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*The City of New York
Borough of Queens*

Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Liquor License Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016
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: Dr. Allen Bennett, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Marc A. Haken, Bhitihara – Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Steven Sadofky.

Also in attendance: Daljit K. Sanghu, Owner – Ambika Bhavani, Inc.
Ravindan Kayr, Co-owner – Ambika Bhavani, Inc.
Balbir Singh, Employee – Ambika Bhavani, Inc.
John Kapetanos, Landlord – Ambika Bhavani, Inc.
Edison Orlando Zarate, Owner – Kiko Bar Lounge Corp.
Ellen Lee, Applicant Representative – ABC License
Daniel Rosenthal representing Councilman Rory Lancman
Jatnna Pimentel, Community Board 8 Staff

Liquor License Committee Chair Michael Hannibal called the meeting to order at 7:32 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 an extension for beer and wine license for a restaurant.

**I. Ambika Bhavani, Inc.
82-65 Parsons Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432**

Is this establishment going to be a restaurant?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – Yes.

At this time do you have a Certificate of Occupancy (C of O)?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – Yes, we do.

Will you be willing to leave a copy of that C of O?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – Yes.

Mr. Forrestal asked to review the C of O.

Then you will not need a Place of Assembly Permit?

Answer: [Balbir Singh.] – No.

What is the maximum occupancy?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – Fifty (50).

Kevin Forrestal –

The address on the C of O and on the application are different.

Marc A. Haken –

What is the address on the C of O?

Answer: [Kevin Forrestal] – The address on the C of O is 82-75 Parsons Boulevard. The address on the application is 82-65 Parsons Boulevard.

Carolann Foley –

Is it one store front ? Or is it a couple of front stores?

Answer: [John Kapetanos] – There are five (5) store fronts.

Marc A. Haken –

Do they all have the same C of O?

Answer: [John Kapetanos] – Correct.

Michael Hannibal –

Does this explanation satisfy your question?

Answer: [Kevin Forrestal] – Yes.

What will be the hours of operation?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – From 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven (7) days a week.

In terms of underage drinking, how will that be handled?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – We will check IDs before serving liquor.

Marc A. Haken –

Do you presently own other restaurants with Liquor Licenses?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – Yes. I had a liquor license in North Carolina by myself personally, but I sold it and moved to New York.

What about here in New York?

Answer: [John Kapetanos] – Explain to the gentlemen that you have the deli and the deli has a beer and wine license.

Carolann Foley –

Where is this deli? Is that on the corner of the same block?

Answer: [John Kapetanos] – They will convert from a deli to a restaurant. They have an existing beer and wine license.

Marc A. Haken –

Will you have a bar for people to sit at and drink?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – No. We will only have tables and chairs.

Michael Hannibal – Mr. Hannibal proceeded with the questions that must be asked to new liquor license applicants. The meeting will be open for questions from the Board Members once the questionnaire is completed. He mentioned to Mr. Kapetanios that even though he is helping, they need to hear from the applicants only for clarity.

What security measures will be taken? Can you tell us what you have in place now?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – We are basically in charge of the security. We have all source of cameras; front and back. They are all high definition cameras. We have experience. There has never been any problem there.

How will you maintain cleanliness in front of your establishment (i.e. smokers (ashtray))?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – We will clean whatever garbage is left there. We have never had a problem with smoking. They know there is no smoking in front of the establishment.

That's never been a problem?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – No, Sir.

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

Mar A. Haken –

How much of the business do you estimate will be generated by the sale of alcohol?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – About 10-15 %. We mostly sell food. Wine and beer is served to complement the meal.

Carolann Foley –

To [Balbir Singh], Sir, you are answering all these questions and the applicants are not. Can you tell me why you are not carrying the liquor license?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – My wife is the boss.

Let me explain. They are the applicants so they should be the ones speaking for the business.

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – English speaking is a little poor for them, that's why I am helping.

Let us ask for help if we need it from them. They are part of the community and we want it to be that way.

Are you not having security? I know you had that establishment for a long time, I know there have been no issues there. Have you ever had any communication with the 107th Precinct for your protection and the protection of your patrons? Do you have any interaction with the Police Department at all?

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – No.

I think you should come to the 107th Precinct and make them aware that you are a merchant here. They can come to your aid; as you come to our aid if we need something from your cameras. They hold their meetings the fourth (4) Tuesday of every month at the Precinct at 8 p.m. Come down and join us!

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – No problem.

Kevin Forrestal –

You will have some people who will smoke. I suggest that you put some sort of collection for cigarette butts outside.

Answer: [Balbir Singh] – Absolutely agree. We will have ashtrays in front of the establishment if we need to.

Carolann Foley made a motion to accept the application for a Wine and Beer License for Ambika Bhavani, Inc. located at 82-65 Parson Boulevard, seconded by Steven Sadosfy.

Votes in favor: 8

Votes against: 0

Board Members who voted in favor: Dr. Allen Bennett, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Bhitihara –Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr. and Steven Sadofky.

Board Members who voted against: None.

Carolann Foley –
Congratulations, welcome! Thank you for coming.

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.

Mr. Hannibal mentioned that at the last Liquor License Committee meeting held on May 10, 2016, the applicants of Kiko Bar Lounge Corp. were advised to correct their application and submit it to CB8 as soon as possible so that we can meet with them once again at the June 14th Liquor License Committee Meeting. This is the reason why they are here today.

Edison Orlando Zarate – Mr. Zarate stated that he is here today to answer all the questions the Committee may have. He wants everything clarified so he can get his business started.

Liquor License Committee Chair Michael Hannibal mentioned to Mr. Zarate that he will ask all the questions that were provided previously once again. He advised him to answer all the questions to the best of his ability. Then he will open the meeting for questions from the Board Members and then after that they will have a vote on accepting the application.

II. Kiko Bar Lounge Corp.
172-37 Hillside Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432

This type of establishment is going to be a bar/lounge. Is that correct?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate]- Yes. It will be a restaurant, bar/lounge.

At this time do you have a Certificate of Occupancy?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – No, not yet. The landlord has not provided me with that yet.

When do you anticipate that coming through?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – I think it should be ready within two weeks.

At that time, will you be prepared to send us a copy?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – Sure.

What is the maximum occupancy of the location?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – Eighty-two (82).

Then you will need a Place of Assembly Permit. Is that correct?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – Ok. I didn't know that.

You will need one. A copy of the Assembly Permit should be submitted along with the C of O.

What will be the hours of operation?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate.] – The restaurant will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the bar will open from 7 p.m. until 3:30 a.m., seven (7) days a week.

How will you handle underage drinking?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – Right now, I am trying to hire a good security company. For me it's going to be a little bit difficult at the beginning because I have never had a bar. I only have a restaurant in Brooklyn but I never had a bar business.

So this is your first time applying for a liquor license for an establishment?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – Yes.

Marc A. Haken –

Your restaurant doesn't have a liquor license in Brooklyn?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – No. It's just a small restaurant.

Michael Hannibal –

In terms of security measures I guess that hasn't been established yet?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – No. That's why I hired this company [ABC License] to help me with all these issues. I thought they were going to help me but I didn't know they filled it out wrong.

How will you maintain cleanliness in front of your establishment (i.e. smokers (ashtray))?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – I guess that will happen overnight. I am planning to hire a couple of guys to help me clean-up at night to make sure it is nice and clean in the morning.

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

Carolann Foley –

So you did say that ABC License was representing you. Are you talking about the three (3) gentlemen that were here last time? They identified themselves as the owners of Kiko Bar Lounge Corp. We didn't get off on a good foot with them, so please open up honestly. We want to welcome you into the community but we can't welcome you under these circumstances.

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – Did they give you their names?

Yes. Franklin Rodriguez Senior, Franklin Rodriguez Jr. and Sam Park was their expeditor.

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – Well, Sam Park is the guy from ABC License. He was sent from ABC License to represent me. The other two guys, one of them is my partner. He is actually going to be the manager since I have another business in Brooklyn.

He's not the owner?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – No.

Marc A. Haken –

You said he is your partner. Partner meaning that he is also a owner of the establishment? Are you the sole owner and he is your employee?

Answer: [Edison Orlando] – Yes. He will be my employee. He will be the full manager of the establishment.

What about the other guy that was with him?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – Which other guy?

His father.

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – Well, his father was the one that introduced me to this establishment. He was the one who told me that this place was without business.

Carolann Foley –

Do you know anything about the history of this place before you took ownership?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – Yes, of course. I know there was a full time bar at this location.

Do you know anything else about this establishment before you took ownership?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – You mean if something bad happened?

Exactly.

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – No.

Marc A. Haken –

How large is your dance floor?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – I will say probably, 20 feet long by 17 feet.

Do you have a dance floor at your restaurant in Brooklyn?

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – No, I don't.

Are you aware that if you have dancing you will need an additional license for dance called a cabaret license? This is because you are selling liquor and will have dancing also.

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – ABC License company didn't tell me anything about that license.

Am I correct? Or did they change that rule?

Answer: [Carolann Foley] – I think they might have slightly changed it. I will check into it.

Also on your application, one of the boxes says patron dancing and you didn't check that off. It is not marked.

Marc A. Haken –

Last time when the gentlemen were here we asked them the same question and they stated that there will be no dancing. I think they thought that we were foolish.

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – No. We have check off Disc Jokey and Recorded Music, so we will have music and the people will want to dance.

Carolann Foley – Security Personnel is checked off and you don't have security either. You told us that you do not have security in place yet.

Marc A. Haken –

These things are not good. This is now the second time you come before us with the application filled out incorrectly.

Answer: [Edison Orlando Zarate] – I have to go over this with them again. Is there any way that I can correct this again and bring it back?

Michael Hannibal – Mr. Hannibal suggested that they finish with all the Committee members questions first and then they will address this issue further.

Kevin Forrestal –

This application was not filled out properly last time and there were lies involved. Why should we approve your application?

Answer: [*Edison Orlando Zarate*] – That’s why I am asking if there is any way I can correct this and come back. You can see that they made a mistake. The application was not filled out properly. I am very upset with them. I don’t want to waste your time and I don’t want to waste my time either.

You have to make your own decision about who you are dealing with. As Marc was saying this is now the second time. I suggest that you withdraw your application. Do it right and then come back to us.

Carolann Foley – Ms. Foley stated that this establishment was not in good faith with the community and the quality of life of the community. She mentioned that Mr. Zarate should be aware of this.

Michael Hannibal – Mr. Hannibal mentioned that due to the fact that this is the second time this is brought up to the Committee, there will not be a third time. He stated that usually when the applicants come to the meeting all questions are already answered. He feels that the applicant is not ready. He mentioned to the Committee members that he does not want to have a motion on this application today.

Dr. Allen Bennett – Dr. Bennett stated that Kevin Forrestal’s suggestion that the application be withdrawn is the best decision.

Kevin Forrestal – Mr. Forrestal stated that he feels that the applicant is not ready. He needs to get himself organized before he fails. If the application is submitted incorrectly again, it will be denied.

Ellen Lee (ABC License) – Ms. Lee is the ABC License representative for Mr. Zarate. She apologized for being late and stated that Mr. Zarate had a partnership with the attendees from last meeting. Their partnership has now gone separate ways. They will withdraw the application and submit it again.

Edison Orlando Zarate – Mr. Zarate stated that he is withdrawing the application and will submit it again with accurate information.

Michael Hannibal – Mr. Hannibal explained to Ms. Lee that the application must be filled out correctly in order to be considered for review. All the questions should be answered as well.

The application for Kiko Bar Lounge Corp. has been officially withdrawn until further notice by the president Edison Orlando Zarate.

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:15 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jatnna Pimentel, Community Board 8 Staff
June 16, 2016*