

**MINUTES  
LICENSE COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 29, 2014**

**A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE Revere License Commission was called to order by Chairman Joseph W. Quarantello, Jr., at 3:00 p.m. on January 29, 2014. Vice Chairperson Linda Guinasso, Commissioner John M. LaCroix, Police Lt. Sean Randall, Liaison with the Revere License Commission, and Maggie Haney, Recording Secretary present.**

**VOTED ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**SHOW CAUSE HEARING:**

Show Cause Hearing for Wonderland Entertainment, LLC d/b/a **Wonderland**, 1290 North Shore Road, Charles Delpidio, Manager, regarding violation of 2 a.m. closing time, and requiring several police officers to clear out patrons after closing finally occurred. **This matter was continued from the meeting of January 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Mr. Charles Delpidio and Mr. Taras Hrabec appeared for the hearing. Also present were Sgt. Mike Mason and Officer Douglas Zingali of the Revere Police. Sgt. Mason had been the patrol supervisor that night, and Off. Zingali had been the detail officer at Wonderland.

Sgt. Mason was asked to provide a recap of the night's events. At approximately 1:10 a.m. on January 11<sup>th</sup>, the detail officer had called for backup to remove a crowd of people outside the club who were being denied entrance due to intoxication. As a follow-up to that incident, Sgt. Mason drove his patrol car to Wonderland at approximately 1:50 a.m. to assist in ensuring that patrons departed in an orderly fashion, if required. He observed patrons slowly departing the establishment, but at 2:20, they were still departing, so he approached Wonderland security and asked why there were still patrons inside after 2:00 a.m. Security responded by making efforts to hasten the departure of their patrons, and the crowd became sufficiently obstreperous that it required the backup of all units on patrol, which was, at that time, 6 police, including the detail officer. Many of the patrons had empty or partially empty containers of alcoholic beverages placed on the ground by their cars, and seemed to be highly intoxicated. Sgt. Mason also smelled burning marijuana. It is his opinion that, had they had more officers, they could have made at least two dozen arrests. In the absence of more officers, they concentrated on ensuring a safe dispersal of the patrons. Sgt. Mason commended the restraint of his officers in a difficult situation. While it is not directly related to the specific incident, Sgt. Mason described several incidents throughout the city, culminating in a call from the Comfort Inn to disperse an unruly crowd – which again needed the efforts of all available units – from their establishment, resulting in two arrests. All of these incidents involved patrons of Wonderland, which was ascertained by asking the people involved.

Officer Zingali spoke about the first incident, which he described as a relatively minor case of needing one additional officer to help disperse an intoxicated group of about ten people who were being denied entrance. He added that the club has a very strict policy of not allowing intoxicated people to enter. He has been working details for the club for approximately seventeen years, and in his experience, it has long been an unwritten rule that the club has until 2:30 to clear their patrons from the building, although the last call is strict at 1:30, with lights on and drinks off the table at 1:45 and any music stopped at 2:00 (live music ends at 1:00). Sgt. Mason was not under the assumption of a grace period. Both officers agreed that the management and security of the club had been helpful and responsive in the event. When asked if he felt that the police were in danger at any time, Sgt. Mason responded that it was a bad crowd, which his experience led him to believe had the potential to become dangerous. Because of this, coupled with their manpower limitations, the officers chose to use a more low-key approach to dispersing the crowd. It was determined that there were approximately 35 – 40 people inside the building at 2:20, all clustered around the coat check area. The question was raised of whether there was a sufficient police detail: Off. Zingali replied that there was only the one, but he blamed this on the promoter, for misrepresenting the expected crowd.

Mr. Delpidio and Mr. Hrabec were invited to speak. Before they began, Chairman Quarantello reiterated his concerns: that this is the second incident of unruly crowds blamed on promoter issues; that the move to 2 a.m. closing had been predicated upon good management of crowds at closing time; he has worries about putting people – both club security and police – in danger, and leaving the city unattended while all police resources are dealing with Wonderland's closing crowds; and this lack of clarity about closing times. Mr. Delpidio first apologized to both the Commission and the Police for the incident. In response to questions, he informed the Commission that there were 297 people in the club that night, with 14 security people in all, including managers. He feels that the promoter misrepresented the character of the expected crowd, and stated that the promoter will never be allowed back in their venue. This promoter has worked with their organization for ten years, but all prior events have been in Boston. Mr. Delpidio added that he had not been certain that they must be completely closed by 2:00; he, too, had believed that he had a grace period until 2:30, and he apologized for closing late. His understanding was that live music ends at 1:00, last call is at 1:30, and lights go on at 1:45 – he only differed with the Commission in thinking that he had a grace period in which to clear out patrons. The Commission did not agree with this reasoning. Chairman Quarantello asked about operational planning changes that might prevent

future occurrences of this sort of incident. Commissioner Guinasso spoke of the impact these incidents have upon the neighborhood and the city as a whole. There does not seem to have been identifiable over-serving within the establishment, nor the smoking of marijuana; as far as can be determined, that seems to have been outside. Mr. Delpidio earnestly protested that he would never allow marijuana smoking within his establishment, and the Commission was inclined to believe him.

Lt. Randall, having met with the Chief of Police and Off. Zingali, told the Commission what the police would prefer to see for security. They would like to see more than one officer on detail at every event, to which Mr. Delpidio readily agreed. The police would also like to see an additional detail officer for every 250 people anticipated. Mr. Delpidio said that the owners would need to be consulted for that decision. Officer Zingali addressed the issue of whether Revere police can meet the demand for detail officers, and he also spoke on behalf of the Wonderland management, saying he has found them reasonable to work with, never balking at whatever security measures the police requested. Officer Zingali also said that he feels this last year, with the new management, has seen significant improvements in event control. He also assumed some responsibility for any confusion about the closing time, as he also believed they had a grace period to clear patrons.

Commissioner LaCroix suggested that a letter be sent to all on-premises alcohol license-holders, and the Revere police, reminding them all of the closing regimen. Chairman Quarantello established that the number of patrolling officers is reduced by 2 at 2:00 a.m.

Upon a motion duly made by Chairman Quarantello, and seconded by Commissioner LaCroix, it was VOTED to roll back Wonderland's closing hour from 2:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. for ninety days.

Wonderland Entertainment, LLC  
d/b/a **Wonderland**  
1290 North Shore Road  
Charles Delpidio, Manager

**Application for a Special One-Day Entertainment License:** Application of Wonderland Entertainment, LLC d/b/a Wonderland, 1290 North Shore Road, Charles Delpidio, Manager, for a special One-Day License for 18+ musical event for women only to be held on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 8 p.m. – 1 a.m. Entertainment to be a Latin concert by Plan B. **This matter was continued from the meeting of January 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Mr. Charles Delpidio and Mr. Taras Hrabec appeared for the application. Plan B is a live band playing Latin music, largely love songs, who have a large female following. They expect 800 – 1000 patrons for this event. Under-age patrons will be kept within a separate area, away from drinking. The management will discuss security with Revere police before the event.

With the change of closing hours, the live music would end at 12:00 a.m. However, upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Guinasso, and seconded by Commissioner LaCroix, it was VOTED to allow the live music to continue until 12:30 a.m. for this one event only.

Upon a motion duly made by Commissioner LaCroix, and seconded by Commissioner Guinasso, it was VOTED to approve the application, with the stipulation that Wonderland management meet with Revere police to develop a security plan that is acceptable to them.

Following the foregoing, there being no further business to come before the Board upon Motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

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Joseph W. Quarantello, Jr., Chairman

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Maggie Haney, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the meeting of January 29, 2014