Cranston City Council Meeting: June 15, 2026

You can watch the discussion, between 54:00 and 1:09:00 at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18BeenCmhaE

Attending for Pawtuxet Village: Deborah Telles-Paladino, Richard & Joyce Fleicher, Greg Goins, John Castellucci, Ginny Leslie, Sarah Glowa, Mike & Cheri Sivik, and Roger Farren.



Jonathan Stevens presented the Council with hard copies of a packet including a land use analysis, timeline, PVA letter of objection and petitions with 147 signatures.

He reiterated the findings of fact, that the permit was issued in error, the permit application was incomplete, the sign was 30 square feet, five times the area allowed in a Residential zone, and that the LED panel was not allowed by right.



Mayor's Communications Director Nicole Renzulli said she has been told by the Inspections Department that the Shriners have been cited, and have been given a last chance before the matter is referred to Municipal Court. They have been cited for "putting up the sign without approval".



Sarah Glowa, representing the Pawtuxet Village Association, read a statement that while the Shriners were an important part of the community, the sign was out of character with the National Historic Register District. It is important that zoning ordinances be upheld, and that non-enforcement of this ordinance could set a bad precedent. PVA wants to work collaboratively with all parties.



Frank Dimascio, 1100 Atwood Avenue Johnston, the Secretary of the RI Shriners Charitable Trust, who owns the building. He can be seen on the video from 1:01:10 to 1:04:38

He made the following points:

* the sign is less than 16 square feet in area. They did not change the foot print of the original sign
* the posts of the original sign were rotting. The sign posed a danger
* contractor AA sign pulled all the necessary permits
* perhaps the people of Pawtuxet Village would like higher taxes, to pay for dyslexia teaching services now provided for free by the Shriners
* this is a residential neighborhood, but there is a lawyer's office in a house- that's Commercial
* right down the street there is Poco Loco and a liquor store. There are a lot of businesses there.
* the historic district starts south of Rhodes Place, so the sign is outside of the district
* the light projects between 9 and 15 feet. If the Village wants us to turn the sign off, then the City should turn off all the streetlights
* the owners are following all the sign ordinances. The sign panel changes every 60 seconds.
* the sign is on during working hours. It is turned off at 9 pm.

Greg Goins testified that when the sign was first installed, he thought at first it was an emergency vehicle's lights across the street. It is very disruptive and bright. The sign's powerful lighting impacts three rooms in his living space. This is the worst light pollution he has ever experienced. It is not appropriate in a residential area.





John Castellucci said the sign's lights invade the interior of his house. He objected to the fact that the approval process and public notice have not been followed, and that it is clear an LED sign can only be permitted by the Zoning Board. The ZBR has allowed some LED signs to be installed. Residents are being disenfranchised.



Ginny Leslie stated that the sign is big, bright and out of character with the architectural and historical integrity of the Village.