



CTM Minutes - Group: CTM Board Meeting

By Owen Waller, Secretary

Date: July 10, 2025, 7:00pm

Location: Online Meeting – Online using Google Meets

Board Members Present (10): Steve Goodin, Gerald Checco, Jan Checco, Mindi Rich, Owen Waller, Kevin Leahy, John Whedon, Ben Pantoja, Bridget Waller, Barry Gee,

Absent (5): Kevin Mohan, Justin Ogilby, Patrick Etter, Genet Singh, Robert DiMartino

A quorum is present. Meeting called to order at 7:02.

(U) below will represent a unanimous vote.

Public Attendance online (36)

Claudia Reilly, Chris Pantoja, Dave Taylor, Sgt. Sterbling CPD (undercover), Marilyn, Eric, Angel Cobb, Char Lyon, Brady Williams, WCPO, WXIX, Eric Hoffman, SK Jones, Tom Noonan, Mike Anagnostou, Mark Jeffreys, Mark Manning/City law, Robert Siegel, Micah Ovadia, Alice Palmer, Andrea Rosenthal, Capt. Amanda Caton/CPD, Rob Taylor, Jules Rosen, Peggy Moses, Aaron Weiner, Kip Eagen, Scott Wartman, Sgt. Williams, Michelle Schwenkner, Stacey Raj, Kathy Parsanko, Joel King, Beth Schwartz, Eric Urbas, Shawn Dent (36)

Welcome to our meeting – Contact the CTM email at
contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org

Introduction – Ben Pantoja

Ben began by giving an overview of the late night events that have been occurring at the Hookah Cafe as well as the past weekend's incident. Late parties on Saturday nights usually include a DJ and end at 5am. Advertisements on social media also tell customers "B.Y.O.B." Ben shared pictures and videos of the incident last week. These problems have been occurring since fall of 2023.

Key Guest Speakers - Mark Manning, Mark Jefferys, Officer Dent, Sergeant Sterbling

Steve Goodin shared he believes it should be possible to link these parties to the Hookah Cafe as a public nuisance claim. He explained that usually legal action against a rowdy establishment would involve revoking an establishment's liquor license, however the Hookah Cafe does have a liquor license.

Mike Anagnostou from the Clifton Business Association and Ludlow wines spoke and explained he had taken multiple Saturdays to document the activity at the Hookah Cafe. He shared that he observed alcohol being sold to patrons outside of the establishment, loud music being played, and multiple fights in the street. The incidents have been progressively getting worse. He has also learned that a large number of people living in the Ludlow Wines building have moved due to noise disturbances.

Mark Jefferys introduced Officer Dent and Sergeant Sterbling CPD who confirmed that CPD was experiencing understaffing issues. Officer Dent could find two incidents which were police calls to the Hookah cafe in the past 6 months. He reiterated that immediate calls when incidents were occurring help the police respond to issues pertinently.

Sergeant Sterbling explained they had run multiple undercover operations on the hookah cafe. Since October 2023, undercover officers have not witnessed liquor sales or liquor related violations. Sterling also shared that he had met with the owner multiple times to discuss the promoters of the late night parties. Sterling explained that any info regarding the liquor sale outside the establishment whether in a parking lot or other area would be greatly appreciated.

Mark Manning from the City of Cincinnati's Law Department explained his knowledge of the issue and explained how he was very open to hearing residents' concerns. Mark Jefferys asked Mark Manning about what residents could do to resolve these issues, Mark Manning emphasized the need to collect and organize all of the collected information about incidents at the Hookah Cafe. This will allow the law department to properly evaluate the information and corroborate residents' experiences.

Steve posited that the frequency and predictability of the illegal activities, the money lost from the disturbance, and the potential danger of the incidents is enough to bring the business to court, citing Ohio Common Law. Mark Manning could not see an easy way to do this in court, however he highlighted that CTM should take action based on preventing the offensive conduct and bringing all of the evidence to a judge.

Resident Concerns

Micah, owner of the Whole Bowl on Ludlow, expressed concern about his employees' fears of working closing shifts. This had not occurred for the many years he had been there, but had been happening recently. An audience member Jules reported there was music loud enough to hear it in his house on Sunday night at 3am, and added that the streets south of Ludlow frequently have bottles and broken glass on them after parties that occurred on Ludlow.

An audience member, Andrea, asked what should residents be reporting, specifically citing a nuisance that a resident of the Roanoke returned home late from work and encountered a man pretending to bowl with empty Hennessy bottles. She continued that when either CPD or CTM specifies what residents were encouraged to report (litter, loud noise, or any other disturbances/illegal activity) she would help raise awareness to residents in apartments on Ludlow who are most affected.

Motion 1 - Ben Pantoja

Motion 1 is to send a letter on behalf of CTM and the CBA to the City regarding the recent events at the Hookah Cafe requesting increased help in dealing with the issues. The letter is attached at the end of the minutes. The motion was made by Ben and seconded by Jan. The roll call vote was unanimously approved.

Closing Remarks - Ben Pantoja

Ben emphasized that residents would need actionable items or a path forward to resolution on the Hookah Cafe incidents. CTM board members and Mark Manning discussed further what steps needed to be taken. This included organizing all previously collected information, increasing the number of police calls from residents pertinent to any incidents so that more information/evidence can be collected.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31.

Motion to adjourn called by Jan, seconded by Owen, and was unanimously approved (U).

Respectfully submitted,
Owen Waller, Secretary

Attachments:

Hookah_Cafe_Letter.pdf

IMG_3085.jpg

IMG_3083.jpg

IMG_3084.jpg

IMG_0938.jpg

Hookah_Flyer.jpg

Dear Mayor Pureval, City Manager Long, and members of City Council,

Clifton Town Meeting passed a motion on 7/10/2025 authorizing its President, Ben Pantoja, to send you the letter below. The President of the Clifton Business Association, Mike Anagnostou, has also signed this letter:

Clifton would greatly appreciate any help any of you could provide us to address a problem business that is undermining the quality of life in Clifton and poses a threat to public safety. The business is the Bohemian Hookah Bar at 340 Ludlow Avenue.

Most Saturdays, weather permitting, the Hookah Bar announces a party on social media that lasts until 5 am. The Hookah Bar extends its hours to 5 am to support these parties. Dozens of people come. They often buy liquor sold out of the back of cars, block traffic, park illegally, play loud music, damage property, and sometimes get into fights. On Sunday morning, June 6, at about 3 am there were 8 arrests, including a felonious assault of a police officer. We are concerned that there could be more violence, and the situation is worse than ever this year. See attached for videos and pictures.

Clifton has been asking the police for action for several years without much progress. Any help that any of you can give to increase the priority for solving this issue would be greatly appreciated.

- Ben Pantoja, President, Clifton Town Meeting

- Mike Anagnostou, President, Clifton Business Association

08-13-2023 Sun 03:50:22

● Playback





07-06-2025 Sun 02:48:09

LUDLOW AVE E





LuckyForEm & Bohemian Hookah Cafe Presents...

12am-5am

SOUNDS
BY

DJ
KOK

SUPER SUNDAYS

AFTER HOUR PARTY

340 LUDLOW AVE CINCINNATI OH 45220