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*The City of New York
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Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Liquor License Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 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: Jagir Singh Bains, Dr. Allen Bennett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Mary Maggio Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Paul Lazauskas, Frank Magri, Steven Sadofsky, Martha Taylor, and Mohammed Tohin.

Also in attendance: Rafael Kasaev; 185-01 Union Turnpike TBD Corp.
Michael Musheyev; 185-01 Union Turnpike TBD Corp.
Hananya Aranbaiev, 185-01 Union Turnpike TBD Corp.
Malik Abubakar, NYC Cloud 9 Corporation
Kirk Johnston, New Traditions, Inc.
Argilio Rodriguez, Attorney for New Traditions, Inc.
P.O. Pete Capozzi, 107th Precinct
Daniel Rosenthal, representing Councilman Rory Lancman
Anthony Lemma, representing Assemblyman David Weprin
Marie Adam-Ovide, District Manager, Community Board 8
Alma Karassavidis, Community Board 8 Staff

Mr. Hannibal called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Since there is a full house and full agenda, I will forego the introductions if everyone agrees. All present agreed.

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.

- I. **185-01 Union Turnpike TBD Corp.**
185-01 Union Turnpike, Fresh Meadows NY 11366

Rafael, on your application I see Avi Dishi listed as the building owner. Is that correct?

Answer: Yes.

Then you are the proprietor?

Answer: Yes.

This was previously the Meatos Restaurant?

Answer: Yes, that's correct.

It will remain as a dining and drinking establishment?

Answer: Yes.

Do you have a Certificate of Occupancy?

Answer: Yes, I do.

What is the maximum occupancy? Will it be less than 75 or more than 75?

Answer: More than 75.

Being that it is over 75, do you have a Place of Assembly permit (PA)?

Answer: We have the PA permit from the previous place. We haven't yet submitted for one. It is in the process of getting done. We haven't signed the contract yet. We just gave a deposit on the place. We are applying for the PA permit once everything goes through.

Where in the process do you stand right now?

Answer: It is in the process as we speak. We are just waiting for everything to file.

Marc A. Haken - If we approve tonight, it would be on the condition that the PA be presented to us.

Michael Hannibal – Yes, duly noted.

What will be the hours of operation?

Answer: Sunday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 6:00 p.m. to Midnight.

Will it be a family establishment or will you have young people there where you have to monitor underage drinking?

Answer: It is going to be a family establishment.

How would you handle underage drinking?

Answer: All of the employees will take a TIPS course.

What security measures will be taken?

Answer: We are going to be adding more cameras to the existing cameras at the restaurant.

What is the total amount?

Answer: Twenty five, they had about 16 before and we are adding some more.

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

Answer: We will have standing ashtrays outside for people that do smoke. The staff will clean and maintain the outside of the establishment in the morning and as needed, throughout the day.

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

Carolann Foley-

Will you just have tables set up for people to sit down and eat and have a drink, or is there going to be a seated bar for people to sit at all night?

Answer: Basically the bar will be used mostly as a waiting area. The Jewish Community are not huge drinkers. It is more of a fine dining restaurant rather than a bar or café type of establishment.

Will you have music?

Answer: Soft background music, no live music. Just recorded music.

Marc A. Haken-

Now there is an outside strip, what do you plan to do with that?

Answer: For now, nothing. There will be no outdoor seating. There are chairs and tables there now that will be removed.

Mary Maggio Fischer -

Are there residential homes in the area where you are going to allow smoking?

Answer: The residential area is behind the building. It is a corner establishment and the entrances are more towards the retail establishments. During the peak hours most businesses there will be closed.

But of course, you will monitor them.

Answer: Absolutely, that is why we added extra cameras also.

Maria DeInnocentiis -

Right now there are two restaurants, is that going to be shared?

Answer: No, it is only going to be one restaurant.

So you will be taking over the whole thing?

Answer: Yes.

You said something about the bar; the Meatos portion has a wall-to-wall bar?

Answer: In the other section there was a bar. It wasn't wall-to-wall. It was maybe 15 feet. On the other side, not really where Meatos was, but completely on the other side.

Will that be removed?

Answer: No, the bar will still be there. It is right next to the area where they had the outside patio area. It will be a waiting area.

Michael Hannibal-

On your application, question #12 was not checked off, was that an error?

Answer: Yes it was an error. It is for a full liquor license.

Marc A. Haken-

Yes, but that not being checked off it does not tell the SLA what you want to sell at your bar. This might get bounced back to you.

Answer: It must have been an oversight by the lawyer. I will make a note of it and check it out.

Kevin Forrestal-

What is the cuisine going to be? Just curiosity.

Answer: Asian-Japanese. Glatt Kosher Asian Fusion. We want to make it a family environment. We are planning on adding Hibachi tables.

James Gallagher Jr. -

What is the maximum seating capacity? It used to be three sections of about 75 each.

Answer: It was a total of about 200. We are still going to be 200, but we are not going to maximize it. There will be about 50 seats in the private area, and three other areas of 50. We want everyone to be nice and comfortable. We have a lot of space.

Marc A. Haken-

Have you had previous experience running a restaurant?

Answer: Sure.

What percentage of your clientele do you think is going to be large events as opposed family dinners?

Answer: We are not going to be having many large events. We set up the rooms in a way where it will be a cozier and intimate environment.

Carolann Foley-

Our community gives blessings to establishments like yourself coming in but it is very important to us that you follow the quality of life with the surrounding community you are in. I suggest that you contact Lieutenant Robinson (718) 969-5973 at the 107th Precinct and introduce yourself.

Answer: We live in the community. We live only a few blocks away.

We have our Community Council meetings at 8:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month in the 107th Precinct. Join us!

Kevin Forrestal made a motion to approve the application for a Liquor License for 185-01 Union Turnpike TBD Corp. located at 185-01 Union Turnpike, subject to obtaining the Place of Assembly Permit. The motion was seconded by Marc A. Haken.

Votes in favor: 14

Votes against: 0

Board Members who voted in favor: Jagir Singh Bains, Dr. Allen Bennett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Mary Maggio Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Paul Lazauskas, Frank Magri, Steven Sadofsky, Martha Taylor, and Mohammed Tohin.

Board Members who voted against: None

Mr. Hannibal noted that the application passed unanimously provided that the establishment obtain a Place of Assembly permit and wished the business success in the community.

**II. NYC Cloud 9 Corporation
179-22 Union Turnpike, Fresh Meadows, NY 11366**

Michael Hannibal-

We brought you in tonight because of concerns about a few recent incidents at Cloud 9. The fact that you are here is important. We want to hear your side. The most recent incident happened in January 2016. (*Malik Abubakar introduced himself as the owner/operator of the establishment*).

Tell us what went on and how it was resolved?

Answer: I close at 2:00 a.m. from Sunday to Wednesday. Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 4:00 a.m. Since 2014 when we had a little situation, I started closing at 3:00 a.m. A group of people came in and they all looked okay. When they came I told them I had no seats. They came in to have a couple of drinks. They didn't look really drunk, but we could tell that they had already been drinking in some other

place. At that point my manager felt that they were starting to act up and decided to ask them to leave. They left the bar, went to their car and left. We had no idea that something had happened until an hour and a half later. NYPD officers came in and asked us if something had happened here. We told them no. Then we found out that somebody got shot down the block. We started checking the cameras. I stayed until 7:30 a.m. to show them all the videos from the camera. My manager gave them whatever information they needed. My security [guards] were called in to ask if they saw anything. There was no issue inside my place with that group I mentioned or with anybody else. There are a few other places nearby. I think that we get people that leave the other bars (Cheap Shots, Traditions, H2O) after they have already been drinking. They try to get into Cloud 9. One time in particular, in 2015, a group of people came but I didn't let them in. They broke my door and I called 911 right away. NYPD came at around 1:00 a.m. and were angry at me, asking why are these people coming here? I am trying to make a living and feed my family. My belief is that people go to the other places where there are promoted parties; the places get too overcrowded so they don't get in. They use Google and our place comes up so they come here. I can't walk everyone to their cars. I never had any issues inside my place in the four years since I have been here. There have never been any fights in front, no underage drinking issues, no drug issues, nothing. I am there seven days a week. 107th Precinct C.O. Paul Valerga came to my place and I gave the NYPD everything they asked for: tapes, information. If they need anything I always cooperate with them. I have been to the Precinct three times already. I gave them all the tapes from the cameras and helped them to download everything. I don't believe that I am doing anything wrong. The people come from places like Far Rockaway and Brooklyn where they have party promoters. When they go to those parties, they get kicked out or get into problems with other people at the bar and then come to my place.

Marc A. Haken-

I would like to ask Pete Capozzi of the 107th Precinct if we know what happened. Someone was shot as a result?

Answer: Back in January, there were shots fired.

Marc A. Haken-

So nobody was hit, there were just shots fired.

Answer: Right.

Michael Hannibal-

It was not near the premises. Was it a few blocks away?

Answer: Yes.

Carolann Foley-

It was around the corner and I just have to say that the establishment was exceptionally cooperative with the NYPD and the Detective Unit.

Maria DeInnocentiis-

The only thing that concerns me is that incidents seem to be starting from people leaving your establishment. You are saying you are not letting them in. I know there was a shooting on Union Turnpike, was it last summer?

Answer: It was in 2014, two years ago.

Maria DeInnocentiis-

You mentioned that people go to the bars where there are promoters in Brooklyn and then they end up at your place?

Answer: Yes.

Maria DeInnocentiis:

How are they finding you from all of these areas, try and get into your place only to get kicked out? It doesn't make sense to me.

Answer: The promoters from Far Rockaway, Staten Island, Brooklyn; they promote parties and events all over the city. When these people go to the events and get kicked out or can't get in, for whatever reason, they Google the nearest place and find us. I have never used a promoter in the four years I have been here. I don't do parties. I open at 4:00 p.m. every day, 7 days a week. On weekdays, I close at 2:00 a.m. On weekends I used to close at 4:00 a.m. Since 2014, I started closing at 2:30 a.m. By 3:00 a.m. I am done. I never had any issues with fights inside or outside.

Carolann Foley-

I commend you for just coming here and speaking with us.

Answer: Of course, thank you. I asked the C.O. of the 107th Precinct if there was a way to have a cruiser just come by around 2:00 a.m. or 2:30 a.m. After 11:30 p.m. from Utopia to this side is a dead zone. There is nobody around.

Dr. Allen Bennett-

Why don't you hire private security?

Answer: I already have, but I need a marked cruiser not private security. Even if they could just drive by around that time a couple of times, it would deter them.

Marc A. Haken-

Before you leave you can speak with Officer Capozzi and he will give you the telephone number.

P.O. Pete Capozzi-

I can give you the phone number right now if you want it. They do off-duty employment.

Answer: That might not work. I need a marked cruiser.

Marc A. Haken-

You don't think that a uniformed officer would do?

Answer: I will figure something out.

Carolann Foley-

If you do need anything from us, we are here for you. It's weird that it is happening at your place. I can relate to what you are saying with the social media. I feel for you and your business. I do appreciate your coming here and being so cooperative with the Precinct when things happen. We have our Community Council meetings the fourth Tuesday of every month at 8:00 p.m. at the Precinct. The next one is on April 26th.

Marie Adam-Ovide-

I just need to ask, in case people call us, are they doing everything that the Precinct thinks they should be doing to keep the area safe for the community?

Answer (P.O. Capozzi): Yes, I asked the Sergeant and there are no complaints.

**III. New Traditions, Inc.
84-28 164th Street, Jamaica, NY 11432**

Michael Hannibal-

This is a renewal meeting; however, in light of some of the situations, I will read off a list of some of the items of concern. I will then open it up to the table for anyone who wants to ask a question. When all the questioning is done, then we will take a vote.

Marc A. Haken-

Apparently there are a lot of bad things about this place. We had a most contentious meeting here last year with the other place on Union Turnpike, Cheap Shots. We voted unanimously that they shouldn't even breathe and they still renewed their liquor license. They are still in business.

Michael Hannibal-

Our civic responsibility is to do what we are doing tonight; to interface with this applicant; discuss what our concerns are, and vote on that based on their response. Secondly, the state agency can respond either way, but unlike before, our job will be committed to making sure that they hear us this time versus just letting it go. We have to get past this first phase now and then we will deal with the second phase. I hear you, everyone here has it in the back of their mind.

Kirk Johnston introduced himself as the co-owner/operator of the establishment. His attorney, Argilio Rodriguez was also present.

Michael Hannibal-

Usually in the case for a renewal, if there were no incidents, we send a letter of no objection to the (SLA) State Liquor Authority. In this case, there was a list of offenses which occurred since your last renewal, to just most recently, last weekend. When we talked last, our letter to the SLA stated that our approval for a favorable recommendation was dependent upon your participation with St. John's community and to be involved with the 107th Precinct. Also in the event that there was any occurrence at your establishment, the first place you would reach out to would be the Community Board. The last thing we want is to have these incidents reported to us and eventually lead to this situation. The list of items that we are aware of that occurred at your establishment included such offenses as: larceny, petty larceny, public urination, grand larceny, consumption of drinking of alcohol outside of the premises, obstruction of breath (choking), criminal mischief, marijuana smoking, acknowledgement of sex abuse, the obstruction of the property so that no one can look into the property. The bar was closed at least three times for safety reasons, mostly for overcrowding. The Board of Health closed down the place due to unsanitary conditions and just recently bartenders being arrested for serving underage drinkers. I have been doing this for four years now and I have never had to read off a list like this. These are no longer concerns but facts. I am embarrassed because we left with the understanding with your renewal two years ago that there was going to be a difference. I will give you time to respond, but I am just voicing my sense of betrayal. What we were hoping for did not transpire. The people sitting at this table are committed to their community. They are here to help. I am going to open this up now for the people around the table to voice their concerns and we need to hear your response.

Answer: Well first I want to respond to the list of items. You are throwing a lot at me at once. If we could have a fair and open exchange as to what is going on. I want to hear everyone's concerns. If we go all the way around, by the time we get to the end I will not remember what was asked.

Michael Hannibal-

Whatever I listed here, you will hear it around the table. I just want to start off with the person closest to you. If no one has anything to say, that's fine too. I want to start it off that way.

Marc A. Haken-

Would it be a bit more expeditious if you took each one of those items, one by one, and presented them to Mr. Johnston, so he could respond to each one of these issues and possibly explain item by item?

Kevin Forrestal-

There was also a few weeks ago a young person who was found unconscious and had to be taken to the hospital. As of April 5th, there have been 20 incidents of over intoxication.

Michael Hannibal-

If anyone doesn't have an objection to Marc's suggestion, can we do it that way?

Kevin Forrestal-

It's not a single item by item, what we have here is an overwhelming threat to the community.

Martha Taylor-

I would still like to hear his responses.

Michael Hannibal-

So let's start with the first one; larceny, petty larceny, grand larceny?

Answer: When we are talking about larcenies or petty larcenies that occurred on the premises, the ones that I am aware of are situations where someone lost a phone, debit card or wallet. Instead of reporting it lost, they reported it stolen. I don't know of any actual robberies or where someone was pickpocketed.

Carolann Foley-

Firstly, what the Chairman just mentioned to you were facts. We do have a police officer here this evening. Our information came directly from the 107th Precinct. You have been aware over the last two years. We want to hear you out, but you have to understand our point of view. Over usage of our police officers are taking them away from the rest of our community. Bringing the value down on the residents' homes that live near your establishment. You are wrecking the brains of college kids when their parents are spending hard-earned money sending them to school. You are letting them get intoxicated and whatever else they are doing at your establishment. They are underage, passing out and being sent to the hospital. Those things are inexcusable. You have to understand that we, as a committee do not want to stand here and listen to you when you say that you might not know what is happening. I think you know what is happening there.

Answer: I live in this community. I don't come from outside the community. I have two sons, a 16 year old and an 18 year old. They both go to St. Francis Prep. The concerns of this community are also my own concerns. I can only address one thing at a time. I am here to respond to every question and concern that you have.

Argilio Rodriguez – I noticed that two people here tonight used the words “facts”. That is not the appropriate term to be used. At best, they are allegations. None of them have ever been upheld in any court. It is people making accusations. The number one theft of people in their 20's are cell phones. Just by theft of a cell phone you have larceny. Someone reports it stolen and makes a police report in the hopes that they can make a claim to their phone carrier. It is written up as larceny.

Kevin Forrestal-

So basically what you are saying is that a customer of yours said that someone stole something from them and you say, they lost it, they are lying?

Answer: I have seen this situation many times. They have come up to me and said their phone is missing. It later turns out that their best friend or someone else with them had it. In other instances they may have dropped it and left it on the floor. I have found phones in the bathroom, behind the toilets. Then they report it stolen in order to make the claim with their carrier. It takes the responsibility off of them for losing it. If it is reported stolen, you need a police report for that in order to get the insurance to cover the phone.

So you are saying your patrons are engaged in insurance fraud?

Michael Hannibal-

So you seem to have some responses for the larceny. There are still things here like excessive consumption of alcohol, sex abuse, marijuana use. You say that you are not aware of your place being closed by the Board of Health?

Answer: I can only address one thing at a time. If you give me the issue I will address it. You asked about the larceny; I addressed the larceny.

Michael Hannibal-

What concerns me is that you are answering as if it is not applicable and not based on fact. I have a list right here.

Answer: You have a list of accusations and there may be some validity there. I own one of the most scrutinized establishments in the community. So I do get a lot of attention and I really try to cross my "T's" and dot my "I's" because everyone is looking with a magnifying glass and a flashlight.

Martha Taylor-

We went through this two years ago and it has not gotten better; it's gotten worse.

Argilio Rodriguez – I haven't seen one charge that has stuck. You have very valid concerns. My response is that we live in a country that you have to prove these things.

Carolann Foley-

Why does it say 18+ on this promotional flyer for your establishment and why is St. John's name on it?

Answer: I didn't make that. Someone could have been having a birthday party and put that out there to advertise their party.

Marc A. Haken-

Can you talk to us about underage drinking?

Michael Hannibal-

Paul could you just go through your items? This is not made up. This is the facts from St. John's.

Answer: At our last meeting two years ago, you asked me and St. John's to work together to insure the safety of the students and customers and to improve the overall quality for the community. I went to the next Community Relations meeting that St. John's had. They have my phone number, I had theirs. I said let me know when you are scheduling the next one and I will be there. I haven't heard from them since that first meeting at all. Immediately after that, I called the office because I saw a newspaper article that they had put in a local paper with a bunch of false stuff. How do we build a relationship to work together and as soon as we leave the meeting they are doing the exact opposite of what they said. As far as anything else, for one thing, the marijuana smoking. Someone was smoking marijuana outside and was given a ticket. There was no marijuana smoking inside my establishment. Someone was walking down

the street outside, smoking weed. I am there every day so I see cops outside, I walk outside. There were 2-3 guys that they stopped down past my place and they are writing them a ticket.

Michael Hannibal-

Let's get back on track. Paul can you please share some of your knowledge of the situations with us?

Paul Lazauskas-

The takeaway from our meeting two years ago was that we would meet and we did meet. We spoke about a number of issues which basically reiterated what was discussed here. We agreed to stay in constant communication. Probably about a week or so later, there was an incident. Public Safety puts out advisories and it said something to the effect of "in the area of Traditions". Then I get a series of text messages from you saying why am I bashing your business?

Answer: Yes, I texted you. I stayed in contact with St. John's, and didn't hear anymore from you after that.

If you list on the advisory that it is 164th Street and 82nd Avenue, the students, especially those that are here from other parts of the country, will not know where that is. If we say it is near Traditions, then they would know if they had been there and would know what areas to avoid. That was the reason for listing Traditions on the advisory. There was no indication, nor has the university ever said don't go to Traditions or this happened at Traditions. There are never advisories that go out like that, regarding any business. You have to understand that we are putting out an advisory to 20,000 students. To just list a random address doesn't really work.

Answer: Understood, but understand where I am coming from with anything that happens in the area I am being held responsible for.

Argilio Rodriguez – It is initial causation. We are trying to narrow it down. What is it that the community feels is caused directly by Traditions?

Paul Lazauskas-

Two years ago we discussed a series of issues and here we are again, and the issues are very similar. I don't think there has been a decrease in the number of issues. I drafted a letter to send to the Community Board. There were 40 individual reports of incidents that have occurred either inside Traditions, walking from the establishment or on campus after the students have reported to us. Once they return to campus and a public safety officer engages them, they are stumbling, they are sick and they have to get transported to the hospital. There are 20 additional incidences of intoxicated students that had to go to the hospital. They are asked where they were; they tell us they were at Traditions. The number of intoxicated underage students is about 95%. Who is monitoring your social media accounts? This is an advertisement from Monday night. "All you can drink beer from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m." Another one says, "Come drink free tonight ladies, mixed drinks and draft beers from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m." Another one says, "Celebrate your birthday at Trad's, and get a free open bar". "Super Bowl Sunday – Open bar today during Super Bowl includes beer and liquor" "Super Bowl party entry - \$20 open bar, wings, free Jaeger shots".

There is a particular promotion company called NWP Entertainment. I don't know if you work with them. They have had a couple of parties at your establishment. One of the advertisements read, "First 50 ladies get a free shot of Hennessy, College ID accepted. Everyone drinks all night."

Martha Taylor-

All of this is violation of the ABC laws.

Paul Lazauskas-

This was from last weekend where you had a bartender serving underage patrons.

Marc Haken-

This one even names the bartender. Is Salerno one of your bartenders?

Paul Lazauskas-

I don't have that. ABC law indicates it prohibits from selling, delivering or offering to patrons an unlimited number of drinks during any set period of time for a fixed price. The law also requires that licensees prohibit party organizers, promoters, etc. from engaging in this conduct in the licensees' establishment. The statute also prohibits licensees from creating drink specials which, in the judgement of the Authority, are attempts to circumvent the law. The SLA licensee handbook, which I am assuming that you have read, says if you are an on premises licensee you must not allow your establishment to become disorderly. Disorder includes fights, disturbances, excessive noise. You have an obligation to exercise reasonable diligence and provide adequate supervision over the conduct of your licensed premises and your patrons. In reference to the ID situation; the only forms of ID that are accepted are a valid NY State ID, valid identification issued by the DMV, a military ID or a valid passport. College ID cards are not acceptable as a primary means to determine a customer's age. The bartenders need to be consistent in checking IDs even if the particular patron has been there in the past. Also NYC IDs are not acceptable forms of ID in bars.

Answer: When I get 50 balls thrown at me at once, it's hard to respond.

Frank Magri-

Address the underage drinking.

Answer: I will start with that, as far as the underage drinking goes....

Argilio Rodriguez – When you say underage drinking?

Frank Magri-

Please address the underage drinking?

Answer: I haven't even been able to complete a sentence.

Frank Magri-

Your lawyer stopped you. You have the floor now.

Answer: What exactly is the question? If it were up to St. John's every single moment a student touches alcohol, it would be Traditions' fault.

Argilio Rodriguez – He just broke it down. He stated that Public Safety interviews the student and just by saying that they were at New Traditions, it becomes New Tradition's fault. That defies logic. They could have been drinking elsewhere.

Michael Hannibal-

Ok, just make a statement.

Answer: I live in this community and so do my children so I do understand your concerns. I am only asking for a chance to answer your concerns.

Michael Hannibal-

You had a chance to answer the question about underage drinking and it turned into a footnote. We didn't hear an answer.

Answer: We have been operating for over 4 years now. We have had several NYPD undercover operations come in and attempt to buy liquor from us. The Special Ops Lieutenant Robinson from the 107th Precinct has come by and let us know each time. He told us that he sent someone in to try and buy from us and we didn't sell to them. He told me that he knows that our bartenders are doing their job.

Carolann Foley-

That is not true. That is not the report that I got from the Lieutenant Robinson or the Sergeant Minarczyk.

Answer: They are constantly sending the undercover operations to us.

You are not picked out of a hat. Every establishment in the community is done the same way.

Answer: I am not saying that it is only me. I am saying that they come in specifically trying to get you to sell to them. Each and every time that they sent them in, our bartenders have not sold to them.

You are not answering the question. What about the cases where you got caught selling to underage patrons? You do have people in the bar who cannot drink and you mark their hands, is that correct?

Answer: Yes

I want to know why that person whose hand was marked and in your establishment until 1:30 a.m. ended up in Queens General Hospital intoxicated.

Answer: (showing a photo from the past weekend) A few weeks ago we started to search everyone because of the underage drunk people. We are literally pulling bottles of beer, water bottles filled with alcohol out of people's bags, purses and coats.

Frank Magri-

What kind of security do you have to prevent this?

Answer: We were not searching them because we didn't have a problem with violence.

Carolann Foley-

With the crowds you have, what kind of security do you have that they can't monitor the bar site to find out that these kids are drinking?

Answer: We do take it out of their hands, but it's pre-game. I have here two purses that belong to two young ladies. They were left at the bar. If you look at their IDs, they are using their IDs and their sister's IDs. It is a scannable driver's license.

Michael Hannibal-

There is a lot going back and forth but ultimately I am not hearing, "this happened, and we took care of it". To be honest you are not answering the questions.

Answer: I haven't had a chance to answer one question.

Michael Hannibal –

To be honest you are not answering the questions. I have things in this list such as underage drinking and sex abuse.

Answer: Sex abuse, what sex abuse, how? That is a huge charge! I need more clarity. What sex abuse happened on my property? When? It's an honest question. If you are accusing me of being responsible for sex abuse on my property, then please explain the circumstances.

P.O. Capozzi –

I saw a list, but I can't tell you what was on the complaint report. I wish I could then I would be able to answer some questions. A complainant brought a report of an incident that had happened at your establishment.

Mohammed Tohin –

Do we have any proof of all these allegations? We should have proof first then we can talk about them.

Paul Lazauskas-

The items that I mentioned that are on social media are clearly in violation of SLA law. Do you know anything about the social media accounts? Who runs them? Do you know this NWP Entertainment who obviously promotes parties at the establishment?

Answer: We have social media accounts that are run by the bar. There must be at least 5 other accounts. Remember I am not the first owner of Traditions. Traditions has been there since 1996.

Dr. Allen Bennett –

Please answer his question.

Answer: He asked if I know of them.

He is talking about specific accounts and he asked you if you know those accounts and you are rambling.

Answer: I don't know what accounts he is talking about.

Paul Lazauskas-

I can show you right here. It is a twitter account “@Traditions” and the other is “Trad’s bar”

Answer: This one is my account. This account that you read from is not my account. The one that says Traditions Bar with a different logo. That's not mine.

Martha Taylor-

Whoever is responsible for this advertising is bringing customers to your establishment who are being served in violation of the ABC law.

Carolann Foley made a motion to vote on the renewal application for a Full Liquor License for 84-28 164th Street, New Traditions, Inc. The motion was seconded by Martha Taylor.

Kevin Forrestal moved to approve the motion, seconded by Marc A. Haken.

Votes in favor: 0

Votes against: 13

Abstained: 1

Board Members who voted in favor: None

Board Members who voted against: Jagir Singh Bains, Dr. Allen Bennett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Mary Maggio Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Paul Lazauskas, Frank Magri, Steven Sadofsky and Martha Taylor.

Board Members who abstained: Mohammed Tohin

Kirk Johnston: I really don't feel that I was given a fair chance. I don't feel like I was given a chance to answer the questions.

Dr. Allen Bennett –

I believe you knew before you came here what the problems were going to be and your opening remarks should have answered the comments if you had them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alma Karassavidis, Community Board 8 Staff

April 26, 2016