Licensing Committee
Wednesday, May 12, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting
Minutes

Present: Isidro Medina (Chair), Gerard Dengel (Asst. Chair), Cindy Matos, Robin Cruz, Leo Jiménez, Ángel Vásquez, Marielle Ali

Absent: Waldys Cruz, Ashley Fernandez, Rosy Perez

Translator:

Board Members: None present

Staff Present: Shinelle Paniagua

Guests:
33rd Precinct: Officer Kenneth Brown
34th Precinct: Officer Ames and Lieutenant Taveras
Barrow Tavern Inc. dba Liffy Bar II: No representative present
160 Dyckman Restaurant Corp. dba Republica: Natacha Collado, Manager
AKV Restaurant Corp. dba Inwood Local: No representative present
181 Restaurant Corp. dba Hudson View Restaurant: No representative present
Inwood Hospitality Partners, LLC dba The Hudson: Martin Mahler, Attorney
207th Street Lina Rest Inc: Santiago Quezada, Son of owner
International Food House, Inc. dba Dyckman Seafood Restaurant & Fish Market: Arelia Taveras, Attorney
Caramba Corp. dba TBD: Arelia Taveras, Attorney
Buddha Corp.: Arelia Taveras, Attorney

A. Welcome & Opening Remarks:

Chair, **Isidro Medina**, called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. Committee members introduced themselves to the attendees. The Chair explained the meeting process to all attendees: introduction of merchants, remarks from the local precinct and residents, followed by a committee discussion and vote. **Isidro** reminded attendees that the committee's vote is not final. It is solely a recommendation, and the final vote will take place at the monthly community board general meeting.

The **Chair** spoke about the mandatory public notice policy that requires businesses to post a public notice seven days ahead of the committee meeting. **Marielle** made a recommendation to the committee to visit the businesses on the agenda based on their living areas to see if they've posted the mandatory notice. Committee members agreed.

B. State Liquor Authority *Renewal* Licenses:

On-Premise Liquor License

1. Barrow Tavern Inc. dba Liffy Bar II – 5009 Broadway, Store 1 (btw W 213th & W 214th Streets) **A representative was not present.**

Committee: Leo asked about the voting process if a business representative is not present. **Isidro** responded that if a merchant has not posted the public notice the committee should reject the application. If the precinct or the residents do not have negative comments and the merchant is not present, the committee tends to vote in favor. If there are concerning comments from the precinct or the residents, the committee would vote against the application.

34th Precinct: Precinct has not received any 311 or 911 calls. There are no concerns with the location.

Residents: No comment.

Committee Vote: Yes – 5 No – 1 Abstain- 0
TOTAL: 5-1-0

2. 160 Dyckman Restaurant Corp. dba Republica – 160 Dyckman Street (at corner of Sherman Avenue) **Represented by Natacha Collado (Manager)**

Committee: Chair recommended the merchant come before the licensing committee in a more timely fashion in the future as the current license expires May 31, 2021. **Marielle** asked the merchant if a public notice was posted. Merchant shared that the public notice was not posted in time. **Chair** reminded the merchant to post the notice the next time its license is up for renewal.

34th Precinct: Precinct has not received any 311 or 911 calls. The establishment has been running smoothly.

Residents: Resident, **Nancy Preston**, shared that Republica is a wonderful community partner that offers their space. The establishment is responsive to community issues and has worked with the community in the past to resolve serious issues. We want to make sure that we

Committee Vote: Yes – 0 No- 6 Abstain - 0
TOTAL: 0-6-0

Restaurant Wine

3. AKV Restaurant Corp. dba Inwood Local – 4957 Broadway (btw W 207th & Isham Streets) **A representative was not present.**

34th Precinct: Precinct has not received any 311 or 911 calls. There are no objections to this establishment.

Residents: Resident, **Cheryl Miller**, shared that she asked if whether public notices must also be posted for renewals at the April meeting at which the Chair responded yes. Cheryl shared that the committee needs to be consistent with its public notice enforcement. She noted that pictures of the establishments shared. Every applicant should be asked whether a public notice is posted.

Committee Vote: Yes – 3 No – 0 Abstain 4
TOTAL: 3-0-4

4. 181 Restaurant Corp. dba Hudson View Restaurant – 770 W 181st Street (at the corner of W 181st Street) **A representative was not present.**

34th Precinct: Precinct has not received 311 or 911 calls. There are no objections with this establishment.

Residents: No comments.

Committee Vote: Yes – 1 No – 0 Abstain - 6
TOTAL: 1-0-6

C. State Liquor Authority *Corporate Change* Licenses:

5. Inwood Hospitality Partners, LLC dba The Hudson – 348 Dyckman Street (Dyckman Marina) **Represented by Martin Mahler (Attorney)**.

Committee: Chair, Isidro, shared that there is a typo on the name of the license, and the business would like to have the correction made to the license.

34th Precinct: Precinct has not received any 311 or 911 calls for the establishment.

Owner/Representative: The LLC is the owner of the business and is run by the same management; however, the original license was wrongly listed the incorrect LLC as 348 Hospitality instead of 340 Hudson River Partners LLC. The name on the license remains the same but the LLC member is 340 Hudson River Partners LLC.

Residents: No comments.

Committee Vote*: Yes – 6, No – 0 Abstain – 0
TOTAL: 6-0-0
*** Isidro cannot vote due to conflict of interest. He will have an event at the establishment.**

6. 207th Street Lina Rest Inc. – 500A W 207th Street (btw 10th Ave & Post Ave.) **Represented by Santiago Quezada (son of owner).**

Committee: Chair asked if in cases of corporate changes whether all parties that are buying and selling shares must be present in the meeting. **Gerard** said it is not a requirement. **Isidro** reminded the merchant to be cognizant of the double parking situation.

34th Precinct: The precinct has not received 311 or 911 calls for location, but there are concerns about double parking in the area. The precinct also expressed concerns about stolen cars and asked the merchant to inform patrons to not leave their cars on while picking up the food.

Owner/Representative: The establishment is seeking to remove, Celia Quezada, one person from the license and retain the current owner. Celia Quezada previously owned 50% of the shares, and now the father will own 100% of the shares. Celia Quezada was not present.

Residents: No comments.

Committee Vote: Yes – 7 No -0 Abstain 0
TOTAL: 7-0-0

D. State Liquor Authority *Alteration* Licenses:

7. International Food House, Inc. dba Dyckman Seafood Restaurant & Fish Market – 217 Dyckman Street (at the corner of Broadway) **Represented by Arelia Taveras (Attorney**).

Committee: Chair shares that the establishment posted a public notice, but the application was missing the establishment's hours of operation. Chair reminded the committee that establishments undergoing alterations costing more than $10,000 must inform the Community Board.

34th Precinct: Precinct has not received any 311 or 911 calls for the establishment.

Owner/Representative: The establishment was previously known as Albert's Mofongo House but has changed names. The establishment opens at 10 am and closes at 11pm and is seeking an alteration for the bar to be removed to create space for private functions.

Residents: Resident, **Nancy Preston**, expressed support for the establishment sharing it is a model operator and has supported the community with the Ring Garden but also on Inwood rezoning.

Committee Vote: Yes 7 No -0 Abstain - 0
TOTAL: 7-0-0

Committee: Chair, Isidro Medina, left the meeting and reminded committee members to ask new licensees about the public notice. Members were also reminded to ask merchants about alcohol handling, capacity, and methods of operations. Isidro Medina left the meeting and asked Gerard Dengel, Assistant Chair, to Chair the rest of the meeting.

E. State Liquor Authority *New* Licenses:
On-Premise Liquor License

8. Caramba Corp. dba TBD – 1051 Saint Nicholas Avenue (btw W 162nd & 163rd Streets)
Represented by Arelia Taveras (Attorney).

Committee: Members expressed concerns with the establishment's closing hours at 4:00 am, especially considering that the location was previously a laundromat. **Leo** asked if the owner had restaurant experience or would be hiring a manager with sufficient experience. **Leo** also asked if the establishment would have security guards. **Angel** shared concerns about the surrounding area. **Marielle** expressed concerns about the hours of operations and recommended the establishment be open until 2:00 am on the weekends and 12:00 am on weeknights. **Marielle** also recommended two stipulations: good neighbor sign and the use of a sound limiter.

33rd Precinct: No issues of 311 or 911 calls in the area. The precinct asked to be cognizant of the noise level and recommended use of a sound limiter. The officer noted there are several residential buildings in the area.

Owner/Representative: The owner of the establishment also owns the barbershop next door. The establishment will be a bar/tavern with a small kitchen and a 4:00 am closing time. It has a capacity of 74 persons with 15 tables and 36 seats. It will have a DJ, karaoke, and live music. Arelia (attorney) recommended a sound limiter for the establishment. The owner is new to restaurants but has restaurant experience from the Dominican Republic. The establishment will have security.
Residents: Cheryl Miller asked whether the establishment was going to be a bar/tavern and asked about its method of operations regarding a DJ/Karaoke and live music.

Agreed Stipulations:
1. Hours of Operation Sunday-Wednesday 12 am close and Thursday-Saturday 2 am
2. Good neighbor sign
3. DJ Thursday to Saturday
4. Sound limiter
5. No Double parking and no valet sign
6. Meet with 33rd Precinct

Committee Vote: Yes -6 No -0 Abstain – 0
TOTAL 6-0-0

9. ~~United Palace of Cultural Arts, Inc. dba United Palace – 4140 Broadway (btw W 175th & W 176th Streets)~~ **Withdrawn prior to meeting**

10. Buddha Corp. – 1654A Saint Nicholas Avenue (btw W 192nd & W 193rd Streets)
Represented by Arelia Taveras (Attorney).

Committee: Gerard shared that residents notified the office and the committee that the establishment did not place the public notice 10 days before the meeting. **Marielle** asked the representative to clarify the closing hours as the establishment and residents agreed to 12 am but the application says 2:00 am Monday – Sunday. **Marielle** asked whether the establishment consider Sunday to Wednesday 12 am and Thursday to Saturday 2:00 am. **Leo** noted the visible community pushback and suggested whether the establishment would consider a restaurant, wine and beer license first. **Robin** noted that the establishment is in a residential area, and operating hours should be Monday-Sunday 12 am. **Marielle** seconded Leo's suggestion of a restaurant, wine and beer license and Robin's suggestion of further reduced hours. **Gerard** asked the representative if the owner would consider withdrawing the application due to the community feedback and making changes to the application and re-engaging the community.

34th Precinct – As last time, the precinct is opposed to the establishment opening in the area. As residents have said, the area is a hotpot due to noise complaints and crime like stolen vehicles. There are residents that live above the establishment, and there is a bus stop in front of the location. There are concerns about a congested bus stop and double parking.

Owner/Representative: The establishment received two negative votes before once because the application/process was not done properly by previous representative, and the second no-vote because the establishment did not meet with the community. Establishment will be a bar/tavern restaurant in a residential neighborhood and have agreed not to have a DJ. The establishment will have a 1:00 am closing every day of the week. The owner is seeking to build trust and relationships with the 34th Precinct and the community to ensure issues are addressed immediately. The establishment has 74 seating capacity and will have an onsite manager at all times. Establishment met with the community last week via Zoom. The representative declined withdrawing the application.

Residents: Gerard (read via chat) "This is the third time that Buddha has applied for this license. I insist that the committee says no to this type of business. They are making believe they will comply with low noise, no traffic. The precinct has confirmed that this is a hotspot. The establishment will promise what the committee wants to hear and will be much harder to enforce if the license is approved.**" Gerard opened the floor for residents to comment.** Resident, **Gerald Rabl,** said that residents live across the street from the location, and expressed concerns about the ongoing noise, traffic, and crime in the area. Gerald asked committee to vote against the license. **Eileen King** shared that she met with the owner and the representative along with 4 other residents to discuss the establishment's food, menu, and takeout options. Eileen felt the meeting was disingenuous as the establishment is requesting a bar/tavern license and not a restaurant license. Eileen shared that a tavern license can then be changed to a night club license. Eileen asked the committee to check the application and see if the establishment will close at midnight. Resident, **Mary,** shared that the applicant has come before committee for the third time. Mary asked about the process and noted that community opposition is also noted at the general board meeting. There is a school and church in the area. There is also a building with senior citizens nearby. While the sign was posted, it did not appear genuine. Similar establishments have applied for similar licenses and have not been held accountable. Mary urged the committee to vote no.

Committee Vote: Yes-0 No-3 Abstain- 3
TOTAL: 0 -3-3

New Tavern Wine License

~~11. KOKO Seafood Salad Grill – Inc. 92 Nagle Ave. (btw Ellwood St. & Sickles St.) Withdrawn prior to meeting~~

F. New Business/Adjournment

Robin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm.