



## Community Board 12M

Washington Heights & Inwood

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New York, NY 10032

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<https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb12>

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### Licensing Committee Minutes

Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 7:00PM

[YouTube Recording Link](#)

#### Attendance

Committee Members: Isidro Medina (Chair), Robin Cruz, Joel Abreu, Cimary Hernandez, Carl Unegbu, Anthony Viola

CB12M Office Staff: Ebenezer Smith (District Manager), Shinelle Paniagua

33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct: Detective Angelica Torres (NCO Admin)

34<sup>th</sup> Precinct: Captain Justin Marzan

Interpreter: Soraya Chedebeau

Community Member: Cheryl Miller

#### Agenda and Minutes

##### A. Welcome & Opening Remarks – Isidro Medina, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 7:19PM
- CB12M Office # 212-568-8500 for questions
  - Ebenezer provided his phone number to resolve technical difficulties that occurred during the meeting.
- General inbox for CB12M: [cb12m@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:cb12m@cb.nyc.gov)

##### B. State Liquor Authority Renewal Licenses:

###### *On-Premises Liquor License*

1. 3938 Bway Rest LLC dba Fort Washington Public House, Juanitas– 3938 Broadway (at the corner of W 165<sup>th</sup> Street)
  - a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Niall Henry, owner. Own several establishments in the area. Health grade was low for the first time in 10 years. Most violations have been corrected, some issues out of our control. Working towards improvement and will have another inspection in 30-60 days.
  - b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated April 28, 2021, passed with no objection. Issue with Health inspection, last grade C.
  - c. **33<sup>rd</sup> PRECINCT**: No objection.

- d. **RESIDENTS**: Cheryl Miller asked about sound proofing and sound limiter, as she lives above the establishment, and noted the use of speakers on the outside of the establishment. This is an old building; bass may impact even if sound proofed. DJ was let go. Ken reassured me he spoke to the staff about the music and the noise. Speakers outside of the restaurant are not permitted, although not being enforced. Staff usually has music turned up loud on the speakers and would want to avoid establishment getting any violations.
  - e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Chair stipulated sound proofing and requiring that no speakers are used on the outside portions of the restaurant. Chair also noted the \$5,000 SLA fines, to which Mr. Henry explained as a result of Covid. Chair also inquired into “C” health grade, to which Mr. Henry stated he has hired outside consultant to help remediate the issues identified in the inspection.
  - f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **4,0,1**
    - **Yes**: Isidro, Joel, Cimary, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: Robin
2. Lake Eerie Group, LLC dba HP at North End- 4300 Broadway (at the corner of W 183<sup>rd</sup> Street)
    - a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Lauren Lynch, owner; Ben Savitsky, representative.
    - b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated September 30, 2022, passed with no objection.
    - c. **34<sup>th</sup> PRECINCT**: No objection.
    - d. **RESIDENTS**: No comments.
    - e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Recommend visiting establishment.
    - f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **5,0,0**
      - **Yes**: Isidro, Robin, Joel, Cimary, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: 0
  3. 839 W 181 Food Inc dba Le Cheile – 839 W 181<sup>st</sup> Street (at the corner of W 181<sup>st</sup> Street)
    - a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Clare Donnelly, general manager.
    - b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated April 28, 2021, passed with objection due to failure of the owner or representative attending the Licensing Meeting.
    - c. **34<sup>th</sup> PRECINCT**: No objection.
    - d. **RESIDENTS**: No comments.
    - e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: No comments.
    - f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **5,0,0**
      - **Yes**: Isidro, Robin, Joel, Cimary, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: 0
  4. Sushi Vida Inc. dba Mamasushi – 237 Dyckman Street (at the corner of Seaman Avenue)
    - a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Victor Santos, representative.
    - b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated February 26, 2021, passed with no objection.
    - c. **34<sup>th</sup> PRECINCT**: No objection.
    - d. **RESIDENTS**: No comments.
    - e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: No comments.
    - f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **5,0,0**
      - **Yes**: Isidro, Robin, Joel, Cimary, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: 0

5. ~~Mis Delicias Colombianas Inc. – 588 W 207th Street (btw Broadway & Vermilyea Avenue)~~

***WITHDREW PRIOR TO THE MEETING***

6. Mi Ranchito Mexican Restaurant Inc. – 1468 Saint Nicholas Avenue (btw W 183 & W 184 Street)
- a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Maria Gonzalez, manager. Health grade is being rectified. Many issues with basement that is connected to establishment next door, water leak.
  - b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated April 28, 2021, passed with objection due to failure of the owner or representative attending the Licensing Meeting, as well as no public notice at the establishment. Health grade pending.
  - c. **34th PRECINCT**: No objection.
  - d. **RESIDENTS**: No comments.
  - e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Chair inquired into “C” health grade, to which Ms. Gonzalez stated was an issue with the building’s plumbing and the basement apartment attracting vermin. Chair asked what issues were found within the restaurant to cause the letter grade, to which Ms. Gonzalez responded she was not present with her food handler’s license and there was milk and rice kept at wrong temperatures. Committee Member Viola asked how Ms. Gonzalez planned to fix the roach issue identified in the health inspection, to which Ms. Gonzalez stated the landlord has sealed any openings between the restaurant and the other apartments in the building.
  - f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **6,0,0**
    - **Yes**: Isidro, Robin, Joel, Cimary, Carl, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: 0
7. AC Weirton LLC dba Penny Jo’s – 3898 Broadway, Store #1 (at the corner of W 163rd Street)
- a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Andrew Castelli, owner. Seeking waiver of the last 11-12 days of the 30 day notice.
  - b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated June 27, 2017, passed with no objection so long as the establishment (1) provided evidence of soundproofing, (2) provided evidence of installation of a sound limiter, and (3) installed a “Good Neighbor” sign.
  - c. **33rd PRECINCT**: No objection.
  - d. **RESIDENTS**: Cheryl Miller inquired into process following the expiration of a license, to which Chair replied that the restaurant must cease all alcohol sales and remove all alcohol products from the public view.
  - e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Chair asked why Mr. Castelli did not apply sooner to avoid delays in the licensing process, to which Mr. Castelli stated that there were several operational staff issues plus personal traumas. Mr. Castelli requested a waiver of the 30-day window, to which Chair explained there was no precedent for and could not be considered by this Board. Chair noted that the resolution from Licensing, if passed at the Committee-level, would not pass the Board until the general meeting on April 25, 2023. Mr. Castelli noted his business has faced severe losses, and alleged without the waiver, he may need to close the establishment indefinitely. Chair stated that he

would not act without precedent, but referred Mr. Castelli to the Board Chair for further consideration of expediting the resolution.

f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **6,0,0**

- **Yes**: Isidro, Robin, Joel, Cimary, Carl, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: 0

8. ~~Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado, LLC dba Chipotle Mexican Grill #1968—4009 Broadway (btw W 168th & W 169th Street)~~

***WITHDREW PRIOR TO THE MEETING***

***Restaurant Wine License***

9. AKV Restaurant Corp. dba Inwood Local Wine Bar & Beer Garden – 4957 Broadway (btw W 207<sup>th</sup> & Isham Street)

a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Gus Anton, owner.

b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated May 2, 2019, passed with no objection.

c. **34th PRECINCT**: No objection.

d. **RESIDENTS**: No comments.

e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: No comments.

f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **6,0,0**

- **Yes**: Isidro, Robin, Joel, Cimary, Carl, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: 0

**C. State Liquor Authority Corporate Change Licenses:**

10. Café Sahara Inc.—4026 10th Avenue (btw W 214th & W 215th Street)

***WITHDREW PRIOR TO THE MEETING***

**D. State Liquor Authority New Licenses:**

***ON-PREMISES LIQUOR LICENSES & TEMPORARY RETAIL PERMIT***

11. Doscca Torce Bar & Grill Inc. dba TBD – 501 W 214th Street (at the corner of W 214th Street)

a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Erik Roberto, owner.

b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire.

c. **34th PRECINCT**: Captain Marzan stated recent crimes in the area unrelated to the establishment; but asked Mr. Roberto to remain committed to working with Precinct. No objection.

d. **RESIDENTS**: No comments.

e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Chair asked about Mr. Roberto’s background, to which Mr. Roberto explained he owned a barbershop in the community for 18 years—Mr. Roberto has been providing charitable services (e.g., cutting kids’ hair for free) for approximately 10 years. Chair asked about the previous establishment, Café Tabaco, to which Mr. Roberto said that he was close with that establishment’s owner. Committee Member Abreu asked why the previous owner sold, to which Mr. Roberto stated that the owner decided to sell Mr. Roberto the business due to

sickness. Chair asked about staff turnover, to which Mr. Roberto stated he intended to keep the existing staff on and make the current bartender, Eddie Perez, lead as manager for the bar. Chair asked what distinguishes the new restaurant from Café Tabaco, to which Mr. Roberto responded he plans to have more activities and live music.

f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **6,0,0**

- **Yes**: Isidro, Robin, Joel, Cimary, Carl, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: 0

12. She Messy Corp. dba Taszo Coffee – 5 Edward Morgan Pl (btw W 157th & W 158th Street)

a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Marc Russo, owner; Ellen

b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire; presented former establishment’s no objection letter from CB12 dated March 7, 2019.

c. **33rd PRECINCT**: No objection.

d. **RESIDENTS**: No comments.

e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Committee Member Viola noted three concerns from the former establishment Taszo: (1) failure to provide credit card tips to employees; (2) permitting dogs in the dining area, and (3) double-parking on an already dangerous turn onto Edward Morgan Pl., to which Mr. Russo stated he has no affiliation with the former owner and intends to maintain an orderly business. Chair and Committee Member Viola agreed to stipulate a no parking sign. Chair also required proof of sound limiter purchased. Committee Member Unegbu asked about the character of the restaurant, to which Mr. Russo stated it will be tapas style with French and Spanish roots. Chair asked about Mr. Russo’s experience, to which Mr. Russo stated he has hospitality experience.

f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **6,0,0**

- **Yes**: Isidro, Robin, Joel, Cimary, Carl, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: 0
- **STIPULATION: Applicant must provide proof of purchase of sound limiter by April 21, 2023, at 5:00pm**

13. ~~Doden LLC dba TBD—3760 Broadway (at the corner of W 156th Street)~~

***WITHDREW DURING MEETING FOR FAILURE TO PLACE PUBLIC NOTICE SIGNS ON WINDOW***

14. Ritany LLC – 800 W 187th Street (at the corner of W 187th Street)

a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Adriana Coca Pena, owner

b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire.

c. **34th PRECINCT**: No objection.

d. **RESIDENTS**: No comments.

e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Chair asked about Ms. Coca’s previous experience, to which Ms. Coca stated she has worked in various restaurants both in and outside the community (e.g., La Pinata, Maison Pickle), and that her family operates restaurants in Colombia. Chair stated for the record that CB12M received a resident complaint regarding sound from this establishment, and stipulated a sound limiter although Ms.

Coca noted the plan is to play only French classical music. Committee Member Abreu asked when the restaurant will open, to which Ms. Coca stated the first week of May.

f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **6,0,0**

- **Yes**: Isidro, Robin, Joel, Cimary, Carl, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: 0
- **Applicant must provide proof of purchase of sound limiter by April 21, 2023, at 5:00pm**

15. Gallego Seafood 2 Corp. – 518 W 207th Street, Store #4 (btw Sherman & Post Avenue)

a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: No owner or representative present at meeting.

b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire.

c. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Chair recommended straight-vote due to failure of appearance of an owner or representative from the applicant.

d. **VOTING**: The application **DID NOT** pass. **1,5,0**

- **Yes**: Robin **No**: Isidro, Joel, Cimary, Carl, Anthony **Abstain**: 0

16. Café Bloom LLC dba Bloom – 4394 Broadway (btw W 187th & W 189th Street)

a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Melanie Gomez, owner; Rosanmy Mercado, owner.

b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire.

c. **34th PRECINCT**: Comment not captured.

d. **RESIDENTS**: No comments.

e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Chair asked about the owners, to which Ms. Gomez and Ms. Mercado stated they were born and raised in the community and wanted to bring the influence of European café lifestyle to their home community. Chair asked about their liquor handling experience, to which Ms. Gomez and Ms. Mercado stated that they have little but are working closely with the previous owner and current staff to learn. Ms. Gomez noted that she is close with one of the owners of Locksmith Bar and learns from them as well. Committee Member Abreu commented positively on the style and asked the owners when they will open, to which Ms. Gomez and Ms. Mercado stated they are already open. Committee Member Viola praised the affordable prices.

f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **6,0,0**

- **Yes**: Isidro, Robin, Joel, Cimary, Carl, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: 0

#### **E. New Business/Adjournment**

- No new business
- Adjournment: Motion made (Abreu) and seconded (Hernandez)
  - Adjourned at 8:57PM

Respectfully submitted by Anthony Viola