



Community Board 12M

Washington Heights & Inwood

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

Licensing Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 6:30PM

[YouTube Recording Link](#)

Attendance

Committee Members: Isidro Medina (Chair), Angel Vasquez (Vice-Chair), Robin Cruz, Leo Jiminez, Cimary Hernandez, Carl Unegbu, Anthony Viola

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

33rd Precinct: Ronnie Rodriguez

34th Precinct: Aneudy Castillo

Interpreter: Soraya Chedebeau

Community Member: Martin Collins, Cheryl Miller, Carlos Ruiz

Agenda and Minutes

A. Welcome & Opening Remarks – Isidro Medina, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 6:47PM
- CB12M Office # 212-568-8500 for questions
- General inbox for CB12M: cb12m@cb.nyc.gov

B. State Liquor Authority Renewal Licenses:

On-Premises Liquor License

1. Blue Corn Restaurant Corp. – 1969 Amsterdam Avenue (btw W. 157th and 158th Street)
 - a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Elizabeth Larios Aguilar, owner.
 - b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated October 28, 2019, passed with no objection.
 - c. **33rd PRECINCT**: No objection.
 - d. **RESIDENTS**: No comments
 - e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Chair Isidro Medina asked the owner how long the business has been opened, to which Ms. Larios Aguilar responded 20 years, noting that business has not been good recently. Committee Member Leo Jiminez said the establishment has great food; Vice-Chair Angel Vasquez echoed Committee Member Jiminez’s statement.
 - f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **5,0,0**

- **Yes:** Isidro, Angel, Robin, Leo, Anthony **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0
2. The Element Restaurant Corp. – 854 W. 181st Street (at the corner of W 181st Street)
 - a. **REPRESENTATIVE:** *None present.*
 - b. **APPLICATION:** Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated April 28, 2021, passed with objection due to no owner present and a failure to post a public notice.
 - c. **34th PRECINCT:** No objection.
 - d. **RESIDENTS:** No comments.
 - e. **BOARD MEMBERS:** No comments.
 - f. **VOTING:** The application **DID** pass. **5,0,0**
 - **Yes:** Isidro, Angel, Robin, Leo, Anthony **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

 3. Barrow Tavern Inc. dba Liffy II Bar – 5009 Broadway, Store 1 (at the corner of W 213th Street)
 - a. **REPRESENTATIVE:** Kirby Mannix, owner.
 - b. **APPLICATION:** Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated May 26, 2021, passed with no objection.
 - c. **34th PRECINCT:** No objection.
 - d. **RESIDENTS:** No comments.
 - e. **BOARD MEMBERS:** Chair Medina asked the owner for the reason why the business received \$7,000 in SLA fines, to which Mr. Mannix stated he couldn't recall other than not posting a Surgeon General warning Alcohol and Pregnancy sign. Committee Member Anthony Viola asked the owner why the restaurant has an old "A" grade posted if it obtained a "Grade Pending," to which Mr. Mannix replied he did not receive a new sign from the Health Department.
 - f. **VOTING:** The application **DID** pass. **4,0,1**
 - **Yes:** Isidro, Angel, Leo, Anthony **No:** 0 **Abstain:** Robin

 4. 160 Dyckman Rest Corp. dba Republica – 160 Dyckman Street (at the corner of Sherman Avenue)
 - a. **REPRESENTATIVE:** Victor Sanchez, owner.
 - b. **APPLICATION:** Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated June 6, 2019, passed with objection due to serious concerns raised by the 34th Precinct at the time.
 - c. **34th PRECINCT:** No objection.
 - d. **RESIDENTS:** No comments.
 - e. **BOARD MEMBERS:** Chair Medina stated the restaurant is ran well and offers good food. Committee Member Jiminez agreed with Chair Medina and said it is kept clean.
 - f. **VOTING:** The application **DID** pass. **5,0,0**
 - **Yes:** Isidro, Angel, Robin, Leo, Anthony **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

 5. 104 Dyckman Corp. dba Pregame Dyckman – 104 Dyckman Street (at the corner of Dyckman Street)
 - a. **REPRESENTATIVE:** Robert Swetnick, attorney; Sheila Santana, owner.

- b. **APPLICATION:** Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution not found.
 - c. **34th PRECINCT:** Objected for the following reasons:
 - Shots fired at 1:40am the morning of May 9, 2023
 - Summons given for serving minors on March 1, 2023
 - An underage individual was involved in a fight (in or around October 2022)
 - Establishment doesn't cooperate when precinct reaches out
 - Total delivery is 11 criminal court summonses and two oath summonses
 - d. **RESIDENTS:** Resident Cheryl Miller commented on underage drinking, stating the SLA disapproves strongly, and asked if the establishment is properly proofing/ID'ing patrons, to which Mr. Swetnick noted there have been no SLA violations pending and Ms. Santana noted the summonses were given outside the establishment and not in the establishment. Ms. Santana also said the establishment closes at 2:00 a.m., to which Commanding Officer Aneudy Castillo said that the establishment often does not close at 2:00 a.m., and that the 34th Precinct often needs to dedicate resources to the establishment for safety.
 - e. **BOARD MEMBERS:** Committee Member Viola asked the owner who she has been speaking with at the 34th Precinct, to which the owner stated Officer Amer and C.O. Castillo stated that was the officer who issued some of the summonses. Committee Member Robin Cruz stated the importance of cooperating with the police.
 - f. **VOTING:** The application **DID NOT** pass. **0,5,0**
 - **Yes:** 0 **No:** Isidro, Angel, Robin, Leo, Anthony **Abstain:** 0
6. Taco Inn Corp. dba Taco Inn Taqueria – 1495 Saint Nicholas Avenue (at the corner of W. 185th Street)
- a. **REPRESENTATIVE:** Margarita Perez, owner.
 - b. **APPLICATION:** Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated October 3, 2018, passed with no objection.
 - c. **34th PRECINCT:** No objection.
 - d. **RESIDENTS:** No comments.
 - e. **BOARD MEMBERS:** Chair Medina asked how many employees the establishment has and how many years it has been open, to which Ms. Perez said five employees and open for five years. Chair Medina asked about the establishment's "B" rating, to which Ms. Perez said it had to do with a cleaning cloth not being in bleach. Chair Medina commented that the establishment is good, authentic, and family-ran, with good mariachi bands.
 - f. **VOTING:** The application **DID** pass. **5,0,0**
 - **Yes:** Isidro, Angel, Robin, Leo, Anthony **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Restaurant Wine License

- 7. Maimon Mariscos Inc. – 1356 Saint Nicholas Avenue (at the corner of W. 178th Street)
 - a. **REPRESENTATIVE:** James Wang, representative.
 - b. **APPLICATION:** Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution not found.
 - c. **33rd PRECINCT:** No objection.

- d. **RESIDENTS**: No comments.
- e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Chair Medina noted that there was no health inspection grade for the restaurant, to which Mr. Wang said the establishment does not need to be inspected. Committee Member Viola asked whether the establishment serves prepared food, to which Mr. Wang said less than ten percent of its products are prepared foods.
- f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **6,0,0**
 - **Yes**: Isidro, Angel, Robin, Leo, Carl, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: 0

Eating Place Beer License

- 8. Seaflower Fish Market Inc. – 4127 Broadway, Store 5 (btw W. 174th and 175th Street)
 - a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: James Wang, representative.
 - b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated June 29, 2020, passed with no objection.
 - c. **33rd PRECINCT**: No objection.
 - d. **RESIDENTS**: No comments.
 - e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Chair Medina asked whether the establishment has an outdoor seating area, to which Mr. Wang said he did not know. Chair Medina commented the outdoor seating area does not have an accessibility ramp. Chair Medina asked about the vermin and insect issue noted on the health inspection, to which Mr. Wang said the establishment hired a new exterminator. Committee Member Viola asked why the health inspection has a completely different name (Calle 174 Pescaderia) than all other documents, to which Mr. Wang said he did not know. Committee Member Viola also commented he was not convinced the vermin issue was resolved as it was noted on both recent health inspections.
 - f. **VOTING**: The application **DID NOT** pass. **2,2,2**
 - **Yes**: Isidro, Angel **No**: Robin, Anthony **Abstain**: Leo, Carl

C. State Liquor Authority Class Change Licenses:

- ~~9. FEMI176 Inc. dba Flor de Mayo—4160 Broadway (at the corner of W. 176th Street)
WITHDREW AT THE MEETING~~
- ~~10. Budda Corp. dba Budda—1654A Saint Nicholas Avenue (at the corner of W. 193rd Street)
WITHDREW PRIOR TO THE MEETING~~

D. State Liquor Authority Method of Operation Change Licenses:

- ~~11. Budda Corp. dba Budda—1654A Saint Nicholas Avenue (at the corner of W. 193rd Street)
WITHDREW PRIOR TO THE MEETING~~
- 12. Mama Taco LLC dba Mama Taco – 5025 Broadway (btw W. 214th and W. 215th Street)
 - a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Rose Rodriguez, owner.
 - b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated December 1, 2020, passed with no objection. The change requested would allow live music in the establishment.

- c. **34th PRECINCT:** No object.
- d. **RESIDENTS:** Resident Martin Collins asked about the hours for live music, whether it will be amplified or acoustic, and will the doors be open, to which Ms. Rodriguez said the hours will be until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday and during brunch hours (12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) on weekends, no speakers, and closed doors. Resident Collins noted around 200 apartments in the area and needing to balance business interests with residents. Resident Carlos Ruiz stated he is an educator and noted that Ms. Rodriguez works well with the community, particularly supporting woman POC business owners.
- e. **BOARD MEMBERS:** Chair Medina noted that speakers are not allowed outside under law, and asked about hookah, to which Ms. Rodriguez replied she no longer permits hookah in the restaurant. Chair Medina asked if the space is soundproof and if there is a sound limiter in place, to which Ms. Rodriguez said yes, and noted she has a good relationship with tenants and the building's landlord.
- f. **VOTING:** The application **DID** pass. **6,1,0**
 - **Yes:** Isidro, Angel, Leo, Cimary, Carl, Anthony **No:** Robin **Abstain:** 0
 - **Applicant must provide proof that outdoor speakers have been removed by May 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

E. State Liquor Authority Corporate Change Licenses:

13. Café Sahara Inc. — 4026 10th Avenue (btw W 214th & W 215th Street)
WITHDREW AT THE MEETING

F. State Liquor Authority Temporary Retail Permit:

On-Premises Liquor

- 14. Fito Restaurant Inc. dba Fito – 4736 Broadway (at the corner of Thayer Street)
 - a. **REPRESENTATIVE:** Felix Abarca, owner
 - b. **APPLICATION:** Complete application with questionnaire. Previous CB12M resolution, dated December 22, 2021, passed with no objection.
 - c. **34th PRECINCT:** No objection.
 - d. **RESIDENTS:** Resident Collins said Mr. Abarca is an outstanding restaurateur.
 - e. **BOARD MEMBERS:** Chair Medina asked the application, to which Mr. Abarca noted it is meant to be a class change to switch from beer and wine to a full liquor (updated to reflect this). Chair Medina asked why the class change, to which Mr. Abarca stated it is a matter of industry and patrons are looking for spirits, noting he loves working with spirits. Committee Member Jiminez said it is a welcoming establishment with fair prices.
 - f. **VOTING:** The application **DID** pass. **7,0,0**
 - **Yes:** Isidro, Angel, Robin, Leo, Cimary, Carl, Anthony **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0
 - **Application converted to a class change during the meeting.**

G. State Liquor Authority New Licenses:

Restaurant Wine License & Temporary Retail Permit

15. ~~Gallego Seafood 2 Corp.— 518 W 207th Street, Store #4 (btw Sherman & Post Avenue)~~
WITHDREW AT THE MEETING

16. BO's Bagels & Brunch dba BO's Bagels – 3887 Broadway (btw W 155th & W 156th Street)

- a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Ashley Dikos, owner; Andrew Martinez, owner.
- b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire.
- c. **33rd PRECINCT**: No objection.
- d. **RESIDENTS**: Resident Miller said that a location higher up in the Heights would have been nice.
- e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Chair Medina asked about the owners, to which Mr. Martinez stated he has 30 years of experience in the industry with 10 years of liquor experience. Mr. Martinez was the bar manager of Michael Jordan Steakhouse in Grand Central Terminal. Mr. Martinez also did real estate rentals in Washington Heights for seven years. Ms. Dikos obtained her Master's from Columbia Medical Center, where she worked. Chair Medina recommended contacting Con Edison for gas as soon as possible. Committee Member Viola asked about the brunch items, to which Mr. Martinez said it won't be big brunch items and in theme with the other location on 116th Street. Committee Member Viola asked when the owners intend to open, to which Ms. Dikos said hopefully in July 2023.
- f. **VOTING**: The application **DID** pass. **6,0,0**
 - **Yes**: Angel, Robin, Leo, Cimary, Carl, Anthony **No**: 0 **Abstain**: 0

17. BO's Bagels & Brunch dba BO's Bagels – 3887 Broadway (btw W 155th & W 156th Street)

- a. **REPRESENTATIVE**: Ishmael Gonzalez, owner; Miriam Gonzalez, representative.
- b. **APPLICATION**: Complete application with questionnaire.
- c. **33rd PRECINCT**: Sergeant Ronnie Rodriguez stated there were multiple 311 complaints for drinking (four inside; one outside) in the past 12 months—October 29, 2022; November 14, 2022; April 12, 2023; and May 4, 2023.
- d. **RESIDENTS**: Resident Miller asked if there is another part of the establishment, to which Ms. Gonzalez stated that it appears it was divided before they moved in.
- e. **BOARD MEMBERS**: Chair Medina asked about the restroom's entryway and measurements, to which Mr. Gonzalez said they would take measurements. Chair Medina asked about experience with liquor or training, to which Ms. Gonzalez said she would take the training for experience. Committee Member Viola asked if the restaurant was accessible to patrons without accessing the kitchen, to which Ms. Gonzalez said no but they have walked customers through the kitchen before. Chair Medina commented this is not a legal practice, and recommended withdrawal.

WITHDREW AT THE MEETING AFTER DISCUSSION

H. New Business/Adjournment

- No new business
- Adjournment: Motion made (Hernandez) and seconded (Unegbu)
 - Adjourned at 9:05PM

Respectfully submitted by Anthony Viola