

1 New Business

Item #: 29

2
3 June 3, 2013

4
5 Mr. Donald Bernstein
6 Victor & Bernstein
7 18 East 41st Street
8 New York, New York 10017

9
10 **Re: The Highline Hotel, LLC & Tenth Avenue Hotel Management LLC**

11 Dear Donald:

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13
14 Last December your client, The Highline Hotel, LLC and Tenth Avenue Hotel Management,
15 came before Manhattan Community Board 4's Business Licenses and Permit Committee with an
16 application for a hotel liquor license. At the time, a discussion was begun about the ~~situation~~
17 ~~termination~~ *regarding of* former employees ~~termination of~~ *from* the Desmond Tutu Center after
18 the flooding of Hurricane Sandy. ~~You clarified your clients' position about the possible rehiring~~
19 ~~of these people in~~ *In* a letter to MCB4 in January, before the application was to come before the
20 full Board for a vote, *your clients agreed to interview and consider hiring the terminated*
21 *individuals*. The Board accepted your presentation assuming it was offered in good faith. We
22 understood your *client's* goal was not only to adhere to the path described but to actively seek
23 employees from the pool of those no longer employed at the facility. *However, we have since*
24 *learned that not one of the former employees was rehired*. We now feel misled and manipulated
25 by your *client*.

26
27 *In our view*, your client ~~in our view~~ followed the letter of the agreement but not the spirit. Many
28 of us now doubt if there ever was any honest intention of rehiring some of the former employees.

29
30 Though your application was approved by the SLA in April, the screening and interviewing
31 process you followed yielded not one single rehire. It did follow the January outline but you
32 seem to have fallen back on the phrase, publicly quoted by your applicant's representatives,
33 "criteria for this hotel." No one interviewed by your client met these (unstated) criteria. We
34 certainly would be interested in knowing what ~~that criteria is~~ *the criteria are* because we find it
35 incredible that not one of these employees, formerly staffing the Tutu Center with no complaints
36 about the competency of their appropriate skills or the level of service they provided, made the
37 grade for the new hotel. Incredible and unbelievable.

38
39 The Business Licenses and Permits Committee of MCB 4 ~~is meeting~~ *meets on Tuesday*, June 11
40 at 6:30 pm at the Intercontinental Hotel. We will be hearing from some of the people involved in
41 the rehiring interviews and would also like to hear from you and your client at the time. Your
42 attendance would certainly be appreciated.

43
44 Sincerely,

45
46 Lisa Daglian Paul Seres Corey Johnson
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