



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

*The City of New York
Borough of Queens*

Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Liquor License Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Community Board 8 Office
197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423

Michael Hannibal, *Liquor License Committee Chair*
Board Members: Robert Harris and Kevin Forrestal.

Also, in attendance: Daljit Sanghu – President of Ambika Bhavani, Inc.
Baldinger Singh – Assistant Manager of Ambika Bhavani, Inc.
Babir Singh – Manager of Ambika Bhavani, Inc.
Izabela Szczepanska, Community Board 8 Staff

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

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-premise liquor licenses. This establishment is applying for a Full Liquor License for a restaurant.

**I. Ambika Bhavani, Inc. d/b/a Supreme Diner.
82-65 Parsons Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432**

Michael Hannibal – *Do you have a Certificate of Occupancy [C of O]?*

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – Regarding the under 72 seats we do not need it.

Kevin Forrestal – *No, you do need a C of O. You don't need a Public Assembly Permit.*

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – We do have it. Without it we cannot open the restaurant (copies were left at the office).

Michael Hannibal - *It is under 75 so you don't need a Public Assembly Permit.*

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] - No.

What will be the hours of operation?

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh]- It is 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday?

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – Seven days a week.

Seven days a week? 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.?

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – Yes, sir.

This is for a full Liquor License. How do you intend to prevent underage drinking?

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – We will ask for ID. Without ID we do not sell liquor.

Is that the only form of identification for underage drinking you will have in the diner?

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh]- We are not going to serve anyone until they present an ID. No ID means no liquor. Secondly, we will put up a sign on the window.

What security measures will be taken?

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – Honestly, we don't need it. This is a family restaurant. We don't really need security like you would for bars and clubs.

We will come back to this. I always find that while it is a family restaurant now it's because you don't have alcohol.

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] - Yes.

Once you introduce alcohol into the equation anything can happen. How will you maintain cleanliness of the establishment outside (i.e. smokers (ashtrays))?

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – We have four dishwashers. Plus, we come every morning and clean the sidewalks two three times a day. Cleaning is a responsibility.

Michael Hannibal asked if Kevin Forrestal has any questions for the applicant.

Kevin Forrestal – You will occasionally still have a problem when people come with fake ID's. There is scanning equipment that can validate if the ID is correct. You may want to consider that. For the cleanliness I would suggest putting some cigarette receptacles outside.

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – That is no problem at all.

The other concerns we have are not so much with you but falls on you. You have a landlord that has a lot of violations.

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – The landlord has five different stores under the same address. One of the violations is for the laundromat. Last year they shut down the entire building. We had to hire professionals to open the gas again.

There is a hazardous situation that is listed by the Buildings Department (DOB). You will have a Fire Department (FDNY) inspection in your combined building and they won't sign off until DOB does. We are concerned that a couple doors down there is un-approved natural gasses. This can blow up your customers and you.

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – Last year, the situation we had was with the laundromat and the gas. We had to hire plumbers and get a re-inspection. We passed the final inspection for DOB (copies were left in the office).

This shows as of January 25th.

Robert Harris – Is it corrected?

Kevin Forrestal – I don't know. According to this it is. According to DOB's computerized site as of this afternoon it still is listed as a hazardous condition.

Answer: [Mr. Baldinger Singh] - Do you mean the entire block?

Yes.

Answer: [Mr. Baldinger Singh] – The laundromat has a problem.

The building has a hazardous condition. A few weeks ago, some people in Manhattan went to jail because they blew up a building and killed people in a restaurant. It seems as if it may be a situation where there is a lapse.

Answer: [Mr. Baldinger Singh] - We have a lot of construction and now everything is new.

Kevin Forrestal – I would not want to vote to approve or recommend approval for anything, if a dangerous situation exists. We are not going to resolve this tonight because you have a piece of paper that states approved.

Answer: [Mr. Baldinger Singh] - You are from the same neighborhood, right?

Yes.

Answer: [Mr. Baldinger Singh] - If you go to the restaurant you can see our restaurant building that everything is almost new.

As I said it's not your fault in anyway but it's your problem. You are a few doors down. If I were you, I would be concerned. You know they are saying it hasn't been done.

Answer: [Mr. Baldinger Singh] - When we have everything right how can we separate from the other store that our landlord has? Our restaurant is good, the problem is with the other store.

This is not unusual. I would personally say that this is a problem and unfortunately the remedy is to place pressure on the landlord. CB8 reached out to DOB and will get clarification to see if it was approved.

Michael Hannibal – *I am glad you have that paper. What we can do is confirm tomorrow if in fact it is applicable.*

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – We also have a letter of completion (*copies were left at the office*). Most of the violations are from before us.

Kevin Forrestal – *There is a violation for failure to certify a correction of class one violations that exist on this property and the penalties are due. I'm less worried about the penalties.*

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – That is for the landlord.

Michael Hannibal – *It sounds like the remedy here is to get clarification from DOB saying this refers to the landlord and not to your established property.*

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] - The landlord has five different stores. Last year, they shut the gas for the entire block and then we had to hire the licensed plumber.

Kevin Forrestal – *You had to?*

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] - Yes, I did since they closed the gas for everyone on the street. We had to close the store for almost two weeks and paid DOB \$2,500 to open again.

You paid to fix the landlords problems?

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] - The landlord doesn't pay for anything even though it is there fault.

When you get the results from DOB can you share them with the applicant [directed toward Izabela from CB8]?

Answer: [Izabela CB8 Staff] – Yes.

[Mr. Baldinger Singh] - A couple of years ago we did get approved for a liquor license.

[Mr. Babir Singh] - Because of the problems with the gas and landlord they returned the money.

Michael Hannibal – *The other thing I wanted to bring back was the security. If we move forward, I would like to make a motion that you would make every effort to bring your staff up to speed on training about security and identifying underage drinking. The introduction of alcohol always seems to attract people who you would not think would be a problem. You wouldn't want that in a family establishment like that.*

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – No.

Michael Hannibal asked if anyone has any other questions for the applicant.

Robert Harris – *Did they make contact with the 107th precinct?*

Michael Hannibal – *I am going to provide them with that information too.*

Kevin Forrestal – *Have you run restaurants that serve alcohol before?*

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – Yes, I did. Not this one.

Were you managing?

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – Yes, I was managing.

Does the owner own multiple restaurants or is this the only one they own?

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – They own many.

What kind of cuisine is it?

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] - Diner food.

Just regular American diner food?

Answer: [Mr. Babir Singh] – Yes, just regular American diner. They have about six diners.

Diners are dying. It's good to get more back.

Kevin Forrestal made a motion to approve the application for a full Liquor License for Ambika Bhavani, Inc. d/b/a Supreme Diner, located at 82-65 Parsons Boulevard, with a stipulation that the all outstanding violations from the Department of Building especially the gas concern have been resolved, and for more training of the staff, seconded by Robert Harris.

Votes in favor: 3

Votes against: 0

Board Members who voted in favor: Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris and Kevin Forrestal.

Board Members who voted against: None.

The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hannibal reiterated that the applicant should reach out to the 107th Precinct Community Affairs Unit. He provided contact information for NYPD 107th Precinct NCO and Community Affairs Officers for Quadrant A. He advised the applicant to go and introduce himself.

Mr. Babir Singh - *Most of the 107th Precinct comes to the diner for coffee and food.*

Robert Harris – *This was set up by the city on purpose. Two NCO officers are put in charge of an area. You can call them day and night and email them, and they will come. This is not 911. 911 is something else. Know them and it could be better for you.*

Kevin Forrestal – *A lot of the things they do is not necessarily police related. There are other issues that they can try to help if things come up.*

Answer: *[Mr. Babir Singh]* – I believe they came a few weeks ago. I am not sure if it was exactly them, but a few people were spray painting or graffiti. They came to talk to me and asked to contact them if we had any information.

These people are a help to you if you have problems.

Answer: *[Mr. Babir Singh]* - They are a help. There is no question about that.

Michael Hannibal– *I would say that would be one of the first things you do and establish that contact.*

Answer: *[Mr. Babir Singh]* – Okay.

You will be hearing from us and if we have an approval then the next thing is to write a ‘Letter of No Objection’ to SLA.

Izabela CB8 Staff – *I will be contacting you. I will provide you a copy of the letter that is sent to SLA.*

Michael Hannibal– *This entire process is for us to have more clarity. Also, if you see something that looks out of place or you feel is going to impact the business and the quality of your establishment please contact CB8 or the 107th precinct.*

Kevin Forrestal – *Not to get you upset but you may have not understood with what I said. Between the OATH and the ECB violations there seems to be 11,250\$ in outstanding penalties on the building that need to be corrected.*

Michael Hannibal– *That’s the landlord.*

Kevin Forrestal – *Yes, that’s the landlord but they must correct them.*

Answer: *[Mr. Babir Singh]* - I am not sure what I have to do with that.

[Mr. Baldinger Singh]– I don’t know if he will help. Can we give you any other letter that states that this does not belong to us but to the landlord?

Michael Hannibal – *We have already established that this is not you but the landlord. It is hard for us to approve it because it can impact the health and welfare of other people. God forbid something does happen we don’t want this to be the conversation about why did we pass that. I don’t know what your relationship is with the other entrepreneurs, but you might want to let them know that you are all together.*

Answer: *[Mr. Babir Singh]* – That’s true. We are all sitting in the same boat.

Kevin Forrestal – *You can try to get everyone on the block to tell the landlord to fix the situation It could be that they fixed the problem and they just didn’t do that paperwork.*

Answer: *[Mr. Babir Singh]* – This morning FDNY came and checked all the equipment. They had no problems. My establishment has nothing to do with the next one we only belong to the same building.

Michael Hannibal –*It’s just the external issue that we are trying to resolve here on your behalf. It’s not like we are saying no.*

Kevin Forrestal – *We have no problem with the liquor license it is everything surrounding it.*

Answer: *[Mr. Babir Singh]* – We have different people who want to come and have a couple of drinks.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Izabela Szczepanska, Community Board 8 Staff

February 13, 2020