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Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Liquor License Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2022
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Community Board 8 Office
197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423

Michael Hannibal, *Liquor License Committee Chair*

Board Members: Marc A. Haken, Seymour Schwartz, and Allan Ong.
James Gallagher, Jr. (*non-committee member – cannot vote*)

Also, in attendance: Jae Yu – Representing Applicant – A Small Dream, Inc
Marie Adam-Ovide, Community Board 8, District Manager
Sandra Aikens-Williams, CB8 Staff Member

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

Purpose:

This establishment is applying for a Liquor, Wine, Beer, and Cider License.

- I. A Small Dream**
138-59 Queens Blvd., Briarwood, New York, 11435

Michael Hannibal – Mr. Hannibal confirmed this established business is A Small Dream and Jae Yu is present to represent the owners.

Answer: [Jae Yu] - The owners began applying for a full liquor license in 2019. At that time, the Liquor License Committee of Community Board Queens 8 reviewed and approved the application. I have a copy of the approval letter.

Marc Haken: This is a Liquor License renewal you are seeking?

Answer: [Jae Yu] - No, they were unable to complete the process due to COVID restrictions. The owners are reapplying, with the same responses as previously submitted.

Michael Hannibal stated for the record, we are starting the process again.

Michael Hannibal – Do you have a Certificate of Occupancy?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – Yes.

Michael Hannibal – Is it correct that a public assembly permit is not necessary because, the restaurant’s maximum capacity is 14 patrons?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – Yes.

Michael Hannibal – Are the proposed hours of operations the same, 10 a.m. to midnight?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – Yes, the owner wants to maximize the operational time to drive increased sales opportunities.

Michael Hannibal – Are you scheduling 15 hours a day service?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – Yes.

Michael Hannibal – How are you going to prevent underage drinking?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – Each table is assigned a waiter/waitress, that person will ask for ID, for example, driver’s license or passport. If there is a table group, we will ask everyone to show I.D. If a minor in a table group, no one will be served alcohol. If a patron appears intoxicated, the staff will not serve additional alcohol and attempt to see to the person’s safety. The restaurant is very small so that the employees with the manager can control the customers. They believe they can control any disturbance because of the small number of available seating.

Michael Hannibal – With 5 tables, 14 seats and no bar, is it a more manageable environment for security purposes?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – Yes, rarely do we expect the restaurant at maximum seating capacity. At all times, there will be three to four personnel in-house to assist with any problems.

Michael Hannibal – How do you plan to maintain store front cleanliness?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – During the opening process, they will clean the front and again at 10 a.m. Throughout operational hours they will continue to monitor and clean as necessary.

Michael Hannibal – This completes our mandatory questions.

Michael Hannibal – Seymour, do you have any questions?

Seymour Schwartz – The location was formally known as, Los Bucaros Restaurant, was there a change in ownership?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – Yes, three years ago the ownership changed. The previous owner had a full liquor license. We attempted to transfer the liquor license. Due to COVID restrictions the cost of carrying a liquor license, was prohibitive. The owners postponed the process until the public gathering restrictions were lifted.

Seymour Schwartz – How long has A Small Dream been in business?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – It has been three years, since 2019.

Seymour Schwartz – Why is the storefront sign the name of the previous owner?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – I have a copy of both the new lease under the current owners' name and contract of sale of the business. They have not changed the name of the business on the signs because the previous owners had a good reputation.

Seymour Schwartz – Marie, what is the distance required between businesses holding liquor licenses?

Answer: [Marie Adam-Ovide] – It must be 500 feet from certain entities.

Seymour Schwartz – Are there close establishments that have a liquor license?

Answer: [Marie Adam-Ovide] – The response to question #18 on the form states, yes there are three or establishments close by with liquor licenses.

Michael Hannibal – Marc, do you have any questions?

Marc Haken – What type of food is this restaurant serving?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – It is South American food. I have a copy of the menu.

Marc A. Haken – How many total employees will be in the restaurant?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – There will be three.

Marc A. Haken – Will there be three employees, doing table service?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – No, I do think so.

Marc A. Haken – Will there be 2 employees, cook and a manager?

Answer: [Jae Yu] – The manager will be the owner.

Marc A. Haken – In a fourteen-seat capacity restaurant, where does the business traffic come from during the hours from 9 p.m. to midnight, to support four staff persons? I looked at the economics and it looks unrealistic to me.

Michael Hannibal: Mr. Yu, you can table that question. You are not the owner, so you may not be able to answer that question.

Seymour Schwartz: The fact is that they have been in existence for three years.

Michael Hannibal: Marc, are you asking the questions because of the hours a day.

Marc A. Haken – It seems to me the only way for this establishment to support four people is to sell a tremendous amount of booze.

Michael Hannibal – The business has already been there. It is currently operational. Unless there is a question of the hours. I can't see the questions of economics being of issue.

Marc A. Haken – Does the owner of this restaurant own other restaurants?

Answer: [*Jae Yu*] – Yes, he owns another restaurant in Corona [Queens].

Seymour Schwartz – It is typical of that society to come to dinner at a late hour.

Marie Adam-Ovide reminded board members A Small Dream came to CB8 before, they answered the same questions with the same answers and the board did not have any issues with them. The only reason they do not have a liquor license now is because of COVID [restrictions].

Michael Hannibal – Marc, it doesn't seem like that question pertains to this, even given what Marie is saying and the fact that they are already established.

Marc A. Haken – I'm finished.

Michael Hannibal – Allan, do you have any questions?

Allan Ong: I just tried to Google search A Small Dream restaurant on Queens Boulevard, it does not appear to exist.

Seymour Schwartz: It would not be there. It continues under the previous owner's name [Los Bucaros Restaurant].

Allan Ong: Is there a difference if the business is a "doing business as"?

Answer: [*Marie Adam-Ovide*] – The paperwork omits the trade name; they will announce it sometime in the future.

Michael Hannibal – It is usually difficult to change the sign because, the business is already established.

Seymour Schwartz – This type of business structure usually has its own established clientele, walk-ins are rare. We have a variety of ethnic eateries in the neighborhood. The employees work long hours in the hopes that the business will thrive.

Michael Hannibal – James, do you have any questions?

James Gallagher, Jr. – No.

Michael Hannibal asked for final questions. No one responded.

Marc A. Haken made a motion to approve the Liquor, Wine, Beer, and Cider Liquor License for A Small Dream located at 138-59 Queens Blvd., seconded by Seymour Schwartz.

Michael Hannibal asked the committee members for their vote.

Votes in favor: 4

Votes against: 0

Board Members who voted in favor: Michael Hannibal, Marc. A. Haken, Seymour Schwartz and Allan Ong,

Board Members who voted against: None.

Mr. Hannibal asked Mr. Yu to advise the owners to establish a working relationship with the local precinct. Mr. Hannibal handed Mr. Yu the contact information for the 107th Precinct and its local Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs) for their sector, Sector D.

Mr. Hannibal thanked everyone for attending.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Aikens-Williams, Community Board 8 Staff

October 3, 2022