



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

*The City of New York  
Borough of Queens*

**Community Board 8**

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

## **Cannabis License Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Community Board 8 Office  
197-15 Hillside Avenue  
Hollis, NY 11423

**Michael Hannibal, Cannabis License Committee Chair**

**Committee Members Present:** Marva Dudley, James Gallagher Jr., Alan Ong, and Douglas Sherman.

**Committee Members Absent:** Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Mary Maggio, Caitlin Marziliano, David Mordukhaev, Aliyah Salim

**Also in attendance:** Israel Peskowitz, CB8 Member  
Yolanda Gallagher, Resident  
Ming Li – Ming’s Asian Café, Inc.  
James Wang – Ming’s Asian Café, Inc.  
Emanuel Pleshtiyev – Otoro NYC Corp., Inc.  
Manjit Kaur - Lotus Dispensary, Inc.  
Soleil Griffin, Community Board 8 Staff  
Monet Hicks, Community Board 8 Staff

Cannabis License Committee Chair Michael Hannibal called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. This was followed by self-introductions of all Board Members and staff.

**Purpose:**

This is to introduce the applicants to the Community Board to make them aware of the expectations of the board for businesses with on-premises liquor licenses. This establishment is applying for a full liquor license for a bar/lounge. Chairman Michael Hannibal asked the applicant and representative to state their names for the record. Applicant Ming Li and James Wong introduced themselves.

**Michael Hannibal**

***Will you have outdoor space?***

**Answer:** [James Wong] – No.

**Michael Hannibal**

***What type of establishment will this be?***

**Answer:** [James Wong] – Restaurant

**Michael Hannibal**

*You're under the 75 people limit which means you do not require a certificate of occupancy.*

**Answer:** [James Wong] – Yes

**Michael Hannibal**

*Your hour of operation shows a 12-hour shift Monday through Thursday – 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Friday and Saturday you are adding an hour – 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. Has that changed?*

**Answer:** [James Wong] – No.

**Michael Hannibal**

*How do you intend to prevent underage driving? What type of training does your staff have?*

**Answer:** [James Wong] – They will check their ID before they serve alcohol. If they find something unusual, they will stop serving alcohol.

**Michael Hannibal**

*What security measures will be taken? Will you have cameras?*

**Answer:** [James Wong] – We will have cameras.

**Michael Hannibal**

*Is your staff familiar with any state tests that certifies a person to address drinking a security?*

**Answer:** [James Wong]- Yes. Though I put in for a new application, this is a transfer. The staff has been there for 3 years. The ownership is changing.

**Michael Hannibal**

*How do you intend to maintain cleanliness in front of your establishment (i.e. smokers (ashtray))?*

**Answer:** [James Wong] – Patrons can not smoke inside the establishment. They can smoke outside.

*Mr. Hannibal opened the meeting for questions from the Board Members.*

**Alan Ong**

*Does your restaurant have a bar, or do you serve to the patrons who are dining?*

**Answer:** [James Wong] – We are a restaurant, but we have a bar that has 10 seats.

**Alan Ong**

*Can people come into drink and not eat food?*

**Answer:** [James Wong] – 95% of the patrons come in for food.

*Committee member Marva Dudley stated that she will wave her time.*

**Douglas Sherman**

*There is a smaller storefront next to the original storefront, will that be combined?*

**Answer:** [Ming Li] – It used to be two stores.

**Answer:** [James Wong] – It was combined about four years ago.

**Douglas Sherman**

*Your capacity is still going to be 75 or under?*

**Answer:** [Ming Li] – Yes.

**Answer:** [James Wong] – It would be about 50 people.

**Douglas Sherman**

*What are your specialties?*

**Answer:** [*Ming Li*] – Sushi.

**Michael Hannibal**

Can I have a motion to accept the application for a full liquor license for Ming’s Asian Cafe located at 138-38/40 86th Avenue?

Motion made by Alan Ong and seconded by Douglas Sherman.

**Votes in favor:** Unanimous

**Board Members who voted in favor: Michael Hannibal, Marva Dudley, James Gallagher, Alan Ong, Douglas Sherman.**

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**Purpose:**

This is to introduce the applicants to the Community Board to make them aware of the expectations of the board for businesses with on-premises liquor licenses. This establishment is applying for a full liquor license for a bar/lounge. Chairman Michael Hannibal asked the applicant and representative to state their names for the record. Applicant Emanuel Pleshtiyev and Ariel Pleshtiyev introduced themselves.

**Michael Hannibal**

***How many people will be seated at your establishment?***

**Answer:** [*Emanuel Pleshtiyev*] – There will be between 30 to 40 seating.

**Michael Hannibal**

***Does this also include people who may be standing at the bar?***

**Answer:** [*Emanuel Pleshtiyev*] – There will be no standing at the bar just sitting.

**Michael Hannibal**

***Will it ever go over 75 people?***

**Answer:** [*Emanuel Pleshtiyev*] – No.

**Michael Hannibal**

***What will be your hours of operation?***

**Answer:** [*Emanuel Pleshtiyev*] – 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. 6 days a week. We will be closed on Fridays and open after Sabbath on Saturday.

**Michael Hannibal**

***How do you plan to handle underage drinking?***

**Answer:** [*Emanuel Pleshtiyev*] – We are requesting ID.

**Michael Hannibal**

***Is your wait staff going to help with ID check? Will there be security?***

**Answer:** [*Emanuel Pleshtiyev*] – Security will not be needed. There is one bartender that will be handling the liquor. They will be checking ID.

**Michael Hannibal**

***Will there be cameras?***

**Answer:** [*Emanuel Pleshtiyev*] – We have installed cameras this past week. We have six cameras externally and four cameras internally.

**Michael Hannibal**

***Do you have a 30-day tape system?***

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – It is on the cloud. It keeps running and we will have access to it on our phone.

**Michael Hannibal**

***Do you have a system in place to have a clean environment outside of the establishment?***

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – There will be no smoking in nor outside of the establishment. There will be one personal that will be our full-time cleaning staff.

***Mr. Hannibal opened the meeting for questions from the Board Members.***

**Douglas Sherman**

***Has your building been recently renovated?***

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – It is a brand-new development.

**Douglas Sherman**

***Are you taking a portion of the development?***

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – Yes.

**Douglas Sherman**

***When do you plan to open?***

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – Within a month.

**Israel Peskowitz**

***What is omakase?***

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – It means we will leave it up to the chef. It is a type of culinary art that we do with high end sushi.

**Israel Peskowitz**

***Are your prices expensive?***

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – No. We want to be affordable.

**James Gallagher**

***Will there be conflict with the synagogue across the street since you cannot sell alcohol within a certain feet?***

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – No. It will be a very classy place.

**Michael Hannibal**

***Will the establishment fall in line with the 200 feet?***

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – It is more than 200 feet away.

**Alan Ong**

***Is this your first business or first restaurant?***

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – This is my first restaurant, but I have more businesses.

**James Gallagher**

***Is there another bar on the same side of the street?***

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – There is a few. There is Cheap Shots, one that rebranded and Niko Sushi. We chose not to serve hard liquor; it is only for culinary purposes. Our establishment is for small family gatherings.

**Marva Dudley**

***Is your restaurant reservation only?***

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – In the beginning we will have first come first serve. We plan to make it reservation only to maintain the integrity of the brand.

**Michael Hannibal**

*When the reservations established the request for reservation be call in?*

**Answer:** [Emanuel Pleshtiyev] – We will probably use Resy, Toast, Google panel or phone calls

**Michael Hannibal**

Can I have a motion to accept the application for a full liquor license for Otoro NYC Corp., Inc. located at 179-24 Union Turnpike?

Motion made by Alan Ong and seconded by Douglas Sherman.

**Votes in favor:** Unanimous

**Board Members who voted in favor: Michael Hannibal, Marva Dudley, James Gallagher, Alan Ong, Douglas Sherman.**

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**Purpose:**

This is to introduce the applicants to the Community Board to make them aware of the expectations of the Board for businesses with on-premises Cannabis licenses. This establishment is applying for a Cannabis License for a Retail Dispensary Premise. Applicant Manjit Kaur introduced herself.

**Michael Hannibal**

*What is your role in this establishment?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – I am one of the owners. The co-owners are my mother and my brother.

**Michael Hannibal**

*This is a family-owned business.*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – Yes.

**Michael Hannibal**

*What is your history with the product? Why did you choose a cannabis retail dispensary?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – I do not have experience with cannabis. I have used CBD oil and concentrates that have been good for pain, anxiety and sleep. My brother motivated me to get into this business with him.

**Michael Hannibal**

*Are you using this as an opportunity to employ people in the community?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – Yes. I have seen people’s experiences with illegal smoke shops. We want to create awareness around the product and employ people in the community.

**Michael Hannibal**

*What is your professional background that brought you on this journey?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – I am a practicing attorney. My mother and brother co-own a pizza shop in Floral Park. They have been running since 2008.

**Michael Hannibal**

*What type of cannabis?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – Different strains of flower, CBD products, concentrates, oils, edibles, vapes, etc.

**Michael Hannibal**

*What will be the THC levels?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – That is regulated by the state. You can only have a certain amount since it is taxed.

**Michael Hannibal**

*How are you from any type of school or house of worship?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – We are over a thousand feet from any school and five hundred feet from a place of worship.

**Michael Hannibal**

*What would be the hours of operation for your establishment?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Michael Hannibal**

*How do you plan to address underage patrons? What security/protocol do you have in place for that?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – We will have at least two security personnel. Our staff will be trained to identify fake IDs and we will also have ID scan technology. We will also have signage posted.

**Michael Hannibal**

*Will your staff have training on cannabis?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – Yes. They will have training in the product safety and background in the science of cannabis.

**Michael Hannibal**

*In terms of loitering, there will be no person smoking in front of the establishment.*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – No. We did not apply for a consumption lounge. Patrons are to purchase the product and leave.

**Michael Hannibal**

*How do you see your security handling a patron who purchases an item and consumes the product outside the establishment?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – We will have clear signs and ensure that our security is enforcing the no loitering. We have surveillance cameras and will monitor activity outside the establishment.

**Michael Hannibal**

*In terms of loitering, there will be no person smoking in front of the establishment.*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – No. We did not apply for a consumption lounge. Customers are to purchase the product and leave.

**Michael Hannibal**

*Have you communicated or established any communication with the 107<sup>th</sup> precinct?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – No. We are still finalizing our deal with the business.

*Mr. Hannibal opened the meeting for questions from the Board Members.*

**Alan Ong**

*Is there a smoke shop by the pizza shop and down the block?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – Yes. There is one on our block. I am not certain about the other shop.

**James Gallagher**

*Is there parking in the back for you?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – Yes. There are a few spots in the back. If parking becomes an issue, I plan to speak with the local businesses for the larger lot.

**James Gallagher**

*Have you met the owner of the commercial complex?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – No.

**Marva Dudley**

*Will your establishment be selling pre-rolls?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – Yes.

**Douglas Sherman**

*Are you a cash only business?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – No. There are now cannabis friendly banks. We also have a point of sales system. Our bio-online track system is implemented with our point-of-sale system. We are required to have a vault. Our product is in display cases.

**Douglas Sherman**

*How do you sell the product?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – Our buy online pick-up in store system will streamline the process of having a lot of people coming in. Majority of customers know what they want. We would only have a few people who would work with a sales associate to look at the product.

**Israel Peskowitz**

*What is bio tracking?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – It is a system that the state has regulated that track where the product is grown, where it delivered, and sold.

**Michael Hannibal**

*Where are you at in the stage of opening your establishment?*

**Answer:** [Manjit Kaur] – We are finalizing the deal on the space. We have a lease. It is still a sandwich shop, and we need to convert it.

**Michael Hannibal**

Can I have a motion to accept the application for a retail dispensary permit for Lotus Dispensary, Inc. d/b/a High Road located at 185-24 Horace Harding Expressway?

Motion made by Alan Ong and seconded by Douglas Sherman.

**Votes in favor: Unanimous**

**Board Members who voted in favor: Michael Hannibal, Marva Dudley, James Gallagher, Alan Ong, Douglas Sherman.**

Alan Ong made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Soleil Griffin, Community Board 8 Staff  
June 5, 2024*