



The City of New York
Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

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Chairperson, Martha Taylor

District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Liquor License Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 4, 2022
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: **Hybrid Meeting**
Community Board 8 Office
197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423
& Via **WebEx**

Michael Hannibal, Liquor License Committee Chair

Board Members: Solomon Davydov, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marc A. Haken, Mary Maggio, Alan Ong, and Douglas Sherman.

Also, in attendance: Kevin Forrestal – Board Member
James Gallagher Jr. – Board Member
Tammy Oshero – Board Member
Yanhuan Yang, Applicant/Attorney – Wyndham Garden Hotel
Marie Adam-Ovide, Community Board 8, District Manager
Jatnna Reyes, Community Board 8 Staff

Liquor License Committee Chair Michael Hannibal called this meeting to order at 7:42 p.m. This was followed by self-introductions of all Board Members and staff.

Purpose:

This is a renewal of the applicant to the Community Board. This establishment is re-applying for a Liquor, Wine, Beer and Cider license for a hotel with no outdoor area.

**I. Mayflower International Hotel Group, Inc. d/b/a Wyndham Garden Hotel
61-27 186th Street, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365**

Michael Hannibal – *Mr. Hannibal explained to Mr. Yang that since this is a renewal, it will be treated as is and not a new application. There were some concerns about the application submitted. Since the hotel is right now not really a full-service bar, it is more of a homeless shelter for formerly incarcerated individuals. We want to know the reason why you want a renewal for a liquor license.*

Michael Hannibal asked the Committee members if they had any questions for the applicant.

Maria DeInnocentiis – *I want to know why you are renewing a liquor license for a facility that is being used for incarcerated prisoners and hasn't been used as a hotel for over two years. We have not heard that you a reverting back to a hotel. Why are you asking for a renewal when your use group is not a hotel?*

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – Yes, you are right. The hotel is now being used as a shelter. Currently, we have a long-term contract with the government. As a matter fact, the hotel is not being open to the public, as far as I am concerned there is no restaurant or bar operating inside the hotel. The reason why we are applying for a renewal is because we want to keep the liquor license. We don't know how long the hotel will be used as a shelter but when we do re-open to the public, we want to have the liquor license ready and not apply all over again.

I just want to introduce myself a little bit, as a member of the Board, I am also the Area 6 chair which is the area where your hotel resides. I represent six or seven of the Civics that are adjacent or in the neighborhood of the hotel. I spoke to most of them through email or by phone. They are unanimously opposed to giving a liquor license to the shelter. We are just trying to find out what the point is of renewing the license if the bar is not going to be operating. I don't know if that is good enough for us. I will let the other members ask questions.

Douglas Sherman – *How long are you anticipate operating as a shelter? Who will make that decision/ Would it be the Department of Homeless Services or the business?*

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – We have a contract with the government. We want to operate as the shelter as long as possible, that is ultimately not our decision. The government has the final call whether they want to continue this program or not.

Maria DeInnocentiis – *When does your contract expires?*

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – I think, 2030.

So, you have a contract with the government for the next 8 years?

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – Yes.

Michael Hannibal – *Mr. Yang, according to your license here, has been inactive since July 20, 2017. According to your application, it said that the expiration date was December 31, 2021. I am trying to understand why the official paper say that you have not had an active liquor license for close to 4 years. Also, I see here that the serial number for your license is different on the application that I received here than on the actual documentation from the State Liquor License Board. These are few concerns that I have in addition to the other member for liquor being served while still having members living there from Rikers Island.*

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – Our previous license expired on December 31, 2021. I think our liquor license had been active throughout the whole time.

DM Adam-Ovide – *Sir, I am sorry, but I have to disagree with you on this. We checked the State Liquor Authority and that license number that you gave us does not exist. That is the only license that there is for that establishment, and it has been inactive since 2017. You have not come back to us to renew that license that you initially received in February 2017. This means you would have to come back to the Community Board in 2019 to renew the initial license that you had, and you never did. Liquor Licenses are only up for two years and not four.*

Michael Hannibal – *Mr. Yang, you may have to look into this.*

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – I have this renewal advisory from the State Liquor Authority stating that our previous liquor license expired on December 31, 2021. If we renew this license, our new effective date is July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023. If you need, I can send you a copy of this letter.

DM Adam-Ovide – *You can go ahead and send it to us right now and I'll check.*

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – You mean by email?

Yes. Jatnna, can you check our inbox for Mr. Yang's email so you can share it with us.

Jatnna Reyes – *Yes.*

Marc Haken – *Was there ever an active bar in that hotel?*

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – Do you mean as of right now?

Was there one ever since the hotel was a hotel. Was there ever a bar there that served liquor?

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – I don't think there is a bar. There is a restaurant inside the hotel.

Is there a restaurant right now that serves food and liquor?

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – No.

Did you say that the contract with the City, I don't know if it's Homeless Services or the Department of Justice, that the contract right now goes through 2030?

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – Yes.

Since a liquor license is only good for two years. If you are accurate that it expired in 2021, you are going to be here five more times before you hope that this facility actually becomes a hotel in the sense of the word hotel.

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – That's possible. The government might withdraw this program anytime.

Ms. Reyes screen shared the renewal advisory Mr. Yang sent over from the State Liquor Authority.

Marc Haken – *Was there an application to this office in 2019 for either the initial license or the renewal?*

Answer: [Ms. Reyes] – If we did, it would have been in the file. The file is there in the office. Michael, can you look through the file and see if there is anything there. The only one that I have here is the most recent that was received on December 14, 2021.

Maria DeInnocentiis – *Why is it a renewal for one year?*

Answer: [DM Adam-Ovide] – That doesn't make sense. It doesn't make sense at all. Besides, when I type that serial number for the license, it doesn't come up at all.

Marc Haken – *Can I move to table this application until we have all the information that is necessary from all of the various sources?*

Answer: [Michael Hannibal] – Yes.

Answer: [Mary Maggio] – Definitely.

Answer: [James Gallagher Jr.] – I agree.

Marc A Haken moved to table this application until the Board has all documents pertinent to this application or to this site, seconded by Mary Maggio.

Kevin Forrestal – *I am opposed. I think we should vote it down.*

Maria DeInnocentiis – *I am opposed. I really feel that at this point with the amount of information we have whether that's a valid renewal or not, we should discuss denying the application for cause.*

Answer: [Kevin Forrestal] – Absolutely.

Answer: [James Gallagher Jr.] – I agree.

Marc A Haken rescind the motion.

Discussion:

Kevin Forrestal – *to [Mr. Yang] – In your application, you also listed that your trade name is Wyndham Garden Hotel. Are you still with them? You guys are affiliated, aren't you?*

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – No. I think we disaffiliated with that name.

So, your application dated December 14, 2021, is incorrect as far as the affiliation. It is also incorrect as far as the number for the license and your statement that you have an inactive bar for these many years is also inaccurate. Is that correct?

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – We have not officially changed the name from Wyndham Garden Hotel to Mayflower International Hotel.

So, you are advertising yourself to be affiliated with an organization you are not affiliated with? That may be worst. Also, in your Certificate of Occupancy, there is no listing of a bar on any floor. You are saying the bar is going to be on the first floor and the restaurant where you are serving food is in the upper floor. Something is not right here. This application is wrong, and it should be rejected. I suggest that the appropriate action is to start the process all over again when you are opening again as a hotel.

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – Can you pinpoint which, where do you think our application has problems?

Answer: [Michael Hannibal] – Well, there is a discrepancy about the amount of time the hotel will actually be a functioning hotel. You have 2030 and also, we are talking about licenses that last two years at a times. That comes out to up to 15 times until 2030 which doesn't make sense to me.

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – What do you mean by 15 times?

Answer: [Mary Maggio] – Every two years.

Kevin Forrestal – 30 divided by 2.

Maria DeInnocentiis – I also think that the problem is, the fact that you have an inactive application on file with the State Liquor Authority since 2017. So, that application, if it does not exist, if a renewal does not exist, means that you have no liquor license.

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – I think you are saying that the State liquor Authority made a mistake by forgetting to send us the advisory two years early.

I am not going to by who is to blame here. I am just stating facts.

Michael Hannibal – *We don't have anything from the previous years to make the renewal from the previous years.*

DM Adam-Ovide – *Can you clarify why we have two serial numbers? One application that we are aware of that has one liquor license number and then this is a totally different serial number. Whenever there is a renewal, we renew the same serial number. I don't know how you have a totally different serial number.*

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – This is the only serial number we have.

Kevin Forrestal – *Unfortunately, the State Liquor Authority doesn't have it. My last question is, if you knew your license was expiring on December 31, 2021, why did you send it to us on December 14, 2021? It is supposed to be 30 days before at least.*

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – For the same reason the State Liquor Authority paused or held our renewal application for 10 days to give us the 30-day period.

If you sent something on the 14th, they not going to start processing it before they get the application.

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – I don't understand what you mean.

Alan Ong – Mr. Yang, basically what Mr. Forrestal is saying is that the 30-day application timeframe that you are supposed to apply at that time, you are already late by applying on December 14, 2021.

Answer: [Mr. Yang] – Yes, by around two weeks. That is why, if our license gets approved, it will not be effective until July 1, 2022.

Marc A Haken made a motion to approve the liquor license application for Mayflower International Hotel Group, Inc. d/b/a Wyndham Garden Hotel located at 61-27 186th Street, seconded by, Kevin Forrestal.

Discussion:

Maria DeInnocentiis – All I am saying is that there are too many issues on the table to approve this renewal. I am asking all of our members to vote no.

James Gallagher Jr. – As a member of Community Board 8, I ask the Liquor License Committee members to vote no.

Tammy Osherov – I also encourage all members to vote no.

Alan Ong – I agree. A lot of inconsistencies. I don't even know if the letter is real. This is my comment.

Votes in favor: 0

Votes against: 6

Board Members who voted in favor: None.

Board Members who voted against: Maria DeInnocentiis, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Mary Maggio, Alan Ong, and Douglas Sherman

Mr. Hannibal advised Mr. Yang to review the paperwork that was submitted. Also, have a better understanding of exactly what is going on with the city and the hotel and maybe at some point when he understands when it will be a fully functioning hotel, maybe that would be the time to re-submit the application and proper serial numbers and all the other information that is needed to do proper vetting.

A letter of objection will be sent to the State Liquor Authority against the renewal of this establishment.

Mr. Hannibal thanked everyone for coming.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jatnna Reyes, Community Board 8 Staff
January 14, 2021*