

December 3, 2003

Commissioner Edward Kelly
New York State Liquor Authority
84 Holland Avenue, 2nd floor, A-Wing
Albany, NY 12208

Re: Sessa NYC LLC d/b/a Sessa, 208 West 23rd Street

Dear Commissioner Kelly,

At its November 11 meeting, the Business Licenses and Permits Committee of Manhattan Community Board 4 voted unanimously to recommend the denial of the application of Sessa NYC LLC, d/b/a Sessa, 208 West 23rd Street, for a permit to alter its liquor license.

Further, the Committee voted unanimously to ask the State Liquor Authority to nullify and withdraw the liquor license under which Sessa now operates, and to deny restoration of that license for at least one year. With this letter, we are also requesting the assistance and support of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Office of the Mayor in seeing that this is done.

Since its opening in late 2002, Sessa has wreaked havoc on its neighbors and its neighborhood. Management has disregarded all the stipulations it agreed to and, in the conduct of its business, all the conventions and legalities of civilized life.

The venue has not only been a disorderly house, with noise, litter, and filth disturbing its neighbors and the street. It has also become an on-going locus of violent crime, with fights, robberies, rapes, and stabbings inside and outside the venue more the rule than the exception. The Tenth Precinct routinely assigns a special patrol to this venue on operating nights, a patrol which can number up to 24 officers. This is an extremely poor use of the law-enforcement resources our neighborhood needs so much and is so proud of.

The attached sheet from the Tenth Precinct itemizes some of problems that have occurred recently at Sessa. Another stabbing has taken place since this sheet was completed. This alone should substantiate our case.

It is abundantly clear that this operator is a scofflaw, and this operation presents a real danger to its neighbors, our district, and the City. The common good can only be served by shutting down this operation as quickly as the law allows.

At its full board meeting on December 3, 2002, Manhattan Community Board 4 voted to approve the Committee's recommendation to pull Sessa's liquor license and to support whatever actions are necessary to accomplish that end.

Sincerely yours,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Cheryl Kupper
Co-Chair
Business License & Permits Committee

Kevin Kossi
Co-Chair
Business Licenses & Permits Committee

Cc: Fred Gioffre
Applicant
Mayor Bloomberg
Borough President Virginia Fields
Department of Consumer Affairs
Local Elected Officials

Attachment