

**Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225**

**Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024
7:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 824 1641 1153**

Attendance (Board Members): Jenelle Bazil-Charles, Committee Chair; Chavi Cohen; Yisroel Lehrer; Zlati Mochkin

Attendance (Community Resident Members): Ronald Banks, Zeng Jean-Jacques, Resident Member

Absent (Board Members): None

Absent (Community Resident Members): Carmen Martinez, Resident Member

Guests: Louis Anthony; Fred Baptiste, CB9 Chair; Alicia Boyd; Luis Cortes; Nichola Cox; Janice Edwards; Julie Fissinger; Mayna Legoute; Felice Robertson, CB9; Sasha Robertson; David Tuchman; Theresa Westerdahl, CB9

CB9 Staff: Mia Hilton, Assistant District Manager

I. Call to Order

- a. Committee Chair, Jenelle Bazil-Charles, called the committee meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Applications to the New York State Liquor Authority

a. Balboa Restaurant Inc., 1655 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225.

- i. SLA Application was for a renewal of a Liquor, Wine, Beer, and Cider License.
 1. Applicant explained that he had been in the community for 31 years, Serving food to the community and community partners such as Medgar Evers
 2. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles asked anyone if they had any questions for the SLA Applicant.
 - a. Community Guest Alicia Boyd commented by saying that she was familiar with this establishment, and it was one of the best restaurants in the neighborhood.

3. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles moved for a vote on this SLA Application for renewal.
 - i. Ronald Banks, Yes; Chavi Cohen, Yes; Yisroel Lehrer, Yes; Zeng Jean-Jacques, Yes;
 - ii. Application for Balboa has been approved to move forward to the full board for vote
- b. **Union Street Pub, 829-35 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225** SLA Application was for a renewal of a Liquor, Wine, Beer, and Cider License.
1. SLA Applicant stated that he took over the establishment on January 9, 2023.
 2. This establishment has a history of multiple 3-1-1 complaints. noise.
 3. In response to these complaints against his establishment, the SLA Applicant told the Public Safety Committee that he had made changes to the establishment to mitigate the noise. The changes made include dropping the ceiling and soundproofing it; and creating a new speaker system, in which the speakers are no longer against the wall but hanging from chains in the ceiling. In addition, SLA Applicant said that he has been speaking to the actual resident whom he believes has been making the noise complaints to see if he can work with him to find legitimate solutions to the
 4. Community Guest Alicia Boyd asked the SLA Applicant if the noise complaint against this establishment happened before or after he took ownership of this establishment.
 5. SLA Applicant responded by saying the noise complaints have taken place after he took ownership of the establishment, and he is not sure of prior history
 6. In response to the SLA Applicant's response as to what measures he took to mitigate the noise; Community Guest Rod Herbert asked the SLA Applicant if he changed the speakers or chained the speakers to the ceiling so that they wouldn't be against the wall. The SLA Applicant responded by saying that he did both
 7. Community Guest Rod Herbert asked the SLA Applicant about his hours of operation, in which applicant stated that he wanted to be open till 2 a.m. on business days, and 4 a.m. on non-business days. Community Guest Alicia Boyd immediately opposed these hours, and such opposition was echoed by Rod Herbert.
 8. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles asked SLA Applicant if he would be willing to adjust these hours, in which SLA Applicant responded yes.
 9. Community Guest Alicia Boyd asked the Committee to require that promises be made by the SLA Applicant, and that the SLA Applicant's license be approval be contingent on him adjusting his hours and properly soundproofing his establishment.

10. Resident Member Zeng Jean-Jacques commented to the SLA Applicant that as a member of the Public Safety Committee, he never saw any other application before the Committee that requested to stay open until 4 a.m.
11. Community Guest Rod Herbert asked the SLA Applicant about security on the establishment, to which the SLA Applicant said that there would only be security on the weekends.
12. Community Guest Felice Robertson asked that the hours of operations be changed, as she felt that the requested hours from this establishment was too late.
13. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles requested that the SLA Applicant change his hours to 1 a.m. on weekdays, and 2 a.m. on weekends; in addition, she requested that the SLA Applicant submit a noise mitigation plan.
14. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles motioned to approve SLA Application, contingent on hours being modified and a noise mitigation plan being submitted.
 - a. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles moved for a vote on this SLA Application for renewal. Ronald Banks, Yes; Chavi Cohen, missed vote; Zeng Jean-Jacques, yes; Yisroel Lehrer, yes; Zlati Mochkin, yes
 - b. Application for Balboa has been approved to move forward to the full board for vote

III. Application to the New York State Office of Cannabis

a. Flatbush Exotics, 544 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11225.

- i. This OCM Application had to be shelved at last month's Public Safety meeting, to investigate allegations against this establishment, that was made by Community Guest Suki Cheong. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles stated that she partnered with the 71st precinct, specifically Officer Connors, to research the allegations made against this establishment. Ultimately, the allegations made about this business were found to be unsubstantiated. In addition, while Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles said that there were noise complaints against this establishment, she also asked us to be mindful that this establishment was located on Flatbush.
 1. (Sidenote: Flatbush is perhaps the noisiest place in the entire borough due to congestion, and an explosively high number of foot traffic and vehicles.)
 2. Resident Member Zeng Jean-Jacques reminded the Committee that the only reason that this OCM Application did not get voted on last week was due to allegations that were found to be false. Therefore, since this OCM Application passed the investigation the Public Safety Committee independently conducted, we should make this process seamless for this OCM Application.

3. Community Guest Alicia Boyd informed the Committee that other Public Safety Committees were requiring their OCM Applicants to give back to the community such as donations to non-profit organizations, and that we should do the same. Further, Alicia Boyd voiced her disdain for the fact that this establishment is the only establishment in the immediate area that would have people loitering. Therefore, she stated that the establishment should have control of both their interior and exterior.
4. The OCM Applicant responded to Alicia Boyd by saying that their establishment would always have security.
5. Prior SLA Applicant for Union Street Pub, chimed in and said that requiring an establishment to control the noise outside of their establishment is a high expectation.
6. Resident Member Zeng Jean-Jacques addressed the SLA Applicant by and brought up last month's Public Safety meeting. Zeng Jean-Jacques reminded the SLA Applicant that in the future he should never attack anyone who lodges an allegation against his establishment, as such allegation does not equate to a denial. SLA Applicant said that he understood, and then apologized
7. Community Guest Alicia Boyd stated that the person who launched the allegation against the establishment, Suki Cheong, should be reprimanded because she has multiple allegations against her by these establishments, who claim that she be harassing them.
CB 9 Member Ronald Banks told the Committee that he attended a meeting hosted by the OCM. Therefore, he wanted to know what would be the physical
8. CB 9 Member Ronald Banks told the Committee that he attended a meeting hosted by the OCM. Therefore, he wanted to know what would be the physical appearance of the OCM Applicant's store. Ronald Banks was concerned about this because the outward appearance of the store may attract minors to the establishment. OCM Applicant stated that he was willing to change the outside appearance of the establishment to make it appear less attractive to minors.
9. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles recommended that this application be approved on the condition that the OCM Applicant would have security and give donations to non-profit organizations¹. Ronald Banks, **VOTED YES**; Chavi Cohen, **VOTED NO**; Zeng Jean-Jacques, **VOTED ABSTAIN**; Yisroel Lehrer, **VOTED ABSTAIN**; Zlati Mochkin, **VOTED NO**

a. OCM APPLICATION FOR FLATBUSH EXOTICS DENIED

- b. Resident Member Zeng Jean-Jacques motioned for this Committee to revote on the OCM Application for **Flatbush Exotics** without any stipulations. CB 9 Member Yisroel Lehrer seconded the motion. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles then reminded the Committee that the vote on this application would be moving forward without any stipulations. Resident Member Zeng Jean-Jacques responded by saying that this was the appropriate way to send a message to all other rogue smoke shops operating illegally. CB 9 Member Ronald Banks stated that we need to consider suggesting to these OCM Applicants that they make contributions to youth groups. CB 9 Member Yisroel Lehrer doubled down on not having the stipulations placed on this OCM Application vote.
- c. CB 9 Member Chavi Cohen stated that she is familiar with the establishment and observes loitering outside of the establishment. She then asked the OCM Applicant if there would be security outside of the establishment, in wish the OCM Applicant's representative answered yes.
- d. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles recommended that this application be approved without stipulations. Ronald Banks **VOTED YES**; Chavi Cohen **VOTED ABSTAIN**; Zeng Jean-Jacques **VOTED YES**; Yisroel Lehrer **VOTED YES**; Zlati Mochkin **VOTED NO**; Jennelle Bazil-Charles **VOTED YES**.
 - i. Application for Flatbush Exotics has been approved to move forward to the full board for vote

IV. Community Fair/Event

- a. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles began speaking about the Community Fair planning. During such Fair, the Community Board along with all Community Partners gather and engage the community. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles asked the Committee to begin brainstorming on how we can begin engaging the broader community.

- IV.** Community Guest Theresa Westerdahl asked Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles for the date of the Community Fair, to which Assistant District Manager Mia Hilton informed Theresa Westerdahl that a date for the Community Fair had not been set yet. Theresa asked that the Committee that due to the demographics of the community, we should be mindful on which day we hosted the event. CB 9 Member Ronald Banks chimed in by saying that he thought this event was a good idea.

V. Public Comment Period

- a. Community Guest Alicia Boyd wanted to point out that this Committee was supposed to be setting standards for the businesses that are coming into this community. Alicia Boyd then said that she believes that this Committee is failing in their obligation to make sure that these businesses do not impinge on the residents. Alicia Boyd then stated that she feels that the Committee is awarding these businesses licenses while ignoring the

negative impacts that they are having on the community simply because they are applying for licenses the correct way when that is a requirement that they must do anyway.

- b. Community Guest Alicia Boyd brought to the Committee's attention that the Committee granted an OCM Applicant OET Inc., located at 733 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226, based on false information given by the establishment to the Committee². Specifically, Alicia Boyd highlighted that this establishment was allegedly functioning illegally prior to seeking a license from the Committee. Further, Alicia Boyd contends that when the OCM Applicant was questioned about this allegation, the Applicant allegedly lied by saying that she did not have ownership of the establishment at the time. Alicia Boyd pointed out to the Committee where in the OCM Application that shows that the OCM Applicant was lying and did indeed have ownership of the establishment when the illegal sale of drugs was taking place.
- c. Resident Member Zeng Jean-Jacques commented that he was under the impression that while illegal drugs had been being sold at such location, he sincerely believed the OCM Applicant's contention that she had only just recently taken over the business after the former business ceased their illegal sale of drugs. Further, after Zeng Jean-Jacques asked Assistant District Manager Mia Hilton to confirm that she saw the documents that Alicia Boyd was referring to, Zeng Jean-Jacques motioned the Committee to investigate **OET Inc** for allegedly lying to the Committee regarding not operating as an illegal dispensary. Further, Zeng motioned that if Alicia Boyd's allegations are found to be true, **OET Inc** should be flagged so that the next set of people who reviews this establishment knows that they were operating illegally and lying to the Public Safety Committee to get their license through deceptive measures. CB 9 Member Ronald Banks seconded the motion.
- d. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles placed the motion on the floor for a vote
 - i. Ronald Banks **VOTED YES**; Chavi Cohen **MISSED THE VOTE**; Zeng Jean-Jacques **VOTED YES**; Yisroel Lehrer **VOTED YES**; Zlati Mochkin **VOTED YES**; Jenelle Bazil-Charles **VOTED YES**.

1. **Motion to investigate OET Inc. approved**

VI. Adjournment

- a. Committee Chair Jenelle Bazil-Charles motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Ronald Banks
 - i. Meeting concluded at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes Submitted By: Zeng Jean-Jacques

Date When Submitted to Board Office: Saturday, February 10, 2024
