



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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George Fernández Jr. - Chairman
Ebenezer Smith. District Manager

December 23, 2015

Hon. Vincent G. Bradley
Chairman
New York State Liquor Authority
80 South Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210-8002

Re: Vida Les LLC dba Maranello Trattoria

Dear Chairman Bradley:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2015 Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of (29)In Favor, (1)Oppose (0) Abstain recommending that New York State Liquor Authority **not grant** a Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to Vida Les LLC., doing business as Maranello Trattoria, located at 1 Nagle Avenue at the corner of Hillside Avenue.

Whereas, Vida Les LLC., doing business as Maranello Trattoria, located at 1 Nagle Avenue at the corner of Hillside Avenue, has duly notified Community Board 12 Manhattan of its intention to file an application for the renewal of its On-Premises Liquor License; and

Whereas, the Licensing Committee, having met on December 9, 2015 to hear comments from the community and the precinct, was informed by the 34th Precinct, which objects to the renewal of this license, that a disorderly premises summons was issued at Maranello on February 15 of this year due to intoxicated persons fighting in front of the business, that an arrest for assault in the third degree was made on February 20, and that a summons for underage drinking at this location was given on February 27; and

Whereas, the Precinct also informed the Committee that this business is one of the top three targets of complaints via 311, having generated 245 anonymous calls since the beginning of the year, receiving an unreasonable noise summons on November 25 and additional disorderly premises summonses on March 15 and December 6; and

Whereas, during undercover police operations, it was noted that an area of the restaurant appears to have been set aside for dancing, as confirmed by a Board member and a member of the community who have visited the establishment and have seen the dance floor in operation, as well as by Maranello's own social media page, which mentions discounted cover charges – a staple of dance venues – and advertises night club-style bottle service and dancing, which is prohibited at locations that do not hold a cabaret license from the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs; and

Whereas, the Committee received an email from a neighborhood resident referring to this establishment as a night club and stating that the large glass windows enable music to be heard hundreds of yards away, that this establishment offers dance parties with D.J.s, and that valet parking causes traffic at this intersection; and

Whereas, the owner of the restaurant noted that he conducts meetings twice a year with building residents, none of whom attended the Licensing meeting, and that he made an adjustment in soundproofing and has had zero complaints from the neighbors upstairs; and

Whereas, a Board member noted that when she visited the restaurant earlier this year, she and every member of her group was charged a \$20 cover fee, to which the owner initially responded by categorically denying that there were any cover charges at any time, only to recant his story upon further questioning by the Committee Chair and admit that his own brother complained to him after being charged a door fee, and claiming that a security guard who had been charging cover fees without the permission or knowledge of management is no longer employed by the establishment;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that Community Board 12 Manhattan **Objects Strongly** to the State Liquor Authority renewing this license.

Sincerely,



George Fernandez, Jr.
Chair

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Guillermo Linares, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member
Hon. Kevin Kim, Commissioner, SLA
Hon. Noreen Healey, Commissioner, SLA