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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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December 12, 2017

Lorelei Salas, Commissioner
NYC Department of Consumer Affairs
42 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Commissioner Salas:

At its Full Board meeting on November 16, 2017 Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB#2, Man.) adopted the following resolutions:

Modification for revocable consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café to add 3 tables and 5 chairs for:

1. GMT New York LLC, d/b/a GMT Tavern, 142 Bleecker Street with 24 tables and 51 chairs (1382861-DCA)

Whereas, the Licensee's business is located in a corner building on the Southwest Corner of Bleecker St. and LaGuardia St. and currently operates a sidewalk café only along the LaGuardia Place façade with 24 Tables and 51 Chairs; and,

Whereas, this modification application seeks to add an additional 3 tables and 6 Chairs to the sidewalk café along the Bleecker St. façade where no sidewalk café currently exists; and,

Whereas, the Licensee made an agreement with CB2 in September 2010 that they would not place any tables and chairs on Bleecker St. as part of their sidewalk café; the existing underlying conditions which were the basis of that agreement in 2010 have not changed and if anything have been further exacerbated; and,

Whereas, the agreement to not have any exterior tables or chairs placed on Bleecker St. was part of a larger agreement that the Licensee had agreed to in order to gain CB2, Manhattan's support for a Liquor License in order to demonstrate that their business would provide a public benefit and minimize the impact on quality of life for area residents and visitors and to alleviate pedestrian crowding in this densely trafficked corridor; and,

Whereas, this section of Bleecker St. with one lane of East bound traffic and a bike lane where the Licensee seeks to add tables and chairs is part of one of the most heavily trafficked areas in Greenwich Village, both pedestrian and vehicular and is the last eating and drinking business on Bleecker St. until Broadway; traffic congestion and bottle necks often occur immediately in front of this location on Bleecker St. due to Taxi's and For Hire Vehicles stopping until they secure a fare and pedestrians trying to hail vehicles, which often creates a dangerous condition for pedestrians moving through the

intersection as they navigate around either pedestrians standing in place on the sidewalk and smokers from the establishment and moving through vehicles stopped in front of the premises in the no standing zone; and,

Whereas, when the applicant made their initial application to the Department of Consumer Affairs for a sidewalk café in March 2011, the applicant affirmed that agreement and did not include any seating in their sidewalk café on Bleecker St.; and

Whereas, 44% of the Licensee's overall seating including the interior is located in their existing sidewalk café, which is a significantly higher percentage than the vast majority of businesses within CB2; and,

Whereas, the Licensee seeks to add 3 tables and 6 chairs to the Bleecker Street side of the establishment in violation of their existing agreement in order to signal to people on Bleecker Street that the restaurant and sidewalk café are open for business and to extend the esprit de corps of the establishment to the "less lively" section of Bleecker Street that the sidewalk café would inhabit; and

Whereas, the establishment has approximately thirteen 3ft x 5 ft flags evenly spaced which fly immediately above the façade, including five along the Bleecker St. façade, which make this establishment very hard to miss by any casual observer; and,

Whereas, the Bleecker St. façade contains two standpipes along the building façade which impact the placement of sidewalk café tables and chairs on Bleecker St. and normal use and placement of the proposed tables and chairs would violate the required clearances; and,

Whereas, the proposed sidewalk railing placement would interfere with pedestrian flow in this very unique corner and due to the extenuating circumstances created by existing sidewalk obstructions just to the West of the establishment including Public Pay Telephone Booths and protective Bollards would result in pedestrian stepping into the street when there is sidewalk congestion which is dangerous because this is often where cabs pull over at the last second because with the exception of a super market, there are no more businesses East on Bleecker St. for the equivalent of 4 city blocks; and,

Whereas, the applicant does not remove the sidewalk railings on the LaGuardia Place side of the business on most evenings during agreeable weather at the mandated time creating a permanent obstruction in the later hours after the sidewalk café has closed but the business is still open; and,

Whereas, at CB2's November Full Board Meeting, several local residents and CB2 Board members testified in opposition because of the negative safety impact that adding tables and chairs to the Bleecker St. side of the existing sidewalk café would have and the additional hazard this would add to this already dangerous crossing in the evenings when there is heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic; furthermore those that spoke felt the Licensee should continue to honor their agreement; and,

Therefore Be It Resolved that CB2 Manhattan recommends denial of a modification to the existing sidewalk café for GMT Tavern, 142 Bleecker Street to add 3 tables and 6 chairs.

VOTE: Passed, with 30 Board Members in favor.

4 Board Members in opposition. (E. Coler, E. Ma, J. Gallagher, T. Connor)

FYI Sidewalk Café Renewal:

2. Margherita Corporation, d/b/a Margherita, 197 Grand St., with 4 tables and 8 chairs (2023879-DCA).

Therefore Be It Resolved that CB2 Manhattan recommends approval of the subject renewal.

VOTE: Unanimous, with 34 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to these resolutions.

Sincerely,



Terri Cude, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Joseph Gallagher, Chair
Quality of Life Committee
Community Board 2, Manhattan

TC/EM

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman
Hon. Nydia Velázquez, Congresswoman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senator
Hon. Yuh-line Niou, Assembly Member
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member