

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION  
SEMI-ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING

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Proceedings had in the above-entitled case before Chairman Andrew J. Deloney, Commissioner Teri L. Quimby, Commissioner Edward Gaffney, Commissioner Edward Clemente, held at the offices of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, 25680 West Eight Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan, on Thursday, June 2, 2016.

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C O N T E N T S

SPEAKERS:

PAGE

Marie A. Hansen, MI Alcohol Policy  
Promoting Health & Safety 4  
Tony Mitchell, MSA 7

IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Brown, Attorney, Carlin Edwards Brown  
Brett Visner, Dir. Of Pub. Affairs, MBW Wholesalers  
Charlie Cove, Dan Henry Dist.  
A.J. Mathews, West Side Beer Distrib.  
Jason Canvasser, Attorney, Clark Hill PC  
Dan Papineau, Dir. Assoc. Food & Petroleum Dealers  
John Roskopp, HR Dir. Petitpren, Inc.  
G. Chris Bernard, Attorney, Bodman, PLC  
Joanie O'Sullivan-Butler, John P. O'Sullivan Dist.  
Brian Pizzuti, RNDC

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Mary Ann Donley, Regional Mgr. Enforcement Div.  
Barb Subastian, Regional Mgr. Enforcement Div.

1 Thursday, June 2, 2016 - 1:06 p.m.

2 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Call this meeting of  
3 Liquor Control Commission to order. Commission  
4 welcomes you to our first of our two Semi-Annual Public  
5 Hearings of 2016 as called for in Section 215 of the  
6 Michigan Liquor Control Code.

7 This hearing is being held to provide a  
8 public forum for airing complaints and comments with  
9 respect to the administration of the Liquor Control  
10 Code.

11 Four of the five Commissioners are present:  
12 Commissioners Clemente, Quimby, Gaffney and myself  
13 Commissioner Deloney are present. Commissioner Olshove  
14 is not present for today's hearing.

15 For those of you have indicated a desire to  
16 speak, this Public Hearing is being reported, so please  
17 state your name and the organization that you  
18 represent, if any, to the Commission. This will be a  
19 great assistants to us as well as to the hearing  
20 reporter as we create the appropriate record for the  
21 hearing.

22 If you have any questions of a specific  
23 nature, you may want to talk personally with one of us  
24 or staff at the conclusion of the hearing, we'll limit  
25 comments to five minutes. So we will go ahead and get

1 started.

2 First we have Marie Hansen from the Michigan  
3 Alcohol Policy Promoting Health and Safety.

4 MS. HANSEN: Marie Hansen from Michigan  
5 Alcohol Policy Promoting Health and Safety. I'm happy  
6 to be here today and thank you for all the work you do.  
7 We are small in number today speaking of the Health and  
8 Safety people, but I want to reiterate how we are very  
9 happy to have the public hearings going back and forth.  
10 We believe right now that we probably have more Health  
11 and Safety outfits per capita here in Southeast  
12 Michigan than any other place, and even though there  
13 are some big conflicts today that kept people away,  
14 next year, you know they're out there. Oakland County  
15 now has 17 local coalitions that work together and  
16 there's many also in actual Detroit. So, this is a  
17 good opportunity. We talk about it all year long; this  
18 is a good opportunity to talk to you.

19 This year for the first time we feel like  
20 we're seeing more parents, and I'm not seeing a lot but  
21 every -- many of the coalitions are reporting somebody  
22 who has talked about serving alcohol at a graduation  
23 party. I can tell you that Michigan has been very  
24 strong in terms of reducing underage drinking, the  
25 stats show this. We get good police support and

1 parents support around graduation. Enough of us have  
2 experienced tragedies that it's just been a culture  
3 that said let's camp down on that and not sell and not  
4 rent hotel rooms and not have alcohol in peoples homes,  
5 but this year for the first time some people are  
6 bringing it up and suggesting they might do that, and  
7 so this is some conversation among high school parents  
8 and we're doing our part with that but I think that we  
9 believe that it is a reflection of a bigger picture in  
10 Michigan among adults.

11 If you look at the governor's dashboard it's  
12 clearly going in the wrong direction in terms of heavy  
13 drinking; that's a concern to us and I don't know if  
14 it's a concern to him but it is to us.

15 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: I don't mean to interrupt,  
16 but did you say having drinking or heavy drinking?

17 MS. HANSEN: Heavy drinking, and Michigan is  
18 now higher than many other states for adult kind of  
19 overconsumption. I personally think it's things like  
20 Grand Rapids, the beer city. I am shocked at that. I  
21 grew up in Michigan and Grand Rapids really wasn't  
22 strongly associated with beer. I understand economic  
23 development and all that kind of stuff, but that  
24 billboard bothers me, it sends a message that I can't  
25 imagine Grand Rapids wants to send but they are, so

1           there it is.

2                        You know Lansing has alcohol at our Potter  
3           Park Zoo fundraiser. You all know where all the  
4           licenses are going that are in places they've never  
5           been before, so it's much more visible, and I think  
6           that that changes culture and attitude.

7                        We are following the legislation that would  
8           propose a lid on SDM's; we're ambivalent about it,  
9           truthfully. We have not decided in terms of where we  
10          really want to be but we're just watching it, on the  
11          one hand limit is good; on the other hand, one license  
12          per thousand people? A third of Michigan adult  
13          residents don't consume any alcohol, and another 40  
14          percent consume it very moderately so who are you  
15          selling to, and I think there's even a kind of a  
16          commercial question on this; how long is this going to  
17          be a lucrative business to get into if there's a  
18          license -- if there's so many licenses so available.  
19          We also know from all the research the more available  
20          alcohol is the more impact it has on health and safety.  
21          So this is not a new message from us to you but we're  
22          just kind of reiterating it as a concern and something  
23          that maybe we should all be talking about.

24                        We appreciate the conversation about  
25          enforcement and hope we can continue on that, we think

1 that may be part of it although I also think the other  
2 part is the promotion out there. Thank you very much  
3 for your time today.

4 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Thank you.

5 We did receive -- Marie you did mention  
6 there's an event going on in Lansing today apparently  
7 in regard to substances abuse and addiction, and Mike  
8 Tobias who often times appears at these hearings did  
9 send me an e-mail earlier today indicating that he  
10 would not be able to be present; however he did wish  
11 to -- he did send along an e-mail message that he  
12 wishes to have as part of the record. We'll make sure  
13 that's associated with the record of this hearing.

14 The next person who indicates a desire to  
15 speak is Tony Mitchell, Michigan Spirits Association.

16 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you. Good afternoon  
17 Commissioners. On behalf of the Michigan Spirits  
18 Association, we just wanted to thank the Commission for  
19 all of your hard work and working with us not only for  
20 the best interest of the industry in the state, but  
21 also for the health and the welfare of the citizens as  
22 we both work diligently and responsibly and make  
23 sure we're doing the right thing in the spirits  
24 industry. The entire Commission's been very open in  
25 working with us and we really appreciate that. That's

1 all we wanted to say today.

2 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Thank you very much.

3 I believe that is all the cards of folks  
4 indicating a desire to speak, but we have A.J. Mathews,  
5 West Side Beer Distributors not wishing to speak; good  
6 afternoon. Jason Canvasser with Clark Hill, good  
7 afternoon. Dan Papineau, Associated Food and Petroleum  
8 Dealers; there he is back there, good to see you Dan.  
9 Charlie Cove, Dan Henry Distributors. Brett Visner,  
10 Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association. John  
11 Roskopp, Petitpren, Incorporated, good afternoon.  
12 Chris Bernard with the Bodman firm, good afternoon.  
13 Mike Brown, Carlin Edwards and Brown, good afternoon.

14 Are there any other cards from anyone who did  
15 not put one in who either have a desire to speak or  
16 identified at the hearing today?

17 Could you state your name for the record  
18 please?

19 MS. O'SULLIVAN-BUTLER: Joanie  
20 O'Sullivan-Butler from John P. O'Sullivan Distributor  
21 in Flint.

22 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Good afternoon.

23 Anybody else who wishes to indicate their  
24 presence this afternoon? Oh, I see Brian Pizzuti with  
25 the Republic National Distributing Corporation in the

1 audience; good to see you Brian.

2 There are no further cards of anybody  
3 indicating a desire to speak at this time.

4 Are there any Commissioners who have any  
5 comments to make at this time; Commissioner Clemente,  
6 Commissioner Gaffney, Commissioner Quimby?

7 Commissioner Quimby.

8 COMMISSIONER QUIMBY: I'd just like to thank  
9 everybody who took time out of their schedule to come  
10 here today and those who submitted written comments  
11 into the record, we do appreciate that, thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Thank you Commissioner  
13 Quimby.

14 Again we want to thank everybody for showing  
15 up here today either to make comments or just to be  
16 present; we do appreciate your traveling here to be  
17 with us here this afternoon.

18 If there is no further business to come  
19 before the Commission I'll entertain a motion to  
20 adjourn.

21 COMMISSIONER CLEMENTE: I make a motion to  
22 adjourn.

23 COMMISSIONER QUIMBY: Support.

24 CHAIRMAN DELONEY: Commissioner Clemente  
25 moves to adjourn supported by Commissioner Quimby.

1                   Any discussion on the motion? Hearing none,  
2 all if favor will indicate by saying aye.

3                   (Unanimous vote.)

4                   CHAIRMAN DELONEY: The ayes have it. We are  
5 adjourned.

6                   (Record concluded at 1:17 p.m.)

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that I reported  
stenographically, the foregoing testimony and  
proceedings on the date and place hereinbefore set  
forth; that the same was later reduced to  
typewritten form, and that the foregoing is a true,  
full and correct transcript of my stenographic  
notes so taken.

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Renette L. Gibson, CSR-2731

June 6, 2016