits about seven
2 people inside. So, I explained to him that we
3 didn't have these problems when that place was a
4 fruit market and he shrugged it off. I tried to
5 talk to him in a professional capacity, as one of
6 the major security companies in the state, to do
7 their security. This was after the first shooting.
8 I explained to them we have a common theme between
9 the security field; oftentimes you'll find, in a
10 small location, the same security, the same two,
11 three guys. They get comfortable with the crowd.
12 They get friendly with them. The crowd gives them a
13 drink, gives them an extra twenty. You get
14 comfortable with the crowd at some point in time
15 particularly in a place like this. It's a security
16 concern because, again, you see the situation right
17 now. We have, mysteriously, two customers of the
18 bar just happened to be staked there all day and the
19 shooter just happened to be waiting for them outside
20 of Pasha. You don't have to connect a lot of dots
21 to say it's a friendly atmosphere for the people who
22 are shooting people. Beyond that, coming home at
23 night, I will come out at a time where this place is
24 closed for a half hour, and hour by this time, and

1 unfortunately, that doesn't stop me from running
2 into their clients on a regular basis. At one time
3 I mentioned I came home and a kid jumped out in
4 front of my car, banged on the hood of my car. I
5 stopped and said what is your problem? He goes, you
6 want to fight? I guess so, man. I'm here, I'll do
7 it. But what if that was the old lady that lived
8 next door to me, it happened for whatever reason,
9 anybody on that street who knows how it would have
10 gone. It's just a problem in the neighborhood.
11 That's not an uncommon incident, that's just one
12 that came to mind. But just in the past weekend,
13 2:30 in the morning, on Saturday night, I was out
14 there yelling at somebody blasting -- they're
15 blasting their music. I'm showing respect for my
16 friend that died, so some respect for those that are
17 still alive in the neighborhood. And that's what
18 you guys need to do, show some respect to the people
19 that are still alive in the neighborhood. And you
20 guys over there, it doesn't matter what this Board
21 does, the fact that I need to call them on a regular
22 basis is such shared concern in the neighborhood,
23 it's shocking.

24 MR. PICHARDO: I appreciate your

1 comments. So let me ask you, also, just your
2 complaint of parking on the street, loud music, and
3 also, at any time have you or your neighbors called
4 the police and complained about this?

5 MR. LUTZ: No. No, I see what
6 happens when we call the police.

7 MR. PICHARDO: No or yes.

8 MR. LUTZ: Even if I do, it will
9 be too late when they get there.

10 MR. PICHARDO: I appreciate your
11 testimony. Do you have any questions?

12 MS. HARRIS: Yes. Through the
13 Chair, we do appreciate you being here and you
14 missed work to do that, so this important to you.
15 And as the Chair mentioned, the purpose of this
16 hearing is to try to get a feel of the affect of
17 Pasha on this community. And so, we're trying to
18 stick to very specific things. I just wanted to
19 drill down a couple of things, and the first thing
20 you mentioned, that you called, and what we're
21 trying to tell people is if you have an issue,
22 please put it in writing, please put it in writing.
23 A call's really not going to generate what you're
24 trying to do. We have said if somebody has a

1 problem, they put it in writing, give it to the
2 license office. She gives it and we have a record,
3 so that's the first thing.

4 The second thing is, and you talked
5 about the security in the bar, you said it's your
6 perception that they get too comfortable with
7 certain unfortunate elements and bad things.

8 MR. LUTZ: It's common in the
9 security industry.

10 MS. HARRIS: Is this a common
11 problem or do you have a specific incident of this
12 place?

13 MR. LUTZ: No. No, I have seen
14 the same guys for the entire time that I lived
15 there. It's a common problem. It's kind of a
16 well-known thing, I guess. Why major security
17 companies go into places, they shift their guys
18 around, it's a priority to shift their guys around
19 so no one guy gets too comfortable at one spot with
20 one crowd, et cetera.

21 MS. HARRIS: So your point is they
22 don't follow that procedure, that good practice or
23 best practice, and you see that year in and year
24 out?

1 MR. LUTZ: Yes. I see the same
2 people day in and day out. It's been pointed out to
3 them. It's been pointed out after the first
4 shooting, and no, we were at the second shooting.

5 MS. HARRIS: And is that your
6 testimony, that someone sprayed an Uzi up and down
7 the street?

8 MR. LUTZ: Some sort of automatic
9 weapon. I'm not a gun expert.

10 MS. HARRIS: Tell me about that.

11 MR. LUTZ: How do you guys not
12 have this information already? It was the exact
13 same story. The guy was sitting in the bar all
14 night, someone must have been stalking him all day
15 and they just decided to shoot him when he came out
16 of Pasha. Does that even make sense? If I'm
17 stalking a guy all day, why don't I shoot him on his
18 way into the bar? Why wait four hours when he comes
19 out. It's the same exact story.

20 MS. HARRIS: We are trying to
21 understand the story.

22 MR. LUTZ: It was all over the
23 news, what, six, eight months ago; I don't know
24 someone. Apparently, he came out of Pasha, somebody

1 was waiting outside for them, drove down the street
2 shooting at them; drove down Carolina around Georgia
3 and back down around and back again. It was seventy
4 bullets were sprayed. How many bullets have to be
5 sprayed in this neighborhood before up guys start to
6 care?

7 MS. HARRIS: Pasha wasn't cited
8 for this?

9 MR. LUTZ: I guess not. You
10 people don't even know about it.

11 MS. HARRIS: And you mentioned
12 somebody took a video?

13 MR. LUTZ: Yes, one of the
14 neighbors. He's not here this time. He was here
15 the last time. He has a video camera on his porch,
16 and there was another neighbor who spoke to a cop
17 that night. I watched them picking up all the shell
18 casings that night. I spoke to two cops that night
19 and there was a neighbor that night, he was like, I
20 came out of my door, I saw this kid ran right past
21 me, looked me dead in my eyes. I watched him get
22 into the car. I wrote the license plate number
23 down. He told the cop this. I went over to make
24 sure a different cop on the scene knew that, and

1 nobody even cared enough to bother to ask him for
2 this.

3 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. Those
4 were my questions.

5 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you for your
6 testimony and thank you for taking time. Who would
7 like to come up next? Please step forward and state
8 your name and address.

9 MS. TORAZ: Maria Toraz. I live
10 on 81 Georgia Avenue, Providence, right around the
11 corner from the hookah bar, and I've been there
12 twenty-five years and since this hookah bar opened,
13 it's just going downhill. The first time that there
14 was a shooting in the Dunkin Donuts parking lot, at
15 this I thought I was hearing things, but no. And
16 the second shooting happened and that was the second
17 shooting that ran three streets, Toronto, my street
18 and Carolina. Providence Police was called because
19 they were on my street looking for the casings.
20 Apparently, it was a drive-by shooting after the
21 hookah bar closed. What I find over there since
22 they opened is people urinating in yards. It's the
23 music, it's the liquor bottles that they are
24 throwing in people's yards after the hookah bar is

1 closed. I have called the police numerous times
2 about the noise, what's going on. We are afraid to
3 go outside because you don't know if these people
4 are going to come back and vandalize your house.

5 The incident that happened recently with
6 that gentleman that died, I was away at the time but
7 I heard about it, and I don't know. I know
8 everybody's got to make a living and if there's a
9 bar there, you need to have some kind of security.
10 They're bringing in all kinds of people from
11 different cities, and that's where the shootings are
12 taking place, it's over there. This is not the
13 first time, third or fourth incident that I hear
14 gunshots going off. There's kids in the
15 neighborhood. We don't feel safe walking our pets.
16 We're really disappointed. I've been there
17 twenty-five years and we are considering selling my
18 house and moving if it continues. I -- I'm out, you
19 know. Us, as taxpayers, our voices should be heard
20 and something should be done about it. That's how I
21 feel.

22 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you. Any
23 questions? Commissioner?

24 MS. HARRIS: One through the

1 Chair. You said there was a shooting in the Dunkin
2 Donuts?

3 MS. TORAZ: That is where the
4 first one took place.

5 MS. HARRIS: Is that connected to
6 the club?

7 MS. TORAZ: Yes, because that is
8 where they were parking.

9 MS. HARRIS: And the second
10 shooting was the murder?

11 MS. TORAZ: Yes, yes.

12 MS. HARRIS: One final question:
13 The noise is during the time that the club is open?

14 MS. TORAZ: It's constant; one,
15 two in the morning, because they are parking on
16 Georgia and Carolina.

17 MS. HARRIS: So it's not the club,
18 it's people that come out of the club. I just want
19 to make sure. If it was music when they're open,
20 but it sounds like when them come in -- when they
21 come out, they hang out and make noise.

22 MS. TORAZ: Yes, there is a
23 neighbor who records everything that -- what's going
24 on.

1 MS. HARRIS: So a neighbor has
2 tapes?

3 MS. TORAZ: Yes.

4 MS. HARRIS: Okay. Thank you very
5 much.

6 MR. PICHARDO: Any questions?
7 Just a question: Over the years since this
8 establishment has opened, you have witnessed more
9 cars parked late at night?

10 MS. TORAZ: Yes.

11 MR. PICHARDO: People urinating?

12 MS. TORAZ: Yes.

13 MR. PICHARDO: When you say
14 cracking of the bottles, what do you mean?

15 MS. TORAZ: Breaking them,
16 throwing them, leaving a mess in the neighborhood.

17 MR. PICHARDO: At any point is
18 this during the time when the lounge, Pasha, is open
19 or after hours?

20 MS. TORAZ: After they were
21 congregating out of the bar.

22 MR. PICHARDO: Since you live so
23 close, have the owners or anybody come around the
24 street and try to sweep and police the area,

1 cleaning the area afterwards? Have you ever
2 witnessed that at any time?

3 MS. TORAZ: No.

4 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you.

5 MS. TORAZ: That's it. I'd just
6 like the neighborhood to go back to what it was.

7 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you.
8 Appreciate you taking the time to come and see us to
9 make your voice heard. Obviously, there are things
10 that -- testimony that we hear and we have to take
11 it into consideration, and not just hearsay, and
12 just like the police when shots are called in, you
13 just don't automatically close everything in the
14 neighborhood. It's a process.

15 MS. TORAZ: I understand that,
16 yes.

17 MR. PICHARDO: I want to make sure
18 that your voice is heard and that it's also on the
19 record. You know, every year these are things that
20 have to come up in the renewal and that's the
21 process for that.

22 MS. TORAZ: No, I understand.

23 MR. PICHARDO: Okay. Thank you.
24 Would you like to come up next? State your name.

1 MS. PERRI: Lynda Perri. I live
2 on New York Avenue.

3 MR. PICHARDO: What number?

4 MS. PERRI: 353.

5 MR. PICHARDO: Closer to Allens
6 Avenue?

7 MS. PERRI: Right in the middle,
8 actually; right in the middle. Without question
9 we've had an uptake in violence. We never had any
10 problems up until about a year ago. I have lived in
11 my house for thirty-five years. I also own a house
12 on Georgia and on Alabama, and my tenants on Georgia
13 Avenue tell me that -- it's a dead end street, that
14 there is activities down at the end of the street.
15 I've kind of monitored that over the years, so with
16 stolen cars, and they would be dumped there. My
17 tenant has told me that people come down there,
18 drink, smoke, throw stuff out of the car and turn
19 around and go back because it's one of, like, a dead
20 end, meaning a quiet, nobody worries about it kind
21 of thing, but the people that do live there do
22 notice it; but regardless of that, on New York
23 Avenue there's been a big uptake in gunshots the
24 past -- I'd say one year. It was quiet as a mouse,

1 there was never any problem, and soon everyone
2 complained. Everybody knows that when it was a
3 market, it was a family establishment, it was quiet,
4 there was no issues.

5 I feel a little annoyed with the fact
6 that there was Pasha and then there's La Luna and
7 there's the other one by the park. So, actually
8 Washington Park is surrounded by three notorious
9 clubs, you know. And I must have been asleep at the
10 wheel when Pasha went in. I didn't really realize
11 it was a bar, you know, I thought it was like maybe
12 a little restaurant or something, a little middle
13 eastern restaurant, naive as that is, you know.
14 Since they've opened it's been violence, as you
15 know, here, there, there. I feel like we're
16 surrounded. We're in a goldfish bowl because when
17 one thing happens, it triggers something else. It's
18 not just the activities of -- well, it is a
19 combination of the activities of Pasha and other
20 places because the whole thing going on with the
21 groups.

22 Last Saturday night my three -- second
23 time in two months, was hit by gunfire, my neighbor
24 across the street has a brick house. There's a

1 bullet in her house. It hit a tree and it sprayed a
2 car, there's one bullet hole in the car and they
3 couldn't find anything.

4 MR. PICHARDO: On New York Avenue?

5 MS. PERRI: Yes, on New York
6 Avenue. Everyone I speak to doesn't want a bar
7 there for the safety reasons. The fact that it
8 is -- I've lived there, I've seen people. I have a
9 trash can in front of my house for yard waste and
10 people are using it for target practice with beer
11 bottles, liquor bottles. I'm constantly cleaning
12 up, constantly. The noise factor alone at the end
13 of the -- where the bar is, people tearing down the
14 street and doing wheelies in the parking lot between
15 Carolina and Georgia. I have actually called the
16 police and told them that and contacted Calder
17 Properties and told them that because they have this
18 giant parking lot there that is blocking off, which
19 is illegal, and it's not paved properly or drained
20 properly. It's not enclosed so at night people are
21 doing the figure eights and burning rubber and doing
22 all that. I'm not saying it's directly related to
23 the club but it's all kind of happened at the same
24 time. So the quality of life is diminished and

1 there's a fear factor. I feel bad for the people
2 that live next door, you know, and some of the older
3 people that, you know -- you know, you get jaded
4 after a while, you hear a shot, you hear pop, pop,
5 and then you hear the police, you know. It's not
6 near me, you know; but now, it's like oh, man, and
7 it's pop, pop and it is near me, and it is near
8 them, and it is near a young family, you know.
9 It's, like I said, that any one of those gunshots
10 could have landed inside somebody's house. You know
11 that. I'm not telling you anything new right now.

12 So, in terms of the quality of the
13 neighborhood, quality of life, I don't think a bar
14 belongs there, you know. Here's the bar and here's
15 somebody's house, you know, it just doesn't belong
16 there. I know it's zoned for that and it's legal
17 that they can go in there, but somebody was asleep,
18 there was wasn't enough input at the time that they
19 were allowed to get their license, you know. One,
20 two, three strikes, you should be out. First of
21 all, I think it should be, you know, one time it
22 happens, the second time it happens, three strikes,
23 you're out, you know. People have lost more for
24 less than, you know, this is -- you know, to her

1 point, too, you know, when the neighborhood gets to
2 the point where, you know, you don't feel as if you
3 can sell your property or you're going to lose, you
4 know, good people are going to leave and you're
5 going to have more investors move in and then more
6 problems, more robberies, you know, like you want to
7 keep home ownership alive there like it's been for
8 decades, and I feel like you run the risk of that
9 going downhill.

10 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you. Do you
11 have any questions?

12 MS. HARRIS: Of course I have
13 questions, through the Chair. Just quickly, you
14 said that there were shots fired on numerous
15 occasions. We heard from the first speaker of three
16 very specific instances. Is it your perception that
17 besides those three, there were other shots fired
18 other than --

19 MS. PERRI: Well, that Friday
20 night at exactly 11:07, and the bar closes at 11:00,
21 there were like fourteen shots, eleven to fourteen
22 shots fired which could have been an automatic
23 weapon, I don't know, because pop, pop, pop; pop,
24 pop, pop, pop, pop, that's exactly what happened,

1 and then the policemen came, they all, you know,
2 have their flashlights. I don't believe they found
3 anything. Maybe they found something further up or
4 the next day they take action with a suitcase and
5 put something in it, and the day after that my
6 neighbor called the police there was a hole in her
7 house, and she had a brick house, thankfully. She
8 was sleeping in the living room on the couch when
9 that happened. I just think that it is --

10 MS. HARRIS: So there's additional
11 shots besides the ones we heard in the neighborhood
12 that --

13 MS. PERRI: Yes. Oh, yes, yes.

14 MS. HARRIS: I'm sure everybody in
15 the room knows it but I don't know it. You said
16 there's three clubs near Washington Park; Pasha,
17 Luna and what's the third?

18 MS. PERRI: Yeah, I can't remember
19 the name of it. There's La Luna and there's one
20 next door. It's on Broad Street.

21 SERGEANT TEJADA: Dubi?

22 MS. PERRI: Yes.

23 SERGEANT TEJADA: It's closed. It
24 does not exist anymore.

1 MS. PERRI: Okay. So there's Sky,
2 La Luna, and then you go across to, you know, where
3 Washington Park, there's commercial over here, this
4 is all residential, and then there's Pasha. So, you
5 know, I'm sure that some of the people from Sky are
6 going there, or maybe not, I don't know, but we are
7 sort of in the middle of two, two of the, you know,
8 bad places. Like I said, if it was a little deli,
9 all those businesses there would appreciate that,
10 you know, and if there was a deli there and the
11 people that live next to them would appreciate that,
12 you know, but also I have total respect for the
13 police and what they do and how hard they work and
14 everything, but if that wasn't there, we wouldn't
15 have the problem, you know, and like the gentleman
16 said, it's really easy to connect the dots. But
17 when strike one, strike two, strike three, there
18 should be, like, no question, you know. We
19 shouldn't have to beg for something to be done over
20 there to protect us and our property and our piece
21 of mind, you know, I mean, short of moving away from
22 everything.

23 MS. HARRIS: Just one more
24 question. The owners, as I'm sure you know, the law

1 has a responsibility to make sure nothing spills
2 out. Do you see anybody from the club in the
3 parking lots monitoring the behavior?

4 MS. PERRI: No. I don't see
5 anything like that. Right now all I see is the
6 memorial to the deceased. First of all, if I may
7 ask, go off point slightly for a moment, are they
8 supposed to not have a temporary license or an
9 entertainment license; is that part of what they
10 allowed.

11 MR. BROOKS: There is no
12 entertainment there.

13 MS. PERRI: Because if you go on
14 Facebook or Instagram, they are advertising, you
15 know, DJs, you'd see the lady belly dancing in front
16 of the crowd, there is entertainment there, there is
17 no question. And that's current.

18 MS. HARRIS: We'll look into that.

19 SERGEANT TEJADA: No.

20 MS. PERRI: Did they ever?

21 MR. DESIMONE: No.

22 MS. PERRI: You go on Facebook and
23 there it is right there. They advertise dates,
24 that's their --

1 MS. HARRIS: That kind of
2 information is very helpful. Thank you. That's it.
3 Thank you very much for coming.

4 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you. Just a
5 question, is there a neighborhood association in
6 your area?

7 MS. PERRI: Well, there is.
8 Apparently, there's factions of two that we're
9 trying to merge. I wasn't aware of one that was
10 established and I was getting what was going on my
11 own so we're trying to put everything together and
12 actually have a petition from some other business
13 owners in the neighborhood, some of the business
14 owners there in Washington Park Square where the
15 ophthalmologist is and the little loan center and
16 the little guy -- the gentleman that has the
17 upholstery business, you know, by the -- where the
18 frame shop is, that little area there. They want to
19 keep things -- they want to avoid things trying to
20 get worse, so I have a petition --

21 MR. PICHARDO: Well, the reason
22 that I asked, I think it's important if you do have
23 one, it's important to meet. I still have family
24 and friends there.

1 MS. PERRI: I used to go to the
2 Washington Park Community Center years ago and that
3 sort of fizzled out. We're talking about getting
4 that back on the board and working on that, and we
5 have other people that I've talked to but I guess
6 they couldn't be here, I guess they couldn't make
7 it.

8 MR. PICHARDO: That's okay.
9 People work and --

10 MR. PERALTA: You have a petition,
11 what is it for?

12 MS. PERRI: Business owners and
13 individuals in the Washington Park area. Do you
14 want me to read it to you?

15 MS. HARRIS: Yeah, sure.

16 MS. PERRI: We, the residents of
17 Washington Park and the neighboring area of
18 Edgewood, because that's coming to an area near you
19 pretty soon. I mean, they don't have to go across
20 to Eddy Street, they can go screaming down
21 Narragansett Boulevard and causing problems just as
22 easily, so they're concerned and they have friends,
23 as well, but mostly Washington Park are asking that
24 the License Board revoke the liquor license of the

1 hookah bar located on Allens Avenue based on safety
2 concerns, noise and general disturbances that have
3 been ongoing since it opened. The fatal shooting as
4 a result of the kind of establishment we do not want
5 in our neighborhood, the neighborhood will not
6 tolerate if it's continued and we request that the
7 license be revoked and the hookah bar closed. This
8 area surrounding the working family homes, children
9 and reputable small businesses; thus the area will
10 be better served by permanently removing the hookah
11 bar, and it was signed by a dozen individuals and
12 business owners in the area that will be coming to
13 our meetings.

14 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you. If you
15 could give that to the Board.

16 MS. HARRIS: Can you see Pasha
17 from your house? Can you see the parking lot?

18 MS. PERRI: No. I can see the end
19 of my street and then two buildings over, so I
20 cannot.

21 MS. TORAZ: Can you kind of
22 describe for me where the people park? I know they
23 have a parking lot and that they park on the
24 streets, as well.

1 MS. PERRI: Well, they park on
2 Carolina and Georgia and Allens Avenue and wherever
3 they can park, and some of the business owners that
4 don't want them there.

5 MS. TORAZ: So, you know it's not
6 at a particular time.

7 MS. PERRI: Well, I know it's, you
8 know -- recently at 11:00 there's a lot of traffic
9 going down the street and then last Saturday night
10 there was a shooting at 11:07. I feel that it's
11 coincidental that it's, like, right after closing
12 time, it may or may not. I don't know, but this has
13 never -- I lived there for 33 years, just recently
14 in the past nine months this has happened.

15 MS. TORAZ: Well, what time do you
16 start seeing the cars lights start lining up on the
17 side streets? Is there a particular time or --

18 MS. PERRI: No, I don't know and,
19 you know, I don't know. I have to be honest, I
20 don't know. All I know is that I see and hear a lot
21 of traffic. It's New York Avenue and it's a
22 dangerous street, you know. There's constantly
23 cars. Well, you know what? I've been in touch with
24 one of the patrolmen, one of the lawyers, to try and

1 get a stop sign on Virginia because there's been an
2 accident there at that intersection, which is on
3 record, probably four serious accidents within the
4 past six months, because you have Virginia going
5 north-south and New York goes east-west, and there's
6 been several serious accidents there.

7 MR. PICHARDO: Perhaps you can
8 also contact your city councilman. I know that's a
9 suggestion.

10 MS. PERRI: Well, when they come
11 out and they go straight across to Carolina and they
12 make a left at Virginia and they come out to New
13 York, they can go screaming down Virginia or they
14 can go to Eddy Street or up to Allens Avenue, but
15 when they're coming down New York Avenue, it's
16 become more frequent, is what I'm saying, recently
17 it has become more frequent. Out of all the years,
18 maybe there was, maybe, one accident of record, and
19 now there's been a good six accidents in the past
20 year at that intersection, day and night. It just
21 says that there are more people living down there
22 and they're crazy drivers, too.

23 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you for
24 coming. We appreciate it. Next?

1 MR. HENDERSON: My name is
2 Jay Henderson. I live at 93-95 Carolina Avenue.
3 It's within 200 feet of the establishment.
4 Actually, it's literally right behind the
5 establishment, Pasha. I bought the house about five
6 years ago. If you Google it, you would get a little
7 more insight and my understanding and how Pasha
8 works. I was a nonviolent advocate for the study
9 and practice of nonviolence. I'm working directly
10 with high risk offenders, gang affiliated 18 to 25
11 year old youths I'm helping transition, I guess,
12 back into the community. Prior to being promoted, I
13 had a job as dean of students. So the reason I
14 mentioned this nonviolence is that because Sal and
15 Jack Warner, the owners of Pasha, decided to come
16 over to this neighborhood, they previously owned
17 Boulevard Pizza not that far up the street, about a
18 mile, right in front of Johnson & Wales University.
19 I remember talking to Jack and Sal because the
20 business that was there prior was a small market, it
21 was mentioned that it was family owned. They closed
22 down. They know I lived behind it about 200 feet.
23 I was like, what is your plan, because I'm a father,
24 my son is two years old. So what they told me was

1 that it's going to be a nice restaurant, we're going
2 to go Mediterranean. We're going to have a
3 waterfall and we're going to have seafood tables
4 outside. And I was like okay. Because that's part
5 of the culture. Okay, fine. I'm fine with that.
6 I'm with you. I live right behind you. I agree
7 with you. I live right behind you. When they first
8 started, they didn't have a liquor license, I didn't
9 know that they had spirits or a wine license or
10 something like that. I remember telling them
11 already you're collecting a lot of attraction.
12 There is a Sally port right over there Now, prior
13 when it was a small market, no, it was clean and
14 fine. So I don't know how it ended up happening but
15 trash debris and even mattresses -- an establishment
16 for all of a year, all of a sudden you guys have
17 been open less than a month and I'm seeing all of
18 this trash. And it took about a month and a half to
19 clean it up. Finally, at least they're taking time,
20 they're new, they're young, they're trying to figure
21 it out, fine. I want to give them the benefit of
22 the doubt. I want Washington Park to be a good
23 community. I went there maybe three or four times
24 and I noticed from my experience, that's why I

1 mentioned the Institute for Nonviolence working with
2 gang-related youth. There's like three or four
3 different sets at Pasha and I told Sal and Jack, I
4 said listen, this is what I do. I recommend that
5 you get security because it's hot in here and I'm
6 nervous. I mean, I go over there, I don't have any
7 problems with anybody I say hi to everybody. I
8 introduce them to Mr. Abraham to try to get a job.
9 I teach violence class at the ACI. I said guys if
10 you do get security you are going to have, God
11 forbid, something's going to happen here. There
12 have been numerous and a lot of phone calls to the
13 Providence Police about fights happening outside of
14 the establishment, many times coming down the
15 street, basically going almost all the way to the
16 end of Carolina, because there's a lot of traffic
17 and cars on that street. Some people parked in my
18 driveway. I've had cars towed from the front of my
19 house. Again, I also have text messages, I can
20 produce that for you, communicating with Sal and
21 Jack, you must stop this, you must change something.
22 This is the result. Two, people just handing down
23 the street getting out just before closing time, a
24 lot of glass, broken bottles. I have two large

1 flower pots in front of my home, some old cement
2 sink tubs, I have two of them in front of my house.
3 Cars have hit them. They're speeding down the
4 street and then they crash into it. I know they got
5 to be about 400 pounds a piece and people leaving
6 the lounge are crashing into these things.

7 When the first shooting happened, to my
8 knowledge, last July, about 23 or 25 bullets, if I'm
9 right, it was in front of my house about fifteen
10 feet. I came back from playing dominoes with my
11 brothers and I see that I can't even get into my
12 house. I live right there. That's my house. My
13 tenants, I have two tenants on the first floor and
14 both are in their early to mid twenties. Now, I
15 have to not only worry about my property and my
16 family I have to worry about the parents who decided
17 to lease my first floor because their children go
18 down to Johnson & Wales University. I have
19 communicated with Sal and Jack. They're thing is we
20 can't control what happens outside of our building,
21 our establishment. I was like, well, I'm two
22 hundred feet away and I don't see any security
23 outside. As far as I know, you're talking about
24 parking maybe for eight cars, and you have way more

1 than eight people or sixteen people in your
2 establishment.

3 This most recent shooting, I called the
4 police a week prior and I told them there was a
5 fight on the street, police come again. All right.
6 The evening of this most recent shooting, it was a
7 Keven Mann, and maybe he was 22 years old, a former
8 client of mine when I was with the Institute of the
9 Study of Nonviolence. When that occurred, I had my
10 son sleeping with me. My brother-in-law, he comes
11 to visit his son on Thursday, so he came to see me.
12 When that occurred my nephew with me and my son. It
13 was about twelve o'clock and we were just hanging
14 out in the kitchen when I hear five gunshots. It
15 was so loud it sounded like someone was knocking on
16 my door. So I go outside. It's quiet for a minute
17 and a half, two minutes and sure enough I hear the
18 police sirens. I know what a bullet sounds like.
19 There you go. Okay. I found out that the young man
20 was a victim the following day when I got to work,
21 because he's was related to a couple of my students
22 at my high school. Now I have to have preventative
23 measures never mind for myself internally as being a
24 resident two hundred feet from Pasha, but I now have

1 you know, have training for my students that are
2 traumatized. My feeling is that Pasha is negligent,
3 I think, that they are a nuisance. I've given them
4 more than a fair warning. I've text, I've called
5 them, I've talked to them. I have that on record in
6 terms of the text, and they also responded. I'm
7 tired, I'm worried, I'm nervous, I'm a father and
8 it bothers me. Even this weekend when I'm outside
9 with my son, I have to pick up a lot of cigarette
10 butts and broken glass. I think I take good care of
11 my house. You can come by and check it out; it's
12 all right. I spent a lot of money into that house.
13 My concern is that people that they let in there. I
14 see a horrible security detail over there. I
15 understand how security detail works. They're good
16 gentleman, I know them. It's inconsistent at best.
17 Knowing some of the people that have frequented
18 there, some of the guys from street that know that I
19 live there, say, I'm sorry that you live there.
20 This is from people that frequent this place.
21 That's pretty much the gist of it. Thank you.

22 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you for
23 taking the time, and also I know were you here last
24 time and provided information also.

1 MS. HARRIS: Through the Chair,
2 you said there is four sets in this place; what does
3 that mean?

4 MR. HENDERSON: Gangs, different
5 gangs around the city.

6 MS. HARRIS: So sets means gangs?

7 MR. HENDERSON: So what you have
8 is that Washington Park is an interesting area
9 because it's not necessarily the South Side. What
10 you have is the South Side and the East side and
11 right there by the highway you have kind of a quiet
12 oasis. When you add different people together
13 things are going to happen especially when you're
14 mixing alcohol and other substances. And people who
15 have unresolved issues. So when I said different
16 sets from different parts of the city I said this is
17 bad news.

18 MS. HARRIS: You can tell from
19 looking that these people and you can tell that
20 you're looking gang members?

21 MR. HENDERSON: I know them
22 professionally.

23 MS. HARRIS: And does this Pasha
24 security would they know that these are gang

1 members?

2 MR. HENDERSON: If I talked to Sal
3 and Jack just small conversations. MOP, this is
4 what MOP stands for, you understand? This what YIP,
5 stands for you might want to pay attention to that.

6 MS. HARRIS: And you said that the
7 security there are good guys but they are not doing
8 their jobs?

9 MR. HENDERSON: Well, they've
10 become friendly with people. When you're there for
11 months a lot of people get too friendly.

12 MS. HARRIS: Thank you.

13 MR. PICHARDO: I have a question
14 in terms of the owners you mentioned them Sal and
15 Jack, in the beginning, did you mentioned that the
16 debris and broken glass was in the area; did you at
17 any time see the staff or themselves clean it up?

18 MR. HENDERSON: No.

19 MR. PICHARDO: Have they been good
20 neighbors?

21 MR. HENDERSON: Not at all.

22 MR. PICHARDO: And have you
23 witnessed people parking in front your house or in
24 the street walking to the establishment?

1 MR. HENDERSON: Yes, directly -- I
2 literally can see from my second floor porch cars
3 parked walk right -- I can't see their front door,
4 but they're going to the front of the establishment.

5 MR. MARTONE: Just a couple of
6 questions. So the patrons from the establishment
7 park on your street, correct?

8 MR. HENDERSON: Yes.

9 MR. MARTONE: What time does it
10 start to get busy on your street?

11 MR. HENDERSON: Ten o'clock
12 usually, though 2:00 in the morning sometimes.

13 MR. MARTONE: You will said at
14 that there's a bottles breaking and different things
15 like that. Are people walking out of the
16 establishment with the bottles, or are they going to
17 their cars and like, they got booze in there cars;
18 do you know?

19 MR. HENDERSON: I haven't seen
20 people directly out of the establishment. When
21 people park before and after they will hang out
22 outside and they are drinking. There was one time,
23 another story. There was four females coming out of
24 car, they take a bottle and throw at my neighbor's

1 door and I'm asking them what are you doing? And
2 they walking and I'm screaming good luck getting
3 your car when you get back. They stop, they come
4 back. They clean it up. But that's just because I
5 was on the porch you understand and they were
6 heading right to the door of Pasha.

7 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you very
8 much. If you keep -- if it's been discussed already
9 /TKPW-PBL reside at rate state your name innocence
10 /KWAR /KWAR 17899 New York Avenue I've noticed there
11 seems to be a lot of tension surrounding the
12 happenings at Pasha bar. For example, I will get
13 right to the point. You know, how they will put
14 candles where the person fell, let's say that. Well
15 they have smashed those candles. Someone -- there's
16 been a lot of debris over there. There was no
17 owners, no clean up, no security guards over the
18 weekend. There is broken glass from candles. I can
19 just imagine how people who have a relationship to
20 this person would very upset about that because
21 that's sacrilegious in a way. It's like when
22 someone goes up in the cemetery and kicks the
23 headstone. So when these things happen you know
24 something else is about to happen. You feel it in

1 the air, you feel it in the community. It stems a
2 year ago we've known that little instances happened
3 since the past incident, the shooting, in our
4 streets, near our highways all kinds of things are
5 going on in our neighborhood as well, so. We know
6 it's related to that. We know that the police
7 aren't telling us that these things are not related
8 mentioned that these things aren't related, but you
9 sort of know that it is. Things are so hot right
10 now because of what they did when they kicked in
11 those candles when the person that fell; we know
12 something else is about to happen. You know -- you
13 see two police detail and when Pasha is going on,
14 but we don't really -- you know it's just doesn't
15 make us feel secure and I think people have been
16 advising you from the neighborhood things go on and
17 how unsafe everyone feels. I think somebody needs
18 to look at what has happened and if something is to
19 one of us and then you guys become responsible for
20 that. I feel personally invested in coming here and
21 saying I hope it doesn't happen to me. I have a son
22 who is nineteen year old and's gone into this
23 establishment with a couple of people some of his
24 friends around the same age and what if that happens

1 to them? How am I going to feel the next time
2 around. And yes, they do park in the street all the
3 time. People are coming and going part of the other
4 establishment which is what, Cheers and things like
5 but -- please do something about it.

6 Thank you. Any questions?

7 MS. HARRIS: I will try to be very
8 brief. Through the Chair, was your son at this
9 establishment night of the murder? Guy /TKPWAOEURL
10 no, he was there this past weekend.

11 MS. HARRIS: Is it fair to say
12 that he would recognize a lot of people who go to
13 this establishment? Glass glass no, I wouldn't say
14 that, but what concerns me is that there is among
15 youth is this draw of attention this drama, kids
16 like drama. Whenever they hear about drama brings
17 them in and it's reason for more concern because if
18 plays where it happened; let's check it out; let's
19 see what's going on. And it will flare sooner or
20 later.

21 MS. HARRIS: And it's your
22 position that they created a memorial with these
23 candles. So my question is: Is this an ongoing
24 danger is it like an attractive nuisance thing? I'm

1 not just speaking for myself, I speaking for the
2 people who are personally invested with the
3 deceased. They're going to see that as sacrilegious
4 and they will see that as a reason to wait to see
5 who did it and eventually something will happen.

6 MS. HARRIS: So that is exactly
7 what I was asking because there's two sides because
8 some people don't want it touched and other people
9 want to trash it? Glasses glass yes.

10 MS. HARRIS: Thank you very much.

11 MR. PICHARDO: Anymore questions?

12 Thank you.

13 My name is Emanuel Barus and I live at
14 the top of Carolina Avenue. I lived in Washington
15 Park -- I moved there when I was in high school. I
16 have family in the neighborhood, parents, cousins,
17 brothers, sisters, siblings. I can tell you all the
18 street off the top of my head and who lives where.
19 The gentleman behind me, I know his kids play on
20 street and ride their bikes. I know Mr. Brooks,
21 personally. He is a positive role model. I came
22 here, is because I actually want to take the tragedy
23 and try to turn it into something positive. I have
24 a five year old son so I can -- actually, I guess I

1 am familiar with how it is to worry about a child.
2 The neighborhood has had it problems, but it's not
3 something that happened in the past year. In my
4 personal experience there have been shootings on New
5 York Avenue, there have been shootings on Alabama
6 Avenue, Washington, I've also worked at the risk
7 youth. I am affiliated with DCYF. I think for me
8 I'm like somewhere in the middle. I do frequent
9 Ice, Pasha, Pearl and other establishments on
10 Federal Hill. The week before the incident happened
11 -- I know Kevin Mann. We didn't hangout, but I knew
12 him. This is a bigger issue than just Pasha. I
13 believe that Pasha has just been spotlighted. I
14 could probably off the top of my head name twenty
15 friends that have died from violence in the city.
16 But it's a bigger issue than just that. There is a
17 serious infrastructure problem. There is issues in
18 the neighborhood. There's also an issue with police
19 doing their job. There's issue with people getting
20 hurt. There's police officers just hanging around
21 in front my house and just talking. My experience
22 is that while is Pasha going on -- if there's been
23 an issue around the area for that long then the cops
24 know that there is an influx of people coming in

1 from different states or different areas; then the
2 cops should be concentrating on that area. I see
3 police taking naps, open harassment profiling.
4 There's a lot going on. I think we need instead of
5 focusing on the establishment we need to look at the
6 entire picture; because if we close Pasha it's going
7 to be somewhere else. Me, personally, I've met with
8 Sal. I walked with Sal in the neighborhood before
9 he opened up. I remember when the place was under
10 construction and I went in sat down with him. I
11 like the guy. If you don't have an entertainment
12 license owners can place CD's from different things
13 from the laptop. We go to Pasha because it's not
14 the downtown area. It's not the eighteen plus
15 crowd. I mean people -- the man that was here, he
16 was absolutely right, Washington Park has the
17 potential to be a -- it is a melting pot. I've seen
18 friends on friends that have killed other friends
19 walk in and shake hands. A lot of positive has
20 happened there. People from the East Side and
21 different gangs that when they're with other people
22 kind of have that proper -- I've seen those kind of
23 things.

24 SERGEANT TEJADA: Are you a

1 promoter?

2 MR. BARUS: I have promoted
3 before. I hang out with people that go to hangout a
4 Pasha I've gone there with at least twenty, thirty
5 neighborhood people that I've grown up with. It's
6 not just neighborhood coming people in it's people
7 like myself. Some people made different choices
8 growing up but we all meet at Pasha this was a place
9 that is a melting pot where you're not just in the
10 middle of South Providence or the middle of
11 downtown. It was more like safe haven. Its
12 unfortunate what happened.

13 MR. PICHARDO: You've got two
14 minutes. Just address us, please.

15 MR. BARUS: Those are my concerns
16 and I think it has to be look at as an overall
17 picture. I will be happy to speak to anyone here
18 and provide any suggestions.

19 MS. HARRIS: Unfortunately, the
20 scope of that testimony goes way beyond what we're
21 focusing on.

22 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you for your
23 insight and taking time --

24 MR. BARUS: One last thing, I'd

1 like to see more police being around all the time,
2 rather than, being at other places. Because I've
3 come out of there and it is my experience that
4 police don't show up. They are not showing up.
5 They are not in the area. They are not present.
6 They are not doing their job. The security has to
7 do with that property and we need more police
8 presence.

9 MR. MARTONE: I have a question
10 yeah so we heard testimony that there were three or
11 four different sets of gangs or --

12 MR. BARUS: There's more than
13 that. West End people from Boston. We have had a
14 female and people come up from New Jersey. She had
15 friends Boston it's a true melting pot everyone in
16 the surrounding areas.

17 MR. MARTONE: I mean, basically,
18 you're saying that having multiple gangs in a
19 particular establishment is not necessarily a
20 problem?

21 MR. BARUS: I do not think so.
22 It's even going to Ultra and other places and
23 different deejays that, I see, there are different
24 gangs in the same establishment. It's not a certain

1 type of establishment, the city -- the problem is
2 really allowing them to get back in and giving them
3 the opportunity to do something. This bigger than
4 any place you go. It is unfortunate and it is a
5 bigger issue and we have to look at the larger
6 picture.

7 MR. BROOKS: I will speak. I'll
8 be brief. /PW-B Beth Beth I'm the human resource
9 manager for Banana Gram we are 845 Allens Avenue and
10 we are diagonally across the street from Pasha.
11 Fortunately for us our employees are particularly
12 out of the building long before the gang crowd start
13 coming to Pasha. But we do come in work on a
14 regular basis especially after the weekend to beer
15 bottles and cognac bottles all kind of liquor
16 bottles on the side of our building on Carolina. In
17 fact, this morning at work I had to empty a cognac
18 bottle and throw it away. Our company owns a duplex
19 at 241, and 243 New York Avenue. Our tenants have
20 expressed to us there concern about leaving their
21 apartment after 8:00 at night. They have said the
22 noise level is horrific. Loud music, people
23 screaming as well as hearing gunshots and are very
24 concerned what is going to happen. They are very

1 worried about gunshots coming through the window.
2 Especially being afraid to leave their apartments
3 after 8:00 at night. They couldn't be here today so
4 we told them we would speak you on their behalf. I
5 think pretty much our thoughts that's a lot of
6 what's been said about alcohol bottles and whatnot
7 we just wanted to come in and let you know our
8 feelings.

9 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you, Beth,
10 for taking the time from the business perspective
11 and other residents in the area. It is important to
12 hear that voice. Thank you. Anyone else?

13 MS. HARRIS: Just thank you very
14 much for coming and that supports what people have
15 been saying and it's more evidence and we are happy
16 to hear it thank you.

17 MR. PICHARDO: Make sure that you
18 provide a name and address. Anyone else? Everett?

19 MR. BROOKS: I never do but I will
20 today. Basically, I'm not going to talk about what
21 was already spoken about this establishment. But
22 2013, when Pasha applied for this license; they came
23 before you folks and there was some opposition,
24 myself and at the time Lieutenant Oscar Perez who

1 was one of the commanding officers of the police
2 department. The Board heard their business plan.
3 Oscar and I put together a comprehensive plan of why
4 this establishment was not good for community and
5 the Board heard the plan and denied them without any
6 reservations because you knew it was a bad idea for
7 the neighborhood. They talked about fine dining,
8 chicken wings or whatever, it was a bad plan period.
9 Your predecessor Sergio, and also stated the fact
10 that they were talking about hookah and that they
11 had to have 51 percent of their sales in hookah in
12 order to operate. Again, you denied them. So they
13 appeal went to DBR and Sergio and myself and
14 Providence Police appealed to DBR not to overturn
15 your denial; but they did, but it was with
16 stipulations. No entertainment license, 1:00 a.m.
17 closing, I believe, and again, Sergio stated that 51
18 percent of their sales had to be hookah, which I
19 know is not happening, and also 21 plus, I believe
20 that is was the stipulations for them to operate.
21 There was still a lot of dialogue of how this place
22 shouldn't be operating. It was not a good fit for
23 the neighborhood, for the University and for the
24 businesses in the area. And I'm just going to stay,

1 I'm not going to reiterate what these people are
2 talking about but it was a bad fit and the Board,
3 and the police and City's Solicitor's Office knew
4 that wasn't a good fit.

5 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you for
6 testimony. Any questions?

7 MS. HARRIS: Through the Chair,
8 you said a couple of things I didn't know that there
9 was a condition of 21-plus?

10 MR. MARTONE: We'll check into
11 that.

12 MS. HARRIS: That's important.
13 The other thing as you know, to have hookah you have
14 to have by law 51 percent of your income.

15 MR. BROOKS: Right.

16 MS. HARRIS: So if they are more
17 alcohol for example they lose their hookah license.

18 MR. BROOKS: I can guarantee --
19 well, I can't guarantee, I will bet that they have
20 more alcohol sales than hookah at that
21 establishment.

22 MS. HARRIS: We can investigate
23 that. Thank you very much.

24 MR. PICHARDO: Please state your

1 name.

2 MS. SANDERSON: My name is Megan
3 Sanderson and I live at 201 New York Avenue. These
4 are letters from my neighbors that were not able to
5 attend because of work but they wanted to express
6 their concerns. I don't have any -- I would agree
7 with everything that has been said. I'm not going
8 to go over that again. I would just to appeal to
9 for you to understand what it feels like to live
10 there. I'm a single mom with two teenagers and a
11 four year old son. I'm a therapist. I have a
12 practice. I work at risk youth. I have a private
13 practice. I moved into that area, I bought the
14 house that I'm currently upside down in so I can't
15 leave. So that is my home. It feels very important
16 for if to be safe and it feels only fair that it
17 should be safe. I don't feel as if Pasha is caring
18 about the community and what it feels like to have
19 kids. I had to change my daughter's curfew because
20 I want her to be home earlier. I don't want her to
21 say in the car for one minute parked in front of our
22 house because people come down New York Avenue
23 shooting into a car. So when she comes home she has
24 to come home earlier and she has to get right out of

1 the car and it's scary, and it feels unsafe and
2 that's where we live, where my kids are living. We
3 have all have to live with that. I do not think
4 that this establishment is it thinking about us, and
5 I think about all the things people have said. That
6 they're not taking feedback from us. They're not
7 doing the things that they really care about us in
8 the community. I would participate in Pasha if it
9 was a restaurant in even hookah things that and I
10 would support any small business if they were
11 participating in our community; and I don't feel as
12 if they are. And it feels I terrible to be trapped
13 I am so upside down in that house I don't have a
14 choice to sell. I don't feel like I should feel
15 like that in my home.

16 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you. I
17 appreciate your testimony. Absolutely, no one
18 should feel trapped.

19 MS. SANDERSON: Now, I have to
20 attend a meeting at my son's school at Highlander.
21 I understand that the violence is a bigger issue
22 here, but we are trapped on all ends here and it
23 doesn't feel good.

24 MR. PICHARDO: Any questions?

1 MS. HARRIS: Through the Chair,
2 these are great that you were able to statements
3 from people that were not able to come.

4 MS. SANDERSON: They were a lot of
5 people who wanted to be able to come just so you
6 know, and a few more that didn't get to drop them
7 off in my mailbox.

8 MS. HARRIS: We you understand
9 that during the day and some people can't come to
10 the hearing. I can't tell you how strongly I feel.
11 Please put it in writing, because when we did
12 renewals as last year there were problems that we
13 knew were problems and yet we didn't have any record
14 and the licensee could come and say we are model
15 citizens with no complaints. So I think it's great
16 to keep doing it, but put it in writing.

17 MR. PICHARDO: Anyone else? You
18 raised your hand.

19 MS. STEELE: Yes.

20 MR. PICHARDO: I just think that
21 everyone single person here and to all of those
22 people who testified we own an extraordinary debt to
23 because those people are the people who are going to
24 going to make a difference, okay. And it is

1 critical, critical that this commission hears and
2 understand what they have said today because what
3 they have said is probably the most important thing
4 that you have heard in a very long time. So I thank
5 you all for doing what you're doing and please don't
6 stop. Thank you.

7 MR. PICHARDO: And what
8 organization are you from?

9 MS. STEELE: The Jewelry Board,
10 the Jewelry District, thank you.

11 MR. PICHARDO: Any other
12 testimony? I wanted to hear from police to do you
13 wish to make a statement?

14 SERGEANT TEJADA: Just a couple
15 things for the Board's benefit, and to the members
16 of the community I know that they also represent a
17 large number of residents that can't be here and
18 routine can't come to a Monday 1 p.m. Monday,
19 Wednesday, Thursday hearing. As Mr. Brooks
20 referenced, the police department in the course of
21 since it's been open they have come in twice to
22 request a BX License so in layman's terms a BX would
23 allow them to be open until 2:00 a.m. Based on our
24 opposition, the police department and Mr. Brooks who

1 was at both of those hearings and comes to many
2 hearings; this Board did not issue that 2:00 a.m.
3 licence, otherwise, we'd be having these problems
4 until 4:00 a.m. I don't know if this is the
5 appropriate place, but my unit comprises of myself
6 and two licensed detectives, two licensed
7 detectives, for a total of three of us, who are
8 responsible for a number of complaints for every
9 establishment that has a liquor license, tobacco
10 license or entertainment license or whatever type of
11 license that falls under our banner to monitor.
12 They have a history of at least one sale to underage
13 violation, underage possession of alcohol,
14 entertainment without a license; those are the kinds
15 of things that prevented that BX being issued. We
16 are aware that there are a number of quality of life
17 issues as well a lot of that information does get
18 passed onto patrol. But again, I think we see here
19 an issue where what kind of havoc an establishment
20 can reek on the patrol resources because in between
21 handing all of the major calls for service because
22 we do have to place them on higher priority urinating on
23 someone's lawn, while that's horrible quality of
24 life issue to deal with it kind of gets trumped by

1 shots fired, vehicles collisions or a domestic in
2 progress those types of things. So you can see
3 where an establishment like this is just going to
4 draw heavily on resources and unfortunately a lot of
5 times, if they can respond to those things they get
6 there late and those situations are certainty to
7 take into account when a place like this that has as
8 many complaints as this is open it's very difficult
9 as to bring for the some of the complaints whatever
10 was happening over and done with the complaints are
11 heard and just to go over a couple of things that
12 I'm aware of from the police department perspective
13 the Task Force has made apprehensions of people in
14 possession of firearms in the immediate vicinity
15 during times a liquor establishment would most
16 likely be open. And just for perspective, you have
17 places down the street Brass Monkey for a very long
18 time it wasn't open at all. The Brass Monkey is a
19 relatively new establishment. So that establishment
20 was not operating for a long time period when we
21 were having some of these problems. There's a
22 liquor store that was also being renovated and
23 closes at ten and eleven. And then you have What
24 Cheer which we never have any complaints of and has

1 a low capacity which I have never seen filled to the
2 gills. The only other establishment is you have the
3 pizza place that probably does mostly deliveries
4 after 11:00. Very seldom do I look in there and see
5 patrons sit there and hanging out. So there's
6 within a half mile radius there's no other bars and
7 establishments. So two occasions uniformed people
8 and the Task Force apprehended people with firearms.
9 One of the incidents which was referenced which was
10 twenty-seven shell cases was recovered. A number of
11 structures to the area was struck and a female in a
12 vehicle was struck by a gunshot. The problem with
13 that particular incident is that there is no way
14 again, common sense was referenced and certainly I
15 like to think that I have common sense with the
16 totality of the investigation of that there's no way
17 to hold Pasha responsible for it at that time. As
18 you can imagine many of the people that are
19 witnesses are not willing to come here, are not
20 willing to speak to us, and are not willing to
21 cooperate. Often times victims have no complaints
22 so no one is being charged with a crime. I think
23 that is a problem that can sometimes be overlooked
24 when these things happen. For a brief overview I

1 know that the community is concerned and I don't
2 want to leave you hanging out there with their
3 concerns and we understand you're frustration and we
4 are more than willing to investigate any complaints.
5 I have personally been out there and monitored their
6 closing times and we have brought complaints see
7 where those go.

8 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you very
9 much. Sergeant Tejada.

10 SERGEANT TEJADA: Just one more
11 thing the police would like to say Captain Oscar
12 Perez is still Captain, and Commander of the area.
13 There is also a new Lieutenant in your area and his
14 name is Lieutenant Irmania and I know that he has
15 reached out to many of you. And we certainly have
16 an interest in keep all neighbors safe and not just
17 one. You can reach out to him, you can reach out to
18 me through him and so on. And we will address any
19 concerns that you have.

20 LIEUTENANT IRMANIA: Henry
21 Irmania, new Lieutenant. I spoke to a number of
22 business owners and the community people and it's a
23 common thread. The problem is not at the bar but in
24 the community. They're parking in the streets it's

1 all been said. And I just want to point out a lot
2 of hookah bars in the city the problem seems to be
3 the type of clientele that this on is targeting
4 effect it's having on the community.

5 MR. PICHARDO: Thank you. And
6 seeing no other comments. I do want to say. Like I
7 said from the beginning one obviously this
8 establishment has had it's issues. Particularly,
9 when it came down shooting of a death of a young
10 man. You know, whether affiliated with a gang or
11 not the overall picture is that there are concerns
12 in the city and also, in the neighborhood. The
13 quality of life I wanted to make sure that one when
14 that happened and we the police came with
15 information to us and it gave us a reason to close
16 them down for a 72-hour cooling off period in any
17 situation like that no one knows what's taking place
18 during those times. We acted. We wanted to make
19 sure that the investigation went forward. After
20 that, many and several members of the community came
21 forward with complaints and also you know, very
22 frustrated. We wanted to make sure one, that your
23 voice, the voices of the community was heard and
24 two, you've heard many of the issues around the

1 neighborhood whether it's New York Avenue, Georgia,
2 Alabama or Allens Avenue. There is a larger
3 conversation that needs to take place for this
4 particular case we want to make sure that we heard
5 from the concerns in the nearby area particularly
6 when it came down to this establishment. Everybody
7 deserves the due process not just with hearsay, but
8 with evidence. And we want to make sure that the
9 Board heard from the community. As a result, I
10 think, that the community came forward and presented
11 their concerns and they are legitimate. No one
12 should feel that they are hostage or afraid to come
13 out. I have lived in Washington Park and I have
14 lived in many of the areas; and I know many of the
15 people in the neighborhood. And even to a certain
16 degree have knowing some of the young people that
17 are in trouble. At the end we want to make sure
18 that your voice is heard. You should take this as a
19 step to continue to be diligent in the community to
20 organize and to insure that you have a good
21 relationship with the businesses there and with
22 Johnson & Wales and the drinking establishment
23 because if this attitude continues particularly when
24 it comes to urinating outside effecting quality of

1 life that is something that you should reach out to
2 the police officer when there's a serious violation.
3 If there are other violations please feel free to
4 call the Licensing Board and they're recording the
5 complaints. They will take your name the complaint
6 and the establishment in the area so we can have a
7 track record. And lastly these establishments come
8 before us when there are issues and they also come
9 before us for renewal every year. So I would
10 encourage you to stay diligent and stay informed and
11 organized with the community, and work with city and
12 state officials. I know that someone is here from
13 the City of Providence that can really tie you into
14 other resources in the community. We want to make
15 sure you have a better quality of life in the
16 community. And in the end we don't want this
17 violence to continue to ruin our neighborhoods.
18 Thank you.

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