

MINUTES  
**SPECIAL LICENSE COMMISSION MEETING**  
**12:00 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, March 12, 2019**  
**Basement Level, City Hall, 45 School Street**  
**Brockton, Massachusetts**

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**TAPED**

The License Commission held a Special meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 in the Basement Level of City Hall. Present were Chairman Henry Tartaglia, Commissioners, Paul Merian, Lawrence Siskind, Jeffrey Charnel, Eugene Marrow and Administrative Assistant Silvia Carvalho.

1. Hearing on a request for a Special Event Permit from Synergy Global Entertainment, Inc. for a Special Event Permit for a Concert to be held on Saturday, July 20, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight and on Sunday, July 21, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 11:00 p.m.

Present was Mr. Dan Conley of Synergy Global Entertainment, Inc. and members of his staff of 26052 Merit Circle, Laguna Hills, California, Mr. George Carney and Chris Carney of the Brockton Fairgrounds and members of their staff of 1958 Broadway, Raynham, MA.

Mr. Dan Conley President of Synergy Global thanked the board for holding a Special Meeting to discuss their application for a Special Event Permit at the Brockton Fairgrounds for a concert. Mr. Conley stated that he has been in business since 2005 and has held many concerts at different venues throughout the country. His company has held over 55 events with large crowds and has an extensive background on crowd safety. The event that they are proposing to the city is considered a mid-size event for them, normally the events that are held by the company have crowd sizes of over 100,000 people. Mr. Conley stated to the board that he met with the Mayor on August 7, 2018 in the Mayor's Office to discuss the possibility of bringing a venue of this caliber to the City of Brockton. The decision was to try and hold an event at the Brockton Fairgrounds and they had ascertained that they could accommodate a mid-size event. The city, the owners of the Brockton Fairgrounds and members of his corporation met to discuss sound issues and public safety. Mr. Conley assured the board that his company is committed to public safety and has one of the best teams around. He stated to the board that his team has managed events like Coachella which is a top-rated production that requires top-rated safety and is attended by thousands of people with no issues. Mr. Conley also mentioned that his company has done more events than any other company in the country. There has been tremendous due diligence on Mr. Carney's part. Sue Rodrigues and members of Mr. Carney's team, they have vetted them and finalized the agreement in November. A substantial check has been paid to the Carney's for the event and they have invested a lot of time and energy in trying to get it to come to fruition. On January 22, 2019 Mr. Conley and six members of his crew flew to Brockton to meet with the Brockton Police Department and Brockton Fire Department and met with no resistance from either one. There would be benefits to Brockton as well, if

the event were to be approved his company would hire 1,000 to 1,500 people to work for the two days, not to mention the tax revenue it would bring in. They have also decided to donate \$2.00 from each ticket sale to the City of Brockton for the Opioid crisis.

Hotels and restaurants in the city also stand to benefit financially from the event as well. Mr. Conley assured the board that his company provides first class productions and they have been featured in Forbes magazine, and several other magazines and have received a philanthropic award for the quality of the production they provide to cities across the country. Diplo is slated to perform at the event, and they have a cool line-up for both evenings. The event and is very well known, they will also have go-cart racing, a monster truck show and many other activities for the concert goers. Mr. Conley addressed the issue of parking and assured the board his company would have a traffic study completed of the area. Fenway Park has no parking at all; however, the events are still manageable and held with strict attention to parking accessibility and public transportation. He has had similar events and they have managed them perfectly with no issues. They work with board certified medical technicians and will guarantee that there will not be a problem. The plan is to implement a shuttle system from Gillette Stadium to the Brockton Fairgrounds. Mr. Juan Alvarado has been employed with his company for the last 6 years and is highly qualified and will manage the shuttles to and from the venue. The proposal is to close off Belmont Street to Forest Avenue and they can stage 16 buses at one time. At closing time, they can stage 22 buses every 10 minutes back to Gillette Stadium and may also consider renting parking spaces to park the buses at the Westgate Mall. The venue has room for 47,000 and they are asking for 37,000 and many of the patrons attending will use Lyft and Uber, family drop-offs, so that will alleviate the congestion of parking in the area. His company can provide a living breathing plan and do market research that would allow them to see how many people are coming and going. His company would like the opportunity to bring world class entertainment to Brockton.

Commissioner Siskind informed Mr. Conley that he grew up a block away from the fairgrounds and has found that it is not the people from Brockton who cause problems, it is the outsiders that do and how do we protect ourselves. This is not a peace and love event and we can't guarantee that there will be no issues. Mr. Conley stated his company is committed to hiring police that are tasked with handling the job. There were 10,000 people at the punk concert last year, the tickets cost \$100. These are not people that are concerned with causing trouble. Commissioner Charnel asked if a problem were to arise at the venue, how are the people going to exit after they have entered, and he has a major issue with closing down major arteries in the city. He also stated that businesses are going to be affected not to mention the residents of the area who have been here for years, and feels it is not the right time for the event. Brockton can't be compared to Boston because they have a transit system Brockton does not. Brockton can't afford to close streets for 48 hours; it is not practical. Mr. Conley mentioned that if it causes congestions, once it clears up, they can re-open the street. He is also open to having area residents and businesses charging to park on their property.

Commissioner Marrow stated to Mr. Conley that West Street is a major road in the city and would become too congested with the vehicles coming off route 24. This would cause tremendous traffic congestion and would greatly impair the city residents. Commissioner Marrow noted that patrons would be coming from Fall River, Boston, New Bedford and other surrounding cities and towns and this will cause a mess on Route 24 and would be a complete disaster. Frustration is going to wear mightily once they get to the fairgrounds. Commissioner Merian stated to Mr. Conley that he also grew up in Brockton and his company has done a great job in planning for the event, however the crowd size is scary, and we

have no idea how these people are going to behave. The city has never seen an event of this magnitude and this is a big risk. Sure Mr. Conley's company has done these events all over the country and would like to think these are happy go lucky kids, but we don't know. We have the fair that comes to the city for two weeks every year, but they come steadily everyday for two weeks, not all at once. The Chief of Police has declared the event unfavorable, as well as, City Councilors. The Special Events Policy will not allow for an event of this size in the city. The Commission can't go against the recommendation of the Police Chief. The Chief of Police, Councilor Farwell, Councilor Eaniri and Councilor Monahan are all against the event. Chairman Tartaglia had Commissioner Merian read the letters from the Police Chief and the Councilors in to the record. Mr. Conley asked what the board would be willing to approve 10,000 to 20,000? and asked the board if they want to see events come to the city, because it does not seem that way, the Carney's have this site and they can't even use it. Commissioner Charnel stated to Mr. Conley that the proposal has remained the same as the last time they were before the board and nothing has changed. Mr. Conley stated that he only found out three days ago that the Mayor was not supporting the event anymore. Chairman Tartaglia told him that the board can't go against the Chief of Police, if he says it is not safe, then we must agree with his decision. The capacity is too great, and we can't accommodate the crowd size at the venue. Mr. Conley informed the board that he has been trying to get in touch with Lt. LeGrice for months and has not been able to reach him. Chris Carney asked to address the board. He stated to the board members that he pays the city taxes on the property and the city has not even tried to accommodate them on this event. When you pay city taxes you expect to be represented and that is not negotiations. Where is Le Grice? He should be here at this meeting. He hears about the decision to not have the event a few days ago. He stated that they posed the question to Le Grice about what capacity the Police Dept. would be happy with and never heard back and inquired as to where the representative from the Police and Fire were. The Mayor did not want the event to take place and that is why Le Grice did not respond to their messages. He told the board that Le Grice would call them on the west coast at 4:00 a.m. in the morning, when he knows that it is early for them.

Chairman Tartaglia stated to Chris Carney that, he scheduled the meeting last minute to accommodate his father George Carney and he does have the letter from the Chief which should suffice. Mr. Carney said that Mr. Conley and his people put on a show for 10,000 people and there were no issues. Commissioner Charnel stated that the board has approved many events at the fairgrounds in the past, we think that this event is too large, and we can't handle an event of this size. Mr. Conley asked for a few minutes to address his colleagues and the Carney's. Chairman Tartaglia brought the meeting back to order and proceeded to let Mr. Conley address the board. He asked the board what they would be willing to approve as far as a number and asked that the board approve 30,000 with a 11:00 p.m. curfew on both days. I would need an answer in 24 hours because I am out of time on this event. Chairman Tartaglia stated to Mr. Conley that the board does not have the authority to approve the numbers or the curfew. That is something that only the Police department can do. Mr. Conley stated to the board that he did not know why the Mayor did not support the event anymore and feels as though they have become political pawns. We are trying to make this work and we are getting nothing in return, but a no. Can you vote on this or no? Chairman Tartaglia stated to Mr. Conley that they can only vote on what has been proposed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Merian to deny the permit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marrow and made unanimous by vote of the members present.

Chairman Tartaglia stated to Mr. Conley that he is welcome to come back to the board with a revised proposal. Mr. Conley stated that he has been trying since the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to get an answer from the Police department. Commissioner Charnel stated to Mr. Conley that the board has been very fair. Chairman Tartaglia reiterated the fact that he can't vote against the Chief of Police. Commissioner Siskind stated to Mr. Conley that the situation was too bad. The board has been presented with this 500-page document that is very technical and suggested the board table the request. Chairman Tartaglia stated to the Commissioners and everyone present that a motion had already been made to deny the request.

With no further business to come before the Commission a motion was made by Commissioner Charnel to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Merian and made unanimous by vote of the members present.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Henry Tartaglia, Chairman

APPROVED

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Paul Merian, Commissioner

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David Teixeira, Commissioner

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Lawrence Siskind, Commissioner

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Jeffrey Charnel, Commissioner

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Eugene Marrow, Alt. Commissioner