



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4**

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**WALTER MANKOFF**  
Chair

**ANTHONY M. BORELLI**  
District Manager

January 6, 2004

Commissioner Edward Kelly  
New York State Liquor Authority  
84 Holland Avenue, 2nd floor, A-Wing  
Albany, NY 12208

**Re: Rica Enterprises Inc. d/b/a B'lo, 220 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street**

Dear Commissioner Kelly,

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 was delighted to learn that an agreement had been reached with Rica Enterprises Inc. d/b/a B'lo, 220 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, to settle a slew of State Liquor Authority violations by B'lo. While we are encouraged by this significant step, the committee voted to recommend that the entire license be taken away. The proprietor has a history of dishonesty and disrespect for the community and we have no reason to think they will now change the way they operate especially given their stated intention to continue holding dance parties in the basement space.

Until the establishment is closed permanently, it is our understanding that the agreement with the SLA calls for B'lo to pay \$22,000 in fines and return to the way they operated before the liquor license alteration was granted that created B'lo, and a nightmare for the local residents, in the first place. We understand this to mean that they have to operate as an extension of the pool hall (the Q Lounge) with approximately six pool tables in the basement, no seating beyond that which is incidental to the pool tables, no cabaret activity, and no patron bar.

However, when a representative from B'lo appeared at the December 14 meeting of our Business Licenses & Permits Committee, he said it was his understanding that the agreement would allow them to operate with only one pool table in the basement, retain all of their seating, retain the cabaret privileges they had won in a lawsuit against the Department of Consumer Affairs, and hold as many private parties as they would choose to book. The only thing everyone agreed upon was that the basement space could not have a separate entrance (everyone would go in through Q Lounge) and that it could not have a patron bar. We felt that this indicated that the operator did not negotiate in good faith and would essentially continue to operate the same kind of nuisance club it had before.

**E. Kelly**  
**January 6, 2005**  
**Page 2 of 2**

We seek a total revocation of the liquor license, and written clarification as to your understanding of the agreement between B'lo and the SLA. Our hope is you will side with the long suffering community rather than the troublesome owners.

Sincerely yours,



Walter Mankoff  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Kevin Kossi  
Co-Chair  
Business Licenses & Permits Committee

John Weis  
Co-Chair  
Business Licenses & Permits Committee

Cc: Fred Gioffre  
Applicant  
Elected Officials  
Department of Consumer Affairs