

CITY OF WARWICK  
FRANK J. PICOZZI, MAYOR

CHARLES BENSON  
Chairman

MICHAEL GILBERT  
Vice Chairman

JAMES PAOLUCCI  
Clerk



POLICE DEPARTMENT  
99 Veterans Memorial Drive  
401-468-4200

FIRE DEPARTMENT  
111 Veterans Memorial Drive  
401-468-4000

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**March 14, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM**  
**SECOND FLOOR, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

**AGENDA**

At 6:02 p.m., the Board of Public Safety opened its regular meeting. Present were Colonel Brad Connor, Chairman Charlie Benson, Vice Chairman Mike Gilbert, Clerk Jim Paolucci, Assistant Solicitor Wyatt Brochu, and Recording Secretary Lisa Ferolito.

1. Call to Order – Board Chairperson
2. Roll Call – Board Clerk (See above)

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION**

1. Fire Chief Peter McMichael to recommend transfers, promotions, and retirements. Names to be presented at the meeting.

**ACTION: None was taken, as there was nothing to report this evening.**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

Board Business Police Department - Review, Discussion and/or Potential Action  
and/or Vote:

1. The minutes of the Board of Public Safety meeting held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 to be submitted for approval.

**ACTION:** Chairman Benson made a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

2. Colonel Bradford E. Connor to recommend appointments, promotions, transfers and reassignments; names to be submitted and discussed at the meeting.

**ACTION:** No action was taken, as there were none to report this evening.

3. Colonel Bradford E. Connor to recommend retirements and resignations; names to be submitted and discussed at the meeting.

Letter of resignation from Officer Wilfredo Ortiz Beriguete, effective Monday, March 13, 2023.

Letter of resignation from Officer Patrick Holmes, effective Thursday, March 23, 2023.

**ACTION:** Chairman Benson made a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

## **LICENSES AND PERMITS**

All licenses are subject to receipt of all required paperwork, all State and Local permits, and compliance with all stipulations, rules and regulations as required by the Board of Public Safety.

1. Liquor License (Class F)  
David Ricard  
St. Gregory the Great Church  
Being held at the church  
April 22, 2023  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

2. Liquor License (Class F)  
Daniel Hodge  
E.S. Rhodes Elementary PTA  
Being held in Pawtuxet Park  
May 19, 2023  
5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

3. Holiday Sales (Corporation Change) Christmas Tree Shop, LLC  
d/b/a Christmas Tree Shop  
300 Quaker Lane

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval pending building, fire, city and state taxes. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve pending building, fire, city and state taxes. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

4. Holiday Sales (Corporation Change) Shivam RI Hotels, LLC  
d/b/a Sonesta ES Suites  
500 Kilvert Street

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval pending building, fire, city and state taxes and Rhode Island Department of Health approval. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve pending building, fire, city and state taxes, and Rhode Island Department of Health approval. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

5. Second Class Victualer (Corporation Change) Shivam RI Hotels, LLC  
d/b/a Sonesta ES Suites  
500 Kilvert Street

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval pending building, fire, city and state taxes, and Rhode Island Department of Health approval. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve pending building, fire, city and taxes, and Rhode Island Department of Health approval. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

6. Second Class Victualer Joe Boisvert  
163 Kilvert, LLC  
d/b/a Joe's Pizza

Chairman Benson: Okay. We've, you know, from the last meeting. We had gotten a letter from your attorney; we understand the situation that's going on. So, um, they've recommended approval. Anybody can speak if they want, but, um, you don't need to.

Mr. Armand Lusi: Does the whole city tax issue come into play?

Vice Chairman Gilbert: It's a separate issue, not for this Board's purview.

Chairman Benson: Yup, we've been advised by our counsel that it's a separate issue between the building owner, who's not responsible for it, and the person who's buying it is not responsible for it. So, in the Board's, we thought originally there was a question as to whether we could approve it. We've been told that because it was a lessee, lessor, whatever the term, we are able to approve it.

Vice Chairman Gilbert: It doesn't mean the tax issue is necessarily resolved, it's just that holding up the permit that you're looking for before the Board is not something that's under our purview.

Chairman Benson: So as long as we know that we, it's our right to approve it - -

Mr. Lusi [Interposing]: Right.

Chairman Benson: And we've got a recommendation from the Chief to approve it, we'll go forward.

Mr. Joe Boisvert: So it's no longer attached to the building?

Assistant Solicitor Brochu: It was never attached to the building.

Mr. Lusi: Is that because it's not a lien able tax?

Assistant Solicitor Brochu: It's because it was a tangible tax, not a real estate tax.

Mr. Lusi: So why is it subject to city taxes? What taxes are you referring to?

Assistant Solicitor Brochu: If the applicant owed any city taxes. He could owe other city taxes, I don't know.

Gentleman in Audience: So this is separate and distinct from the owner of the building?

Chairman Benson: No, from the former lessor of the building.

Mr. Lusi: Right. He was the debtor; my old tenant accumulated eighteen years- worth of tangible tax.

Assistant Solicitor Brochu: Right, right. So you don't owe the tax.

Mr. Lusi: No.

Assistant Solicitor Brochu: The applicant doesn't owe the tax.

Chairman Benson: So that's why we've been advised that we can vote on this.

Gentleman in Audience: So the issue is cleared with Mr. Lusi right now, as compared to the prior renter on the property.

Assistant Solicitor Brochu: Right.

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval pending building, fire, city and state taxes and Rhode Island Department of Health approval. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve pending building, fire, city and state taxes, and Rhode Island Department of Health approval. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the

7.      Game of Chance/Raffle      Tanya Murphy  
Helping Hands Foundation  
Being held at Goddard Park  
July 15, 2023  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval pending Rhode Island State Police approval. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve pending Rhode Island State Police approval. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

8.      Live Entertainment (Outside)      Holly Weber  
Warwick Parks & Rec.  
Egg Hunt being held at City Park  
April 1, 2023  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval pending traffic. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve pending traffic. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

9.      Live Entertainment (Outside)      Daniel Hodge  
E.S. Rhodes Elementary PTA  
Event being held in Pawtuxet Park  
May 19, 2023  
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval pending fire. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve pending fire. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

**10. Live Entertainment (Outside)**

Matthew McIntosh  
Warwick Assembly of God  
d/b/a Hope Day Warwick  
Event being held at Bend St. Complex  
June 3, 2023  
11:00 a.m.

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval pending fire. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve pending fire. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

**11. Parade**

Daniel Hodge  
E.S. Rhodes Elementary PTA  
It Takes a Village 5k  
Starting & Ending at Pawtuxet Park  
May 19, 2023  
5:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval pending traffic and Rhode Island Department of Transportation approval. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve pending traffic and Rhode Island Department of Transportation approval. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

**12. Parade**

Amber Sadlier  
Ragnar Events, LLC  
Ragnar Relay New England  
Starting at Post Road, East Greenwich  
May 19-20, 2023  
6:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval pending traffic and Rhode Island Department of Transportation approval. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve pending traffic and Rhode Island Department of Transportation approval. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

**13. Parade**

Drew Davis  
National MS Society  
Charity Bike Ride  
Starting & Ending at URI  
June 11, 2023  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval pending traffic and Rhode Island Department of Transportation approval. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve pending traffic and Rhode Island Department of Transportation approval. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

**14. Block Party**

Shawn Dow  
Bad Mouth Bikes  
Being held at 2329 Post Road  
April 22, 2023  
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Benson: Just give us a second to look at the traffic study.

Ms. Samantha Cram: Sure.

Chairman Benson: Where on Post Road is this?

Mr. Shawn Dow: 2329 Post Road. It's the old Thrifty building.

Vice Chairman Gilbert: Yeah, it's between Dave's Bar & Grill and the car wash. Right next door to the Ocean State Car Wash.

Chairman Benson: Oh, all right.

Clerk Paolucci: What are you expecting for a turnout? Is this the first time you're doing this?

Ms. Cram: No, it's the second time doing it. We're still fairly new.

Mr. Dow: It wasn't as big.

Ms. Cram: Yeah, we're still a fairly new business for a local business, but we also have Joe, who, this is his second year doing it with us. I mean, it's fairly hard to predict what the outcome will be. We do have a Facebook page, and as you can see, those are also hard to predict. People say that they are going to come but we never know - -

Mr. Dow [Interposing]: We had between 200 and 300 last year.

Ms. Cram: Yeah. But um, as far as the outcome was concerned, it is all outdoors and having a detail would help a lot. If you saw our signatures. I don't know if you guys wanted to - -

Vice Chairman Gilbert [Interposing]: Yeah, I'd like to take a look at that if you have it.

Ms. Cram: Sure, of course. This is all of our neighboring properties.

Chairman Benson: You've already put in for the detail for that day?

Ms. Cram: Yes.

Vice Chairman Gilbert: Were there any reported issues or complaints last year, Colonel? Do you know?

Colonel Connor: No, I don't know.

Chairman Benson: And those are all neighboring businesses that are in support?

Ms. Cram: Yeah. Absolutely.

Clerk Paolucci: Do you advise for pre-registration or does that not work for you?

Mr. Dow: No, we've never done that. It's open to the public.

Vice Chairman Gilbert: What day of the week is the event?

Mr. Dow: Saturday.

Vice Chairman Gilbert: Saturday.

Chairman Benson: Is it an extra charge for the, um, a cruiser to be there?

Colonel Connor: If they have a cruiser, it's an extra \$25 per hour.

Chairman Benson: Okay. I'd feel a little more comfortable with a cruiser there, just because it kind of, even though you'll have an officer there, if a cruiser is there it's kind of like a traveling billboard for it. Is it at the officer's discretion though?

Recording Secretary Ferolito: On the application it says that they want a cruiser.

Chairman Benson: It does say that?

Recording Secretary Ferolito: It did say that on the actual application on the front page.

Chairman Benson: Okay, so you did want a cruiser anyway?

Recording Secretary Ferolito: Licensing said they want a cruiser.

Chairman Benson: Oh, Licensing said they want a cruiser.

Ms. Cram: Oh, okay, sorry. We had an officer come out to the location.



Mr. Dow: He walked around and looked at everything.

Ms. Cram: He said we probably would need only one detail with no cruiser, but if we require a cruiser and it's for the public safety, then we're okay with that.

Chairman Benson: Yeah, I think it would make sense.

Vice Chairman Benson: Chief, what's your feeling on that?

Colonel Connor: It depends on, do you have anybody intending on parking across the street, or is everyone parking in your lot?

Ms. Cram: Everyone's parking in our lot. We do not intend on anybody parking in anyone else's lot.

Mr. Dow: We have a huge lot in the back.

Colonel Connor: If you were going to cross Post Road, I would mandate a cruiser; but if you're not, the only thing that police car does is act like a deterrent for crime. You're going to have police officer walking around, talking to everybody anyway. But, it's the Board's decision.

Chairman Benson: Well that was my feeling, just because it acts as a deterrent. I know the police officer will be walking around, but with a crowd of 300 and a police officer walking around, someone may not see it, but I think they would see a strategically parked cruiser. That's my feeling.

Mr. Joe Boisvert: That's 300 coming and going too. At no time was there 300 people.

Ms. Cram: Right, and we also have a lot of volunteers that will be there with staff shirts that will be assisting us, and they're all, um, pretty big people that are willing to you know - -

Chairman Benson [Interposing]: Motorcycle guys.

Ms. Cram: Yeah.

Laughter is heard.

Colonel Connor: This is going to be a fluid event from 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at night. Not because it's motorcycles or anything, but because it's in a hub of Warwick where police cars are driving by all of the time. So, if a Sergeant drives by and you have 500 people, and things are out of control, they're probably going to make the determination for you guys to hire another detail, or they're going to send somebody there. We'll be able to have the detail officer plus the Sergeant monitor the situation.

Vice Chairman Gilbert: Being that it's a Saturday afternoon, there would probably be detail cruisers available should they need to add one.

**ACTION:** Colonel Connor recommended approval pending building and fire. Chairman Benson made a motion to approve pending building and fire. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

<b>15.</b> Midnight to 5:00 a.m. (Corporation Change)	Shivam RI Hotels, LLC d/b/a Sonesta ES Suites 500 Kilvert Street
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<b>16.</b> Rooming House (Corporation Change)	Shivam RI Hotels, LLC d/b/a Sonesta ES Suites 500 Kilvert Street
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<b>17.</b>	Mobile Food Peddler (New)	Manuel Leander Casa Tia Rosa
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18. Continuation of discussion with Anthony Contillo of Grow Generation regarding operating without a CO. Possible action taken.

Chairman Benson: At our last meeting we had a discussion with them about a certificate of occupancy, where they had not had one in quite a while. We had discussed the fact that in September we had approved something pending the certificate of occupancy, so they had notice. We had fined them \$100 a month, and we gave them the ability to come back to tonight's meeting with a certificate of occupancy. We had warned them that failure to do so could result in action taken, to include up to closing down the business. Any discussion?

Vice Chairman Gilbert: Nothing further.

Clerk Paolucci: So nothing? They were notified. No response at all Lisa?

Recording Secretary Ferolito: Nope.

Chairman Benson: I would make a motion then that we gave them plenty of notice, we were nice to them, gave them a break. I would make a motion that they be shut down until the certificate of occupancy is obtained.

Vice Chairman Gilbert: Second.

Chairman Benson: All in favor?

Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, Clerk Paolucci: Aye.

**ACTION:** An officer was sent out to shut the establishment down. At that point the certificate of occupancy was produced.

19. Public comment

**ACTION:** There was no public comment.

At 6:22 p.m. the Board entered into Executive Session.

At 6:35 p.m. the Board closed its Executive Session, sealed the minutes, and recorded the votes.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA**

1. Board Business - Review, Discussion and/or Potential Action and/or Vote; Possible Motion(s) to convene into Closed/Executive Session; The Board of Public Safety may convene into Closed / Executive Session to discuss, take possible action, and/or vote pursuant to the relevant

requirements of R.I. General Laws § 42-46-5(a) Subsection (3) regarding matters of security – Applications pursuant to R.I. General Laws § 11-47-11 and City of Warwick Ordinance Article IV, Division 1, Sec. 6-72: Concealed Carry Weapon Permit. Discussion and/or Potential Action and/or Vote from Executive Session concerning the following Applications:

- a. Applicant 1 – Request for Weapons Carry Permit (NEW - EXECUTIVE)

**ACTION:** This item has been postponed to March 28, 2023.

- b. Applicant 2 – Request for Weapons Carry Permit (RENEWAL - EXECUTIVE)

**ACTION:** Chairman Benson made a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

- c. Applicant 3 – Request for Weapons Carry Permit (NEW - EXECUTIVE)

**ACTION:** Chairman Benson made a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

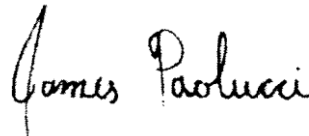
- d. Applicant 4 – Request for Weapons Carry Permit (NEW – EXECUTIVE)

**ACTION:** Chairman Benson made a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

- e. Applicant 5 – Request for Weapons Carry Permit (NEW - EXECUTIVE)

**ACTION:** Chairman Benson made a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Gilbert seconded the motion. Chairman Benson, Vice Chairman Gilbert, and Clerk Paolucci voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

At 6:36 p.m. this meeting was adjourned.



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**James Paolucci, Clerk**