Valerie De La Rosa, Chair Eugene Yoo, First Vice Chair Donna Raftery, Second Vice Chair



Antony Wong, Treasurer Emma Smith, Secretary Brian Pape, Assistant Secretary Mark Diller, District Manager

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899 www.manhattancb2.org

June 25, 2025

Director Licensing Issuance Division NY State Liquor Authority 163 W. 125th Street New York, New York 10027

Dear Sir/Madam:

At its Full Board meeting on June 18, 2025, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

**Boucherie LLC dba Boucherie 97-99 Seventh Ave. South 10014** (OP–Restaurant) (Lic. ID #0340-22-106274) (Alteration: DONYC-Sidewalk)

- i. Whereas, the Chief Executive Officer and the Applicant's Attorney appeared before Community Board 2, Manhattan's SLA Licensing Committee #2 to submit an application to the NYS Liquor Authority for an Alteration to the existing On-Premises Liquor License to add sidewalk seating to their licensed premises consisting of 34 tables and 68 seats on the sidewalk as part of the Dining Out NYC program; and
- Whereas, the Applicant originally came before Community Board 2, Manhattan in August/2016 to present the original On-Premises Liquor License application for this location which included 221 interior table seats, 22 bar seats for a total of 243 interior seats and 84 exterior seats on the sidewalk for total seating of not more than 327 seats; the resolution states "concerns were raised that the Applicant has had significant issues including at both his locations in CB2, Olio and Whynot Coffee LLC; at Whynot Coffee LLC with noise generated from patrons, alterations, noise from live music and illegal use of outdoor seating as well as poor relationships with neighbors who have complained and a history of ignoring those issues until appearing before CB2 and that in the past the Applicant has not complied with representations he has made at Olio with issues surrounding the sidewalk café; that the Authority canceled his license at his location in CB3 for not adhering to his method of operation and unauthorized alterations; there were concerns that while the subject premises of this current application is located on an Avenue and not in a direct residential there was significant concern that if any of these issues were to occur here because of the huge number of indoor seats and the substantial number of outdoor seats there would be a dramatic impact and that not enough time had elapsed to indicate any sort of track history of adhering to basic rules and regulations and stipulations; there were significant concerns regarding character;" and
- iii. Whereas, the concerns raised, and inability to follow rules have continued for the past 9 years; a current example... at some time in early July/2024 (CB2 was not copied on the initial emails) a resident emailed Assembly Member Deborah Glick's office regarding Boucherie only leaving a 3 foot clear path on 7th Avenue South, with the Assembly Members office emailing the resident on July 15,

2024 saying that Boucherie Restaurant was re-inspected and was issued a second notice to correct due to inadequate ADA path for pedestrians on the sidewalk, the emails continue into early August with Kate Scherer (Manhattan Borough Commissioner's Office, NYC DOT) emailing to a group which included CB2 on August 5, 2024 that DOT dispatched inspectors to Boucherie over the weekend and Boucherie agreed to remove the planters for the duration of the construction on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; the complaints continued, with photos submitted by residents and members of CB2 showing pedestrians being forced to walk in the bike lane on 7th Avenue South due to the lack of clear path on the sidewalk, Kate Scherer emailed again on August 9, 2024 that inspectors were going out again that day and following up on August 13 to say that inspectors issued new violations, on August 14 the Applicant removed the planters in order to facilitate a Lillet event taking place at Boucherie and the planters were back in place by August 19, the complaints continued with Ed Pincar (Manhattan Borough Commissioner for NYC DOT) emailing on September 20, nearly 3 months after the initial complaints regarding this specific condition, that **DOT removed the planters** from the location, the Applicant willfully remaining in violation of the rules for 3 months after it was brought to their attention, the Applicant able to temporarily remove the planters in order to host a sponsored promotional event at their premises but unable to comply on their own when it came to the safety of the public and their ability to use the public sidewalk despite multiple DOT violations being issued;

- iv. Whereas, during the Covid pandemic in 2021 when patrons were not permitted to be eating inside for life safety issues, CB2 received photographs of patrons eating inside Boucherie's newly constructed, completely enclosed sidewalk café, again showing a willful disregard for abiding by any rules, including those for the health and safety of its patrons; and
- v. Whereas, Petite Boucherie LLC dba Petite Boucherie and Omakase Room at 14 Christopher Street (Lic ID # 0340-23-137761, previously licensed as Whynot Coffee LLC), another of the Applicant's locations in CB2, has been operating all through the pandemic up to as recently as this month with sidewalk seating consisting of about 22 seats on Gay Street on a daily basis taking over the entirety of the very narrow sidewalk, the Applicant prohibited by zoning from having had sidewalk seating at the location prior to the Covid pandemic and never having applied to the new Dining Out NYC program for sidewalk seating at the location; and
- vi. Whereas, at Olio Restaurants LLC dba Olio e Piu (Lic. ID # 0340-22-103677) another of the Applicant's restaurant in CB2, the Applicant has been placing sidewalk seating in front of the adjacent storefront after they close on a daily basis consisting of approximately 34 seats and apparently has not just been doing so throughout the pandemic continuing to the day of CB2's June SLA Licensing Committee #2 meeting, but it appears from reading the <a href="July/2013">July/2013</a> resolution for Whynot My Way's original TW application that this behavior goes back for over 10 years; and
- vii. Whereas, Jasmin Polimac, who has been with The Group Hospitality for at least six years and is currently the Chief Executive Officer (Boucherie, Olio e Piu and Omakase Room are their brands) appeared at CB2's June SLA Licensing Committee #2 meeting and was reminded of the very long history this Applicant has of not following any rules and regulations with a consistent proven track record at all of their establishments of being blatantly non-compliant, stated that he was there to listen and to bring operations into compliance; in reading through the many resolutions CB2 has written on this Applicant's establishments over the past 10+ years (July/2013, page 40-WhyNot My Way, original TW application; November/2014, page 27 and 32-WhyNot My Way, alteration and upgrade; December/2015, page 27-WhyNot My Way, change in method of operation and upgrade to full onpremises; July/2015, page 39-WhyNot My Way, renewal; July/2016, page 33-WhyNot My Way, alteration, change in method of operation and upgrade; August-September/2016, page 50-Boucherie, new on-premises liquor license) it is apparent that there is a consistent pattern of non-compliance, of "being unaware" of the non-compliance and saying they will do better while repeating the same transgressions over and over at all of the Applicant's establishments in CB2; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 2, Manhattan recommends <u>denial</u> of the application of the Alteration Application for Municipal Expansion for Boucherie LLC dba Boucherie 97-99 Seventh Ave. South 10014; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, CB2, Manhattan respectfully requests that this item be calendared to appear before the Full Board of the NYSLA for determination.

Vote: Unanimous, 36 Board Members in favor.

We respectfully request that your agency take action consistent with the positions expressed in the above.

Sincerely,

Donna Raftery, Chair SLA Licensing 1 and 2 Committees

Daniel

Community Board #2, Manhattan

Valerie De La Rosa, Chair Community Board #2, Manhattan

Valeure De Ja Rosa

## VDLR/em

cc: Hon. Daniel Goldman, Congressman

Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, NY State Senator

Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senator

Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY State Assembly

Hon. Grace Lee, State Assembly Member

Hon. Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller

Hon. Michael Levine, Man. Borough President

Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Speaker

Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council Member

Hon. Carlina Rivera, NYC Council Member

Thomas Donohue, Deputy Commissioner of Licensing, NY State Liquor Authority