



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

The City of New York
Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Cannabis License Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Community Board 8 Office
197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423

Michael Hannibal, Cannabis License Committee Chair

Committee Members Present: Michael Hannibal, Maria DeInnocentiis, James Gallagher Jr., Caitlin Marziliano, Alan Ong, and Douglas Sherman.

Committee Members Absent: Marva Dudley, Mary Maggio, David Mordukhaev, Edward Chung and Aliyah Salim

Also in attendance: Martha Taylor, Chair, CB8 Staff Nettie V. Norris, Yudi Zhao, Truly Green, Meng Li, Truly Green, Anatoli Postevoi, Prima Di Carne, Arelia Tavera and Juan Carlos, Gallo

Cannabis/Liquor License Committee Chair Michael Hannibal called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. This was followed by self-introductions of all Board Members and staff.

El Gallo Negro Corp. (New Application) (Rescheduled from April 22, 2025)

D/B/A: N/A

Location: 149-09 A Union Turnpike

License Type: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License and Temporary Retail Permit

License Number: N/A

Type of Establishment: Bar/Tavern

Licensed Outdoor Area: none

Purpose:

This is to introduce the applicants to the Community Board to make them aware of the expectations of the board for businesses with on-premises liquor licenses. This establishment is applying for a liquor, wine, beer, and cider renewal license. Chairman Michael Hannibal asked the applicant to state their name for the record. The applicant's representative, Arelia Taveras introduced herself.

Michael Hannibal

Reviewed the application with the applicant.

Question: Michael Hannibal – We’ve already established what type of establishment it will be (Bar & Tavern). How many can you seat in the establishment?

Answer: Arelia Taveras – 74 people which includes the staff, kitchen, waiters etc. It may be only 60 people.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Will you have music and if so, what type?

Answer: Arelia Taveras – Yes. We will have a DJ and canned music

Question: Michael Hannibal - Do you have your Certificate of Occupancy (C of O)?

Answer: Arelia Taveras – No. It is pending with the landlord. When it comes in, I will contact you.

Question: Michael Hannibal – What are the hours of operation?

Answer: Arelia Taveras – Noon – 4:00 a.m. everyday. This option is open in case someone wants to host a baby shower, and/or small party.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Is that Monday through Sunday?

Answer: Arelia Taveras – Yes.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Is this the first establishment of the owner?

Answer: Arelia Taveras – No. He has another one in Long Island. No issues with the State Liquor Authority.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Can you tell me how is he going to handle underage drinking?

Answer: Arelia Taveras – He’s had all his staff take the Alcohol Training Awareness course (ATA). He is always, for the most part, at the location. He splits his time with the Tavern in Long Island but he will always have a supervisor on staff. There will always be someone supervising the bar and checking ID. Also, if we know we are having an event and it’s going to be late, we can notify you and the precinct. We don’t want to disturb the neighbors.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Will there be cameras and if so, what is the erasing time frame, monthly?

Answer: Arelia Taveras – I can’t answer that. I can send you an email. I believe there will be 12-13 cameras.

Question: Michael Hannibal – How do you plan to maintain cleanliness in front of the establishment. That is one of our main concerns regarding quality-of-life issues.

Answer: Arelia Taveras – They’ve never had any problems with the other location. They are very diligent in maintaining the cleanliness of the exterior of the premises.

The owner came in and Michael Hannibal asked him to introduce himself.

Owner: My name is Juan Carlos Luna.

Question: Maria DeInnocentiis – My concern is about the music. You said you will have a DJ, Karaoke and canned music. When will you have live music?

Answer: Juan Carlos – Occasionally. If someone wants to have a special event and requests live music, we will accommodate them but not on a regular basis.

Question: Maria DeInnocentiis – It states it will be a bar/tavern. Will it be set up like a bar or restaurant?

Answer: Juan Carlos – It will be a restaurant with a bar. Sometimes patrons want to eat Tacos or Steaks and may want a Margarita. So, we always have bar stools for that reason.

Answer: Arelia Taveras - A restaurant can be a tavern with minimal food services, but a tavern cannot go up to a restaurant. With minimal food services he can go higher. But the restaurant can’t go lower.

Question: Maria DeInnocentiis – What is the name of your bar/tavern in Long Island and where is it?

Answer: Juan Carlos – The same name. It is located at 41-34 Crescent Street.

Question: Chairperson Martha Taylor – What borough is that in?

Answer: Juan Carlos – Same name - Queens, Long Island City by the bridge.

Chairperson Martha Taylor – Oh, I know where that is, Crescent Street. You said Long Island, not Long Island City.

Question: Chairperson Martha Taylor - You mentioned it was going to be on the first floor in the basement. What's in the basement?

Answer: Arelia Taveras – Storage. We will put that on the applications.

Question: Chairperson Martha Taylor – So there will be no serving to people down there?

Answer: Arelia Taveras – No.

Owner: Juan Carlos – The cameras get erased every two weeks to a month.

Question: Jim Gallagher – I'm glad we have the picture up. It's next to Cheap Shots. Now I know where the location is.

Answer: Arelia Taveras – Yes. A tiny spot.

Question: Doug Sherman – Are you familiar with Cheap Shots. I live in Parkway Village, a residential garden style complex and we've had issues with them in the past. They have made some effort in keeping the area clean and they've now hired security. It is mainly late at night near closing, you will see pockets of patrons coming out and may be a little inebriated and making loud noise. You will need to co-exist with them.

Answer: Arelia Taveras – You won't have any problems with Gallo. The problem starts with that continual DJ music. Gallo is a true restaurant, so you won't have that.

Question: Doug Sherman – How will you distinguish yourself from them who are sort of a clubby bar? What is your general course of business?

Answer: Juan Carlos – I think I'll be feeding them! We're known to be busy late up until around 2:00 a.m. When people get off late from work, they want somewhere nice to eat with good food. That's why I decided to stay open late.

Alan Ong – My concern is hoping you and Cheap Shots can co-habitate. When you do have a party until 4:00 a.m. and you're playing music, and they are getting out late and playing loud music that can become a problem. The patrons will be outside talking loud and this will disturb the neighbors.

Jim Gallagher- The St. John's College is in that vicinity so be on the lookout for the students.

Arelia Tavernas – They love Tacos!

Michael Hannibal – Is Cheap Shots a bar or restaurant?

Arelia Taveras – It is a bar, but they have to have minimal food being served.

Michael Hannibal – I just wanted to clear that up. It is clearly not the same as Gallo.

Michael Hannibal

I now want to put a motion forth to accept the application for a full liquor license for El Gallo Negro Corp. located at 149-09 A Union Turnpike in Flushing.

Motion made by Alan Ong and seconded by Maria DeInnocentiis.

Committee Members who voted in favor: Michael Hannibal, Maria DeInnocentiis, James Gallagher, Caitlin Marziliano, Alan Ong, and Douglas Sherman.

Committee Members who voted against: None

Abstentions: None

The motion passed unanimously.

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Purpose:

This is to introduce the applicants to the Community Board to make them aware of the expectations of the board for businesses with on-premises liquor licenses. This establishment is applying for a liquor, wine, beer, and cider renewal

license. Chairman Michael Hannibal asked the applicant to state their name for the record. The applicant is Anatoli Postevoi, Owner.

Prima Di Carne LLC. New Application (Rescheduled from April 22, 2025)

D/B/A: Sabba

Location: 178-01 Union Turnpike in Flushing

License Type: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License and Temporary Retail Permit

License Number: N/A

Type of Establishment: Restaurant (Full Kitchen and full menu required)

Licensed Outdoor Area: none

Michael Hannibal

Reviewed the application with the applicant.

Question: Michael Hannibal – We’ve already established what type of establishment it will be (Restaurant/Kosher Steak House). How many can you seat in the establishment?

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi – 74 in total (staff, people coming in to dine).

Question: Michael Hannibal - Do you have your Certificate of Occupancy (COO)? We will need a copy.

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi – I will request it from the landlord.

Question: Michael Hannibal – What are the hours of operation?

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi – Monday – Thursday- 4:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m./ Friday - Saturday time changes due to Shabbat/Sunday – 9:45 a.m.- 11:30 p.m.

Question: Chairperson Martha Taylor – How late are you open in the Summer?

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi - I’ll have to see how the business does. People don’t really eat heavy during the Summer. If so, the hours will be the same.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Can you tell me how are you going to handle underage drinking?

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi - Myself and/or my manager will always be on the floor. We will ask for ID and we will have cameras. My staff is very well trained.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Will there be cameras and if so, what is the erasing time frame, monthly?

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi – I usually keep the tapes for 30 days.

Question: Michael Hannibal – How do you plan to maintain cleanliness inside and in front of the establishment. That is one of our main concerns regarding quality-of-life issues.

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi – We have a dishwasher who keeps the place clean before we open and after we close. I have a cleaning staff that cleans on the outside.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Do you see people smoking outside in front and do you have ash trays put out?

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi – I have never seen anyone smoking outside but if I do, I can put ash trays out.

Question: Alan Ong – Does your current place have a bar?

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi – Yes, it has a bar.

Question: Alan Ong – When people come in to eat and drink, do they sit at the bar?

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi - Not really. Kosher is different. People like to sit at a table and have dinner.

Question: Doug Sherman – What is your timeline to open for full service?

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi – In a month or two.

Question: Doug Sherman – Is this your third restaurant?

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi – No, my second.

Question: Jim Gallagher – Are you having outdoor seating?

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi – I want to. I have to speak with my Architect to see how I can go about doing it. It may take a while.

Question: Caitlin Marziliano – Do you plan on having a private room or space where small parties can be held?

Answer: Anatoli Postevoi – We will not have any late parties.

Michael Hannibal

I want to ask for a motion forth to accept the application for a full Liquor and Wine license for Prima Di Carne LLC. Located at 178-01 Union Turnpike in Flushing.

Motion made by Alan Ong and seconded by Jim Gallagher.

Committee Members who voted in favor: Michael Hannibal, Maria DeInnocentiis, James Gallagher, Caitlin Marziliano, Alan Ong, and Douglas Sherman.

Committee Members who voted against: None

Abstentions: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Purpose:

This is to introduce the applicants to the Community Board to make them aware of the expectations of the board for businesses with on-premises liquor licenses. This establishment is applying for a Cannabis license. Chairman Michael Hannibal asked the applicant to state their name for the record. The applicant, Yudi Zhao, Owner introduced himself.

Truly Green, LLC. New Applicant
D/B/A: Evergreen Dispensary
80-12 Surrey Place in Jamaica
Retail Dispensary Premises – Cannabis

Michael Hannibal

Reviewed the application with the applicant.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Please tell us a little about your background and what led you to wanting to open up this establishment?

Answer: Yudi Zhao – I have a metal scrap yard in Brooklyn. Two years ago, New York legalized cannabis retail and I decided to apply for it.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Is your entry into the cannabis retail business strictly business and for no other reason?

Answer: Yudi Zhao – Yes. There is a liquor store next to my scrap metal yard in Brooklyn. The owner suggested I apply.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Are you selling in our community because it's a good location and what was your thought process when choosing this location?

Answer: Yudi Zhao - I am the property owner and the store has been vacant for a while so I decided to put a business there.

Question: Chairperson Martha Taylor – Are you the actual owner?

Answer: Yudi Zhao – Yes.

Question: Michael Hannibal - This is a new revenue stream for you?

Answer: Yudi Zhao - Yes.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Do you have any understanding of the CBD, THC and any of those other products you will be selling to the Community?

Answer: Yudi Zhao – Yes. We will be selling THC products only. CBD is another license and we did not apply for it.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Let me ask you again. Is this something you will train on how to sell and understand?

Answer: Yudi Zhao – There is a 3-month course that we will take but only after we get approval from OCM.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Are you observing the 200–500-foot rule? You are close to St. John’s University.

Answer: Yudi Zhao – Yes. We are beyond 500 feet.

Question: Michael Hannibal – What are your hours of operation?

Answer: Yudi Zhao – Monday – Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. In the future, we may try closing earlier.

Question: Michael Hannibal – There is a different training for handling underage for cannabis use. What type of training will that be for your staff? With that training, will the staff be able to mitigate any situation that arises?

Answer: Yudi Zhao – Yes. The 3-month training will include that also. Our floor plan is designed like a medical office. When you come in, there is a waiting area. At that point, we will have all ID scanned by a scanner to make sure clients are 21 and older. We also have a security door where everyone will be buzzed in and out.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Do you have cameras?

Answer: Yudi Zhao – Yes. We do have cameras with a 60-day clean period.

Question: Michael Hannibal – Will you have safety training for your staff?

Answer: Yudi Zhao – Yes. Everyone working in the shop will have safety training.

Question: Michael Hannibal - How will you handle loitering outside of your establishment. Not just in front but clients going down Surrey Place where there are homes and families.

Answer: Yudi Zhao - I am willing to get assistance on how to handle that. Perhaps I can talk to OCM or work with the 107th Precinct.

Question: Michael Hannibal - What officer have you communicated with at the 107th?

Answer: Yudi Zhao - No one yet, but I am willing to reach out to them.

Question: Maria DeInnocentiis – At 180th Street & Union Turnpike, we have the Temple Bethel Emmanuel. How did you determine you are 500 ft. away from them?

Answer: Yudi Zhao - We have a full feature map from OCM showing the distance and my attorney confirmed it.

Question: Maria DeInnocentiis – Can you send us a copy of that map? I’d just like to see it.

Answer: Yudi Zhao – Yes. I will send it

Question: Maria DeInnocentiis – Do you plan on selling medical cannabis or recreational cannabis?

Answer: Yudi Zhao – It will be recreational.

Comment: Caitlin Marziliano – We have had illegal smoke shops pop up in this community and it’s really deceiving because people think they are legal. They sell products that are not licensed/certified by New York State. Thank you for doing the right thing and going through the proper procedures.

Comment: Doug Sherman – Thank you for being a responsible part of the community.

Comment: Alan Ong – We tried hard to get the illegal shops closed. Thank you for going through the right procedures and making sure your cameras are up and running.

Comment: Jim Gallagher - We want to make sure there won’t be double-parked cars blocking the streets.

Question: Michael Hannibal – As you train your staff on the various products, will they be able to explain to a new user what they are buying, especially with the young kids coming in? We don't want someone to purchase in your shop and going somewhere else and having a bad experience.

Answer: Yudi Zhao – I will make sure.

Michael Hannibal – I want to put forth a motion for a Retail Dispensary Application for Truly Greene, LLC located at 80-12 Surrey Place in Jamaica.

Seconded by Chairperson, Martha Taylor.

Michael Hannibal – All in favor say Aye.

Committee Members who voted in favor: Michael Hannibal, Maria DeInnocentiis, James Gallagher, Caitlin Marziliano, Alan Ong, and Douglas Sherman.

Committee Members who voted against: None

Abstentions: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Michael Hannibal – Passed around the Precinct Sector Cards (A) and suggested the applicant contact them and form a relationship.

Jim Gallagher – Shared with the applicant the date and time of the next 107th monthly community council meeting and other events happening in the community.

Maria DeInnocentiis – Suggested the owner contact Mr. Browne at St. John's University just to let them know about the shop and form a relationship.

Michael Hannibal – I would like to ask, and I'm only speaking for me, when you look at hiring staff, please look to hire persons in our community. It only makes sense that when businesses come to the neighborhood, they hire within the neighborhood. This way the money goes back into the community. It's a self-supporting cycle.

La Otra Sports Bar & Restaurant Inc. **New Application (Pulled Application)** – Arelia Tavaras Gallo worked with them.
D/B/A: N/A

Location: 172-37 Hillside Avenue in Jamaica

License Type: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License and Temporary Retail Permit

License Number: N/A

Type of Establishment: Bar/Tavern

Licensed Outdoor Area: none

Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado, LLC. **(New Application (Postponed))**

D/B/A: Chipotle Mexican Grill #5382

Location: 176-61 Union Turnpike, Fresh Meadows

License Type: Wine, Beer & Cider License and Temporary Retail Permit

License Number: N/A

Type of Establishment: Restaurant (full kitchen and full menu required)

Licensed Outdoor Area: none

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nettie V. Norris, Community Board 8 Staff

June 25, 2025