



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4**

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**J. LEE COMPTON**  
Chair

**ANTHONY M. BORELLI**  
District Manager

August 3, 2005

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

**Re: Roulette Corp., 550 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street**

Dear Commissioner Kelly,

At its July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005 full Board meeting, Manhattan Community Board No. 4 voted to recommend denial of an on-premises liquor license for Roulette Corp., located at 550 West 21st Street, NYC.

This denial is due to our concerns about the involvement of Stratis Morfogen, previously of Sessa Inc., 208 West 23rd Street, which closed after settling a nuisance abatement action brought by the NYPD in response to a string of stabbings. The abatement action was actually brought on the grounds that there had been numerous incidents of underage drinking on premises. Officers from the Tenth Precinct appeared at the Board meeting to voice their opposition to Mr. Morfogen's involvement in another night club

Since its opening in late 2002, Sessa wreaked havoc on its neighbors and its neighborhood. The management, under the direction of Stratis Morfogen, disregarded all the stipulations it agreed to and, in the conduct of its business, all the conventions and legalities of civilized life.

The venue not only was a disorderly house, with noise, litter, and filth disturbing its neighbors and the street. It also became an on-going locus of violent crime, with fights, robberies, rapes, and stabbings inside and outside the venue more the rule than the exception. The Tenth Precinct routinely assigned a special patrol to this venue on operating nights.

The attached newspaper article should give you an idea of the problems that plagued Sessa since its inception. Also attached is a report from the Tenth Precinct itemizing incidents that took place at Sessa between January 1 and October 19, 2003. (A "61" is a complaint report). At the bottom of the report is a summary of police action at Sessa during that time period - 3 felony arrests, 4 misdemeanor arrests, 44 C summonses, 12 club inspections, and 12 SLA violations.

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It is abundantly clear that this operator is a scofflaw, and his involvement in yet another night club presents a real danger to its neighbors, our district, and the City. The common good can only be served by denying this application.

Sincerely,



J. Lee Compton  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Kevin Kossi  
Co-Chair  
Business Licenses & Permits Committee

John Weis  
Co-Chair  
Business Licenses & Permits Committee

Cc: Applicant  
Fred Gioffre  
Elected Officials