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GARY F. SANTOS, JR.
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MELISSA PAGLIARO,
CLERK OF THE BOARD

LICENSING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Salem Licensing Board was held on Monday, **September 28, 2020** at 6:00 p.m., via ZOOM, an online video conference call system. Present on call were: Chairman Gary Barrett, member Deb Greel and Gary Santo, Jr., Clerk of the Board, Melissa Pagliaro, Paralegal for the Legal Dept., Joanne Roomey and interim Special Investigator to the Board, Eric Manninen.

1. City Solicitor update on status of various Street Performer's Applications and current license holders for remainder of 2020. No vote anticipated on pending applications. Board of Health meeting set for Tuesday, Sept. 29th at which time the Board of Health may make regulations relative to street performing.

The Board discussed voting to authorize Solicitor and Clerk of Board to take necessary action to enforce any new Board of Health Regulation relative to street performers, such as sending out notices to performers and working with City Staff to locate alternative venues (Charlotte Forten Park or the Common for performers who can physically distance 25' from audience) if possible. Ms. Greel motioned to authorize Ms. Pagliaro & Ms. Rennard authorize to handle issues related to this matter. Mr. Santo seconded. Chairman Barrett said motion carries.

Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 3-0.

2. Application for a Transfer of an Annual Wine & Malt Package Store License at 109 Bridge St. Applicant: Maruti Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a New Market. License currently held by Huong N. Le d/b/a/ New Market.

Attorney Thomas Truax was present with the applicants, Dhruv Patel. He said that the applicants have had many years of experience working at their cousin's store in Salem on Lafayette St. He noted that they are purchasing the entire building not just the liquor license. He said that it will be family working the store and they are all TIPS certified and he will get those certificates to Melissa. Ms. Greel motion to approve. Mr. Santo seconded. Mr. Barrett said motion carries. Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 3-0.

3. Application for a Transfer of an Annual All Alcohol License at 94 Lafayette St. Applicant: MP Restaurant and Bar Corp. d/b/a MP Restaurant and Bar. License currently held by SKF Hospitality Group, Inc. d/b/a Stella's Restaurant & Wine Bar.

The applicant contacted Ms. Pagliaro today and asked that this be continued until the next meeting. Ms. Greel motion to approve continuing. Mr. Santo seconded. Mr. Barrett said motion carries. Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 3-0.

4. Application for two Sub-licensee Fortunetelling Licenses at Crow Haven Corner, 125 Essex St. Applicants: Candance Ouilette Gaumond and Nial Hartnett.

Ms. Pagliaro said that both applications are complete and just pending CORI results. Ms. Greel motion to approve pending CORI's. Mr. Santo seconded. Mr. Barrett said motion carries. Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 3-0.

5. Application for a Class II Auto License at 50 Broadway (Continued from prior meeting). Applicant: Prestige Auto Sales, Inc. Applicant seeking authorization to sell up to ten vehicles.

The applicant was not present for the meeting. Ms. Greel said that the Board needs to see a better schematic of the property. Mr. Barrett agreed they want to see more than just hand drawing. He said without the applicant here they will carry the matter over until the next meeting. Ms. Greel made a motion to approve continuing to October 13, 2020. Mr. Santo seconded. Mr. Barrett said motion carries. Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 3-0.

Heather Famico of 195 Essex St. suggested they obtain site plans from the Planning Dept. to assist them.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 14, 2020. Ms. Greel motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Santo seconded. Mr. Barrett said motion carries. Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 3-0.

7. New Business/Old Business:

New: Complaints regarding noise at Hotel Salem, Essex Street and Village Tavern, Essex Street. Vote to schedule either a hearing or a discussion.

Officer Manninen said that readings were taken at Village Tavern last Friday and Saturday night, both nights between 9:30 & 10:30pm. He said Friday night registered between 62-64 and Saturday night between 62-65. Ms. Greel asked if the establishment know the PD was there. Officer Manninen said he does not believe so. He said at the time of the readings there were no issues or violations. He said that there were no readings from Hotel Salem but there were no calls or no issues.

Heather Famico of 195 Essex St. asked why it is up to the Investigator and not the Board to determine if there is action. Ms. Pagliaro said that usually the Investigator brings the information to the Board and requests either a discussion or hearing based on the findings. She said the Board can also decide weather or not to take other action. Ms. Famico said that when the Village Tavern was originally given permission for outdoor entertainment, they violated three days later. She said there is a CAD report by the Police Dept. She said the Hotel Salem complainant has called for years and there is no record of those calls. She said at Village Tavern people are not even wearing masks. She said it is her opinion that both of establishments should at least be spoken to. She said that the speakers on the Village Tavern patio were still playing at 12:40am, ignoring regulations. She said she has video. Mr. Barrett said he has no problem calling them in for a discussion before any issues escalate. Ms. Greel motioned to have both restaurants in at the next meeting for a discussion. Mr. Santo seconded. Mr. Barrett said motion carries. Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 3-0.

Mr. Barrett asked Office Manninen if there were any issues at the Hotel over the weekend. Officer Manninen said there were not. Mr. Santo asked if the speakers had been facing into the patio or out. Officer Manninen said they appeared to be in. Ms. Greel & Mr. Barrett agreed it is best to have a discussion and get ahead of any problem. Heather Famico said that she lives in the same building as the person who complained about Hotel Salem. She said the sound carries differently as it bounces off the brick more than what you hear down on street level.

8. Adjournment: Mr. Santo motioned to adjourn. Ms. Greel seconded. Mr. Barrett said motion carries. Vote was confirmed by a roll call vote, 3-0.