

**Community Board 1**  
**February 17, 2015**

Mr. Vinicio Donato, Chairperson of Community Board 1, commenced meeting at 7:00 pm by stating that the public hearing items on the agenda are not required to have a quorum. A quorum is only necessary when it is a ULURP or a Board of Standards and Appeals. He then read the first public hearing item from the Department of City Planning (DCP) #N130298ECQ – Premises 36-20 Ditmars Blvd. (Alba's Pizza). An application to renew the license to operate an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 tables and 32 seats. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone representing this application. There was no one.

The next item #N130328ECQ – Premises 32-20 Broadway (Omonia Café). An application to renew the license to operate an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 21 tables and 48 seats. Mr. John Aravanitis stated that the establishment has been there for 37 years and the outdoor café for 25 years and would like to renew the outdoor café license. Ms. Elizabeth Erion, Assistant Chair of the Zoning Committee, asked if he increased the size of the enclosure since the first license was issued. Mr. Aravanitis replied "No". Ms. Erion asked what are the hours of operation and if he serves alcohol on the premises. Mr. Aravanitis stated that the hours of operation are from 8am to 1am weekdays and on the weekends a little later. He stated that they serve alcohol on the premises and in the café. Ms. Erion asked how many tables are inside the establishment. Mr. Aravanitis stated that there are 65 seats inside and outside. Ms. Erion asked what are the dimensions of the enclosed café. Mr. Aravanitis stated that the café is 20' x 65'. Ms. Erion asked about the clearance of the trees on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. Mr. Aravanitis stated that it was 7 ½' but he was not sure. Ms. Erion asked if he received any complaints or violations. Mr. Aravanitis replied "No". Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. No further discussion. Item closed.

Mr. Donato asked again if any representative was present on behalf of Alba's Pizza, there was not one.

Mr. Donato, in the absence of the Chair and Assistant Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, read public hearing item from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) #665-2015-ASWC – Premises 31-09 23rd Avenue (ViaVai). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 14 seats. Mr. Robert Callaghan, representing the applicant, stated it is an Italian restaurant located on 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue between 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street; the hours of operation are from Tuesday to Thursday and Sunday from 12pm to 10pm and Friday and Saturday from 12pm to 1am. They have a beer and wine license and they are looking to renew their unenclosed sidewalk café in front of the location with 6 tables and 14 seats. There are no tenants above the café. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had any questions for the applicant. Ms. Evie Hantzopoulos asked if the café was near the Freshstart. Mr. Callaghan stated that premises used to be a deli. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. No Further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1133602-DCA – Premises 35-27 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. (Avenue Cafe). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 31 tables and 62 seats. Mr. Robert Callaghan, came in also representing the applicant, stated that Avenue's café hours of operation are 8am to 1am Sunday through Thursday and Friday to Saturday is 8am to 2am. They have a full liquor license with no music. No complaints or violations have been issued since their last renewal. No tenant's above the premises. There are 9 tables and 18 seats on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 22 tables and 44 seats on 36<sup>th</sup> Street and they are looking to renew their license. Ms. Erion stated that her concern is that they keep their distance from the curb so that pedestrians have enough room to pass. The minimum is 8'. The owner stated that they do not have any tables by the trees. Ms. Erion mentioned that there is a pole near the premise. Mr. Callaghan stated that the unenclosed café stops before the trees. Mr. Donato asked if anyone else on the Board has a question for the applicant. There was no one. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. No Further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1419088-DCA – Premises 29-19 Broadway (Aliada). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 9 tables and 18 seats. Mr. Robert Callaghan, also spoke on behalf of Aliada located on 30<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway and their hours of

operation Sunday to Thursday are from 11am to 11pm and Friday to Saturday from 11am to 12am. There are 4 tenants above the premises. It is a renewal for 9 tables and 18 seats all located on 30<sup>th</sup> street. There is no outdoor music and there have been no complaints or violations. They have been licensed under this corporation since 2006 and there is a full liquor license for the premises. Ms. Erion asked if they have to have a 3' service area. The owner replied "Yes". Ms. Erion asked how long he had an unenclosed sidewalk café license. Mr. Callaghan replied "2006". Mr. Donato asked if anyone on the Board has a question for the applicant. There was no one. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. No Further discussion. Item closed.

### **VOTING:**

Ms. Erion reiterated public hearing item #N130298ECQ – Premises 36-20 Ditmars Blvd. (Alba's Pizza). An application to renew the license to operate an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 tables and 32 seats. Ms. Erion stated that the committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Thomas Ryan. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #N130328ECQ – Premises 32-20 Broadway (Omonia Café). An application to renew the license to operate an Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 21 tables and 48 seats. Ms. Erion stated that the committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Thomas Ryan. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

Mr. Stamatiades, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, reiterated public hearing item from DCA#665-2015-ASWC – Premises 31-09 23 Ave (ViaVai). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 14 seats. He stated that the Committee met and the only concern is that the tables are kept close to the building and not obstruct the pedestrian path. Mr. Sarchese motioned for approval, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1133602-DCA – Premises 35-27 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. (Avenue Cafe). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 31 tables and 62 seats. Mr. Stamatiades stated that the Committee met and recommended approval of the application; Mr. Alexiou motioned for approval, seconded by Mr. Meloni. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1419088-DCA – Premises 29-19 Broadway (Aliada). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 9 tables and 18 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, Mr. Babor motioned for approval, seconded by Mr. Alexiou. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Mary Cooley with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) addressed the Board. She stated that most people know DCA from a lot of the items you have been dealing with tonight. But, in addition if you own a business, shop or work in a business DCA affects your life. DCA licenses and enforces rules in 55 different categories in almost 80 thousand businesses in the City, in all 5 Boroughs. She is present to talk about something else that a lot of folks may not know about their work. They try to help regular New Yorkers with free tax preparation and financial counseling and other services. There are free tax preparation centers in CB1 and in all the Community Boards around the city. You can find your closest center by calling 311 or going to [nyc.gov/tax\\_prep](http://nyc.gov/tax_prep). If you earned up to \$53,000 last year you may be eligible for earned income tax credit. DCA is doing a big campaign to push people who are eligible for the Earn Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC could result in a refund up about \$10,000 for some people. The average refund is \$2,500. The problem is that many New Yorkers do not file for EITC. This year, DCA is doing what they can to get the word out about EITC and tax prep. She brought flyers for everyone and encourages anyone who is eligible to take advantage of their free tax services or share the information with those who can. Mr. Aliberti asked how will the tax preparers handle people with disabilities who are unable to fill in the forms themselves, will they be able to fill in the forms for the disabled person. Ms. Cooley stated she did not know and would have to get back to him. Mr. Aliberti stated that in the past people had gone to tax preparers and they were told that they were

not allowed to write in on the forms for them. Ms. Cooley stated that she thinks that some would be trained to handle that situation, but she will get back to him.

Mr. Tom Rucks, volunteer with the Astoria Park Alliance, wanted to highlight a couple of dates coming up. On Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at noon there will be a benefit at QUD in Astoria and admission will be \$20.00. All funds will go towards all efforts in Astoria. In addition, there will be volunteer dates twice a month starting on March 7<sup>th</sup> and then on March 21<sup>st</sup> as the first day of Spring. Mr. Donato thanked him for keeping the Board up-to-date of what is going on in the park.

Mr. Freddy Melendez, Joshua and Osij, NYCHA Community Outreach, Mr. Melendez stated that they came to speak about the ACE Program that invites students in grades 9 to 12 to the Architect Instruction Engineer Program for the NYCHA residents that live in public houses. This program will give them hands-on experience working with the construction workers and work behind the scenes in regards to writing proposals, drawing up blueprints, and other aspects of the profession that will prepare them for future job opportunities. When the students complete the program they will actually get to work on the sites. They will visit different developments and attend association meetings to inform tenants of upcoming construction, renovations, and developments that would be going on. If anyone would like to know about the ACE Program they brought flyers with additional information. Mr. Donato thanked them for coming.

### **BUSINESS SESSION:**

Mr. Donato asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January's Board meeting. Mr. Stamatiades motioned to accept minutes, seconded by Mr. Sarchese. Motion called and carried with 1 Against. Mr. Stamatiades asked what corrections needed to be made. Ms. Nancy Silverman responded all comments are not recorded in the minutes and so she has chosen not to approve them.

Ms. Lucille Hartmann, District Manager, reported in the Boards' folder there is a listing of open Competitive City Exams for the month of February. If you know anyone who might be interested, please share the information. She added that there are notices for 3 special events during the month of March the Golden Gloves on March 4<sup>th</sup> – a fund raiser for Hour Children, the Celebration of Greek Independence on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Federation of Hellenic Societies, and the celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Central Astoria LDC. The Central Astoria LDC is an organization that serves our community in many ways – to name a few – during the summer months they provide the movies and concerts in the Astoria Park, Housing programs assistance for both tenants and landlords, works with our business district and much more. Tickets are available for March 5<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Marie Torniali.

Mr. Daniel Aliberti, Chair of Capable Disabled, reported that there was no change in the M60Q/M19Q Bus issue.

Ms. Marie Torniali reported on behalf of Mr. Joseph Risi Jr., Chair of Consumer Affairs Committee. Ms. Torniali reported that Medusa at 25-18 50<sup>th</sup> Street. The Consumer Affairs Committee met and recommends disapproval of the liquor license based on the police reports of crime at that location right now including 16 arrest, 25 reports of crime, and 43 C-Summonses. Mr. Donato reiterated that she was making a motion to deny their application on behalf of the committee, seconded by Mr. Babor. Mr. Donato asked if anyone had a question regarding the motion. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 2 Against. Ms. Torniali then went on to Purlieu at 33-12 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The committee recommended approval with stipulations that they would sign the stipulations that were previously signed, including that they must close by 4am and not permit cabaret or dancing activity without first obtaining a license. They should not at any time employ promoters or event planners or the like. All food and beverage must come from that establishment and those were the serious stipulations. Mr. Donato asked if anyone on the Board has a question regarding Purlieu. Mr. Khuzami asked if the stipulation is the same as before, did the owner not meet the stipulations. Ms. Torniali stated that the entity complied with the stipulation and the committee asked for it to be reinstated with this renewal. Mr. Piazza asked what Purlieu was being licensed for. Ms. Torniali replied "liquor license". Mr. Piazza stated that Mr. Risi and the 114<sup>th</sup> Pct. was able to have the liquor license revoked for Perfections and he wanted to thank him for all his hard work. Mr. Piazza stated that if we are having a problem with an establishment rather than approve them why not have their license revoked. Mr. Donato stated that the Board only makes recommendations, we do not revoke licenses. Ms. Nancy Silverman stated that there was some

concern that they are advertising some events that had been held at Perfections. Purlieu had taken over some of the pre-booked events from Perfections. This raised some concerns that there was going to be some connection between Purlieu and Perfections. This was discussed with the representatives at the committee meeting there were no other concerns beyond that. There are no violations and no concerns with their liquor license. The owner or representative satisfied the committee's concerns by stating that they took over 1 or 2 events that had been booked at Perfections and that they are doing those events because people had pre-paid. They don't have a gentleman's club, topless dancing, it is not an adult entertainment. Mr. Donato called for a vote on the motion to approve Purlieu. Motion called and carried with 1 Against.

Ms. Mary O'Hara, Chair of Housing Committee, reported that it is not impossible to pick up a local paper that does not announce a sale of a property, likely to become condos. The astounding western Queens projects, she found only Councilman Van Bramer has addressed an essential in his calling for attention to infrastructure that must precede the development of properties to house and we have to prepare for the needs of the community that does not exist yet. Councilman Van Bramer is recommending that infrastructure be a primary and prime consideration before any of these major development projects are implemented. 121 families will be brought to Westway Motel Shelter and will reside up to 1 year. This is going to be a long term impact on the community, on schools –D30, one of the most overcrowded school districts in the city according to the City Comptroller. She requested to work with Rosemarie on this issue as part housing and education.

Mr. Richard Khuzami, Chair of Parks & Recreation/Cultural Affairs Committee, reported that the Mayor gave a speech in which he announced that he is backing the Ferry to go into Halletts Cove. He is going to try to and have it paid for with metrocards. This is his proposal under his budget. This would greatly impact our area if this happens. Part of the stipulation with Astoria Cove Project is that they are to construction a pier.

Mr. Robert Piazza, Chair of Transportation Committee, reported that part East Side Access under the railroad trains. We were supposed to get stop in Sunnyside yards for people here in this area. If that project goes away then the stop is eliminated. Mr. Donato stated that there was a proposal many years ago to build a basketball stadium by Shea Stadium by Congressman James Delaney's son. There was a big proposal, the problem that they had was that they had to put a concrete cover. The expense to put in the concrete was so exorbitant that project did not go anywhere. So let see what happens now.

#### **NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Rudolph Sarchese stated that the Astoria Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association will be meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. At St. Francis of Assisi School. Department of Transportation will give an update on the rules and regulations concerning our streets and sidewalks. Deputy Inspector Kevin Maloney will talk about community issues and an update on what is going on with Westway.

Mr. Donato thanked everyone for coming out on a difficult evening and we had a quorum of 27 people.

There was no further business before the Board Ms. D'Alleva motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Khuzami. Motion called and carried unanimously