

Licensing Committee
Wednesday, May 13, 2020, 6:30 PM
Board Office
***** Minutes *****

Present: Isidro Medina (Chair), Cindy Matos, Robin Cruz, Waldys Cruz, Gerard Dengel, Ashley Fernandez, and Jonathan Frometa

Absent: -0-

Excused: -0-

Agenda Items: 33rd Precinct: Lieutenant Concepcion. 34th Precinct: Detective Matthew Pena, Officer Martinucci, and Officer Contreras. Manhattan Borough President Gale's office: Natalie Espino. Arelia Taveras, Representative for Grito Mexican Grill and Uptown Monarch Group. Grito Mexican Grill: Silvia Duran. Metropolitan Museum of Art: Frances Escano (Government Affairs Specialist), Sujin Kim, Tucker Flake. Barrel 79 LLC: Nicholas Especito. Uptown Monarch Group Inc: Angel Garcia, Jose Rodriguez. Jue Lan Kitchen LLC: John Paul, Robert Collins, Naiome Ramm, Alex Amano, and Andrew Staulcup. 104 Dyckman Corp: Robert Swetnick and Sheila Santana.

A. Welcome & Opening Remarks –

Committee Chair Isidro Medina called the meeting to order at around 6:45 PM. Distribution of tasks amongst committee members was assigned.

B. State Liquor Authority Renewal Licenses:

On-Premise Liquor License

1. Grito Mexican Grill – 1555 Saint Nicholas Avenue (at the corner of W 188th Street):

Merchant: It is currently open for delivery,

Precinct: No issues with the establishment

Public: No commentary

Vote: passed unanimously

2. The Metropolitan Museum of Art – 99 Margaret Corbin Drive (Fort Tryon Park)

Merchant: No commentary

Precinct: No issues with the establishment

Public: No commentary

Vote: passed unanimously

Restaurant Wine

3. J & F Salon NY INC – 595 W 207th Street (btw Broadway & Vermilyea Avenue)

Merchant: No representation from the establishment.

Precinct: No issues with the establishment

Public: No commentary
Vote: passed unanimously

C. State Liquor Authority Method of Operation Change License:

4. Barrel 79 LLC dba Barrel 79 – 79 Audubon Avenue (at the corner of W 169th Street)

Merchant: requesting to add live music on Saturdays and Sundays 11 AM - 2 PM, trivia nights using microphone/music player on Tuesday nights 7 PM - 9 PM through music player for post-COVID-19. There is soundproofing installation and the music player has really low decibels, not a commercial unit. No sound limiter due to the sound system not exceeding the standard commercial unit decibels.

Precinct: No issues with the establishment

Public: No commentary

Vote: passed unanimously

**D. State Liquor Authority New Licenses:
On Premise Liquor License**

5. Inwood Uptown Group LLC- 4790 Broadway (btw Dyckman & Academy Streets): **This item was withdrawn prior to the meeting.**

6. Uptown Monarch Group Inc. dba Kasa Criolla – 4486-4488 Broadway (btw W 193rd Street & Fairview Avenue)

Merchant: Has submitted the menu and full questionnaire. Post-COVID-19 has the intention of opening up as a Dominican Restaurant with a different concept geared towards small plates. The backspace is currently used as storage but will be used as a catering space upon request, along with community events such as movie nights. This place has 15 cameras for security purposes, a sound limiter, it is soundproofed, security personnel will only be provided in need by cases and there will be no third-party promoters. Hours of operation: Mon- Saturday at 11 AM - 1 AM and on Sunday 11 AM - 12 AM (which was later changed to Sunday - Thursday 11 AM - 12 AM and Friday - Saturday 11 AM - 1 AM). Requesting a DJ/Jukebox/Karaoke for special occasions. Previous owners had double-parking issues because they had valet parking. The only reason as to why there is a double parking issue momentarily, throughout the day is because meals are being sent to first responders and the elderly population during COVID-19. The double-parked vehicles are the transporters of the food. Under this new establishment, there will be no valet parking services. The only affiliation with the old establishment is trying to pay the assignment of lease. Angel has 5 to 6 years of managing experience in restaurants in Dyckman. Three total employees as of now but will expand post-COVID-19 depending on city regulations.

Precinct: 311 complaints about double parking even until now (merchant addressed those issues pertaining to the loading of food to first responders and elderly during COVID-19). Any affiliation with the prior owner? (answered above). What is the back being used for? (answered above). On January 1st there was an incident where there were people going in and out of the establishment, there was alcohol, dancing, music, and hookah. The officers were told it was a bring your own beer event. The Merchant responds that it was a private event, he said that bottle service girls weren't a part of the agreement and the problems were not addressed to the merchant.

Community: Email from Christina Tisdale & Natasha Arroyo who said they have issues with noise and worried that it will duplicate previous patterns. Christina also mentioned that they did not post a public notice that they will be pursuing a liquor license. She also mentions that Casa Criolla is affiliated with Wahi Group in Social Media. The President of Wahi Group is Junior. Sandra, and Jim Mutin had mentioned that there were issues with drug, noise, double parking issues, and violence, why would this be approved in such a time. The merchant responds that they are referring to the previous owner, he is a new owner with a different managing style and it is a different establishment. Stephen Love (president of Fort Tryon Corp.) requesting proof of any affiliation with the past owner. Francisco mentions that noise is a part of NYC and that there are certain things we can't control, for private events when it comes to the liquor license, you can serve liquor at a private event at a private establishment. You only need a liquor license if people are paying for the liquor. The precinct responded you do need a liquor license even if it is a private event. The merchant responds to everyone that he does not support crime nor does he have a criminal background and is willing to work with the community in any way possible.

Requested Stipulations:

1. A good neighbor sign;
2. No double parking sign;
3. No valet parking;
4. No hookah without a permit;
5. A sign with management phone number;
6. Time Change: Sunday - Thursday 11 AM - 12 AM and Friday - Saturday 11 AM - 1 AM

Vote: Passed with 4 who approved, 2 who abstained, 1 who

objected

7. Jue Lan Kitchen LLC dba Jue Lan Kitchen – 400 W 202nd Street (at the corner of W 202nd Street)

Merchant: There are a couple of more locations, one Midtown Manhattan, and the Hamptons (only open seasonal and open since 2015). The basic concept of the restaurant is combining food and art. They hold a quarterly block meeting with the community and precinct. Donated food locally,

donated masks to the community, and provided scholarships to two of the employees. Commissioned by the NBA to cater to their events a couple of months ago. The capacity is 300 people, 58 tables, 232 chairs, and 12 bar stools. Requesting live music, Jukebox, DJ, Karaoke. Sound limiter will be installed, it will be properly soundproofed. Security will be needed only on requested basis. 24 security cameras. Will be in compliance with all NYC regulations. Hours of operations will be Sunday - Thursday 12 PM - 2 AM Friday - Saturday 12 PM - 4 AM. Not looking to operate as a club.

Precinct: Patron dancing is checked off? Merchant responded that dancing will be only for parties and special events. The Precinct suggested that they would need a separate permit for that. There have been a couple of violent incidents in the past. There are also traffic congestion and valet parking in a saturated area. The only business that has a contract for 200 parking spaces in a parking lot. Merchant responded that they can request their customers to park directly at the parking lot. If it is a legit restaurant why does it have to be open until 4AM?

Public: Arelia commented if we're trying to clean up that area they're the businesses you would like in this community. I support this type of business. Nancy Preston commented that there were issues and violations in the midtown location and there was also a lawsuit of discrimination and theft and would like clarity on that. The merchant responded that everyone was given a handbook, was fired for insubordination, and was written up 12 times and 1200 dollar theft. Rosy Perez commented that we should address the valet parking. Ashley wanted to caution the panelist, committee, and residents with language around "cleaning up" the community because it is very condescending. How will you engage with the community? How will the residents from Washington Heights and Inwood be able to afford what you are selling? Are you looking into hiring locally? Merchant responded that they have been a part of the quarterly community block meeting. All of the other community board members had concerns with the hours of operations. Rosy re asked the same question Ashley asked and requested a copy of the program and results of their program within the community. Rosy suggested that we can request a percentage of how many people they can hire within the community.

Stipulations:

1. Submit proof of the contract of the parking lot;
2. Customers should park first at the parking garage and not bring up their vehicles in front of the establishment;
3. Hours of operations: Sunday - Thursday 11 AM - 1 AM, Friday - Saturday 11 AM - 2 AM.

Vote: passed unanimously

8. 104 Dyckman Corp. dba Pregame Dyckman – 104 Dyckman Street (at the corner of Nagle Avenue)

Merchant: Small establishment, it is a sports bar with a capacity of 74 but seating is less. No Jukebox, there will be a DJ and Karaoke. There will only be live music for private parties and there will be no third-party promoters. There is a sound limiter and it has been soundproofed properly. There will only be security personnel only when requested for special occasions. No outside area will be used. Hours of operations will be Sunday - Wednesday: until 2 AM, Thursday - Saturday at 3 AM.

Precinct: Needed confirmation if they were the same owners as Castros, the merchant clarified they have no affiliations. Castros didn't have a functioning kitchen.

Public: No commentary

Stipulations:

1. Pictures of the Kitchen to ensure it is a functioning kitchen
2. Good neighbor sign
3. Phone number of someone who can address residents concerns
4. Portable metal detectors
5. Ask no valet parking and a visible sign that states no double parking

Vote: Passed with 6 who approved, 1 who abstained, 0 who objected

Restaurant Wine

9. ~~Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC—4240 Broadway (at the corner of W 180th Street)~~ ***Withdrew prior to meeting***

10. ~~Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC—3781 Broadway (at the corner of W 157th Street)~~ ***Withdrew prior to meeting***

E. New Business/Adjournment