

Niagara County Industrial Development Agency

Public Hearing: Shoaib & Sons LLC

January 29, 2025, 2:15 p.m.

Taken at: Niagara Falls City Hall

Hearing Officer – Jeremy Geartz

Court Reporter – Julie Lamoreaux

Jearemy Geartz:

Welcome, this public hearing is now open. It is Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 02:15PM. My name is Jeremy Geartz, and I am the Director of Business Development and Retention with the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency and I have been designated by the agency to be the hearing officer to conduct this public hearing. This public hearing is being live streamed and made accessible on the agency's website at www.niagaracountybusiness.com

Jeremy Geartz:

Notice of this public hearing is hereby given that a public hearing pursuant to Article 18-A subdivision 2, Section 859-a of the New York General Municipal Law will be held by the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency"), in connect with Shoaib & Sons LLC.

Jeremy Geartz

We are here to hold the public hearing on Shoaib & Sons LLC and/or individual(s) or Affiliate(s), subsidiary(ies), or entity(ies) formed or to be formed on its behalf. The transcript of this hearing will be reviewed and considered by the Agency in determination of this project.

The purpose of this hearing is to solicit comments, both written and oral, for Shoaib & Sons LLC. The project application and project summary are posted in the Agency's website at niagaracountybusiness.com and I have copies with me today.

Jeremy Geartz

The proposed project (the "Project") consists of: a tourism project aimed at revitalizing a vacant building at 222 Rainbow Boulevard that has been unused for well over a year. This property is strategically located in the heart of Niagara Falls tourist area. The project will offer visitors a diverse array of dining options. At the street level visitors will have the options of Auntie Anne's Pretzel Place, carvel Ice Cream, and Cinnabon Dessert Coffee. Additional levels will over Subway or Church's Chicken and an alternative Mediterranean food option. The project will rejuvenate a key property in the district that is located in distressed census tract 211 with a federal poverty level rate of 37% and a NYS unemployment rate of 14.9%.

Jeremy Geartz

All of those in attendance are required to register by signing the sign in sheet at the front of the room. You will not be permitted to speak unless you have registered. Everyone who has registered will be given an opportunity to make statements and or comments on the project.

Jeremy Geartz

If you have a written statement or comment to submit for the record, you may leave it at the public hearing, submit it on the agency's website, or deliver it to the agency at 6311 Inducon Corporate Drive, Sanborn, New York 14132. The comment period closes on February 6, 2025. There are no limitations on written statements or comments.

Jeremy Geartz

If anyone is interested in making a comment or statement, please raise your hand and state your name and address. If you are representing a company, please identify that company.

I request the speakers keep their statements and or comments to three minutes or less. Are there any comments?

Michael Hill

This is Michael Hill from 311 38th Street, Niagara Falls, New York. I represent the city for equal justice and reformed nation. I'm here to speak for individuals in this city that is aware of what's been going on with A&W's and Papa John's work, Mohammed Shoaib and Sons, that they've been abusing their employees. They're saying they're asking for funders to be able to make better job and help our community. But the actuality of this development center and the people that they ask this money from, investigate what's going on. They see they've got a plan. The employees keeping the employees tips, making employees work without having overtime, and making them be stuck all day working and not paying. And then they have people living in houses from other cities breaking their head, making them live in houses like immigrants who forced them to work and not actually paying. They have the records. There's people with the records, and it's all investigative post. So if they ask you for money, saying they're going to help this city, I would like to say they're not helping the city, and y'all should investigate before you give them money. That's all I have to say. Thank you

Thomas Volk

I have lived in Niagara Falls since 1996. Although, I've been visiting Niagara Falls all my life; I've watched the city deteriorate for decades. I patrolled city, and the city streets of Niagara Falls as a police officer, and I'm retired now. I'm speaking on behalf of a businessman, Mr. Shoaib, who's investing his money into starting businesses around Niagara Falls. I'm not familiar with his business practices, I'm just familiar with the fact that the man is interested in investing in Niagara Falls and building up businesses. I think his heart is in the right place. And I think that, it would be wise to help him open businesses. That's all I've got to say

Trevor Jacob Saunderson

I just would like it to be known that I started my job at Moe's Southwest Grill around Christmas. I've been employed there for, a little over a month now, and I haven't seen any pay. After my, interview that was not very professional, they didn't give me any W-2 files or paperwork or anything to be recognized that I'm on the books to be paid and that went on for three weeks, and I still haven't been paid yet. That's really it. Thank you.

David Griffin

Yeah. I'm David Giffen. I'm his grandfather. We just went to where he was to try to find out what's going on with his pay. He's been there since before Christmas, and they haven't seen a dime. And, so we're they told us to get a hold of this Lisa. So we haven't gone through these measures yet, But, you know, I mean, who goes ahead and treats your employees like that where they go ahead and they work basically a month for free? I've never heard of that before in my life. So, you know, as far as him getting any more money to start the any other businesses, he needs to take care of these ones first. So, you know, we're going to go through the next steps to what they told us at the restaurant. And it's not that he doesn't want to be employed there. He must get paid for his work. So, you know, as a young man just starting out, you know, it's kind of good way to you know, it don't put a good taste in your mouth working for nothing. So, that's about it, I guess. Thank you.

Jeremy Geartz

Any other comments?

Jeremy Geartz

I will now adjourn this meeting. It is 02:23PM. Thank you.