



COMMUNITY BOARD 11
1741 COLDEN AVENUE
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Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Chairman Albert D'Angelo
District Manager Jeremy H. Warneke

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- Leadership*
- Community Development & Budget Priorities*
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- Land Use*
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- Public Safety*
- Sanitation & Environmental Protection*
- Transportation*

Economic Development Committee
 February 17, 2021
 Webex Meetings

MINUTES

PRESENT: Joe Thompson, Chair; Joanne Rubino, Co-Chair; Durrell Boaham; Veronica Castro; Debby Kawalick; Shradhanand Pirtam; Edit Shkreli; Tony Signorile; and Al D'Angelo (non-voting member)

GUESTS: Matt Caufield; and Robert Press

STAFF: Chris Kirka, Community Coordinator

GUESTS: Mayra Nunez, Ruby's Restaurant Owner; Community residents Jessica Carrero-Ruiz and Diana Finch

Meeting called to order at 7:37 p.m.

1. Renewal Liquor License Applications
 - a. Rainbow Diner, 2197 White Plains Road: Liquor, Wine, Beer, Cider
 - b. Pasta Pasta Restaurant, 2023 Williamsbridge Road: Liquor, Wine, Beer, Cider
 - c. Caridad and Louie Restaurant, 1660 Gun Hill Road: Liquor, Wine, Beer, Cider
 - d. La Masa Restaurant, 1000 Morris Park Avenue: Wine, Beer, Cider
 - e. The Hunting Club, 2503 Williamsbridge Road: Liquor, Wine, Beer, Cider
 - f. Ruby's Restaurant, 600 Van Nest Avenue

After discussion by committee members, the consensus was that none of these establishments had any issues with the surrounding community, nor were there any issues reported by the 49th NYPD Precinct. Most were open on a limited basis during this past year due to the pandemic.

Motion by Joe Thompson, seconded by Joanne Rubino, for Community Board 11 to send an email of NO OBJECTION to the New York State Liquor Authority regarding the aforementioned six establishments.

UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

2. New Business

To request any special accommodations, please call us at (718) 892-6262 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting or event.



Joe Thompson asked various committee members to report on business districts within CB11.

Veronica Castro stated that many businesses on Allerton Avenue are hurting and five or six businesses have closed, likely due to high rents. The restaurants are hurting due to the COVID-19 induced 25% capacity rule. The business corridor is very quiet, fewer customers than during normal times.

Tony Signorile stated that many of the restaurants on Morris Park Avenue are not doing that well due to the 25% rule.

Shradhanand Pirtam stated that some businesses in Van Nest are not doing well due to the rule. Additionally, the presence of street vendors are having a negative impact.

Joe Thompson said many businesses seem to be thriving on White Plains Road, despite the restrictions. Although six businesses have closed, five new, seemingly corporate ones have opened. Many of the smaller “Mom and Pop” businesses cannot afford the rent. The 25% rule is also negatively affecting restaurants.

Al D’Angelo stated that restaurant customers are instead traveling to Westchester communities such as New Rochelle which have fewer restrictions.

Joe Thompson stated that enforcement of street vendors is no longer performed by the NYPD, so there appears to be no recourse if vendors lack licenses or operate illegally.

Durrell Boahen led a discussion stating that the proposed stimulus funds and PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) mentioned in last month’s Board meeting should help struggling businesses.

The committee’s consensus was that businesses are going to have to continue to be creative in order to stay in business, through delivery options and other strategies. High rents, street vendors, reduced customers and COVID restrictions threaten CB11’s small businesses.

3. Proposed homeless shelter on Stillwell Avenue

Although not directly related to the Committee’s purview, Joe Thompson allowed community resident Jessica Carrero-Ruiz to express opposition to the City’s proposed shelter on Stillwell Avenue.

Chairman Al D’Angelo stated that the Mayor’s office has not responded to a letter that was sent opposing the site, proposing alternate sites, nor to a followup letter that was sent recently. He recommended contacting all of our elected officials, directing her to CB11’s website which has their contact info. He stated that if a petition was made to direct it to the elected officials, as we are in full agreement to their opposition.

Minutes by Joanne Rubino, edited and formatted by staff.