

May 18, 2021

A Public Hearing for the Board of Trustees was held on the above date at 8:00 pm in Village Hall Courtroom. Mayor Fitzgerald opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The hearing is also available by video and tele-conference as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84790124536?pwd=QjZlWXJSbnBrY0V0M3IyZlIiOWJmM2UT09>; Meeting ID: 847 9012 4536; Passcode: 018830 Dial-in +1 646 558 8656 US (NY); Meeting ID: 847 9012 4536; Passcode: 018830.

Present were Mayor Kevin M. Fitzgerald, Trustees Lynn Pombonyo, Archie T. Cheng, Frank J. Chiara, and Jennifer Stewart, Village Administrator Gerard M. Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan E. Walsh, Superintendent of Public Works Kevin Ginnane, Superintendent of Buildings Renee Marcus, Police Commissioner Stephen McAllister, Deputy Village Clerk Rosaleen Shea, Village Attorney John E. Ryan, Court Reporter Mary K. Waldron, and Applicant John Bellico, President, Smoking Shields Cigar Club.

The application of John Bellico, President of Smoking Shields Cigar Club, lessee, of 292 Jericho Turnpike, Floral Park, NY, is made in accordance with Article III, Section 99-11B (3) of the Zoning Ordinance of the Incorporated Village of Floral, NY, which requires that when a building changes its use from office to place of public assembly in a B-2 District, the use may only be authorized as a special use after a public hearing.

The structure for which said Special Permit is applied is situated on the southeast corner of Jericho Turnpike and Plainfield Avenue and known as Section 32 Block 70 and Lots 33, 34 & 35 on the Nassau County Land and Tax Map.

Trustee Pombonyo offered Resolution No. 2021-102 to reserve decision and close the public hearing.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Cheng and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Cheng	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

The hearing was closed at 8:26 pm.

A copy of the transcript and a copy of the legal notice of public hearing is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Susan E. Walsh
Village Clerk

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M I N U T E S
OF THE MEETING
OF THE
PUBLIC HEARING
INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK

May 18, 2021

8:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

- KEVIN M. FITZGERALD, MAYOR
- DR. LYNN POMBONYO, DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE
- ARCHIE T. CHENG, TRUSTEE
- FRANK J. CHIARA, TRUSTEE
- JENNIFER STEWART, TRUSTEE

ALSO PRESENT:

- GERARD BAMBRICK, Village Administrator
- RENEE MARCUS, Supt. Of Bldgs.
- JOHN RYAN ESQ., Village Attorney
- SUSAN WALSH, Village Clerk
- KEVIN GINNANE, Supt. Of Public Works

Application of:

John Bellico, Smoking Shields Cigar Club
292 Jericho Turnpike, Floral Park, New York

1 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Good evening, and welcome to
2 the Village Hall.

3 If I can ask everyone to please stand for the
4 Pledge.

5 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

6 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Good evening, and welcome to
7 Village Hall.

8 This evening we have a public hearing followed by
9 our agenda, and then as always we open it up for comments,
10 concerns from the public on anything and everything.

11 So, Miss Walsh, if you would be kind enough to
12 read the notice of public hearing.

13 MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mayor Fitzgerald.

14 Legal Notice of Special Use Public Hearing,
15 Incorporated Village of Floral Park, New York.

16 Notice is hereby given, that the Board of Trustees
17 of the Incorporated Village of Floral Park, New York will
18 hold a Public Hearing at the Village Hall, One Floral
19 Boulevard, Floral Park, New York and on Tuesday, May 18,
20 2021 at 8:00 p.m. in relation to the following application:

21 The application of John Bellico, President of
22 Smoking Shields Cigar Club, lessee, of 292 Jericho
23 Turnpike, Floral Park, New York, is made in accordance with
24 Article III, Section 99-11B(3) of the Zoning Ordinance of
25 the Incorporated Village of Floral Park, New York, which

1 requires that when a building changes its use from office
2 to place of public assembly in a B-2 District, the use may
3 only be authorized as a special use after a public hearing.

4 The structure for which said Special Permit is
5 applied is situated on the southeast corner of Jericho
6 Turnpike and Plainfield Avenue and known as Section 32,
7 Block 70, Lots 33, 34 and 35 on the Nassau County Land and
8 Tax Map.

9 A copy of the application is on file in the Office
10 of the Village Clerk, One Floral Boulevard, Floral Park,
11 New York, and may be examined by any persons interested
12 therein during business hours Monday through Friday
13 inclusive, except legal holidays, from 8:30 a.m. to
14 4:30 p.m.

15 Now take notice that all parties in interest and
16 citizens will be given the opportunity to be heard at the
17 aforesaid time and place.

18 By order of the Board of Trustees, Incorporated
19 Village of Floral Park, New York, Susan E. Walsh, Village
20 Clerk. The legal notice dated April 30, 2021.

21 And it was published in the official paper of the
22 Incorporated Village of Floral Park, New York, and posted
23 according to law and was sent to the Nassau County Planning
24 Commission and pursuant to Section 239-L&M of the General
25 Municipal Law determined to defer to the Village to take

1 action as deemed appropriate.

2 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you, Miss Walsh.

3 I would like to place on the record that the
4 applicant has previously filed an affidavit of service
5 indicating that all neighbors within a 200 foot radius of
6 the establishment were served with notice.

7 I'd also like to announce that the Board has
8 previously adopted a resolution determining that the
9 application does not have significant impact on the
10 environment, as defined by the State Environmental Quality
11 Review or SEQRA.

12 I'd like to invite the applicant to stand and be
13 sworn in by the stenographer.

14 (Whereupon, John Bellico was so duly sworn.)

15 MR. BELLICO: John Bellico, 84-11 159th Avenue,
16 Howard Beach, New York 11414.

17 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Good evening, Mr. Bellico.

18 MR. BELLICO: Mr. Mayor.

19 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you for coming in this
20 evening. We received the documents, if you can state for
21 the record what the purpose of the establishment is and
22 give us some details, we'd appreciate it.

23 MR. BELLICO: Be my pleasure. The 292 Jericho
24 Turnpike will be corporate headquarters for a national
25 501(c)3 law enforcement military charitable organization.

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1 I found Smoking Shields in 2015, on the eve of a
2 law enforcement line of duty death. Our purpose was to
3 build each other up and to come together, besides the
4 uniform and the rank, just come together as cops and help
5 each other out in times of need, that was in 2015. I
6 started with 15 people, currently we have 12 different
7 states and we have 3,000 members nationwide.

8 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Can I just stop you for one
9 second?

10 MR. BELLICO: Yes, sir.

11 MS. LANZA: It's showing that you are muted on
12 here. It just popped up. Good.

13 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Sorry. Sorry for those on
14 Zoom.

15 Proceed please. Thanks.

16 MR. BELLICO: We're here today to ask for the
17 change of permit from office space to gathering. We will
18 be using the location for our once a month general meeting
19 where all of our membership is allowed to come down and we
20 vote on how we're going to use our funds, what events that
21 we're going to either by tickets for or help support, if
22 any of the different agencies, because we do represent 45
23 different New York law enforcement agencies who has needs
24 that they need to take care of, line of duty families, sick
25 and injured kids.

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1 We do a lot with military personnel, we have
2 several organizations, one of which, our main charity that
3 we donate to is called Cigars for Warriors, a taste of
4 home.

5 As we said in the beginning, cigars -- it started
6 off as a cigar club, and it quickly grew to a nonprofit
7 organization, we actually DBI as Smoking Shields, we
8 dropped the cigar club portion of it, but we do collect
9 cigars, lighters, accoutrement with the cigars and we ship
10 them overseas to service men and women around the World.

11 We have pictures back from guys on aircraft
12 carriers in Afghanistan just enjoying a cigar, relaxing,
13 getting a little piece of home, getting themselves out of
14 that war mentality.

15 We also donate a lot to the Nassau County SPCA.
16 Last year we ran an event for them and raised \$10,000.
17 Myself and my vice president Dan will be retired from the
18 NYPD in a few months and we're actually going to be joining
19 the SPCA as investigators for the County.

20 MAYOR FITZGERALD: I think we all probably have a
21 couple of questions.

22 MR. BELLICO: Absolutely.

23 MAYOR FITZGERALD: You mentioned that it's once a
24 month. Are you only going to be open once a month?

25 MR. BELLICO: No. Our membership -- we're not

1 open to the public, it's only members only. We have RFID
2 locks on the door and each member is issued an ID card to
3 their name, to their membership ID, they scan in and scan
4 out whenever they want.

5 As a law enforcement officer you work crazy hours,
6 everyone has different days off, it's hard to get together,
7 hard to go to places that are open if you're working a
8 midnight tour, you need someplace to unwind, our
9 memberships can go there, there's TV's on the wall, we have
10 a dartboard, go relax, just unwind, it's a safe place they
11 can get away from the World, especially in the current
12 climate that we're in.

13 MAYOR FITZGERALD: So is it possible it would
14 potentially be open 24 hours, or accessible 24 hours?

15 MR. BELLICO: The building is accessible 24 hours,
16 yes.

17 MAYOR FITZGERALD: How many people would be the
18 most you would envision being at the establishment at one
19 time?

20 MR. BELLICO: Our monthly meetings are anywhere
21 from 25 to 50 at any one given time.

22 MAYOR FITZGERALD: And will there be any cooking
23 on premise?

24 MR. BELLICO: No, we don't have, it's not set up
25 for cooking.

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1 MAYOR FITZGERALD: And you mentioned 25 to 50
2 people. Off the top of my head, maybe it's on the diagram,
3 how many spots are in the lot?

4 MR. BELLICO: Forty-nine.

5 MAYOR FITZGERALD: There's 49 parking spots?

6 MR. BELLICO: No, members 25 to 49.

7 MAYOR FITZGERALD: How many parking spots are on
8 the property?

9 MR. BELLICO: Twelve.

10 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Just to let you know that we
11 have with any community lot laws and ordinances and, you
12 know, we do have two-hour parking, and inclusive around the
13 corner from the establishment on Hitchcock there is a
14 two-hour parking limit, and there's no parking overnight.

15 MR. BELLICO: Yes, sir.

16 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Obviously late hours, parking
17 hours could be an issue.

18 MR. BELLICO: The meeting would only be an hour or
19 two at tops, if that's it, it wouldn't last more than
20 two hours. So we wouldn't go over the two hour permitted
21 parking.

22 MAYOR FITZGERALD: I will turn it over to my
23 fellow Board members. Deputy Mayor Pombonyo.

24 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: Thank you. Welcome.

25 MR. BELLICO: Thank you.

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1 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: Are you all here tonight
2 in law enforcement, or have been in law enforcement?

3 MR. BELLICO: Yes.

4 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: First of all, thank you
5 for your service.

6 MR. BELLICO: Thank you.

7 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: Thank you for coming
8 tonight, and thank you for thinking of Floral Park to
9 establish this nonprofit that you are looking at. I guess
10 as expanding into our town, we are very proud of nonprofits
11 we have here.

12 MR. BELLICO: We look forward to being part of the
13 family.

14 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: That's important to us
15 too.

16 Do you ever have others coming in for other
17 reasons? Say somebody who is doing business with the
18 nonprofit who is not a law enforcement official would be
19 coming in to talk to you about an initiative of a project
20 or something like that? How often would that occur?

21 MR. BELLICO: Without one of the board members
22 present we wouldn't be letting anybody into the building.
23 Just someone from the board, or we have a house committee
24 that we set up. Someone would always be there.

25 A lot of charitable organizations, you know, we

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1 meet as a collective to try and figure out how we can help
2 each other out. So I guess the answer to that would be,
3 yes, absolutely.

4 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: That's nice.

5 I can let someone on the Board, Archie next.

6 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Trustee Cheng.

7 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: Thank you.

8 TRUSTEE CHENG: I do have some questions.

9 MR. BELLICO: Yes, sir.

10 TRUSTEE CHENG: Any cooking involved in the
11 premises?

12 MR. BELLICO: There's no stove or anything inside
13 the building.

14 TRUSTEE CHENG: You will bring in food I assume?

15 MR. BELLICO: Yes, if we do we will cater food.
16 There's a great pizzeria right next door.

17 TRUSTEE CHENG: And I assume you maintain a bar?

18 MR. BELLICO: I'm sorry?

19 TRUSTEE CHENG: A bar?

20 MR. BELLICO: We have a hospitality counter with a
21 small refrigerator with waters, soda, coffee. If our
22 members want to bring in their alcohol they can do that, we
23 won't be serving, we don't sell anything inside as well.

24 TRUSTEE CHENG: Okay. I have no more questions.

25 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Trustee Chiara.

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1 TRUSTEE CHIARA: Yes. Thank you for coming into
2 the Village, we appreciate it.

3 MR. BELLICO: Thank you, sir.

4 TRUSTEE CHIARA: So do we have any other party
5 kind of affairs there?

6 MR. BELLICO: Parties in the sense of, like, loud
7 music and stuff like that? We haven't planned on that, no,
8 not as of yet.

9 In the interior space is, you know, for as many
10 people as you tell us that we can have inside. And most of
11 it is members only, we won't be having -- renting the place
12 to anyone if that's what you're asking.

13 TRUSTEE CHIARA: And you said that members can
14 come in basically 24/7?

15 MR. BELLICO: Yes, sir.

16 TRUSTEE CHIARA: Who is going to be maintaining
17 the facility?

18 MR. BELLICO: We have a house committee of Floral
19 Park residents and people who live close in the area, that
20 each person is set up to go in there on a different day, to
21 either maintain the building, take out the garbage, turn
22 the lights on -- well, the lights are on a timer and
23 sensors.

24 TRUSTEE CHIARA: Inside the building, do you have
25 any special ventilation for the cigars?

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1 MR. BELLICO: Well, there's ventilation in the
2 system, but we won't be smoking in the building as a
3 primary function. If they need to smoke they can go
4 outside. It's a cigar club -- like I said in the
5 beginning, we started as a cigar club, but we've gone past
6 that, we're more of an organization. We are going to be
7 holding classes there for PTSD, suicide awareness. We're
8 working with the New York State Chaplain's Association of
9 setting up a suicide hotline in conjunction with them, peer
10 counseling, we have driver's ed, guys who do driver's ed
11 courses will have safety courses there.

12 Again, like I said, a safe place for our
13 membership to come and do these things where they don't
14 have to be in fear of going someplace and being called out
15 they are cops. We all like to wear our buff shirts and our
16 pins on our collars, we get called out a lot of places,
17 this is a safe haven for a lot of our members.

18 TRUSTEE CHIARA: Thank you.

19 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Trustee Stewart.

20 TRUSTEE STEWART: Thanks for coming.

21 MR. BELLICO: Thank you.

22 TRUSTEE STEWART: Thank you for your service.

23 You just said something about holding classes and
24 the possibility of looking into the creation of latching
25 onto the suicide hotline?

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1 MR. BELLICO: Yes.

2 TRUSTEE STEWART: Would that be something that you
3 would do in that building?

4 MR. BELLICO: Well, the suicide hotline is run by
5 the New York State Chaplain's Association, it's already up
6 and running. We are putting our name to it so we can get
7 it out to more law enforcement agencies, because we do
8 represent 45 different New York State law enforcement
9 agencies, so we're partnering with them, they maintain the
10 lines, you can call up the line at any time and ask for a
11 denomination or a peer counselor of your choice and they
12 will connect you to that person. It's not a physical
13 structure, it's just more of a networking thing. We're
14 using our name, they're using their name and getting
15 together to get the knowledge out to our membership.

16 TRUSTEE STEWART: I understand. Thanks.

17 You said a house committee of Floral Park
18 residents, so you have a portion of your membership are
19 Floral Park residents?

20 MR. BELLICO: Yeah, we have several Floral Park
21 members.

22 TRUSTEE STEWART: So that's what brought you here
23 to our great town?

24 MR. BELLICO: Yes.

25 TRUSTEE STEWART: I was curious about that,

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1 thanks.

2 You mentioned something that you don't -- I think
3 you said that you don't sell the cigars, is that what you
4 said?

5 MR. BELLICO: No, we don't sell anything.

6 TRUSTEE STEWART: You don't sell anything at all,
7 no T-shirts?

8 MR. BELLICO: The online website is a drop ship
9 company, we don't actually produce it. The online service
10 makes it and ships it to the members, it's just our logo,
11 T-shirts, coffee mugs.

12 TRUSTEE STEWART: No sales inside the property?

13 MR. BELLICO: No, it's like a Masonic temple or a
14 Knights of Columbus, just someplace for the guys to go
15 unwind.

16 TRUSTEE STEWART: This is kind of uncomfortable
17 for me to ask, but being that marijuana is now legal --

18 MR. BELLICO: No, no.

19 TRUSTEE STEWART: -- members won't use?

20 MR. BELLICO: Absolutely not. Twenty years in the
21 NYPD, that will not happen, absolutely not. There's
22 actually a sign on the wall that says, any illegal activity
23 that we catch in here will be prosecuted to the full extent
24 of the law.

25 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Just for the record, you will

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1 not be consuming marijuana?

2 MR. BELLICO: No. One hundred percent, no.

3 TRUSTEE STEWART: That's all for me. Thank you
4 very much.

5 MAYOR FITZGERALD: I just have a couple more
6 questions.

7 Will there be any deliveries?

8 MR. BELLICO: No.

9 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Will there be any use of the
10 basement?

11 MR. BELLICO: The basement is just for storage.

12 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Storage.

13 MR. BELLICO: Yeah.

14 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Any Board members have any
15 questions?

16 TRUSTEE CHIARA: Is there going to be any signage
17 on the building?

18 MR. BELLICO: No, we don't really want to draw
19 attention to it. Maybe paint it, but that's about it.

20 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: One of my questions was
21 the same as Trustee Stewart, which you answered it very,
22 very clearly for us. Thank you.

23 What about the building itself, you said you were
24 attracted to Floral Park by the people here, and we can see
25 why that would happen, but what about the building that

1 meets your needs?

2 MR. BELLICO: Well, we looked at a lot of
3 different buildings, commercial properties, and a lot of
4 them were apartments above it and attached to other
5 buildings, and this was stand alone with its own parking
6 lot. And it's on the main thoroughfare and central to
7 Queens, and we have members that live up in the Bronx and
8 it's right off the Cross Island, it's pretty centrally
9 located. I live in Queens, in Howard Beach, so it's not
10 far from my house either. It was a very good location.

11 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: Good, glad to hear that.

12 As far as trash disposal, are you using Village
13 sanitation?

14 MR. BELLICO: Yeah. I believe we had a mixup on
15 the dates when we first got into the place and we figured
16 out which date the garbage has to go out, that's part of
17 the house committee as well, they'll take the garbage out
18 to the street.

19 MAYOR FITZGERALD: On the garbage, if I could just
20 ask, make sure you don't put it out early.

21 MR. BELLICO: Yes. 6:00 p.m., right?

22 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Kev, on the commercial
23 districts.

24 MR. GINNANE: Yeah, Tuesdays and Fridays.

25 MR. BELLICO: That was my fault. I put on the

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1 sign the wrong days and they were just following what I
2 told them to do.

3 MR. GINNANE: Sunset. Sunset the night before.

4 MR. BELLICO: Yes, sir.

5 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Also what Trustee Chiara
6 mentioned about signage, just to let you know that if you
7 do want to put signs up outside that you need to go to
8 Architectural Review Board, and our Superintendent Renee
9 Marcus will help you out if you are going to do signage.

10 MR. BELLICO: Great.

11 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Also same thing, any other
12 alterations to the building please, you know, reach out to
13 our building department before you start with anything.

14 MR. BELLICO: Yes, sir.

15 MAYOR FITZGERALD: If there is no other questions,
16 if you don't mind taking a seat, I will ask the public if
17 they have questions or comments.

18 MR. BELLICO: Thank you.

19 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Is there anyone here in Village
20 Hall that would like to speak for or against this proposal?

21 Sure, I see two hands, either one.

22 Good evening and welcome. If you would give your
23 name and address to the stenographer and she will swear you
24 in.

25 MS. SALVIA: Leonore Salvia, at 1 West Hitchcock

1 Avenue, Floral Park.

2 MAYOR FITZGERALD: If you don't mind if you could
3 address your questions to us and we'll take them.

4 MS. SALVIA: Sure.

5 (Whereupon, Leonore Salvia was so duly sworn.)

6 MS. SALVIA: I am just here because I happen to
7 live right behind the building. And I noticed presence
8 last year in August approximately, July-ish, August, and
9 for me it was odd because we were COVID, like heavy duty
10 coming out, starting to whatever, and I heard a tremendous
11 amount of noise outside. I just walked out my back door
12 and there it is, tremendous amount of cigar smoke, yelling,
13 screaming, whatever.

14 But I do want to preface one thing, I should have
15 started out this way. You know, I have a tremendous amount
16 of respect for the blue and the military, I am a patriot, I
17 am an American citizen and happy to be a part of this
18 Country, and if it wasn't for them we wouldn't even be
19 standing here, so I am grateful to have them, and I
20 appreciate and honor everything that they do and all of the
21 organizations that they have and all the help. If
22 anything, I would be happy to help them in that way and
23 helping assist the officers with Post Traumatic Stress
24 Disorder, especially with what's going on, I am really
25 sympathetic to that, like, tremendously.

1 However, when you live there behind something like
2 that, that's a whole other ball game. I didn't complain
3 when I first saw it happen because I didn't want to be too
4 much of a pain in the neck, but now that you are -- knowing
5 that you are going to be there all the time, 24/7, and with
6 very little parking and one time a month meetings, but it's
7 open 24/7, and all the cigar smoke and how it affects the
8 environment, I believe that it does affect the environment,
9 and neighbors also have said the same thing. In fact they
10 were quite frightened because they didn't know who these
11 people were, and now that we know they are police officers
12 we're probably more safer than I thought, but I didn't know
13 at the time, now I know. I feel safe, safer than anybody
14 really because I am right behind there. I could imagine if
15 they are off duty and somebody tries to do something, well,
16 I would hope that they would react and protect us as they
17 always do.

18 The only concern I have, like I said, is that
19 cigar smoke and the noise, the loudness. It was weekends,
20 you know, but still all in all we are right here next to
21 Jericho and all, so I'm really concerned about living like
22 that now all of a sudden.

23 MAYOR FITZGERALD: I'll ask them to come up and
24 address that.

25 MS. SALVIA: Should I stand here?

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1 MAYOR FITZGERALD: You can sit. Thank you.

2 MS. SALVIA: Sit?

3 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Yes.

4 Another resident had their hand. Ma'am, did you
5 have a question or comment?

6 MS. TRAIWATANAPONG: Hi, everyone. My name is
7 Sarita Traiwatanapong, 15 Plainfield Avenue, Floral Park.

8 (Whereupon, Sarita Traiwatanapong was so duly
9 sworn.)

10 MS. TRAIWATANAPONG: So my house just next door to
11 the place that they going to establish their business. I
12 really appreciate what you did, like you mentioned you are
13 policemen, do all the things, we appreciate that. But, you
14 know, if you look at the around area, it's all residential,
15 all the houses with family, with kids. So I like to be --
16 I know that he said smoke inside indoor, not going to be
17 24/7, but I like to have Floral Park to be peaceful, no
18 such a thing like I want to have like air I -- I don't want
19 to have any air pollution basically. It might happen, it
20 may not happen, I don't know, nobody knows, no one knows.
21 So I would like to have a clean environment.

22 Past summer my front yard caught fire because
23 someone throw cigarette on the grass, before COVID -- no --
24 yeah, COVID last year, before that, few years 2019 in
25 summertime around August my front yard caught fire because

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1 someone, pedestrian throw cigarette on my front yard on
2 Plainfield, I'm on Plainfield Avenue. My kid go to school,
3 nobody is home. So lucky I have two people walking along
4 that area saw that cigarette make smoke, you know, so the
5 person call 911, the fire department came to help. So I --
6 when I got home that evening I said, what's going on on my
7 front door, all the black thing on my grass. So I went to
8 police department right here, police station, they told me
9 that somebody, good person call 911, that's why the fire
10 department came to help. So I'm thinking if this happen to
11 me, I don't want to happen, it's a cigarette, I scared. I
12 only have one house in Floral Park, I have kids at home, I
13 want to be safe. So that's why I am here today.

14 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Okay, thank you. I will ask
15 the applicant to address your concerns.

16 Is there anyone else in Village Hall that wants to
17 speak? Okay, sir.

18 If you would give your name and address to the
19 stenographer.

20 MR. DICARLO: Jason DiCarlo, 136 Tulip Avenue,
21 Floral Park.

22 (Whereupon, Jason DiCarlo was so duly sworn.)

23 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Welcome.

24 MR. DICARLO: Sure. I just -- maybe a few things.
25 My brother was in the attack in the intelligence agency in

1 New York City, and he loved the cigars, he went to all
2 these cigar, but I don't know if there's going to be a
3 liquor license at this bar, I don't know if you are
4 going -- if there is going to be liquor and apply for that,
5 jeez, I'm sorry, I didn't have anything prepared.

6 MAYOR FITZGERALD: That's fine. Take your time.

7 MR. DICARLO: I just found out an hour ago. I
8 understand, you know, cigar bars, it's fine, but they
9 legalize pot, they can have pot now; it's a little pain in
10 the ass going around, you know, curbing that. And what is
11 it two, three years you can sell it in a bar or sell it
12 because you have a cigar bar. Where does it go from there?
13 Got to be a stop somewhere. How do you put it to a halt?

14 It's the first town in Nassau County once you get
15 out of Queens, then goes to New Hyde Park, Garden City, I
16 just don't know why we have to be the first one to say yes
17 to this, you know.

18 So that's all I have to say.

19 MAYOR FITZGERALD: I think the applicant was
20 pretty clear that they would not be selling Cannabis on
21 premise. And just for your information, June 1st we are
22 having a public hearing on allowing or disallowing Cannabis
23 to be sold within Floral Park's boundaries, so come back in
24 two weeks.

25 MR. DICARLO: Thank you.

1 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you. Good to see you.

2 Is there anyone else in Village Hall that wants to
3 speak? Is there anyone on Zoom that would like to speak?
4 If you can let me know and raise your hand.

5 MS. SALVIA: There was one comment, may I make it?

6 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Give me one second.

7 You want to approach?

8 MS. SALVIA: I forgot to mention it. This is the
9 most important thing, at least for me and for her and a few
10 other people. There is some neighbors that just didn't get
11 a chance to come tonight, I don't know why.

12 This smoking outside thing, you know, they need a
13 place to do what they have to do but with closed doors and
14 inside, whether they're drinking or smoking, go ahead,
15 enjoy yourself, but the cigar smoking outside and the
16 drinking, that's really what my thing is just because I'm
17 literally right behind there, right behind there, so I just
18 open my door and there it is. It's even encroaching into
19 my privacy as a citizen and as a taxpayer in this town. So
20 I'm hoping that you will also consider that, that was one
21 comment I left out, the smoking outside.

22 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you. Would you like to
23 come up?

24 I think there was two kind of themes there, one
25 about smoking outside, we didn't ask you if the smoking

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1 would be inside or outside, or applying for a liquor
2 license.

3 MR. BELLICO: One hundred percent no liquor
4 license, we will not sell any liquor there, no.

5 As far as I know smoking outside there's no
6 ordinance about that, is there?

7 MAYOR FITZGERALD: There is --

8 MR. BELLICO: We'll put up signs outside, be
9 respectful of our neighbors. I don't know how to stop them
10 from smoking outside if it's not illegal to do. I will
11 make sure that my membership knows to be as quiet as
12 possible, be respectful of our neighbors, absolutely, we
13 don't want to offend or upset anyone in the neighborhood.

14 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Would most of the smoking be
15 outside or inside?

16 MR. BELLICO: Mostly outside. If they smoke
17 inside, I'm not there, I don't know what they do.

18 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Okay. Anyone on the Board have
19 further questions, comments?

20 (Whereupon, there was no response.)

21 MAYOR FITZGERALD: So we'll think about this and
22 we will get back to you.

23 MR. BELLICO: Thank you very much.

24 MAYOR FITZGERALD: We'll read the transcripts.

25 I would like to ask for a motion to close the

1 public hearing and reserve decision?

2 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: So moved.

3 TRUSTEE CHENG: Second.

4 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Miss Walsh, would you poll the
5 Board.

6 MR. BELLICO: Thank you.

7 MS. WALSH: Trustee Pombonyo?

8 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: Aye.

9 MS. WALSH: Trustee Cheng?

10 TRUSTEE CHENG: Aye.

11 MS. WALSH: Trustee Chiara?

12 TRUSTEE CHIARA: Aye.

13 MS. WALSH: Trustee Stewart?

14 TRUSTEE STEWART: Aye.

15 MS. WALSH: And Mayor Fitzgerald?

16 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Aye.

17 Thank you for coming. Thank you for your time.

18 (Whereupon, the Public Hearing was concluded and
19 stood adjourned.)

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21 CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE AND ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF THE ORIGINAL
22 STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES TAKEN OF THIS PROCEEDING.

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24

MARY KATE WALDRON
COURT REPORTER

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