



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Michael Budabin **Chairperson** / Joseph Marziliano **District Manager**

To: All Board Members
From: Jack Fried
Date: January 25, 2021
Re: Public Safety and Licensing Committee

On Thursday, January 21, 2021, the CB11 Public Safety and Licensing Committee held a meeting to discuss two 30-Day Advanced Notices to the State Liquor Authority.

Present

Committee Members

Jack Fried, Committee Chair
Michael Budabin, Board Chair
Christine Haider, 1st Vice Chair
Henry Euler, 3rd Vice Chair
Adriana Aviles
Stephan Popa
Lourdes December
Lander Bravo

111th Precinct

PO Galano

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager
Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

Mr. Fried opened the meeting by introducing the first applicant, Dave Verma and Mrs. Verma. This applicant is seeking a Full On-Premises Liquor License with the State Liquor Authority (SLA) for the location, 40-17 Bell Blvd., Omar's Burgers. The applicant owned Omar's Burgers located at 83-25 Parsons Blvd. This establishment has closed. The applicant also owns Pyramids located next door at 40-19 Bell Blvd. The hours of operation requested are 10:00 AM to 4:00 AM daily. This establishment will be a sit-down style restaurant with a full menu. Mr. Verma said that he is looking to create an establishment that offers a full menu with an atmosphere for patrons to enjoy their meal. There will be a bar with four to five seats. He is unsure of the name, as he feels Omar's Burgers is not catchy enough. He did have a \$8,000. LED sign made but not sure if he will use it. Mr. Verma mentioned The Lunchbox as a trade name.

The Committee discussed various issues with the focus on the type of establishment this will be if opened until 4:00 AM daily. If this is a sit-down restaurant and stayed opened until 4:00 AM, it would be a place for patrons to congregate and continue drinking after they have left a bar. This model could potentially cause problems. This combination of various factors is inconsistent with other sit-down restaurants on Bell Blvd that close earlier; why would an exception be made for this establishment?

The Committee Members also asked Mr. Verma about Pyramids and the various violations that were issued since their inception. Mr. Verma said that they were closed for a month by the NYC Health Dept. for various violations. There have been violations issued for noise and congregating. There was an assault charge that took place in the bathroom that he notified the police about. There was a violation for serving after hours. There was conversation regarding if the liquor license was revoked or suspended. It was clear that Pyramids had been closed at two different times. Violations have been resolved. PO Galano said that the license was never revoked, and the violations had been cleared up. Mr. Fried said that he is concerned that Pyramids has had several complaints and this application is for next door.

Mrs. Haider asked to table this application until a trade name was determined. Mr. Marziliano said this is a 30-Advanced Notice, therefore, it could not be tabled. Mr. Verma explained that the name could be determined after the fact by just notifying the SLA.

Mr. Popa suggested to start with a Beer, Wine and Cider License with a closing time of 11:00 PM. Mr. Bravo asked if there was a direct passage to the other establishment. The answer was no.

A motion was made to approve the application with a close time of 12:00 AM daily. The motion was seconded. Mr. Verma asked for 2:00 AM daily close time. The Committee denied his request. A Committee vote was taken resulting in seven in favor and one opposed. (*In favor* – Budabin, Fried, December, Haider, Bravo, Popa, Aviles – *Opposed* - Claro)

The next applicant, The Greek Family Restaurant located at 212-02 Union Turnpike. This applicant is seeking a Full On-Premises Liquor License with the SLA. The hours of operation will be 10:30 AM to 10:00 PM, Thursday through Saturday and 10:30 AM to 9:00 PM, Sunday through Wednesday. There will be a bar with six seats. There were no violations. A motion was made to approve the application. The motion was seconded. A Committee vote was taken resulting unanimously in favor.

The next applicant was Mark Boccia the owner of Bourbon Street located at 40-12 Bell Blvd. This applicant is seeking a letter of support to reinstate their On-Premises Liquor License with the SLA. Mr. Boccia stated that since they reopened for COVID, there has been several inspections. During the last inspection, they issued a suspension of their liquor license for the automatic awning, stating that this was against COVID guidelines. There was no warning letter. Mr. Boccia said the awning has the proper permit. The representative for Spanglish, Ms. Tavares, interrupted by stating that this is unfair. There is supposed to be a three and out warning; the SLA is issuing violations and suspensions without notice. She asked what the qualifications of the SLA inspectors are. Mr. Marziliano stated that he has been in direct contact with management from both establishments. There are no complaints regarding these establishments. Ms. Tavares asked for a letter of support from the Bayside BID and the CB to reinstate Spanglish's license. Spanglish's license was suspended due to the outside structure not meeting COVID code. Mr. Boccia said he would contact the BID for the Ms. Tavares.

Mr. Boccia said that during the pandemic, restaurants in NYC have come to together and helped communities and first responders.

Mr. Fried suggested a letter to the SLA to reinstate these licenses. With these licenses suspended, there are several people out of work. Elected officials have written a letter of support. Mr. Budabin said a letter of support can mention that guidelines are changing daily, and these are good establishments. A motion was made by Mr. Popa to forward a letter of support for Bourbon Street and Spanglish to the SLA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fried. Discussion ensued regarding how the letter will be in support of the establishment, not disagreeing with the violations. A Committee vote was taken resulting unanimously in favor.

Discussion ensued regarding incidents at Pyramids and the sustainability of establishments on Bell Blvd. Mr. Lander discussed the idea of developing a BID for Little Neck.

The meeting adjourned.